

January 3, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

As the property owners of 1900 Brush Creek Road in Santa Rosa, please accept this letter as a response to the permit submittal requirements outlined by Jesse Oswald in his letter dated December 7, 2020. After receiving the tree removal requirements, we contacted Urban Tree Farm in seeking expert evaluation regarding the feasibility of planting the requested number of replacement redwood trees on our property based on their professional recommendation of necessary distance between adjacent planted redwood trees in order to ensure we have adequate space and optimal conditions for their growth. Upon discussion, we were advised to plant each redwood a minimum of eight feet apart from one another due to their expansive root systems with optimal spacing being fifteen feet apart. Additionally, our property has multiple trees as well as bushes planted along the perimeter fence line as well as a large concrete area surrounding our pool located at the East/rear side of our property line. The recommendation of spacing between planted trees as well as the limited physical area available for planting, has severely limited the number of redwood trees that we would be able to plant on our property.

In seeking an alternative to the redwood tree species, as outlined as an option in the submittal requirements, we also inquired about a similar species that may allow for the maintenance of the tree canopy on our property but perhaps with a smaller spacing requirement between each planted tree. The recommendation of a close alternate with a less expansive/invasive root system was the Western Red Cedar. Although still an evergreen and native Californian conifer, the recommendation for spacing was six to eight feet between each tree rather than the eight to fifteen feet spacing recommendation for the redwood and are also available in fifteen gallon containers.

After much consideration and expert evaluation of our property, we would like to opt/request to pay the stated in-lieu fee outlined in the removal requirements in place of planting replacement trees due to planting space limitations on our property. We hope this may allow the city to utilize the funds where it deems it necessary to allow replanting of trees in an area where they may flourish and not be restricted by property size and/or use for tree educational programs. In addition, we have made a voluntary monetary donation to the Redwood Forest Foundation, providing the foundation the funds to plant ten redwood trees in one of Northern California's redwood forests.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Amber and Daniel Lichau

City of Santa Rosa
JAN 04 2021
Planning & Economic
Development Department