



51 South San Antonio Road
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The Los Altos History Museum gathers and presents compelling stories and artifacts that bridge the past and the present by fostering the creative energy of staff and volunteers to challenge established narratives and produce engaging educational programs and exhibits for the community.

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The Los Altos History Museum's legal name is the Association of the Los Altos Historical Museum; tax i.d. number 94-2542813. We are a 501(c)(3) organization and your gifts are tax deductible.

Office of the City Manager
1 S. San Antonio Road
Los Altos CA 94022

January 26, 2024

Dear Gabe,

Los Altos History Museum is excited that we are partnering with the City to bring the Heritage Orchard back to life. It has come to our attention that the apricot trees in the locked compound behind the Police Station have been unpruned for several years. This is a concern for us in as much as it contributes to the prevalence of fungal diseases in the Heritage Orchard.

We are hereby asking the City to remove the unpruned apricot trees in the Police Compound. This recommendation is made in concert with the expert opinion of Terence Welch, the professional orchardist working with the Museum.

Because these trees are outside of the Historical Landmark, and outside of the Museum's contract to maintain the orchard, complete removal of the trees will be a better and longer lasting solution than just a one-time pruning. Airborne spores and bacteria can spread at any time from trees in adjacent properties. The trees in the Heritage Orchard are being actively pruned and monitored repeatedly for indications of eutypa, canker and brown rot. With the recent investment by the City in new trees, we are especially anxious to provide as fungal-free of an environment as possible.

Assuming the City concurs, and makes a plan for removing those untended trees, we would like to emphasize that it is essential that woody debris from the old trees should be disposed off-site.

This recommendation is consistent with the plan for coordinated Integrated Pest Management in properties surrounding the Heritage Orchard in the Orchard Maintenance Plan.

The three apricot trees adjacent to the Friends of the Library sheds are under the care of Museum Volunteers, who are responsible for their pruning and hand watering. We do not include those three trees in our recommendation for removal.

With thanks,

Elisabeth Ward

Dr. Elisabeth I. Ward
Executive Director