



Kelly Koker  
ISA Certified Arborist® WE-11968A  
805-423-8511  
Contractors License I011902



Hattie Koker  
ISA Certified Arborist® WE-13496A  
805-423-4933

City of Paso Robles

July 24, 2025

Address : Vicki Silva  
1511 Vine St. Paso Robles, CA 93446

## Arborist Report for Tree Removal

This arborist report is for one Valley Oak ( *Quercus lobata* ) tree being requested for removal. The tree is located at 1511 Vine Street in Paso Robles in the back yard on the corner of the house. The tree is marked with a pink flagging ribbon for easy identification.

Reason For Removal Request :  
( from homeowner )

The homeowner is concerned with the recent limb failure that more limbs may fail and fall onto the house or neighboring property. Concerns are for damage to property but also the liability that a limb may fall and severely injure a person or worse.

### Terms you may see in this report :

**CRZ** - Critical Root Zone - This is where the sensitive roots of the tree exist. The " Critical Root Zone " (CRZ) means an area that is within a circle circumscribed around the trunk of a tree using a radius of 1 foot per inch DBH.

Example of CRZ - a 20 inch diameter at breast height tree will have a CRZ with a radius of 20 feet.

**Dripline** - The dripline is the area directly located under the outer circumference of the tree branches / canopy.

**DBH** - Diameter at breast height, normally about 4 ft 6 inches from ground.

**Vigor** - Overall health of tree

**Branch Collar** - area where the branch joins another branch or trunk.

**Canopy** - collective branches and foliage of a tree or group of trees' crowns.

**Crown** - upper part of a tree, consisting of the branches and foliage.

**Cavity** - Open or closed hollow area within the tree, this is usually associated with decay.

**Foliage** - leaves of a plant

**Root Collar** - area where the main roots join the trunk or main stem of the plant. Usually at or near ground level.

# Exhibit A

**Codominant Stems** - forked stems nearly the same size in diameter, arising from a common junction that lacks a normal branch union.

**Included Bark** - bark that becomes embedded in a crotch between branch and trunk or between codominant stems . Causes a weak structure.

**Absorbing Roots** - A tree's absorbing roots are within the top 12 inches of soil. These are fine fibrous roots that take up water and minerals.

**Scarification** - to break up the surface of topsoil or pavement.

**Tree Protection Zone** - described as the area within the orange tree protection fencing.

**Shall** - Word that designates a mandatory requirement.

**Should** - Word that designates an advisory recommendation.

**Brown Rot** - Wood-decay fungus, fungi that digest moist wood, causing rot, includes various species that infect living trees and cured wood.

**Porous** - material that allows water from precipitation to pass through, yet are strong and durable enough to support vehicular or pedestrian traffic.

**Epicormic shoot** - shoot arising from a dormant bud or newly formed adventitious tissue.

**Evergreen** - a tree has its leaves all year round

**Deciduous** - tree loses its leaves annually

## Tree Information:

**Valley Oaks** ( *Quercus lobata* ) - Deciduous - Native

- Construction tolerance - Moderate
- Size - 60 to 100 ft tall , 50 ft wide
- Growth Rate - Fast , Moderate
- Sun - Full sun
- Moisture - Low, summer irrigation max 2x per month if needed
- Soil PH - 6.0 to 8.0

## Tree #170 -

Tree tag # : 170

Tree Species : Valley Oak ( *Quercus lobata* )

Trunk Circumference : 11 ft 6 in

Diameter at Breast Height ( DBH ) : 43.9 in

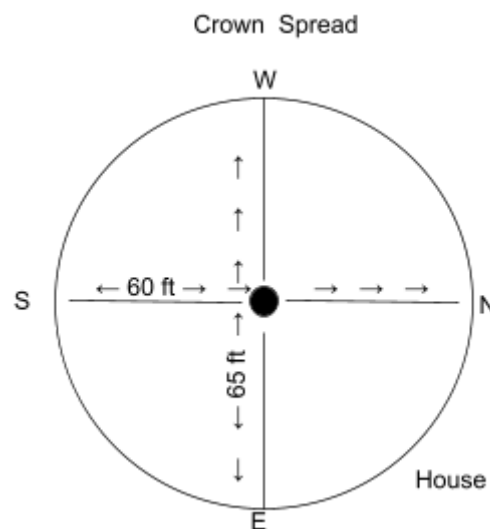
Height : 70 ft

Crown Spread : 60 ft N - S Direction

65 ft W - E Direction

Tree Health Rating : 2 / 3 - poor / fair ( see below for description of rating system )

This tree is rated poor based on a visual inspection on July 22, 2025. The vigor of the tree is low. The tree is located on flat topography. This tree's location is in the back yard right as you enter the gate. The house and deck are placed directly next to the trunk. The soil around the critical root zone is compacted. There is a deck covering about  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the CRZ, about  $\frac{1}{3}$  covered by the



# Exhibit A

house and the other 1/3 being the yard, a board fence and neighboring property. The crown is large in size and sparse looking. The crown is unbalanced by about 20%. There is a dead spar along with one broken hanger in the canopy. The tree recently lost a large limb, breaking where a small cavity was and rot / decay was present. This cavity was most likely a wood pecker hole that decayed over time. There are multiple wood pecker holes and small cavities throughout the canopy on branches. When comparing the leaf color to nearby Valley Oaks, the color is less vibrant and density is sparse when compared to other Valley Oaks nearby. There are some branches that are codominants with included bark. When inspecting the canopy, a bee hive was also discovered. Bees will use hollowed out and decayed areas in limbs to create their hives.

Previous Pruning / Failure History : Was not able to get the last information on when the tree was last trimmed, however the tree did recently lose a large limb. While on site, I reached out to the neighbor on the corner, who also stated that a large limb from this tree failed and broke onto her house. The exact date was not given for this limb failure.

Hazards : If a tree should fail, it would fall onto the house and the neighboring house.

Preservation : While preservation is always our goal, trimming would be the recommended preservation technique to reduce weight on the limbs. Due to the sparse canopy and the size, trimming more than 25% of the live canopy would be the only feasible way to actually reduce the risk and weight in the canopy. This is not advisable and is not healthy for the tree to remove more than 25% of the canopy. It is not recommended to trim this tree any further as it would be unhealthy to remove any more live canopy.

Due to the amount of cavities, and past limb failures being at these cavities ( wood pecker holes ), there is concern that these cavities are rotted and decayed leaving the limbs compromised.

## Tree Rating :

1	2	3	4
Tree No.	Tree Species	Trunk DBH	Tree Condition
170	Valley Oak	43.9 in	2 / 3

1 = Tree Number - ( only one tree in this report )

3 = Trunk Diameter at breast height - approx. 4 ft 6 inches

2 = Tree species - Abbreviation of common name of tree

4 = Tree Condition - 1 = poor / 10 = excellent

## Tree Rating System -

A rating System of 1 - 10 was used for visually establishing the overall condition of the trees. The trees are rated based on certain factors, including but not limited to the tree's vigor, pests , growth, conks, cavities, splits, bark appearance, past failures, pruning scars, etc. The rating system is defined as follows:

Rating

Condition

0

**Deceased**

1

**Very Poor** - Evidence of massive past failures, extreme

	disease and or is in severe decline.
2	<b>Poor</b> - May be saved with attention to any of the following - Pruning, insect/pest eradication and future monitoring
3	<b>Fair</b> - Some past failures, some pests or structural defects that may be mitigated with pruning.
4	<b>Fair</b> - May have had minor past failures, deadwood, minor Structural defects, some pests
5	<b>Good</b> - Relatively healthy tree with little structural and or pest defects
6	<b>Good</b> - Healthy tree that probably can be left in it natural state
7 - 9	<b>Very Good</b> - Ratings reserved for trees that have had proper arboricultural pruning and attention or have no apparent structural defects
10	<b>Excellent</b> - Healthy tree with excellent structure and foliage. No signs of problems and has had proper care.

## **Possible Mitigation for Removed Trees :**

*\*The following is from the City of Paso Robles Municipal Code ; Chapter 10.1 Oak Tree preservation , Section E*

In conjunction with the intended decision made on an application for a permit, the director shall attach or recommend for city council consideration reasonable conditions to ensure compliance with the stated purposes of this chapter, and a condition requiring replacement oaks being equivalent to twenty five percent of the diameter of the removed tree(s). (For example, the replacement requirement for removal of two trees of fifteen-inch DBH (thirty total diameter inches), would be seven and one-half inches (thirty inches removed multiplied by twenty-five hundredths replacement factor). This requirement could be satisfied by planting five, one and one-half inch caliper trees, or three, two and one-half inch caliper trees, or any other combination totaling seven and one-half inches). A minimum of two, twenty four inch box, one and one-half inch minimum trunk caliper measurement trees shall be required for each oak tree removed. Replacement trees shall be located on the same property as where the tree is approved for removal or, subject to approval of the director, arrangements can be made to locate the replacement trees on public property.

Removal Application Fee - \$600 ( subject to change without notice )

## **Replanting Plan :**

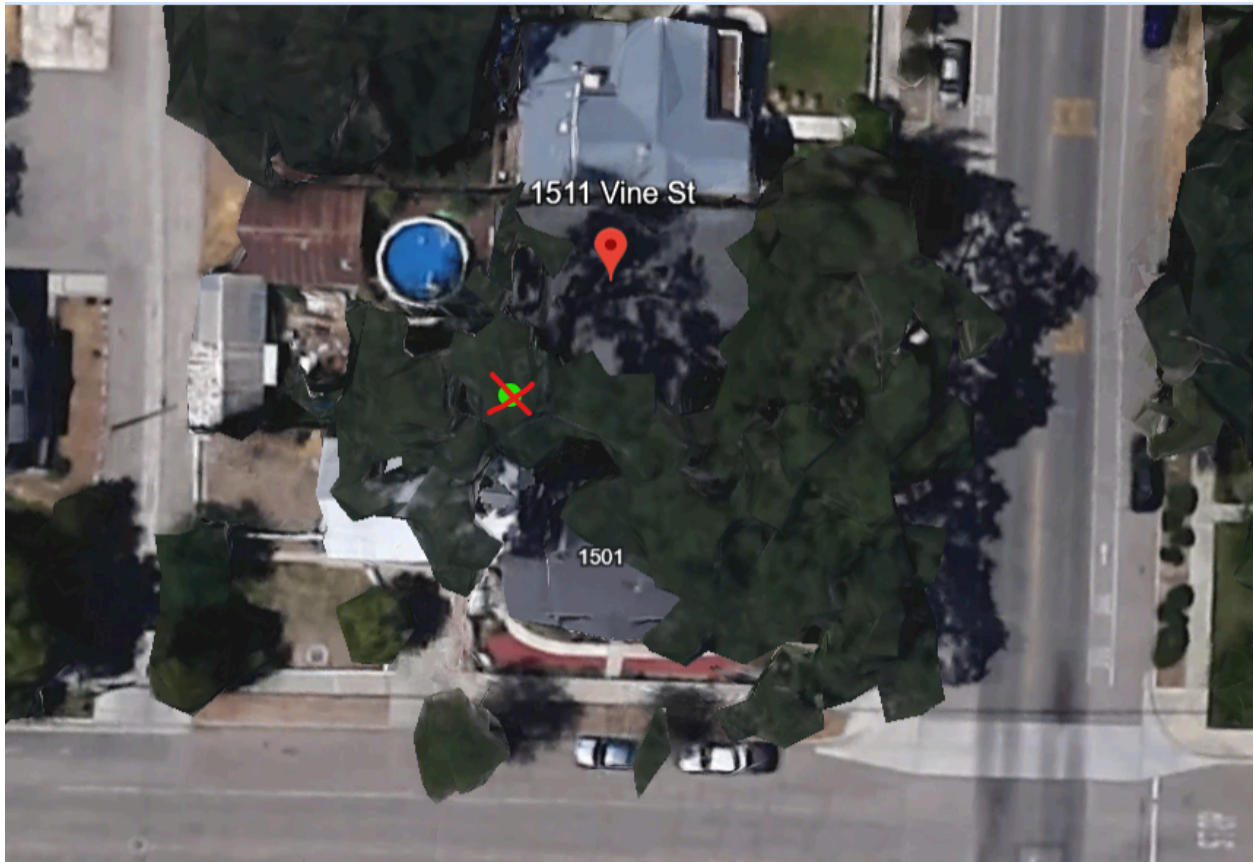
Client is asking that if replanting mitigation be required, that these plantings take place off-site or an in-lieu of fee be set. Due to the property layout and size, clients are requesting if in lieu of fee or off site planting to be accepted.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.



Kelly Koker  
ISA Certified Arborist®  
WE - 11968A  
kellykoker@gmail.com  
P : 805-423-8511

Location of property where the tree is located : 1511 Vine St. Paso Robles, CA 93446



# Exhibit A

(picture courtesy of Google Earth )



# Exhibit A



↑ both images above show where the bee hive is located.

# Exhibit A



← Orange arrow shows a codominant branch

union with included bark



# Exhibit A



Above images show the recent limb failure. A small cavity created by a woodpecker developed rot, creating a weak spot in the limb. This limb failed and broke due to the integrity of the limb being compromised from the cavity and rot.

# Exhibit A



Above pictures on this page show how close the house and deck are to the trunk of the tree.

# Exhibit A



Images on this page are of old limbs that were removed and the wounds that are rotten. Showing signs of decay in the old wounds.

# Exhibit A



↑ This image shows another small cavity most likely created by a wood pecker. This cavity is similar to the cavity that was present on the limb that recently failed.

# Exhibit A



The sparse canopy shown



Tree shown from looking at property from Vine

St.