

**From:** Lester Schiefelbein <les@schiefelbeingdr.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, August 03, 2019 11:13 AM  
**To:** Stefanie Hockemeyer <SHockemeyer@LosGatosCA.gov>; Lester W. Schiefelbein Jr. <lester.schiefelbein@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Protest of Proposed Assessment

RE: Schiefelbein, Linda A and Lester W  
227 Forrester Road  
Los Gatos, CA  
APN 537-22-012

Dear Ms. Hockemeyer,

On August 1, 2019 I received a letter dated July 26, 2019, signed by you which informed me that I "may file a written protest of the proposed assessment." This email is my written protest, and the protest email is being sent to you following your direction.

Before detailing the reasons for the protest I wish to thank you for the time spent with me in your office on August 2, 2019, discussing the weed abatement program and the proposed assessment.

As an introductory comment I wish to state that weed abatement is an important homeowner obligation, and I believe that my property is in compliance with applicable Los Gatos Town Code and any administrative provisions directed by the Santa Clara County Department of Agriculture and Environmental Management.

The July 26, 2019 letter from Ms. Hockemeyer contained the attachment "2019 Weed Abatement Program Assessment Report Town of Los Gatos" which lists a Tax Roll Amount of \$80.00 for my property.

In my meeting with with Ms. Hockemeyer on August 2, 2019 I provided her with three pictures of my property which I took in the early evening of August 1. The pictures provide a front, side and rear view of my property. The pictures do not detail any weed abatement issues. Further, I provided Ms. Hockemeyer the Invoice from West Valley Tree Care which details the weed abatement work done on my property on April 16 and 17, 2019. The three pictures and Invoice are to be considered attachments to this protest email.

Bottom line--I do not see any basis for an assessment.

Please send me a reply email to indicate receipt of this written protest.

Cordially submitted,

Les Schiefelbein

**From:** Stefanie Hockemeyer  
**Sent:** Monday, August 05, 2019 10:08 AM  
**To:** Lester Schiefelbein <les@schiefelbeingdr.com>; Lester W. Schiefelbein Jr. <lester.schiefelbein@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** Kumre, Moe (Moe.Kumre@cep.sccgov.org) <Moe.Kumre@cep.sccgov.org>; Matt Morley <MMorley@losgatosca.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Protest of Proposed Assessment

Dear Mr. Schiefelbein,

Thank you for providing your written protest as a follow-up to our meeting on Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. I followed up with Moe Kumre, Manager of the County of Santa Clara Weed Abatement Program, and he confirmed that your property has been removed from the 2019 Weed Abatement Program Assessment Report, and that **no fees will be assessed on your 2019 property taxes.**

Once properties have been identified by an Inspector as a potential fire hazard, properties are monitored by the Program for three consecutive years of compliance. If no hazards are found and abated by the County during that time, properties may be removed from the program. If the Minimum Fire Safety Standards (MFSS) are met by the given deadline and maintained through the fire season, the only fee incurred is the initial inspection fee.

After researching your APN, it shows that your property had been in the Program during 2016, 2017, and 2018, in which you complied for three consecutive years, satisfying that requirement in 2018. Your parcel remained on the list for 2019, which was a mistake and we appreciate you bringing this to the attention of the Town and the County.

If you have any further questions about the Weed Abatement Program, please feel free to contact the County at (408) 282-3145, or myself.

Best,



**Stefanie Hockemeyer • Executive Assistant**

Parks and Public Works • 41 Miles Avenue, Los Gatos, CA 95030

Ph: 408.399.5761

[www.losgatosca.gov](http://www.losgatosca.gov)



*This e-mail is intended only for the use of the individual(s) named in this e-mail. If you receive this e-mail and are not a named recipient, any use, dissemination, distribution or copying of the e-mail is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please immediately notify us at the above e-mail address.*

April 16 & 17 work done

INVOICE



No. \_\_\_\_\_

954 Henderson Ave. spc #87 • Sunnyvale, CA 94086

WE 9595A

(408) 390-0316

Contractor State License #1020435

Customer Lester Skille Riddem JR. Home Ph \_\_\_\_\_ Work Ph \_\_\_\_\_

Job Address 227 Porras ter Rd City Jos Castro Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cross Street or directions Kennedy Rd

Today's Date 7/1/2019 Preferred Work Date \_\_\_\_\_

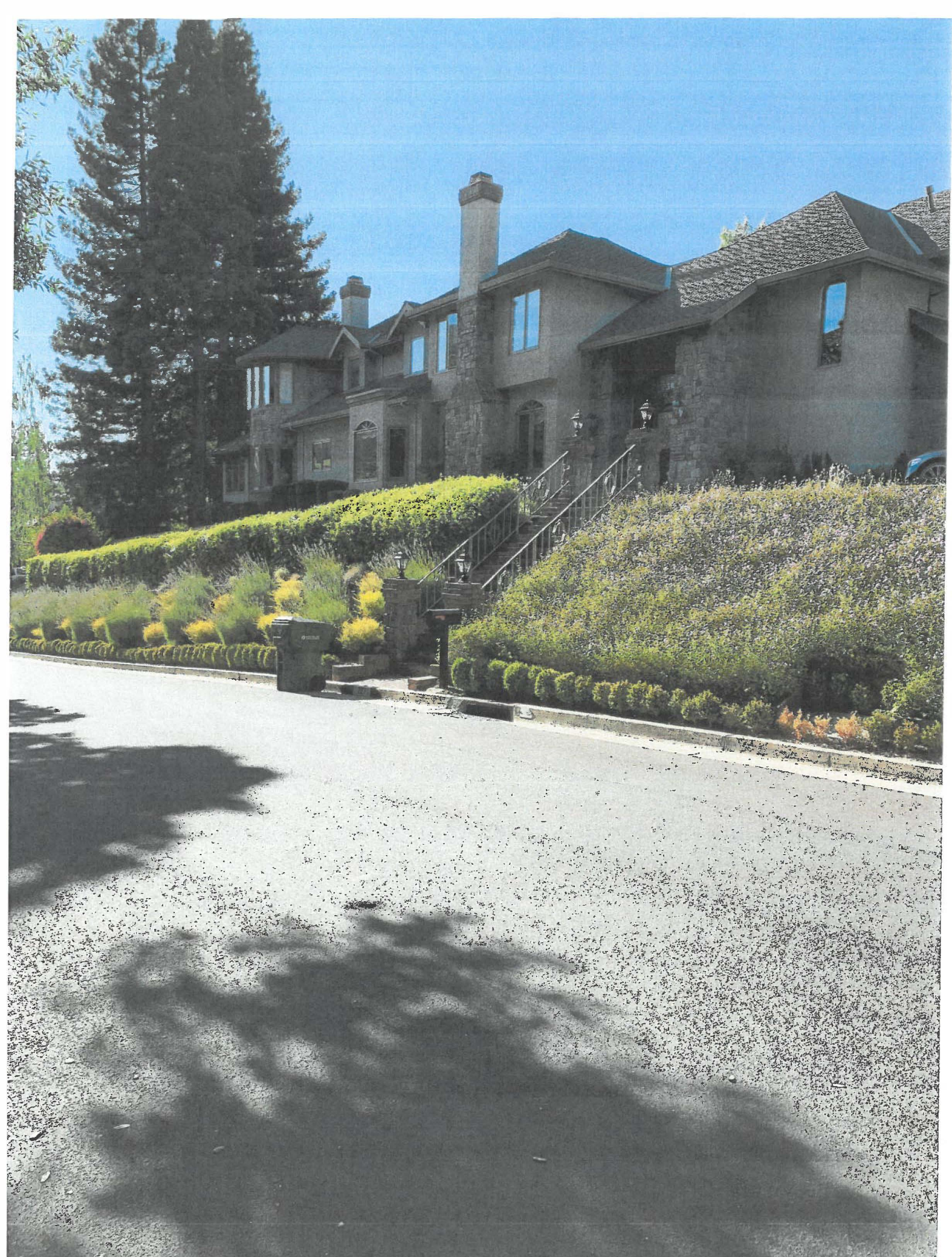
Estimate Prepared By Juan

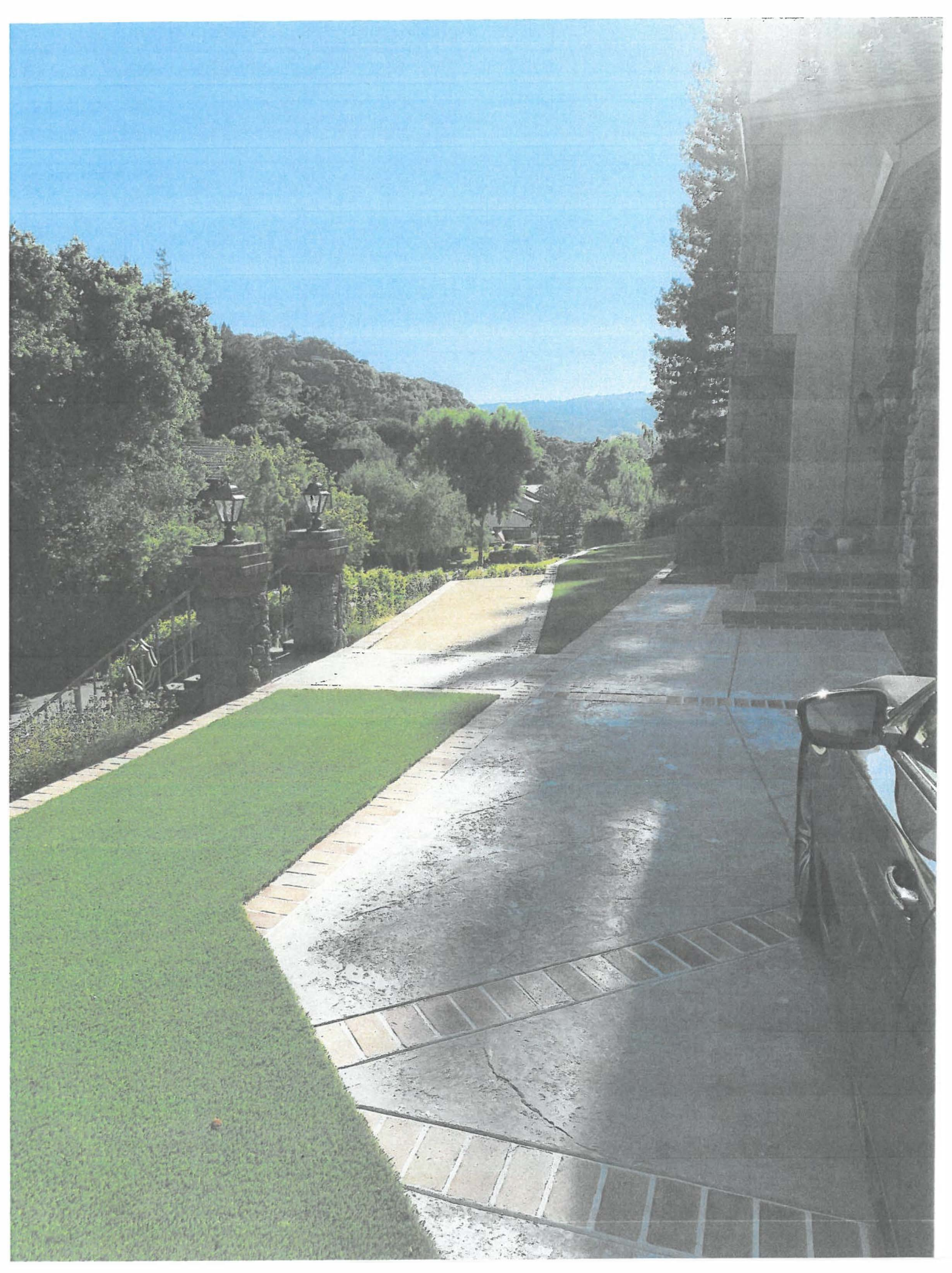
- SERVICE CODES:**
- |                        |                       |                          |              |
|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Prune / Shape Trees | 4. Top Trees / Hedges | 7. Remove Trees / Hedges | 10. Clean Up |
| 2. Remove Brush        | 5. Clear Out Weeds    | 8. Trimming / Thinning   | 11. Other    |
| 3. Remove Roots        | 6. Landscape Service  | 9. Grind Away Stump      | 12. Dump     |

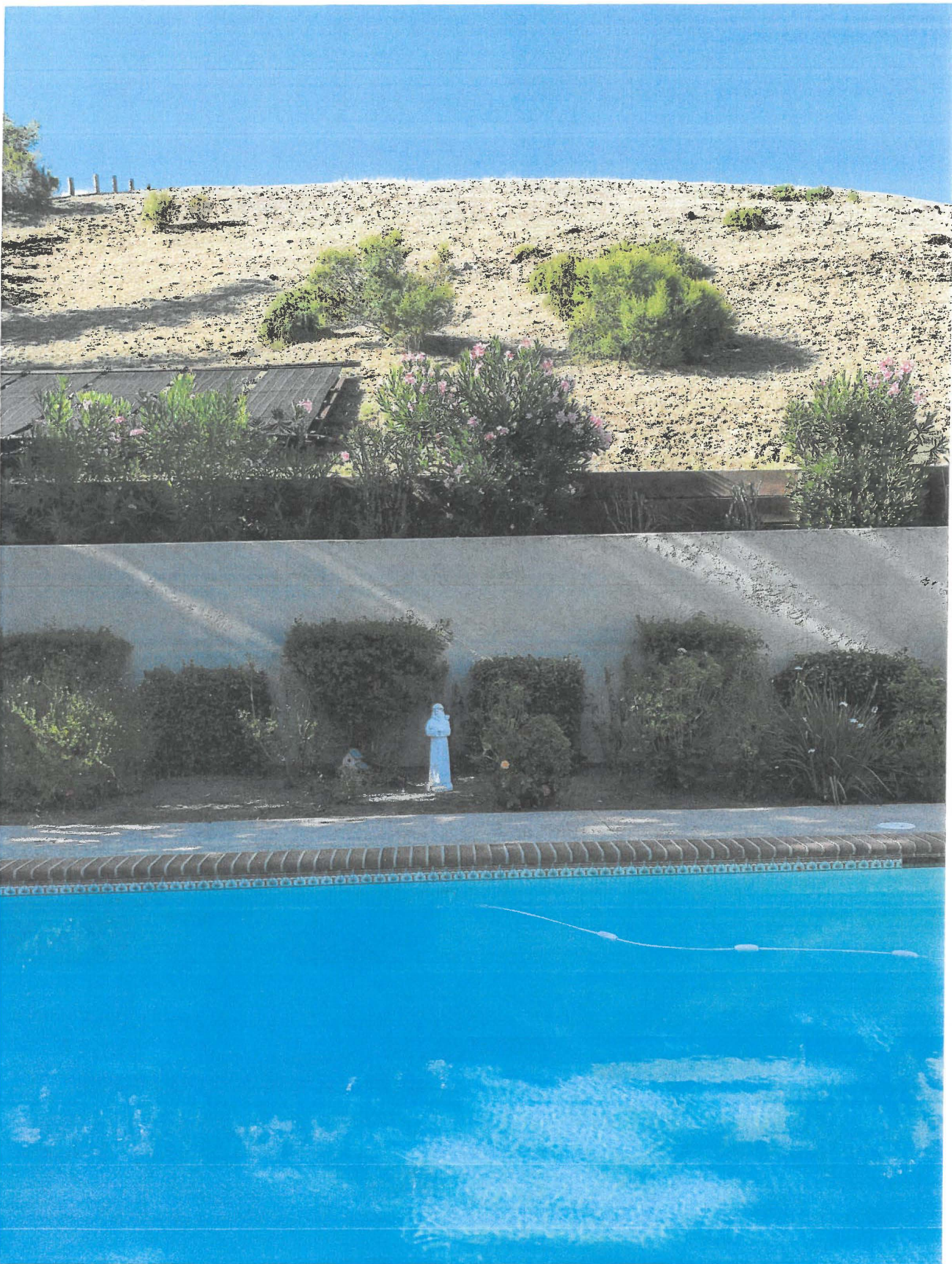
Code	Description of Work & Location on Property	Extras	Cost
	Removal the weeds on the hill 30 feet away from house Rake (bottom side)	<i>paid fully</i> CK 9242	
	Removal one logquat tree trim back limbs over the patio.		Total Labor
	Clean up the work area & haul away		Total Material
			Dump Fee
		Total Amount	\$ 1600

Automatic \$25.00 Late Fee is added to all bills not paid as agreed. 1.5% Per month on past due balances

We are not responsible for damage to pipes or underground utilities due to root removal or stump grinding. If customer is not sure such work can be done safely, we recommend a professional utilities inspection before asking us to begin any such work









**TOWN OF LOS GATOS**  
**PARKS AND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**  
**PHONE (408) 399-5770**

SERVICE CENTER  
41 MILES AVENUE  
LOS GATOS, CA 95030

8/5/2019

**VIA USPS**

Peter Runyan & Hying Mee Choi  
331 Bella Vista Avenue  
Los Gatos, CA 95032

Dear Mr. Runyan,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your protest of the 2019 Weed Abatement Program Assessment Report. When properties are identified to have hazardous weeds they are placed in the Program and monitored and must be compliant for three consecutive years in order to be removed from the Program.

I contacted the County Weed Abatement Program to review your parcel (#529-23-003) and the proposed charges of \$80. Moe Kumre, Director of the Program confirmed that the \$80 charge shall be assessed, as your property was added to the program in 2017, was non-compliant in 2018, but is compliant this year. This will require two more years of voluntary compliance in order to be removed from the program. The \$80 is an administrative fee that is assessed to every property that is in the Program for the initial inspection.

We have noted the address is erroneously listed and will correct it for future correspondence.

If you would like further information, please contact the County Weed Abatement Program at (408) 282-3145.

Sincerely,

**STEFANIE HOCKEMEYER**

Executive Assistant

Cc: Moe Kumre, Weed Abatement Program Manager

Peter Runyan & Hyung Mee Choi  
331 Bella Vista Ave.  
Los Gatos, CA 95032

TOWN OF LOS GATOS  
CLERK DEPARTMENT  
RECEIVED

2019 AUG -5 A 8:01

APN- 529-23-003

August 2, 2019

Clerk Administrator  
Town of Los Gatos  
110 E. Main Street  
Los Gatos, CA 95030

Re: **Protest of 2019 Weed Abatement Program Assessment Report**

We have just received the above-referenced report. Our property located at 331 Bella Vista Avenue (the address is erroneously listed on the Assessment Report as "331 Villa Vista Av") is listed in the above-referenced report, and **we wish to protest the assessment (of \$80).**

We purchased the property in mid 2018, and early this year we received a notice indicating an assessment for weed abatement could occur if we didn't clear weeds. Thereafter, we hired a landscaping service (Rojas Gardening) to do a massive property cleanup. It took several hours, and the cost was \$800. The property (and much of the adjoining property, which we believe is owned by the Hedberg family) was completely cleared of brush, weeds, and debris.

Since we have already taken the time and spent considerable funds to completely achieve weed abatement, there is no valid basis for our property to be included on any such assessment.

Sincerely,



Peter Runyan & Hyung Mee Choi