# *ARBORIST REPORT-*
## Evaluation of a Monterey Cypress

709 Riverview Drive
Capitola, CA 95010

9/9/2024

Prepared for:

Brad Suchomel
709 Riverview Drive
Capitola, CA, 95010

Prepared by:

Kurt Fouts
Arborist Consultant
826 Monterey Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010
831-359-3607
kurtfouts1@outlook.com

ISA Certified Arborist WE0681A
ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)

# Table of Contents



Attachments:

- Assumptions and Limiting Conditions

## Background

I was contacted by Mr. Brad Suchomel, to give a general evaluation of a Monterey Cypress tree growing on his property at 709 Riverview Drive, Capitola, address any areas of concern, and provide management recommendations. Mr. Suchomel is planning site improvements to the property and wants to know if the cypress is suitable for inclusion in his project.

On 8/6/2024, I examined the tree onsite.

## Summary of Findings

The mature Monterey cypress is in good health, limbs are well attached, the tree appears stable, and is a good candidate for retention in the development project.

An assessment of the trees current condition, a discussion of my findings, and the reasons for my recommendation are dicussed in more detail in the report that follows.

# OBSERVATIONS

The mature Monterey cypress, (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*), has a trunk diameter of 85-inches, is 75-feet tall and has a diameter canopy spread of 60-feet. Based on its trunk diameter the cypress meets the City of Capitola criteria as a *protected tree,* and is regulated by the city. Such trees are protected and require submittal of a tree removal permit application if removal of the tree is desired.

Growing conditions for the cypress are close to optimal with no competition from other trees and a good water source, (Soquel Creek), nearby. Because of these conditions, the cypress appears vigorous and likely grows at a fast rate. Based on these observations, I estimate that the age of the tree is between 50 – 60 years old.

The tree grows in the back yard of the home, (Image #1).

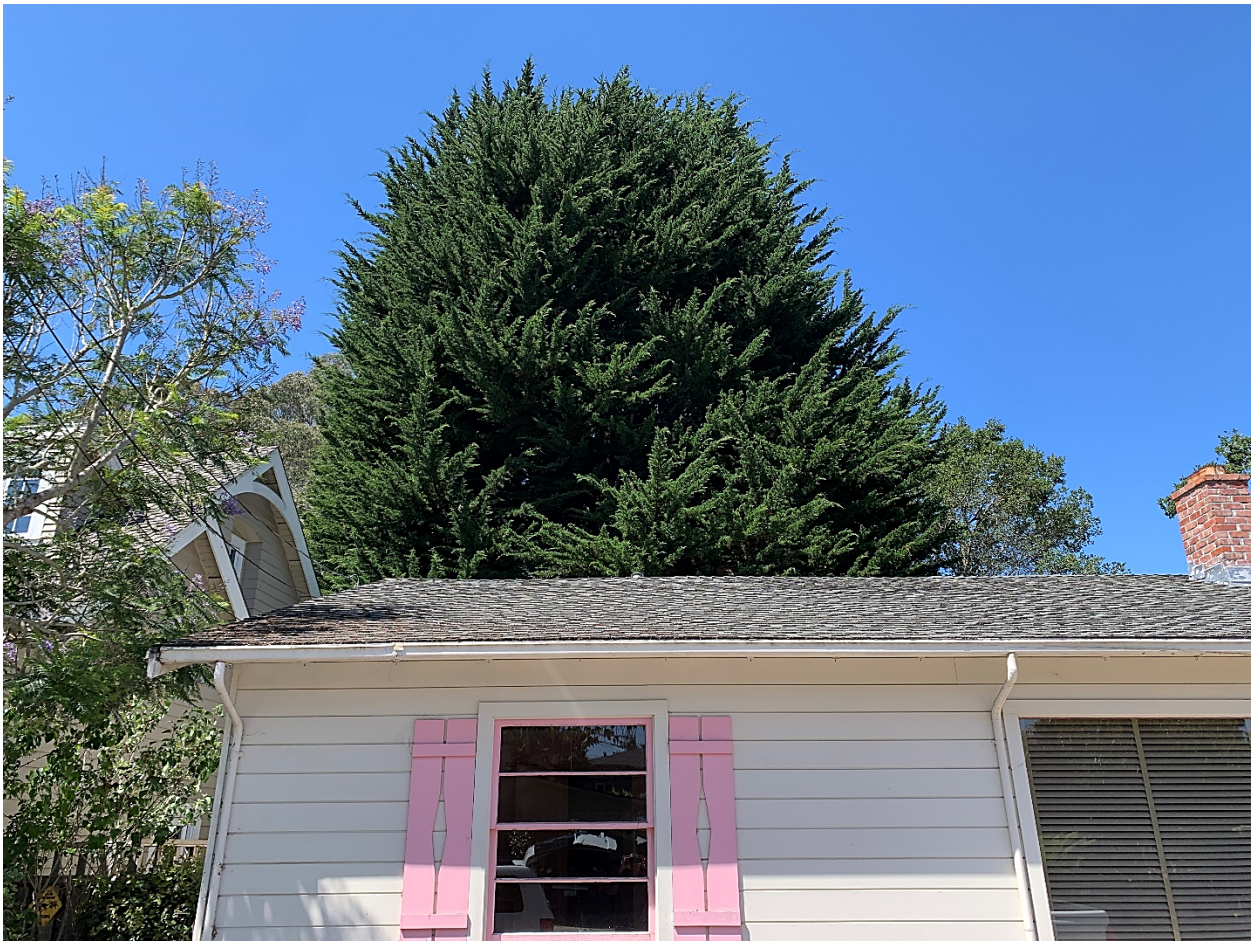

**Image #1 – Cypress tree canopy growing above home. View from the front yard.**

The tree grows on level ground. West of the tree, the property slopes down to the rear fence line. The cypress grows about 8-feet from the southern property line and is the same distance from the existing home. The canopy overhangs the adjacent property by about 15-feet, (Image #2).

**Image #2 – Cypress tree, looking east, with existing home in background. Note canopy overhangs adjacent home. West of the tree, the property slopes down.**

A dense groundcover of English ivy grows under the tree's canopy, (Image #3). The tree has a large rooting area of undisturbed soil to collect water and sustain its growth.

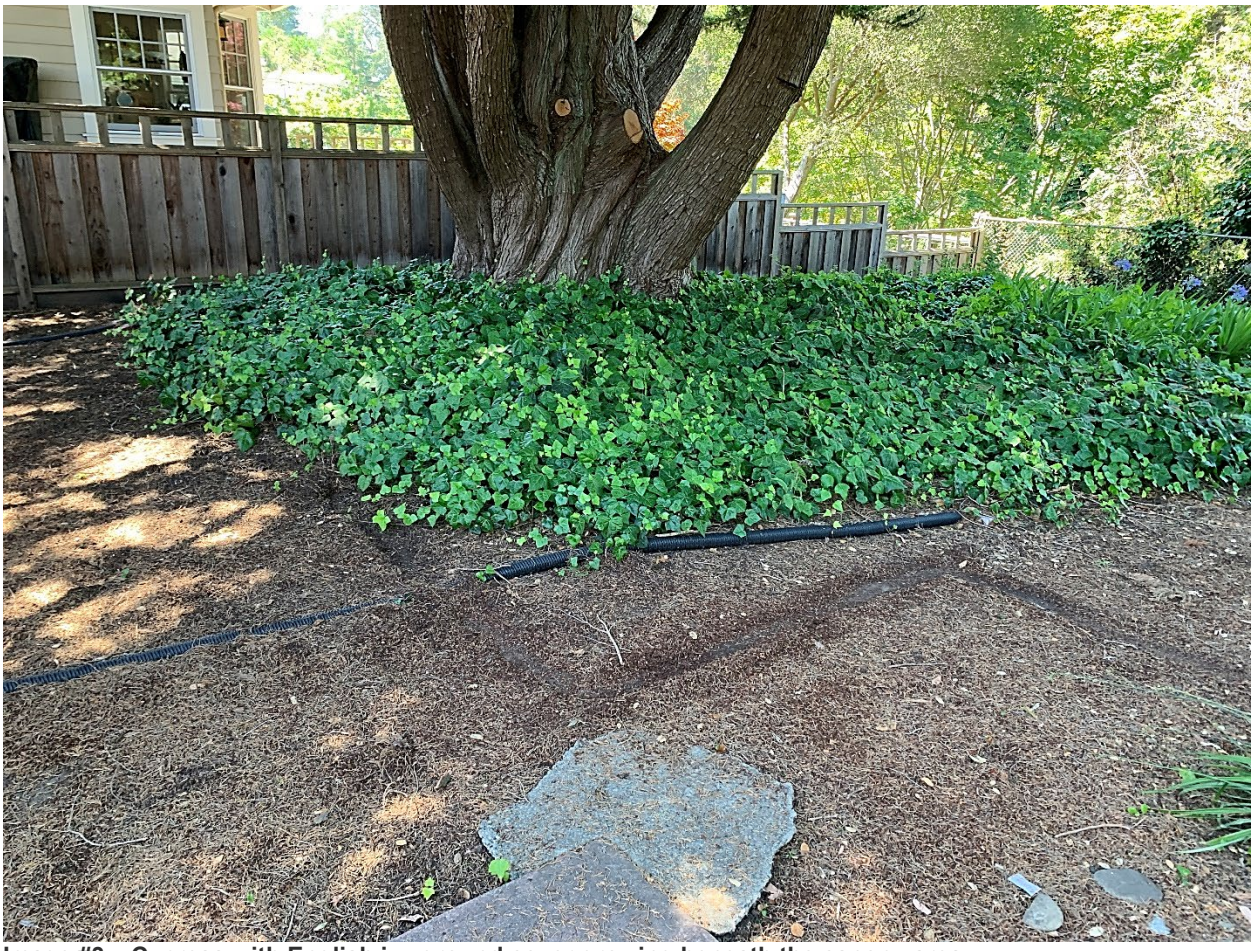

**Image #3 – Cypress with English ivy ground cover growing beneath the canopy area.**

Several surface roots from 4" to 10" in diameter were seen growing on the east, south and west sides of the tree.

**Health -** The tree has a dense foliar canopy, with a minor amount of dieback in the interior of the tree, most likely due to shading from a lack of sunlight. I noted new tip growth throughout the tree.

No significant insects or fungal pathogens were found. The cypress is growing vigorously, and overall, on a scale of (good, fair, or poor), I rate the tree's health as good.

**Structure -** The cypress has multiple trunks. The trunks are layered against each other, with one set of trunks originating near the base of the tree, and a second set beginning at about 5 – 6-feet above grade. Multiple trunks are considered a structural defect; however this growth habit is typical of the species, and I did not note other defects that when combined with multiple trunks would create a cause for concern, (Image #4).

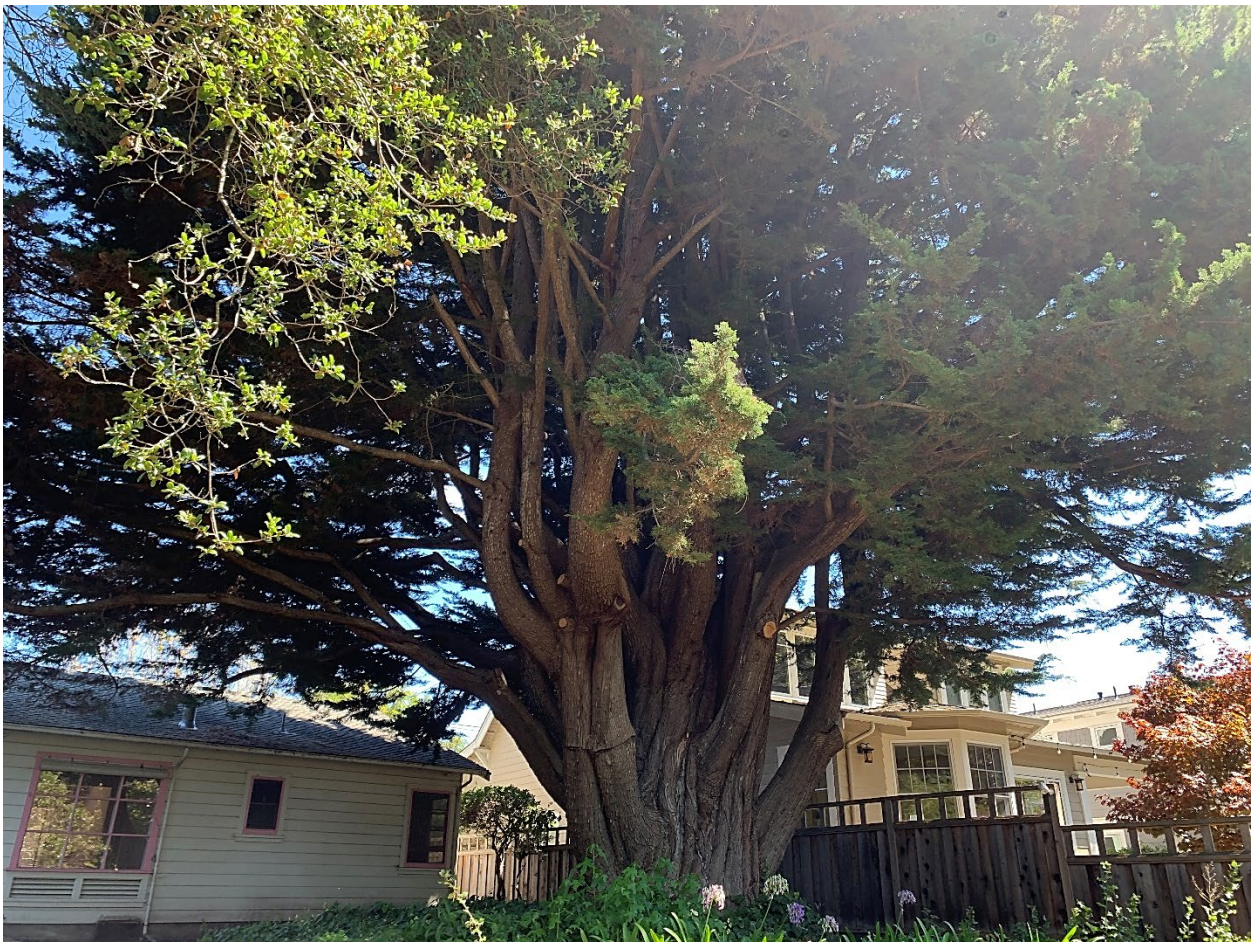

**Image #4 – Note multiple trunks growing near the base of the tree and a second set higher up.**

The lower trunks tended to grow more laterally, with their lowest branches 10 – 12-feet above grade. Most of the trunks that originated higher on the tree grow more vertically.

I inspected the limb to trunk attachments on the larger scaffolds and they appeared sound. The limbs had ample amounts of attachment wood, and the angles of attachment were proper for good stability, (Image #5).

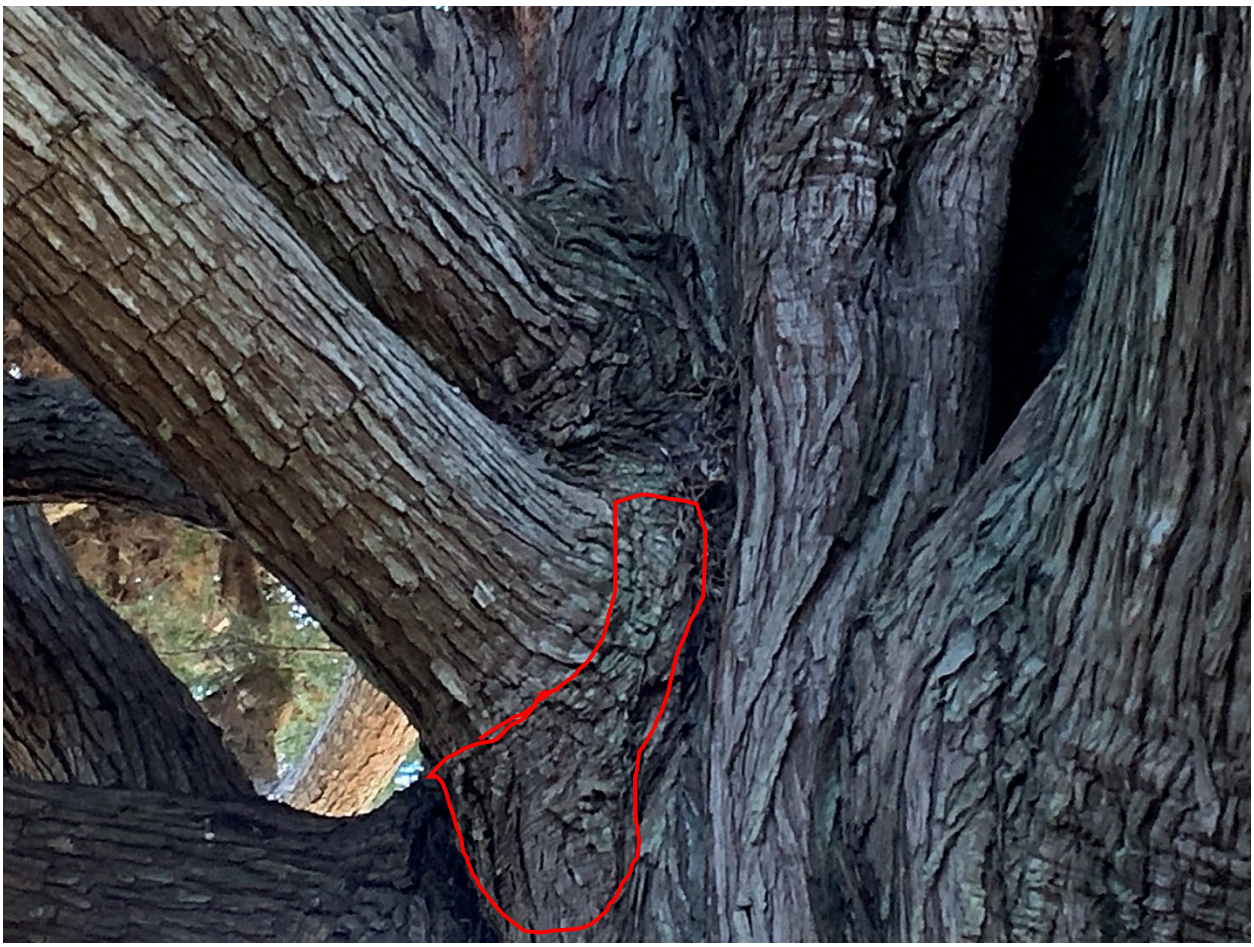

**Image #5 – Note the extra attachment wood around the limb, (circled).**

I noted a large, (14” diameter X 5-feet), deadwood stub in the center of the tree, (Image #6).

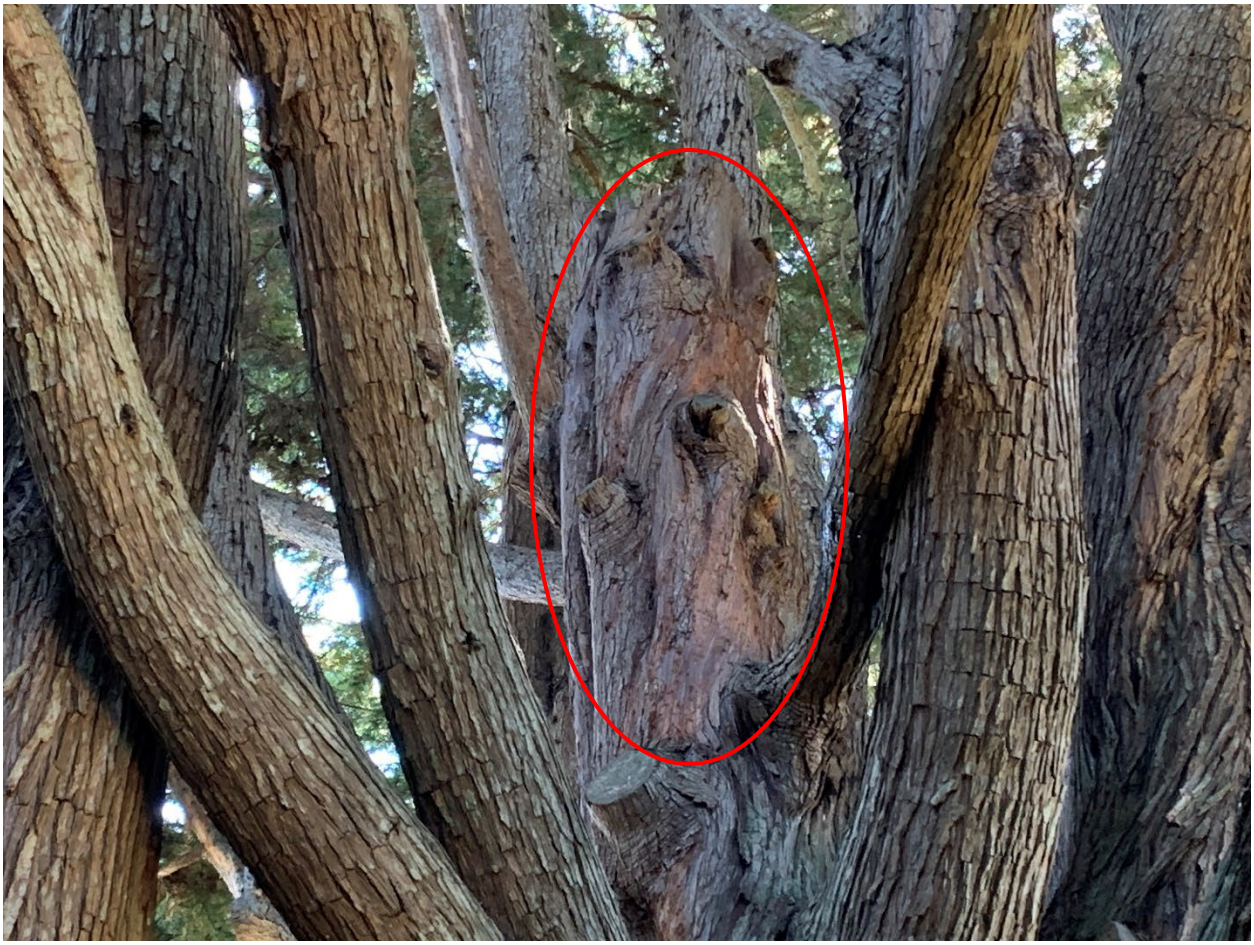

**Image #6 – Note deadwood stub, (circled).**

This stub was pruned many years ago and any live growth that remained on its lower limbs has since died back, or been removed.

I also noted several limb stubs (limbs with no live growth), from 4” – 6” in diameter and between 2 – 6- feet in length.

Using a rubber mallet, I did a sounding, (tapping on the trunk), around the circumference of the tree in the lower trunk area. I perform a sounding to listen for hollow sounds indicating cavities. No cavities were noted, and I did not find any significant decay that could affect the integrity of this tree.

I noted that some recent pruning cuts were made in limbs from 4 to 8-inches in diameter. The pruning cuts were in the lower part of the tree, and were most likely made to provide better ground clearance. The cuts were well executed, and made to industry standards.

I noted that the more horizontal growing limbs have been shortened, (to decrease mechanical stress), and the canopy outline was even throughout, with no limbs growing beyond the general canopy outline.

Overall, I rate the structure of the tree as fair to good, on a scale of (good, fair, or poor).

## DISCUSSION

The cypress is in good health, limbs are well attached, the tree appears stable, and is a good candidate for retention in the development project.

Some pruning work should be done to improve the trees long term health, to provide clearance from the neighboring home, (Image #7), and may be necessary to create clearance for the proposed development.

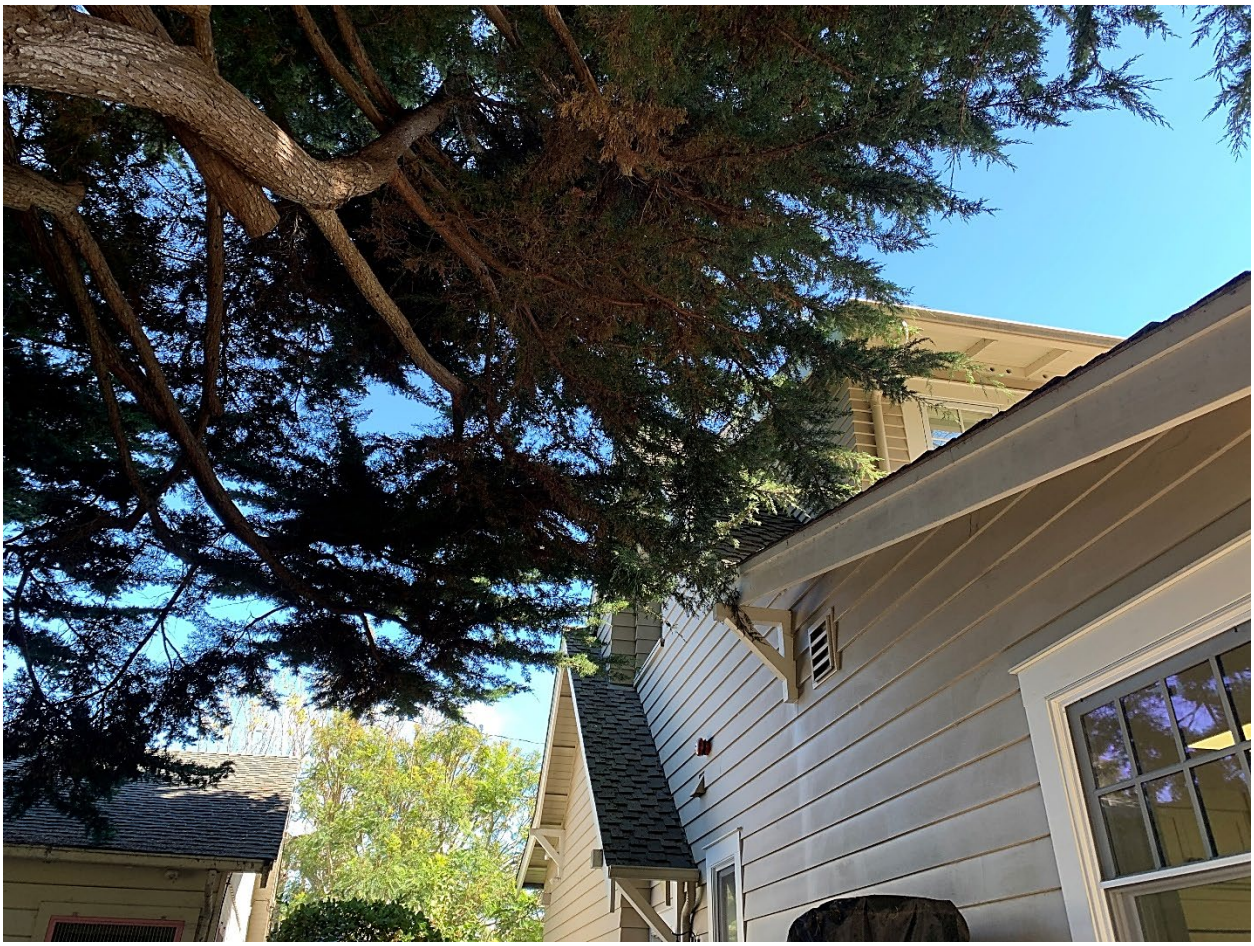

**Image #7 – Note limb growth on or near neighbors roof. The limbs growing close to the home should be shortened.**

The large stub shown in image #5 should be inspected for signs of decay. If none are found it can be retained, or if pruned, a cut should be made above the live branch growing to the north. The other deadwood stubs I noted, should be pruned back to a live side branch.

If any of the new development encroaches closer to the tree than the existing home, mitigation to offset the loss of roots should entail hand digging and root pruning.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Have the large deadwood stub in the center of the tree inspected for decay.
2. Perform minor tree pruning. Remove deadwood stubs, and clearance prune tree a minimum of 5-feet from neighboring home.
3. If any of the new development encroaches closer to the tree than the existing home, mitigation to offset the loss of roots should entail hand digging and root pruning.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Fouts

Kurt Fouts ISA Certified Arborist WE0681A
ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)

Kurt Fouts
Arborist Consultant
826 Monterey Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010
831-359-3607
kurtfouts1@outlook.com

## ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITING CONDITIONS

1. Any legal description provided by the appraiser/consultant is assumed to be correct. No responsibility is assumed for matters legal in character nor is any opinion rendered as the quality of any title.
2. The appraiser/consultant can neither guarantee nor be responsible for accuracy of information provided by others.
3. The appraiser/consultant shall not be required to give testimony or to attend court by reason of this appraisal unless subsequent written arrangements are made, including payment of an additional fee for services.
4. Loss or removal of any part of this report invalidates the entire appraisal/evaluation.
5. Possession of this report or a copy thereof does not imply right of publication or use for any purpose by any other than the person(s) to whom it is addressed without written consent of this appraiser/consultant.
6. This report and the values expressed herein represent the opinion of the appraiser/consultant, and the appraiser/consultant's fee is in no way contingent upon the reporting of a specified value nor upon any finding to be reported.
7. Sketches. Diagrams. Graphs. Photos. Etc., in this report, being intended as visual aids, are not necessarily to scale and should not be construed as engineering reports or surveys.
8. This report has been made in conformity with acceptable appraisal/evaluation/diagnostic reporting techniques and procedures, as recommended by the International Society of Arboriculture.
9. When applying any pesticide, fungicide, or herbicide, always follow label instructions.
10. No tree described in this report was climbed, unless otherwise stated. We cannot take responsibility for any defects which could only have been discovered by climbing. A full root collar inspection, consisting of excavating around the tree to uncover the root collar and major buttress roots, was not performed, unless otherwise stated. We cannot take responsibility for any root defects which could only have been discovered by such an inspection.

## CONSULTING ARBORIST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Arborists are tree specialists 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 risk of living near trees, Clients may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations of the arborist, or to 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 and below ground. Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances, or for a specified period of time. Likewise, remedial treatments, like medicine, cannot be guaranteed.

Trees can be managed, but they cannot be controlled. To live near trees is to accept some degree of risk. The only way to eliminate all risk associated with trees is to eliminate all trees.

Kurt Fouts
Arborist Consultant
826 Monterey Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010
831-359-3607
kurtfouts1@outlook.com

MEMBER
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ARBORICULTURE
ISA
™