

FAMILY TREE RESOURCE, INC.



Arborist Assessment

To:
County of Humboldt
Attn: Steve Finch
Roundhouse Creek Rd
Trinidad, CA 95570

May 25, 2022

Family Tree Resource was asked to provide an ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) Arborist's Level 2 Basic Tree Health Assessment Report at the request of County of Humboldt [Roads Division?] on two mature non-native Monterey pines that had been planted decades ago in an enclosed low cement-walled island at the junction of Roundhouse Creek Road and Oceanview Drive in Trinidad CA, just south of Big Lagoon County Park.

On 5-25-22, I performed a Level 2 Basic assessment on these two mature Monterey pines (*Pinus radiata*). In a Level 2 Basic assessment, I walk completely around a tree to look for defects in all visible areas of a tree, as well as the surrounding area for recent changes in site conditions such as grade changes from road maintenance. I also look at soil type/stability, prevailing wind conditions and exposure to wind conditions/protection from surrounding trees. This type of assessment can include the use of a rubber mallet for "sounding" the tree for sign of internal decay, a forester's DBH tape to measure the tree's DBH in inches ("diameter-at-breast height" at 4.5' above ground), a "Nikon Forest Pro" rangefinder to determine the height of each tree, and a Vortex 8x42 monocular to inspect areas of the tree higher in the tree's canopy.

(In this report, I will sometimes refer to one of the two trees as either tree #1 or tree #2; tree #1 is the southernmost and smaller of the two trees.)

Tree #1 is a 42"x~50' Monterey pine that appears mature to overly mature in age and is presenting an overall lack of vigor with < 30% of live canopy remaining from branch and twig die-back. This tree has a co-dominate structure where the two remaining stems originate ~6' above ground. (Co-dominate stems are not the optimum for tree stability since decay can form in union of the stems when duff from shedding leaves/needles can build up overtime and hold moisture, encouraging fungal growth that can weaken the wood fibers.) Tree #1 has multiple defects and damaged parts. The majority of the northern stem is dead. There's an old, and shallow, cavity on the eastside of trunk from



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the base to about 18" above ground where an old stem had failed at attachment to the now main stem. There is some decay present inside this cavity. On the west-side of this tree is a more recently failed stem on the ground (still partially attached) as large as the remaining stem and decay is present throughout the base of this tree and likely into root system. Tree #1 has an ~20° to 25° lean to east and is more heavily weighted on that side.

Tree #2 is a 62"x~60' Monterey pine that also appears mature to overly mature in age and is presenting an overall lack of vigor with < 30% of live canopy remaining from branch/twig die-back and whole stem/branch failures. A very recent large branch failure where tree leans out over the street is apparent. This tree has a 7 co-dominant stem structure resulting from old failures where new branches asserted as dominate stems. This structure has enabled the stems/branches to grow in different directions creating multiple points for included bark to develop pockets where limbs attach. There are multiple places on this tree where decay is evident, partially due to the many past branch failures that created cavities as well as from very old large limb pruning cuts. There are two large cavities from base to 5' above on each side of this tree where decay and stress cracks are evident and concerning. Tree #2 has an ~34° corrected lean over the road to the east, toward neighboring residence, and is more heavily weighted to that side.

The site's environmental conditions are the main factor for the numerous issues these 2 trees are presenting. The coastal winds along the bluff here are the main culprit in shaping how these trees grow and fail. The soil does not appear compacted or hard but the presence of surface anchor roots, due to a constricted root-zone, have done well protecting the trees from a whole tree failures. Tree #2's anchor/surface roots are being subjected to enough windthrow to make the soil around some of them very loose. Monterey pines are not native to this part of the coast and have a tendency to blow over or be seriously damaged by prevailing coastal winds but remain alive, growing in deformed structure unlike ones possibly growing nearby in a conventional form but in more protected environment.

Due to the amount and types of issue these two trees have had, and will continue to have, the potential for a partial or whole tree failure appears Likely to Very Likely. (Only if these trees were visibly uprooting or obvious signs of failure were observed happening, like an actively splitting stem or branch, would I say the likelihood of failure is Imminent.) The impact and consequences of a partial or whole tree failure are slightly different for tree #1 than for tree #2 whereas tree #1 would impact only part of the roadway (and people/vehicles, possibly), tree #2 has the potential and likelihood of impacting the



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roadway and potential occupants, but also damaging private property--the landscaping of the residence and possibly part of the structure itself, if it were to fail perfectly in the direction of its current attitude. Due to the poor condition/health of these trees, and impact if they were to fail, I would consider them each a Hazard tree with tree #2 being more impactful than tree #1. These trees will remain a nuisance by continually shedding branches/stems until a whole tree failure occurs or are removed completely.

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Arborist Disclosure

Arborists are tree professionals who use their education, knowledge, training, and experience to examine trees, recommend measures to enhance the beauty and health of trees, and attempt to reduce the risk of living near trees. Clients may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations of the arborist and / or seek additional advice. Arborists cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to the structural failure of a tree. Trees are living organisms that fail in ways we do not fully understand. Conditions are often hidden within trees as well as below ground. Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances, or for a specified period. Likewise, remedial treatments, like medicine, cannot guarantee. Treatment, root cutting, pruning and removal of trees may involve considerations beyond the scope of the arborist's services such as property boundaries, property ownership, site lines, disputes between neighbors, landlord-tenant matters, etc. Arborists cannot take such issues into account unless complete and accurate information is given to the arborist. The person hiring the arborist accepts full responsibility for authorizing the recommended treatment / measures. Trees can be managed, but they cannot be fully controlled. Living near a tree is to accept some degree of risk. The only way to eliminate all risks is to eliminate all trees.



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