

October 25, 2022

Mr. Charlie Traboulsi
TDG Consulting Civil Engineers, Inc.
3289 Regional Parkway
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: 408 Calistoga Road in Santa Rosa; response to concern letter

Charlie,

I reviewed the letter you provided me from Paul and Lynn Bussard and understand they have many concerns about your proposed project. Specifically, I am going to respond to concerns about the Valley Oaks that are designated for preservation at the site, and following discussion is provided for all to consider:

1. The proposed project site provides a nearly ideal configuration for infill development where there are numerous native trees present. Over the years most site trees have been protected along the perimeter property lines and this allows for construction near the middle of each designated lot area.
2. Tree location not only provides adequate area for new home construction, but also provides future property owners with well-established native trees on their lots and in their immediate neighborhood. They provide built-in ambiance, shade, and environmental mitigation.
3. The trees designated for preservation all appear to be in good condition, and vigorous trees will tolerate a great deal of site modification without being negatively impacted.
4. When I overlay the proposed development configuration with an aerial of the site from Google maps it does not appear that existing driplines are substantially different than shown on the Tentative Parcel Map.
5. After construction site trees will continue to grow and they will adapt well to the new conditions that will be present.

6. I have worked on hundreds of projects where thousands of Valley Oaks are present and have found them to be very adaptable to some construction impact if they are well protected during the design and construction process. There is no need to protect an area equal to the height of the tree, although this works too. They tolerate impacts within their canopy driplines very well if no more than 25% of the area is impacted. Just like pruning in the canopy roots can be removed and will regenerate quickly over time. The key is not to take too many at one time. Impacts to less than 25% of the root system will not destabilize a Valley Oak.

Root barriers are not recommended on established trees and existing trees will be far enough away from future homes that foundations will not be affected in the future.

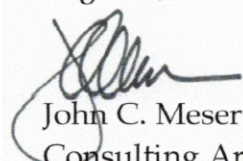
Future landscaping will be up to the homeowner. Beautiful and colorful landscaping can occur within the dripline of Valley Oaks as long as species are selected for their drought tolerance or drought adaptiveness, and are irrigated with a drip system. Periodic summer irrigation is often beneficial to Valley Oaks as they often occur naturally in association with water sources.

Valley Oaks are not a protected species and occur widely across the Santa Rosa plains. While the larger and older Valley Oaks are diminishing in quantity, there are many, many sites that support thriving populations of seedlings, saplings, and adolescent trees throughout Sonoma County.

This project does a very reasonable job at preserving existing Valley Oaks while facilitating the creation of new housing. I'm comfortable that the Valley Oaks designated for preservation will survive and thrive (if well protected during construction) well into the future and will continue to have a beneficial impact in the immediate neighborhood as well as the surrounding neighborhoods.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions.

Regards,



John C. Meserve

Consulting Arborist and Horticulturist

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ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified

