



IAN GEDDES
AND ASSOCIATES
ARBORICULTURAL CONSULTING

P.O. Box 2962, Saratoga, California 95070
(408) 379-8011 • (888) DR TREES
Fax (408) 374-8262
www.drtrees.com

February 7th 2023

Mr. David Goddard,
18251 Overlook Road,
Los Gatos, CA 95030

Re: Recent Tree Failure,

Dear Mr. Goddard,

Thank you for the opportunity to become involved in your tree related issue.

Well documented and photographed, along with the consequences, are the complete and catastrophic failures of 2 very large Tasmanian Blue Gum Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*) trees resulting from the storm of January 10th 2023.

I have read the description of events and of Eucalyptus trees in Mr. Rossi's report of January 24th and find little, including notes regarding fire, to dispute.

Generalizations aside, with regard to this row of trees (or what remains of it), 18 trees in total, I recommend removal to eliminate the present threat to life, limb and property and infrastructure that they currently pose. A threat that is significantly raised during weather events.

The elderly row of trees has long reached the point of having outgrown the usefulness of their intended function as a windbreak. Since they were planted their local environment has seen remarkable change, from rural farmland, to high-traffic modern, close proximity living. They have gained enormous mass during this time.

Such close environment modification usually goes along with compromise to the trees, much of this unseen. In this instance, over the course of years, roots have been severed and lost through compaction as a result of road grading, kerb, gutter and drain installation, paving installation, wall footing installation and likely several other reasons. Not only does such damage lessen anchorage, but allows the entry of root and butt rotting fungal pathogens.

I inspected the failures on January 11th and was surprised by just how little root mass remained on both of the trees that failed. Evidence of white rot was present in some of the remaining root tissue.

Rotten and/or missing roots do little to promote stability.



ATTACHMENT 2

Mr. David Goddard

2/7/23

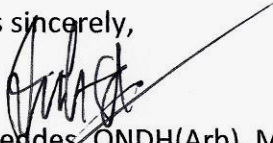
Page 2

Canopy "health" cannot be used as an indicator of structural integrity, and it is highly likely that most, if not all of these massive trees, that now find themselves in an area of comparatively dense human population and critical infrastructure, have suffered root-zone compromise. Pruning efforts may reduce some weight and wind-sail effect but will not prevent advance of root pathogens and decay.

It is my professional opinion that the trees have reached a point where they have outgrown their usefulness as functional, and in later life, safe horticultural additions to the landscape, and now present a threat to property and persons that live close to, or utilise the public domain.

The community idea to remove these trees is based upon sound reason, and one that this consultant endorses.

Yours sincerely,


Ian Geddes, ONDH(Arb), MIOB
ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist (308)
WCISA Certified Arborist (0593)

