



August 19, 2003

To: Sara Bortolussi

San Mateo County Planning and Building Division
Mail Drop PLN122, 455 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063
650.363.1839 - FAX: 650.363.4849

re: PLN2003-00460: After-the-fact Tree Removal Permit for 4 Eucalyptus trees “located within the building envelope” at 380 San Pedro Road in El Granada.

Sara:

After reviewing this permit, I had the following recommendations:

1. I don't understand how these trees could have been “located within the building envelope” yet not be noticed during all the plan checking, If this description is inaccurate, it should be corrected.
2. The proposed replacement with 4 pear trees is inadequate as required by the tree ordinance. Many of the surrounding trees are aged Eucalyptus, Monterey pine and cypress, and many of them will probably be removed or fail over the next five years. It is important to get new healthy trees planted and established during this time. These trees should be replaced with trees of potential equal stature, canopy structure, water retention, habit provision and erosion and ground stabilizing abilities. The site, because of surrounding trees, has some protection from prevailing ocean winds, and this may a good location to plant a coast redwood or other tall conifer (Monterey Cypress, Bishop pine, Douglas fir, red cedar, etc.) or taller deciduous coastal species (Alder or Maple). Replacements trees should be of healthy and disease-resistant stock, 24” box or larger.
3. The grading work already done on the lot has gashed and damaged other significant trees on this lot – no protective barriers or procedures seemed to have been implemented before the lot was cleared and graded. The parcel should be flagged so that if any of these trees have removal permits submitted because of damage caused from construction activity, they will be treated as “after-the-fact” removals.

Thank you for your help, and please keep us informed of any further developments, redesigns, hearings, approvals or appeals concerning this application.

Chuck Kozak
Chair, MCC Planning & Zoning Committee
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