

Lilly Schinsing

**From:** swifttree@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, July 01, 2011 9:08 AM  
**To:** Lilly Schinsing  
**Cc:** Jonathon Goldman  
**Subject:** Fwd: 122 San Carlos  
**Attachments:** report\_122\_san\_carlos.pdf

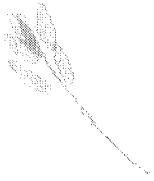
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JUL -1 2011

CITY OF SAUSALITO  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Good Morning,  
Please include this report as a "late mail submission" with our application for the removal of the oak at 122 San Carlos. This third Arborist Report backs up our assertion that the tree is hazardous and beyond saving.  
Thank you,  
Kristi Swift

*Kristi Swift*  
*Swift Tree Care*  
*415-488-0522 tele*  
*415-488-1966 fax*  
*swifttreecare.com*



**Tree-Report**  
**Arboricultural Consultations**  
**c/o Dan McKenna**  
**P.O. Box 814**  
**Forest Knolls, CA 94933**  
**415 488-1621**  
**415 602-1621 (cell)**  
**dan@tree-report.com**

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CITY OF SAUSALITO  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

July 1, 2011

Kristi Swift  
c/o Swift Tree Care  
P.O. Box 416  
Forest Knolls, CA 94933

Dear Ms. Swift:

As requested, I have conducted a site evaluation for a mature *Quercus agrifolia* tree located at 122 San Carlos Dr. in Sausalito, CA. I conducted the site visit on June 30th at 7 AM and took field notes, conducted measurements, and photo documented the condition of the tree. I have also reviewed the City of Sausalito's Arborist Report authored by Mr. Juan Ochoa. I understand my report will be used in your efforts to obtain a tree removal permit from the City of Sausalito.

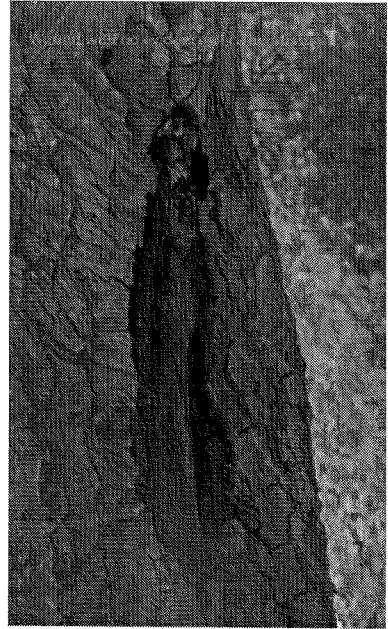
The subject tree is approximately 30' in height, with a spread of 40' and has two main stems (North stem is 31" in diameter and South stem is 23" in diameter). The tree as seen in the photo to the right is growing in a retaining wall planter and the root crown has been buried at some point in the past. The overall vigor of the tree is fair to poor with current annual shoot growth at approximately 2 to 3 inches. The long scaffold branch growing over the roadway has some die back and is showing signs of vascular failure possibly leading to an eventual total die back.



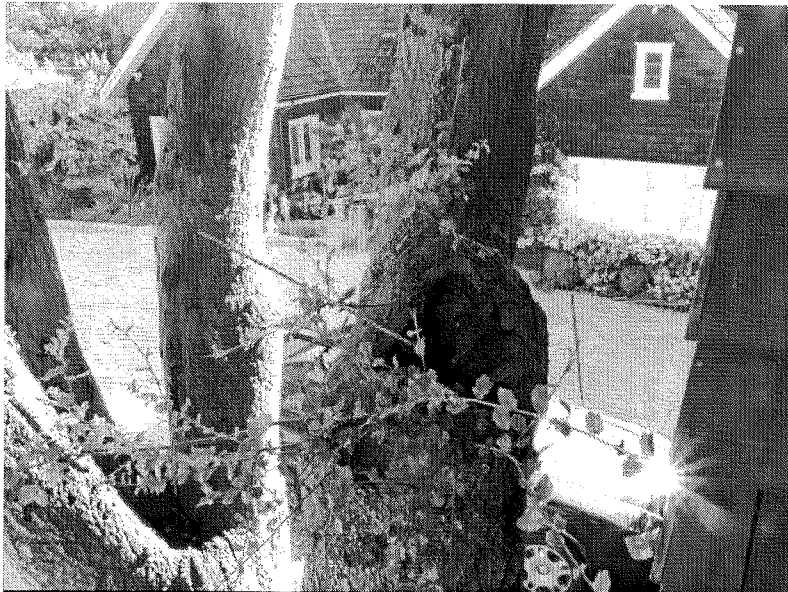
Several epicormic shoots sprouting from old pruning wounds are more vigorous than terminal shoots, which is typical for a tree experiencing stress. The foliage has normal color, and density is fair. Past pruning has resulted in an unbalanced canopy with 90% of the foliage arising within the top 10' of the tree. This has resulted in an unnatural canopy structure that subjects the tree to increased wind load stress. When all of the foliage is removed from lower scaffold branches the tree experiences increased wind load stress, because less wind is deflected along the entire branch and the stress is concentrated at the top of the tree.

The attachment between the two stems is wide with no included bark, however, since the root crown has been buried right below this attachment it is not known if decay is present. A recent excavation on the west side of the tree indicates that decay is not present in this area, but the excavation did not reveal any significant buttress roots which is unusual. As indicated in Mr. Ochoa's report, a thorough root crown excavation should be conducted if the tree is to be saved.

The lack of overall vigor might indicate a soil pathogen has infected the tree's vascular system as mentioned in the Ochoa report. The photo to the right shows a wound in the northern stem with no evidence of callous wood development. This is another sign of poor vigor and an overall state of decline.



Since the Ochoa report was conducted for the City of Sausalito it is natural



that the report focuses on

stabilizing the declining branch over the roadway in order to protect general public safety. I too agree that this major scaffold branch should be removed, but my focus was also on the major defects on the branches over the private property. I believe these decay pockets to be significant, and do not believe that cabling alone can stabilize the tree.

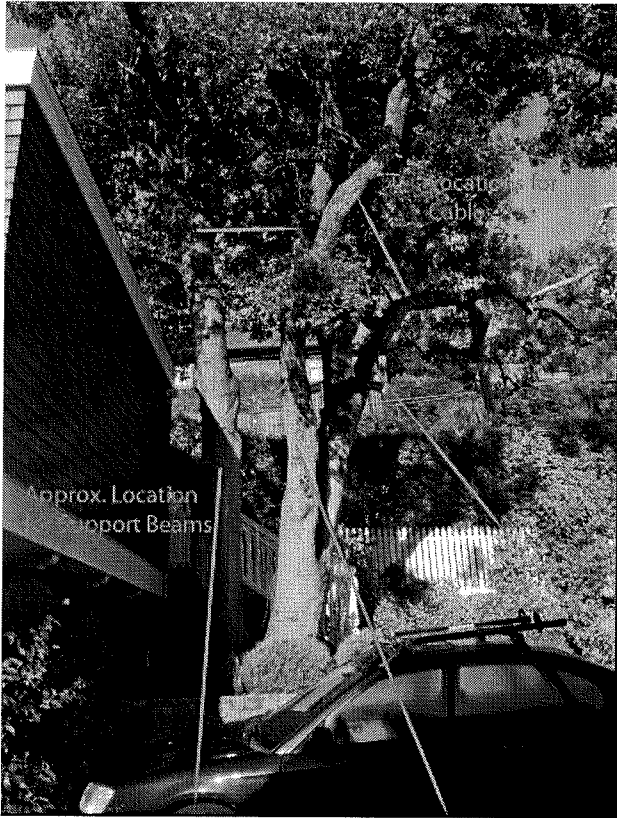
In order for a cable system to be effective the defective branch must be cabled to a sound branch. In this case, both branches have defects and the tree does not have a sound defect free major scaffold branch.

The only alternative would be a cable system, plus the installation of a bracing system that installs legs into the driveway and landscape planting areas. Custom fabricated steel legs would stabilize each stem and provide vertical support, while the more traditional cables would reduce torque associated with the poor canopy structure.

The downside to this solution is the area where the braces would have to be installed serves the occupants as a driveway into the lower garage area. The installation of braces would effectively change the use of the area.



As the photo below describes the legs would displace the current use of the driveway. In addition, because of the close proximity of the adjoining garage, the location of the southern leg is not ideal in order to support the southern stem. Ideally, this leg would be positioned within the garage structure in order to effectively support the southern stem. In my view this is not a practical solution. This is especially significant since this stem has the most significant cavity (>50% of stem dia.) and poses the greatest hazard to the property.



In summary:

- The overall crown structure is flawed because of poor historic pruning practices, and coupled with
- Significant prevailing winds out of the northwest, subject the tree to strong wind loads creating a hazard to the roadway, driveway parking area, and the adjoining parking garage.
- The vigor of the tree is poor and a pathogen affecting the tree's vascular system is most likely the cause.
- Remedies to minimize the hazards for the roadway and the use of the property in the form of cabling and bracing are not ideal given that both of the tree's major stems have decay and sound wood needed to anchor a cable is not available.

Therefore, I would recommend that the tree be removed. I do not believe that extraordinary measures should be employed for a tree exhibiting signs of senescence that is

beyond remedy.

If you should have any questions related to this report please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan McKenna".

Dan McKenna,  
Registered Consulting Arborist #445 ASCA  
Certified Arborist WE0356 ISA