

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING DIVISION
1414 Mission Street - South Pasadena - CA 91030 - 626-403-7240**

PRIVATE PROPERTY TREE REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Please submit site plan if more than three (3) trees are involved.

Inspection Fee: \$141

PERMIT NO. _____

Permit Fee: \$364; 4 or more \$504

All fees are nonrefundable

Job Site: 1414 Milan Ave

Property Owner's Name(S): Daniel Lee

Pers-Med-Similar

Address: 1414 Milan Ave

Contractor's Name: Rancho Tree Care

Address: N/A

Phone: 818-288-3224

City Business License No: 1077470

Trees 4" in diameter or greater are Mature Trees - Include all conditions warranting the removal

Please Submit plan if more than three (3) trees are involved

Tree(s) Diameter	Type of Tree(s)	Location of Tree	Reason for Removal
29"	Oak	Front Yard	Diseased/Dying

Office Use Only:

Application Received: _____ Tree Removal and Replacement Plan: _____ Arborist Report: _____

Project Narrative: _____ Proposed Development Plan: _____ Site Plan: _____ NREC Hearing Date: _____

Comment Period Begins: _____ Comment Period Ends: _____ Permit Ready: _____

PRIVATE PROPERTY TREE REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT PERMIT CONDITIONS:

- (1) Conditions must exist to warrant the removal of any mature tree. Healthy trees which are not causing a hardship on the property owner shall not be approved for removal.
- (2) Tree removals will include complete removal of the stump and backfill of the hole.
- (3) For every tree approved for removal, multiple replacement trees must be planted anywhere on the owner's property or on City's property upon City's approval. For replacement tree(s) planted in the parkway, root barriers will be required to control the root system. The size of the replacement tree(s) is (are) based on the diameter of the trunk and the type of tree(s) for removal. The replacement tree(s) must be a minimum of 24" box size or as specified by the Engineering Division.
- (4) Replacement trees must be planted within 90 days of the **issuance date on the permit**.
- (5) Prior to planting the replacement trees, a final inspection must be conducted by the City inspector to verify conformance with tree replacement requirements. Please call to schedule an appointment at (626) 403-7370, Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- (6) **A 100-foot radius map and mailing labels shall be required to provide public notice of the tree removal. Residents within a 100-foot radius of the property shall be given 15-days to comment on the tree removal prior to issuance of the permit.**

Pers-Med-Similar

APPLICANT SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: 8/19/24

City use only

1. Recommended for Approval or Denial	Type/Variety Inspected: _____		
Size of Tree: _____	Replacement Tree Size: _____	Qty: _____	Due by: _____
Comments: _____			
Inspected By: _____	Date Inspected: _____		
2. Recommended for Approval or Denial	Type/Variety Inspected: _____		
Size of Tree: _____	Replacement Tree Size: _____	Qty: _____	Due by: _____
Comments: _____			
Inspected By: _____	Date Inspected: _____		
3. Recommended for Approval or Denial	Type/Variety Inspected: _____		
Size of Tree: _____	Replacement Tree Size: _____	Qty: _____	Due by: _____
Comments: _____			
Inspected By: _____	Date Inspected: _____		

Peter C. Harnisch Consulting Arborist

(626) 945 3176
peter@harnischtreecare.com
1022 Santa Ana St.
Laguna Beach, CA 92651



ISA Certified Arborist WE-0773A
Registered Consulting Arborist #595
ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified
ASCA Tree and Plant Appraisal Qualification
Member American Society of Consulting Arborists

Daniel Lee
1414 Milan Ave.,
South Pasadena, CA 91030
djlee@gmail.com
8/5/24

Background and Assignment

Daniel Lee and Liliana Kim contacted me about an oak tree at their home in South Pasadena. The address is 1414 Milan Ave. They were concerned about the oak as it did not appear healthy. They asked me to provide an opinion on the matter.

I traveled to the site on June 29, 2024 and met with Mr. Lee. I visually inspected the oak and the site. I informed him that I was concerned about its health and structure and did not think it would survive much longer.

The City of South Pasadena's tree protection ordinance protects oak trees over four inches in diameter measured at four feet above grade. To remove such a tree, an arborist report is required before a permit can be issued. Mr. Lee asked me to provide a written report to satisfy the city's requirements.

Limits of The Assignment

Observations made in the following are limited to those which are subject to this report only. It is based on limited visual inspection from the ground only at the time of inspection. No in-depth above or below ground inspections were performed. Many such inspections may be necessary to be more conclusive about what was observed and are not included as part of this report.

The following report is by no means to be considered as a formal risk assessment for the subject tree. All trees represent some risk of failure. Even with a limited evaluation such as this, there is no guarantee that a tree will not fail unexpectedly. Trees are dynamic living organisms subject to many influencing factors. All trees are potentially hazardous regardless of their apparent health, vigor, or structural integrity. It is impossible to be 100% sure that a tree is absolutely safe. The tree owner/manager must decide how much risk he/she is willing to accept. This must be weighed against the value and benefit that we receive from trees.

Observations

The subject tree is a Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). It is in the front yard close to the entry to the home (see Attachment A: Aerial Image). It may have been present when the home was built in 1934¹ (see Attachment B: Photo 1). It is a large example of the species and had the following dimensions;

Diameter @ Breast Height	Canopy Spread	Height (Laser Rangefinder)
29.2"	42'	41'

The oak was surrounded by a masonry planter. Its root zone consisted mostly of manicured turf. Formal irrigation was present and functioning.

The oak's trunk leaned heavily to the west. Two large **lateral roots** could be seen growing towards the west in the same direction of the lean. They appeared to be under **compression**. None could be seen growing in the opposing direction towards the home (east). Roots in that area would normally be under **tension** (see Photo 2).

No **trunk flare** was visible on the east and north sides of the oak. In addition, **decay** that had formed previously could be seen at the base of the trunk. **Response growth** had developed around the **margins** of the wounded area (see Photo 3). Underlying **vascular tissue** may have been consumed. The trunk appeared flat at the soil line on the north side (see Photo 4).

Foliage density within the oak's **canopy** was sparse. Deadwood was present at branch extremities. Daylight could be seen when viewing from below (see Photo 5).

Discussion

Mature coast live oak trees often contain decay within their roots and/or lower trunks due to Oak Root Fungus (*Armillaria mellea*) activity. ORF is a **fungal pathogen** that usually forms below ground where conditions are favorable for its development. A healthy tree will have a well-developed flaring out of trunk material where it transitions into roots near the soil line. When decay is present there, a flattened or **concave** appearance of the flare can result where tissue was consumed. Often decay is concealed by **secondary bark** which has a distinct appearance. It is often disfigured and has a rough texture due to the formation of compensatory growth. ORF decay can eat away roots and progress upwards into the lower trunk. It is generally accepted that trees in this condition are more prone to failure than those that are not.

Leaning trees can be more prone to failure due to greater **gravitational forces** acting against them. Roots on the opposing side of the lean are under **tension load** and are generally more critical for stability than compression side roots on the other side of a

¹ www.zillow.com

tree. Trees will often develop robust tension side roots for that reason. Sometimes deadwood seen within the extremities of an oak's canopy and/or a low foliage density can be an indication of internal decay. **Circulatory impairment** due to tissue loss within a tree's trunk and/or roots will often manifest in this way. It can be symptomatic of poor tree health as well as compromised structure.

Conclusion

It is my opinion that the subject oak tree is in poor health and is in decline. The condition of its trunk flare and the presence of decay lead me to believe that there is significant vascular tissue and/or root loss due to ORF.

The low foliage density and deadwood within the oak's leaf canopy is symptomatic of a reduced circulatory capacity. I do not believe that the existing foliage is sufficient to provide **photosynthetic** functions for a tree of this size.

I do not believe that there is any feasible remedy for the oak's condition, and it could be subject to failure.

Recommendation

Hire a licensed and insured arborist to safely remove the subject oak tree.

Let me know if I can be of further assistance in this matter,



Peter Harnisch



Attachment A: Aerial Image



Attachment B: Photos

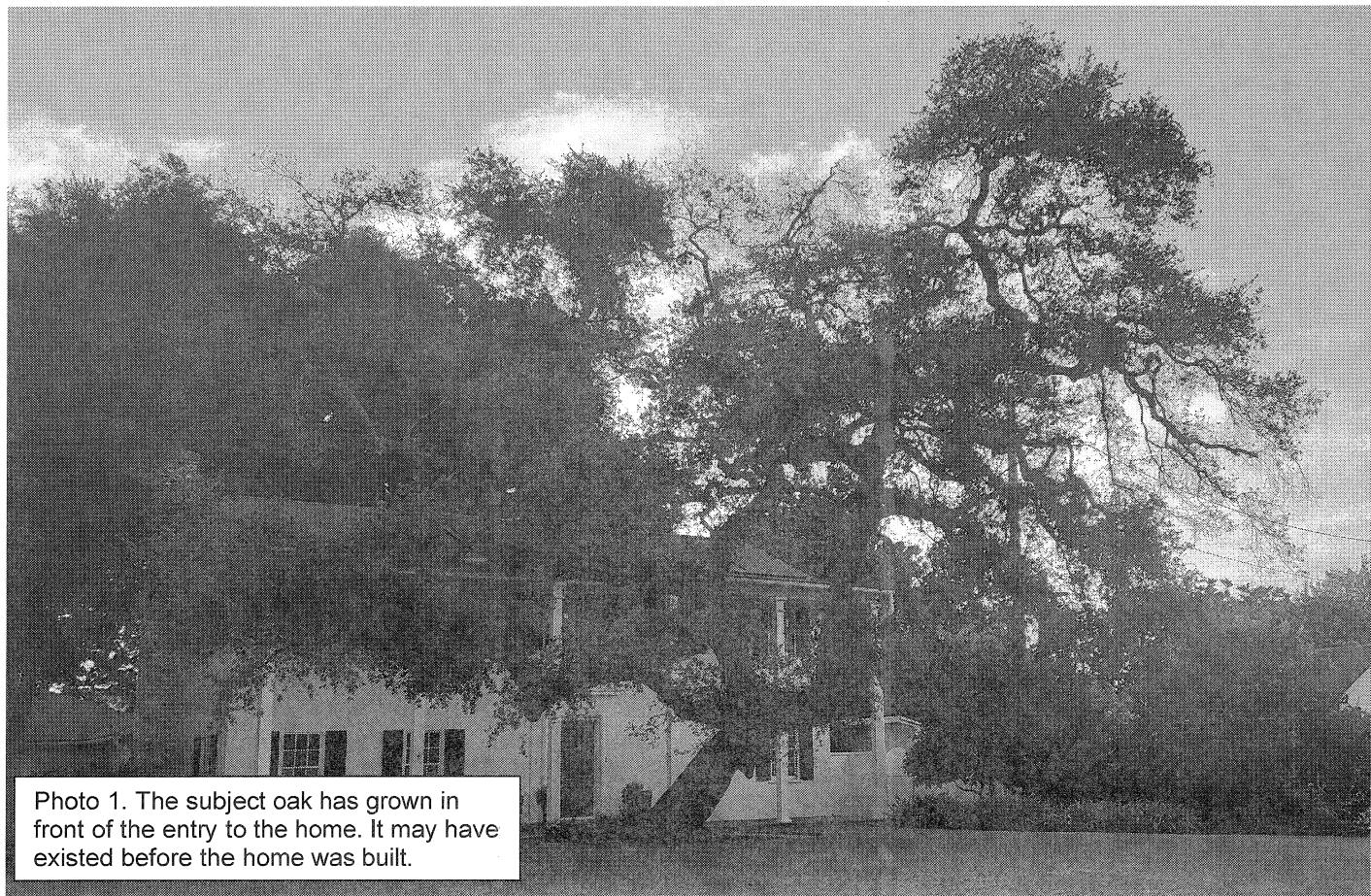


Photo 1. The subject oak has grown in front of the entry to the home. It may have existed before the home was built.

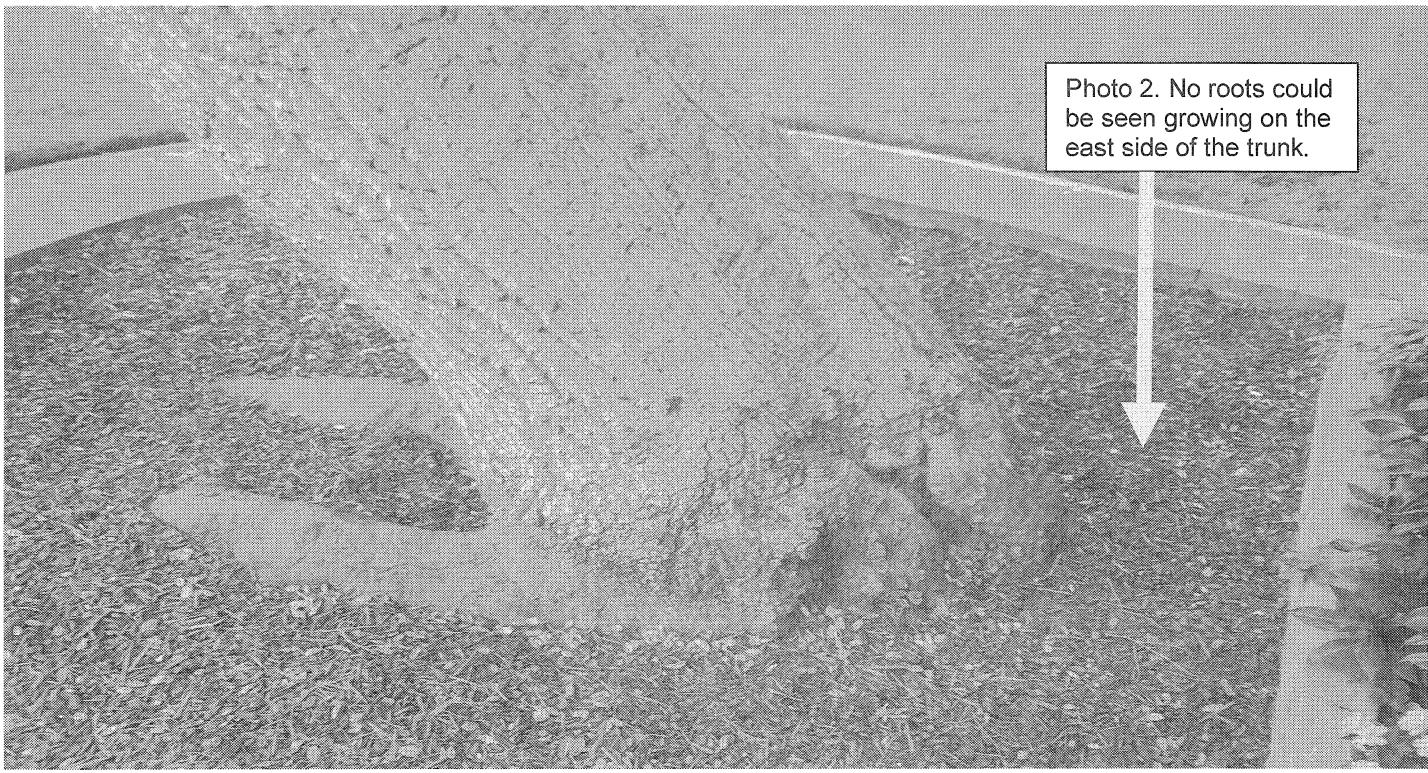


Photo 2. No roots could be seen growing on the east side of the trunk.

Attachment B: Photos

Photo 3. Decay that had formed previously could be seen at the base.

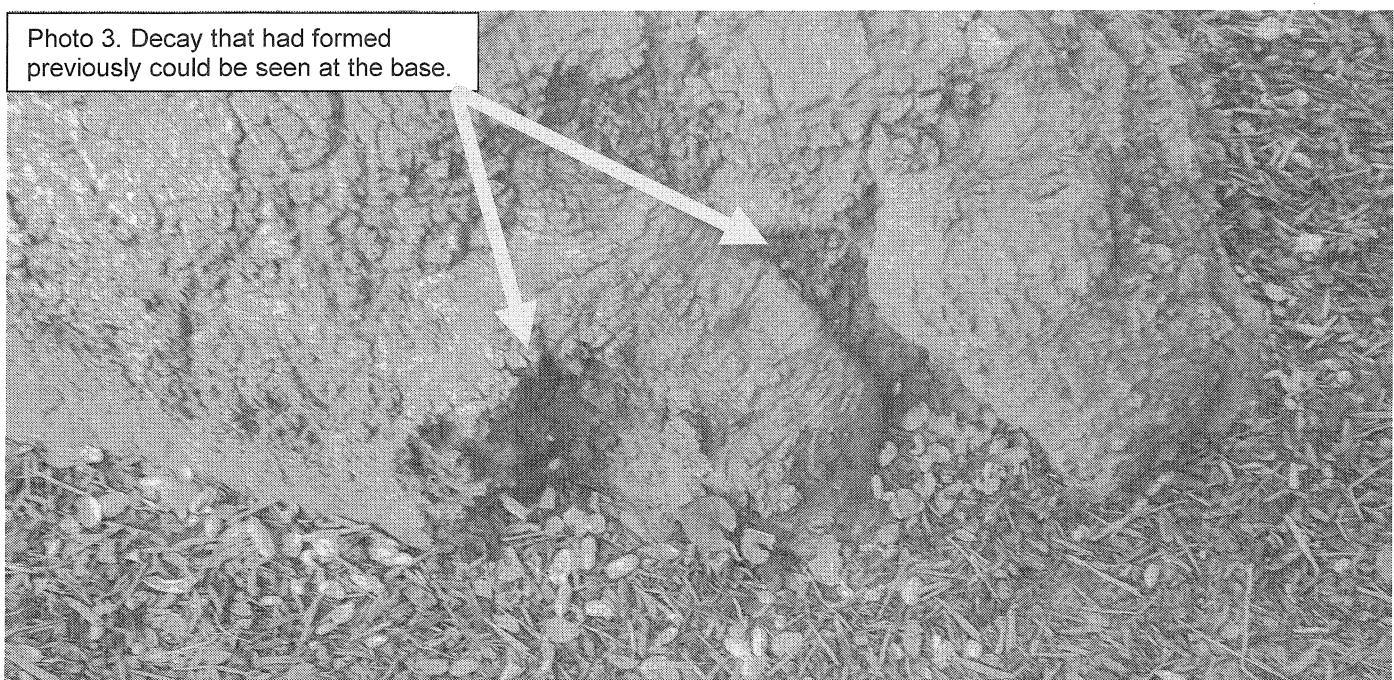
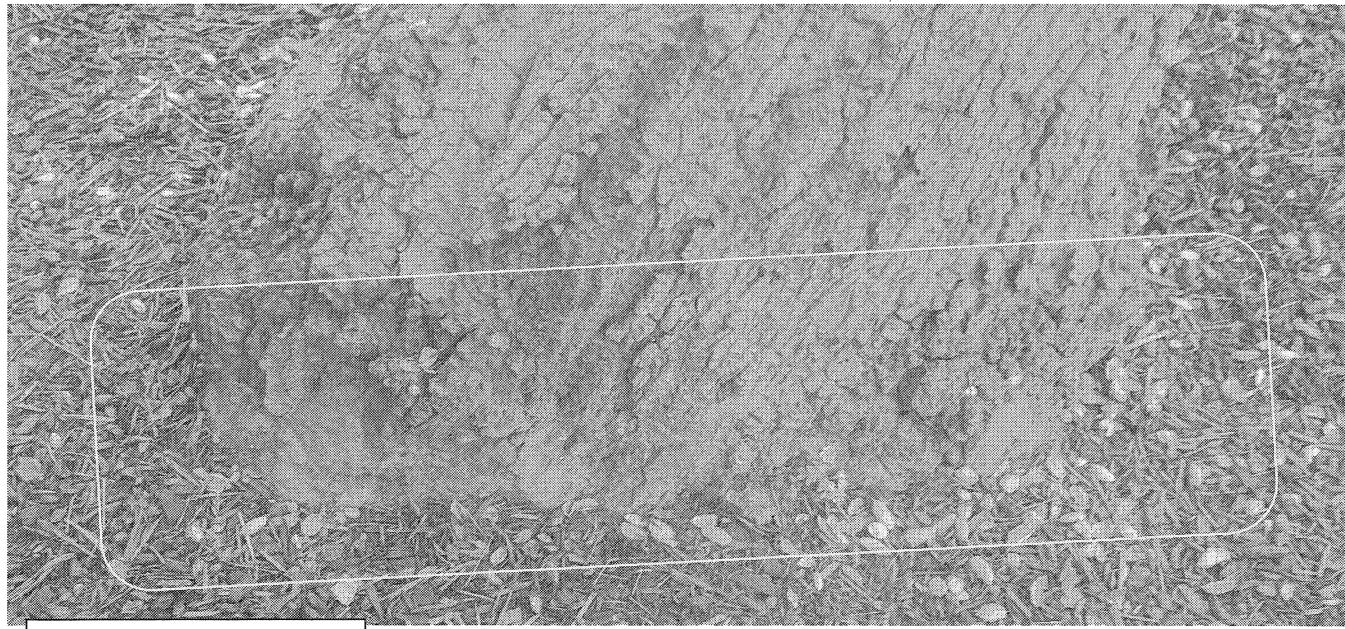


Photo 4. The north side of the oak's trunk was flat where it met the soil line.



Attachment B: Photos

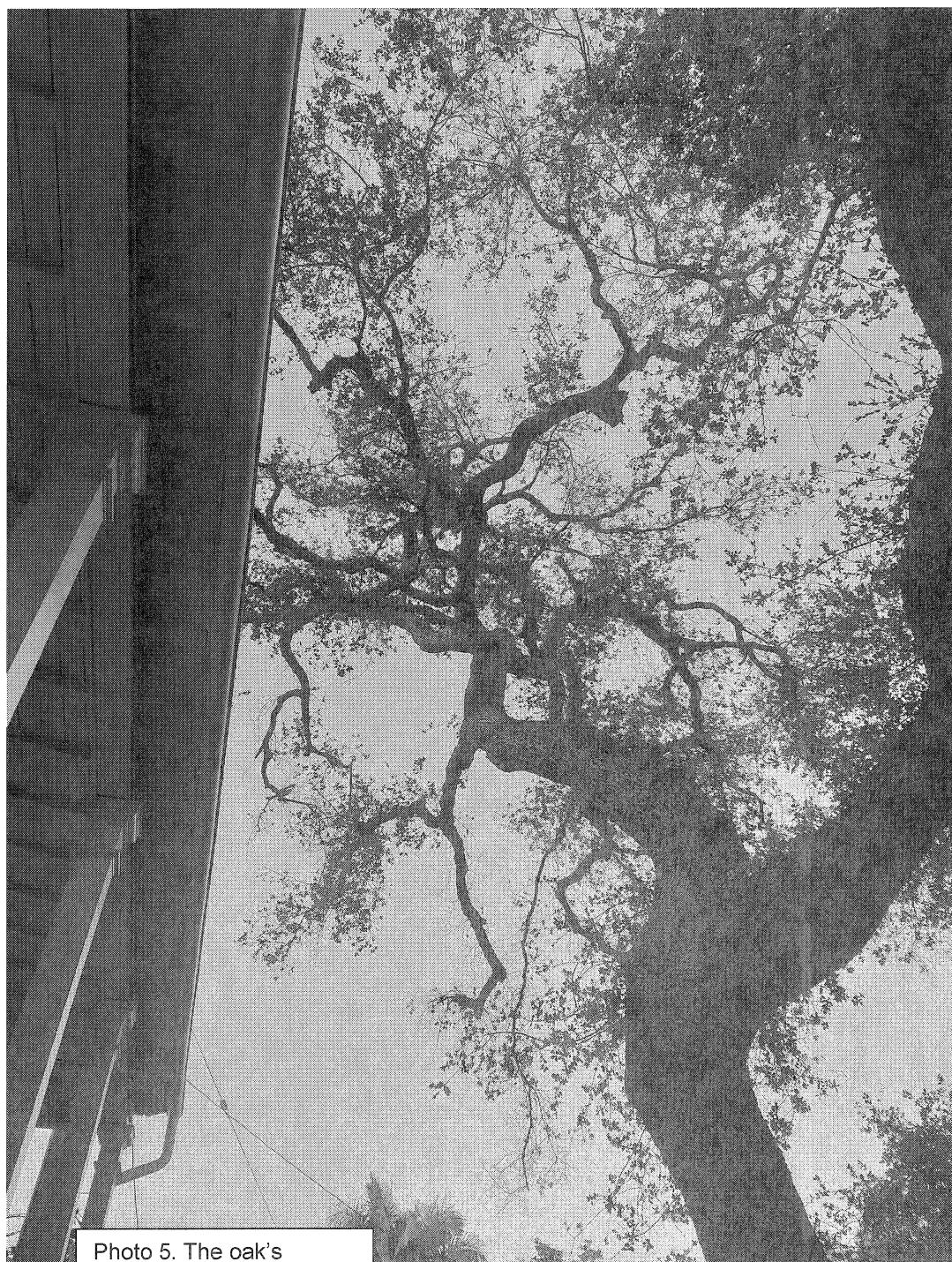


Photo 5. The oak's canopy is sparse. Deadwood could be seen when viewing from below.

Glossary

Canopy- The part of the crown of a tree composed of leaves and twigs.

Circulatory impairment- Interruptions, blockage, or diseases that affect circulation within an organism that leads to impaired function.

Compression- Forces imposed on an object where material is compressed. Often on the opposite side of tensile forces.

Concave- Having an outline or surface that curves inward like the interior of a circle or sphere.

Decay- A gradual falling into an inferior condition; progressive decline.

Foliage density- A measure of the amount or concentration of leaves of a plant collectively.

Fungal pathogens- Fungi that cause disease in humans or other organisms.

Gravitational forces- Forces created by two masses being attracted to one another. The larger the mass, the greater the force applied by it.

Lateral root- A tree root that extends horizontally from the primary root (radicle) and serve to anchor the plant securely into the soil.

Margins- The outside limits and adjoining surface of something : edge.

Photosynthetic- A process in green plants by which light energy is used to form glucose from water and carbon dioxide.

Response growth- growth which develops in reaction to an external stimulus.

Root zone- Area within the soil profile where roots exist; typically the root zone of trees extends beyond the drip line.

Secondary bark- Bark which is formed subsequent to original tree bark.

Tension- Force imposed on an object where two sections of material on either side of a plane are pulled apart or elongated.

Trunk- Main or central stem of a tree.

Trunk flare- Area at the base of a tree where trunk diameter is expanded as the trunk transitions into roots.

Vascular tissue- The tissue in plants that is arranged in long, discrete strands called vascular bundles. These bundles include both xylem and phloem, as well as supporting and protective cells in trees and other plants that develop wood.

Redaction Log

Total Number of Redactions in Document: 2

Redaction Reasons by Page

Page	Reason	Description	Occurrences
1	Pers-Med-Similar	The provided document(s) have been redacted and/or the City is withholding records from disclosure, in whole or in part, because disclosure of personnel, medical or similar files constitutes an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, pursuant to Government Code Section 7927.700. In addition, such information is protected by the privacy provisions of Article I, Section 1 of the California Constitution, incorporated into the Public Records Act exemptions through California Government Code Section 7927.705.	1
2	Pers-Med-Similar	The provided document(s) have been redacted and/or the City is withholding records from disclosure, in whole or in part, because disclosure of personnel, medical or similar files constitutes an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, pursuant to Government Code Section 7927.700. In addition, such information is protected by the privacy provisions of Article I, Section 1 of the California Constitution, incorporated into the Public Records Act exemptions through California Government Code Section 7927.705.	1