

February 28, 2016

Barbara Barker
Project Manager - Master Planning
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
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ARBORIST FIELD REPORT

Job Location: Puesta Del Sol planters at Museum of Natural History

BACKGROUND AND ASSIGNMENT

The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History is preparing to improve the front of their property along Puesta Del Sol. This includes removing a portion of the existing asphalt road on the south side of the street and installing new landscape, two street lights, two native oaks, and an unloading zone. This improvement is within the critical root zone of several oaks and sycamores that are growing on the south side of the existing stone wall. There is also one oak and one sycamore on the north side of the wall. I was retained to assess potential impacts to the trees from the project and prepare a report with my findings and recommendations.

OBSERVATIONS

1. The area of improvements encompass a 17' width, from the outside of the existing stone wall, northward into Puesta Del Sol. Many automobiles and buses park along this asphalt strip on a daily basis.
2. The existing asphalt and underlying compacted road base within this area will be removed with the exception of a 6' wide meandering swath of asphalt that will remain as a walkway. See site plan.
3. Boulders and plants will be installed to a shallow depth within the area where asphalt and underlying road base are removed, within the critical zones of these trees.
4. Holes for boulders and plants can be adjusted to avoid any significant roots although it is unlikely that large roots will be found due to the distance from the trees and the existing stone wall between the planter and the trees.

DISCUSSION

As the distance from the trees increase, the size of roots rapidly decrease. This should allow installation of plants and boulders with minimal or no root disturbance. It is also likely that the existing stone wall has a footing that has created an obstacle for root growth on the north side of the wall. Because the underlying soil in this area has been found to be sandy, the pattern of root growth should be deep and less spreading, which also suggests that there will be minimal, if any, root disturbance. In addition, the compacted asphalt and underlying road base is a very limiting environment for root growth.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. This project will not impact the trees provided my recommendations are followed.
2. The demolition of asphalt and preparation for planting and boulder installation should be monitored by the project arborist.
3. Should any roots that are 2" and greater be encountered while excavating, then the hole for the plant, boulder, or street light should be adjusted to avoid cutting those roots.
4. If any roots encountered are 1" and greater, they should be cleanly cut.
5. The newly exposed soil area should be irrigated after the demolition and during installation of the new landscape, especially in areas where some roots may have been cut.

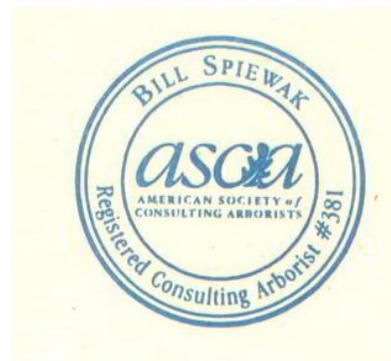
Please contact me with any questions.

Prepared by:

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March 1, 2016

Heidi Jones

Heidi@sepps.com

Subject: All of Puesta Del Sol designation Change to the Street Tree Master Plan

Dear Ms. Jones:

Your request to replace designated street tree, *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, *Jacaranda* with *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak was presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission at their regular meeting on February 24, 2016. The Commission voted to designate *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak for Puesta Del Sol.

Thank you,

Tim Downey
Urban Forest Superintendent