

Planning Entitlement Application P26-0014

Oak Tree Removal Application – OTR26-01

Planning File: P26-0014

Address: 721 28th Street B, Paso Robles, California

Parcel: 008-081-010

Prepared for: Blakely Investment Group LLC

Prepared by: Daniel Ponti

ISA Certified Arborist WE-14152A

ISA Tree Risk Assessment Certified

Company: Timber Worx LLC

Contractor #: 1146124

Purpose- Notice of Incomplete Entitlement Application-P26-0014

This report was created in response to clarify City of Paso Robles planning review questions. The Valley Oak (*Quercus lobata*) located at 721 28th Street B in Paso Robles, California. The report addresses planning department comments related to Oak Tree Removal Application OTR26-01 and documents tree condition, site conditions, and potential environmental impacts.

The tree is located on a developed residential parcel. A mature Bay Laurel (*Laurus nobilis*) tree is growing approximately 10 feet from the Valley Oak and extends into the oak canopy, creating competition for sunlight, soil moisture, and nutrients.

Response to Planning Comment #1 – Site Plan

A site plan should identify the trunk location and canopy spread of both the Valley Oak and the adjacent Bay Laurel tree. The plan demonstrates canopy encroachment and root zone competition between the two trees. See attachment “A”

Response to Planning Comment #2 – Supplemental Photos

Supplemental photographs documenting the entire tree, trunk condition, surrounding area, and the competing Bay Laurel canopy have been included. See attachment “B”

Response to Planning Comment #3 – Replacement Tree

If removal of the Valley Oak is approved, mitigation planting will occur in accordance with local municipal requirements. Replacement agreement would be to gain approval to locate replacement trees on public properties and pay associated fee unless the planning department deems the decline in health of the Valley Oak was no fault of landowner.

Response to Planning Comment #4 – Cause of Decline

The subject Valley Oak is exhibiting signs of decline which are primarily associated with prolonged competition from an adjacent Bay Laurel located approximately 10 feet from the trunk, with canopy encroachment resulting in reduced sunlight exposure resulting in asymmetry of Valley Oak canopy and below-ground competition for soil moisture and nutrients. Valley Oaks are shade-intolerant and require open canopy conditions to maintain vigor; long-term suppression by adjacent mature Bay Laurel has contributed to reduced canopy density, diminished growth, and overall physiological stress. In addition to declining health, the tree exhibits large, extended scaffold limbs with potential for limb failure over areas of frequently occupied residence and nearby infrastructure. Mitigation through pruning to reduce risk would require removal of greater than 25% of the live canopy to address structural concerns, which exceeds recommended ANSI A300 pruning standards and may further accelerate decline or contribute to mortality. Given the tree’s condition, age, and history of reduced vigor, it is reasonable to consider Valley Oak to be approaching end-of-life decline. Under these circumstances, aggressive pruning as a risk mitigation measure is not considered a sustainable long-term solution and may increase both health deterioration and failure potential over time.

Response to Planning Comment #5 – Soil and Water Considerations

The Valley Oak is not located within a natural drainage channel or riparian area. Tree removal will involve stump grinding followed by backfilling and grading to match surrounding grade. Deeper roots will remain in the soil profile and gradually decompose, maintaining soil structure. Removal is not expected to significantly affect soil stability, water retention, infiltration, or surface drainage patterns.

Conclusion

The Valley Oak exhibits signs of decline likely associated with prolonged competition from the nearby Bay Laurel tree. Due to structural characteristics and proximity to residential structures, continued decline may increase the risk of limb failure. Removal is requested for consideration consistent with municipal oak preservation regulations.

Arborist Certification

I certify that this report represents my professional opinion based on a visual inspection of the tree and surrounding site conditions.

Daniel Ponti

Daniel Ponti

ISA Certified Arborist WE-14152A

Timber Worx LLC

Paso Robles, California

Exhibit A- General Site Plan And Other Vegetation Conflict



Exhibit A Continued

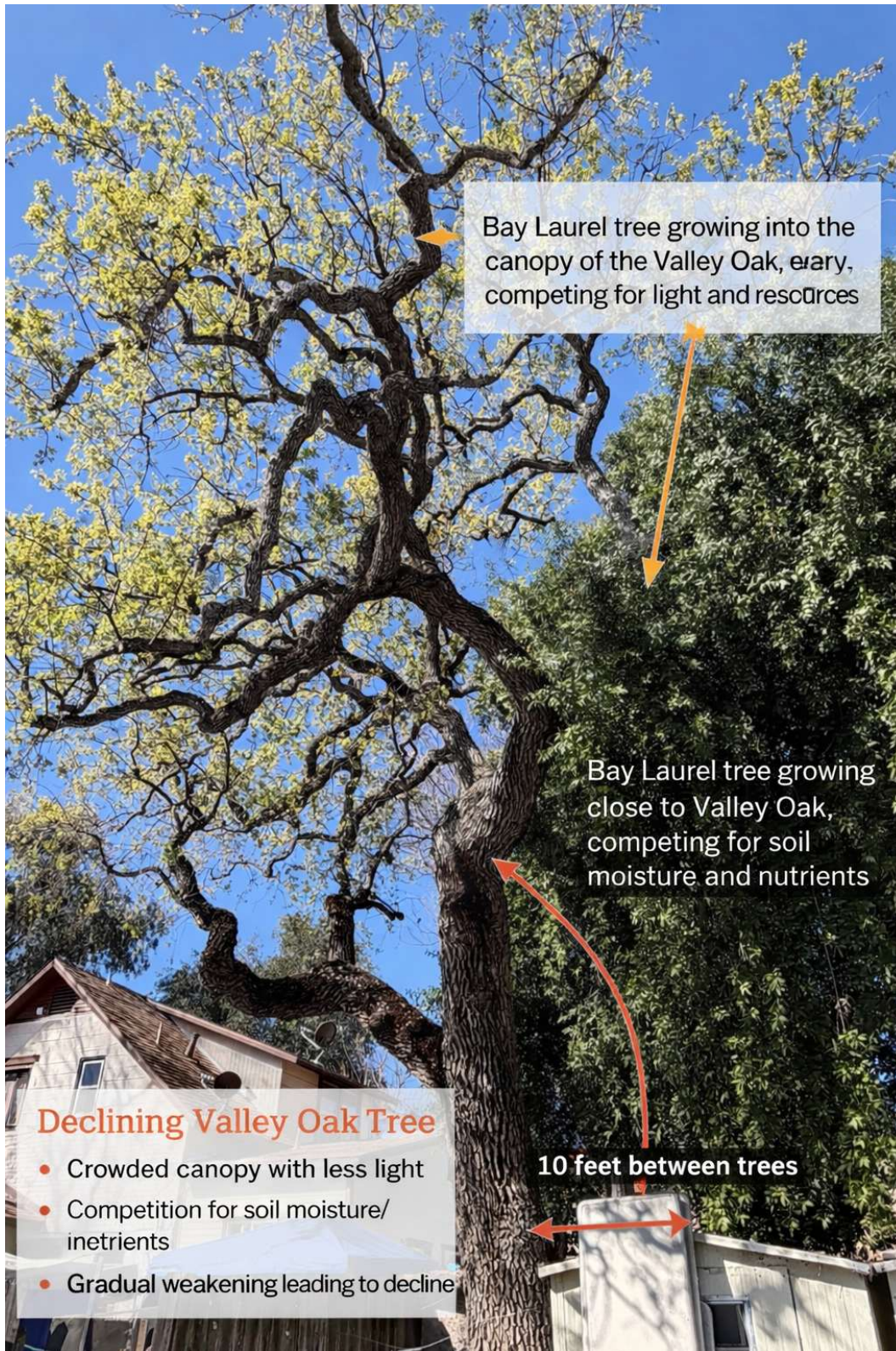


Exhibit C

Exhibit B- Supplemental Photos of Whole Trunk, Tree and Surrounding Areas



Exhibit B- Continued



Exhibit B- Continued

