

Camille Leung

From: Lisa Ketcham <lisa.ketcham@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, September 7, 2020 5:24 PM
To: Camille Leung; Daniel Krug
Cc: Planning_CDRC; Joe LaClair
Subject: PLN2014-00490 SFD East Av - Neg/Dec tree protection

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Hi Camille and Dan,

My lament:

Attached is a 2019 photo of tree #5, the Monterey cypress at SW corner of East & 14th, slated for major root disruption and major branch removal to accommodate a new driveway on 2 sides of it. I first visited the project site in 2015 and noted the crowded tangle of pine & cypress where individual trees had no space to develop significant branches or individual sturdiness. The one magnificent exception is this low-branching cypress that grew to maturity with all the space it needed to develop its beautiful characteristic form. Clearly height and trunk diameter actually say very little about the aesthetic and environmental value of a tree when considering tree protection priorities during construction. One well-formed tree can far exceed the beauty and habitat value of a crowded grove. Pruning off the large lower branches will greatly diminish the special character of the tree.

Apparently County tree protection regulations cannot address this, although I do appreciate your (Camille and Dan's) efforts to preserve this tree.

My substantive comment:

Driveway & Utility Plans indicate there will be 3 separate trenches under the new roadway near the tree (water, sewer, and electric) with no indication exactly where or how deep.

Mitigation Measure #8 calls for tree #5 protection measures during grading for the new driveway, but under Utilities it simply states that water/sewer extension plans will be subject to MWSD permitting requirements. It's not clear to me whether the utility trenching was considered in the arborist recommendations and whether Mitigation Measure #8 applies to the utility trenching permits.

Thank you,
Lisa Ketcham

