

**FRONT YARD SET BACK TREE REMOVAL
REQUEST**

June 2017

Date: 5/22/17

Requested by: Peggy Lindt and Eric Kelley

Address: peggy@peggylindt.com

Location of Tree: 1627 Calle Canon, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Tree Species: *Quercus agrifolia* *Common Name:* Coast Live Oak

Zoning/Setback: R – 1 15" Setback

Reason for Removal: Oak tree in front yard pushing down retaining wall by driveway.

Proposed Replacement: Yes No

Advisory Committee Recommendation: Partially Approve Removal: Deny Removal:

Staff Recommendation: Partially Approve Removal: Deny Removal:

Date Posted: 6/7/17

Comments: The Committee (3/0) recommends that the Commission approve removal.

PHOTO INVENTORY



Front Yard 1627 Calle Canon 6-28-17 Attachment 3



**City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department
SETBACK TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION**

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

MAY 22 2017
PARK & RECREATION
PARKS DIVISION

Mailing Address:
PO Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93102
(805) 564-5433 FAX (805) 897-2524

Physical Address:
402 E. Ortega St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Application Fee: \$50 (effective July 1, 2010)

PAID

DATE OF REQUEST:	5/19/17
APPLICANT:	PEGGY LINDT & Eric Kelley
OWNER NAME (IF DIFFERENT THAN APPLICANT):	— same —
MAILING/EMAIL ADDRESS:	peggy@peggylindt.com
DAYTIME PHONE:	(805) 705-8313
LOCATION OF TREE (ADDRESS):	1627 Calle Canon SB, Ca. 93101
TREE SPECIES (IF KNOWN):	Live Oak Tree
REASON(S) FOR REMOVAL:	Oak tree in front yard pushing down retaining retaining wall by driveway
TREE(S) WILL BE REPLACED: Yes [] With:	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X orange tree near by.

PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

- Property owner letter, indicating reasons for removal. Also include whether:
 - The removal application is associated with new development or redevelopment of property
 - Status of development application, including whether the project is scheduled for review by the Single Family Design Board, Architectural Board of Review or Historic Landmarks Commission
 - The tree is a designated Specimen or Historic Tree or located on a property with a designated Historic Landmark
- Photo of tree(s) proposed for removal
- Development plan/Landscape plan

City of Santa Barbara
Parks and Recreation Department
402 E. Ortega St.
Santa Barbara, Ca 93101

Date: 5/19/17

Setback Tree Removal Application

Date of Request:
5/19/20

Applicants :

Peggy Lindt & Eric Kelley
1627 Calle Canon
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
cell: 805.705-8313

Location Tree:

1627 Calle Canon
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Species:

Live Oak Tree (about 25-30 yrs old?)

Reasons for Removal:

The Oak Tree in question has grown against a large cinder block retaining wall along our driveway. The fast growth of the tree has created direct constant pressure against the wall which is gradually, but surely, knocking down the wall. This wall supports our front yard on the upper side and allows for a driveway below.

Letter for Reasons for Removal:

The Oak Tree in question has grown against a large retaining cinder block wall (up to 6 ft 10" tall x 23ft long). The fast growth of the tree has created direct constant pressure which is knocking down the wall. This original retaining wall may not have been built with rebar and is now crumbling and cracking from the pressure of the growing oak, and in the process of falling down. We'd like to repair and replace the wall with some improvements and cannot do that until we have the oak tree removed. **(15.24.090. Action on Permit Application: B. & D.** applies in our view). This oak tree would easily grow potentially twice its current size in this constricted area that also borders our driveway. **(15.24.080. Action on Permit Application: B.** applies in our view). We would also like to repair the driveway, but we have been advised that cannot happen until we repair / replace the wall.

Everyday there is more evidence of movement with dirt piles seeping out of the retaining wall and onto our driveway; showing new radiating cracks and fissures that now cross a five foot area nearest the base of the tree and I have to assume, the descending roots. This damage is especially evident after the rain. I just found a three inch piece of masonry chipped out today. A shorter part of the wall nearest the street has separated from the rest of the wall, and hangs out at a precarious tilt by 4" over the driveway. We are certain the next larger set of cracks in the upper end of the wall are destined for that same level of damage and disintegration, and will surely fall down.

Calle Canon is a steep narrow canyon street and our house is carved out of the hillside. Our one level 1955 house is above street level along with the front yard. In the setback area, the retaining wall (about 23 ft. long) holds our front yard up on the upper side of the wall, and on the lower side of the wall allows space for the driveway. The driveway leads to our one car garage and most importantly, meets up with a stairwell & breezeway up to our front door. The street is a very busy and narrow street, and we need to repair or replace the wall to preserve our off street parking, access to our garage and our front door, not to mention maintain the integrity and support of the front yard. **(15.24.090 Findings for Removal: B. D. & E.** apply in our view)

This tree was probably a volunteer offspring of our beautiful giant Live Oak tree in the backyard. Our house was designed and built around the back yard oak tree. This tree was a major inspiration for the architectural design of the house. It is doing well and gives us daily pleasure with a canopy that covers most of the house. **(15.24.080. Action on Permit Application: C. applies in our view).** My parents bought the house in 1966, and my husband and I inherited the family house in 2014.

I watched the oak tree grow up from a sapling from my art studio window. I loved watching it come of age and turn into a beautiful young tree, with a perfect expansive canopy providing more cooling shade. It never occurred to me the tree couldn't coexist with the wall. We realized in the last 5 years or so that the wall was being radically affected by the growth of the tree and watched as signs of masonry distress turned into substantial damage. I hoped for the last few years that the challenge would come to point where the wall would hold it's ground and the tree would seek an easier path for growth, but the tree grows on and the wall keeps giving. We consulted a few arborists, including Duke McPhearson in 2013, in hope that there was a work around to save the tree. I also talked with masonry experts. Sorry to say, but everyone agreed it was impossible to find a working solution that would allow for both the tree and wall and still preserve our driveway.

It breaks my heart to have to let the tree go, but at this point we can't afford not to repair or replace the wall. It's turned into a formidable effort and expense to save the integrity of the property. Our neighbor below us (a landscaper,) keeps asking me when are we going to fix with the wall and deal with the oak tree? He's worried about the substantial decline of the wall especially after the last rainy season we had. The positive effects of the removal of the oak tree in the setback area are that we have an orange tree in the front yard that will finally have nearly full sun and that the larger oak in the center of property will be quite visible from the street and contribute to the wooded nature of the street. We hope the orange tree can flourish again with some serious TLC. The orange tree's well-being is currently challenged with leaves only on just the house side, the side that faces the best and only available light. **(15.24.080. Action on Permit Application: C. & E. applies in our view.)**

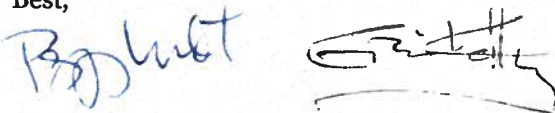
- We have no other removal application associated with new development or redevelopment of property.
- Regarding status - we have no pending application or reviews out.
- The tree is not designated Specimen or Historic Tree or located on a property with a designated Historic Landmark.
- See photos included.

Development plan / Landscape plan

We have no plans to develop our property other than maintenance and property improvement. We hope that once the tree is removed and the stump is ground down, we will have a better idea of our options to repair / replace the wall and the general improvement of the property to include the driveway. We have worked with Douglas Cicileo at Arborology before and he is an arborist and also a masonry contractor. We hope to work with him again as it would be good to have the dual background skills on this project, and he could advise us on how to help restore the orange tree in our front yard.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your feedback.

Best,



Peggy Lindt & Eric Kelley

1627 Calle Canon

SB, Ca 93101

(805) 705-8313

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The lighter green is our giant oak in the backyard visible from the street.



House ↗

↑ wall

(darker green)
oak tree
to be removed
from set back
in the front yard

view from street

Peggy Livot / Eric Kelley
1627 Calle Canon
Santa Barbara, Ca 93101
(805) 705-8313

②

(- oak tree to be removed)

garage

Retaining wall

BREEZEWAY
TO STAIRS
+ FRONT DOOR

Driveway



retaining wall

LINDT / KELLEY
1627 calle Canon
SB, 93101