

Frank Ono
International Society of Arboriculture
Certified Arborist # 536
Professional Member Society of American Foresters 48004
1213 Miles Avenue
Pacific Grove CA, 93950
Telephone (831) 373-7086
Cellular (831) 594-2291

November 7, 2020

John Ley Tree Service
P.O. Box 797
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

RE: Pine Removal- 1st 2 SW of Monterey Street, Carmel CA
APN: N/A

Mr. Ley;

You contacted me recently regarding a Monterey pine tree removal located at 1st 2 SW of Monterey, Carmel by the Sea, CA that was errantly removed. You requested my assistance for an opinion on the condition of the tree and if it was a candidate for removal. The following report discusses my research findings as well as my opinion of the tree.

Sincerely,



Frank Ono
Certified Arborist #536

The following report is based on a visual inspection of tree condition and for obvious defects. It is not intended to constitute a complete health and hazard evaluation. Further investigation would be required to more definitively evaluate the health and hazards posed by the subject trees, some of which may not be disclosed by visual inspections. Investigations include but are not limited to core samples, root crown excavation, and visual inspection of the entire trees by climbing. Please be advised that healthy trees and/or limbs may fail under certain conditions and that the above recommendations are based on industry standards of tree care. This report is made with the understanding that no representations or warranties, either expressed or implied are made that any trees referred to in the report or located on or adjacent to the subject property are sound or safe. Acceptance and use of this report constitutes the acknowledgment of the following stated facts and that the Client shall pay to Consultant consulting fees following the Fee Schedule attached hereto and made a part hereof as Exhibit A for the services performed and shown on such statement within thirty (30) days after receipt thereof.

1st 2SW of Monterey, Carmel by the Sea Tree Assessment

Prepared by Frank Ono
1213 Miles Avenue
Pacific Grove CA, 93950
Telephone (831) 373-7086

ASSIGNMENT/SCOPE OF WORK

I was asked to render an opinion regarding the removal of a Monterey pine tree located in the City Right of Way at 1st, 2SW of Monterey in Carmel by the Sea. The request for the opinion is to determine the condition of the tree located within obvious striking distance from existing structures on-site and adjacent properties. I am to document my findings and render an opinion regarding its removal.

LIMITATIONS OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The findings of this report are limited to a visual assessment of the remnant portion of the tree available to me and to study past photographs of the tree.

Urban Foresters/Arborists are tree specialists who use their education, knowledge training, and experience to examine trees, recommend measures to enhance their health and beauty, and to attempt to reduce the risk of living near trees. Clients may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations of the arborist or to seek additional advice. Trees and other plant life are living, changing organisms affected by innumerable factors beyond our control. Trees fail in ways and because of conditions we do not fully understand. Urban Foresters/Arborists cannot detect or anticipate every condition or event that could lead to the structural failure of a tree. Conditions are often hidden within the trees and below ground. Urban Foresters/Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances, for any specific period or when a tree or its parts may fail. Further, remedial treatments, as with any treatment or therapy, cannot be guaranteed. Treatment, pruning, bracing and removal of trees may involve considerations beyond the scope of the arborists' skills and usual services such as the boundaries of properties, property ownership, site lines, neighbor disputes and agreements, and other issues. Therefore, urban forester/arborists cannot consider such issues unless complete and accurate information is disclosed in a timely fashion. Then, the urban forester/arborist can be expected, reasonably, to rely upon the completeness and accuracy of the information provided. Trees can be managed but not controlled. To live near trees, regardless of their condition, is to accept some degree of risk. The only way to eliminate all risks associated with trees is to eliminate all trees.

Hazard/hazard potential: For this evaluation and/report, a tree or tree part that presents a threat to humans, livestock, vehicles, structures, landscape features, or other entity of civilization from uprooting, falling, breaking, or growth development (e.g., roots). While all large landscape trees in proximity to such targets present some degree of hazard regardless of their condition, such inherent hazard is not intended as within this definition and its usage in this evaluation and report.

Inspection limitations: The inspection of these trees consisted solely of a visual inspection from the ground. While more thorough techniques are available for inspection and evaluation, they were neither requested nor considered necessary or appropriate at this time. As trees and other plant life are living, changing organisms affected by innumerable factors beyond our control, Frank Ono (dba F. O. Consulting) and its personnel offer no guarantees, stated or implied, as to tree, plant, or general landscape safety, health, condition or improvement, beyond that specifically stated in writing in accepted contracts. This report is based on a visual inspection of tree condition and for obvious defects. It is not intended to constitute a complete health and hazard evaluation. Further investigation would be required to more definitively evaluate the health and hazards posed by the subject trees, some of which may not be disclosed by visual inspections. Investigations include but are not limited to core samples, root crown excavation, and visual inspection of the entire trees by climbing. Please be advised that healthy trees and/or limbs may fail under certain conditions and that any recommendations given are based on industry standards of tree care.

BACKGROUND

I was informed that on October 2, 2020, a Monterey pine with structural problems was mistakenly identified as a tree ordered for removal by the City of Carmel by the Sea. The crown of the tree was removed before the discovery of the error. After the error was discovered, work was stopped, leaving a 20-25-foot bole to remain until the hearing before the Carmel Forest and Beach Commission is held.

OBSERVATIONS

The following are observations taken on site:

- The tree is a 53' diameter Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) located approximately 50 feet west of the 1st Avenue stop sign at Monterey Street. It is located approximately five feet from the fence and five feet from the street edge.
- The crown of the tree was removed. The height of the tree could not be determined, however, according to the 2018 Google image, the tree had a thinning crown spread of 40 feet. Other google photographs reveal that the tree was previously topped with overextended limbs growing toward the structures to the south. The overextended limbs have been pruned by lions tailing.
- The base of the tree has an area on the west side of the trunk there is a separation of the root collar bark at the base of a decay seam, with decaying wood and emergence of small 3-4-year-old pine sapling growing out from the wood.
- The stem of the tree has several areas on the trunk, where the bark appears to be galled and other areas where wood is sunken, sunken wood is usually associated with incipient decay when surrounded by columns of sound wood.
- The area on the north side of the tree appears to have been recently paved. Historical photographs reveal that the street was targeted for underground work and root removal.

DISCUSSION

The tree was previously topped, and its roots disturbed by construction. The tree's root collar was damaged, most likely during street improvement construction, where the small sapling is now happily growing. The sapling appears to be healthy as its roots are most likely embedded in moist decaying wood.

The google images also show erratic growth typical of pine when they are topped. Topping is often used to reduce the size of a tree. Topping is not a viable method of height reduction and does not reduce future risk, rather topping increases risk in the long term, due to the formation of weakly attached limbs it causes. Topping is the indiscriminate use of heading cuts of tree branches or stems to lateral branches that are not large enough to assume the terminal role.

The photographs reveal there are weakly attached leaders formed from the topping of the tree. The limbs have grown out and become overextended toward the structures beneath them. When pine is topped it retards vertical growth and this pine shows a distinct pattern of weakly attached limbs formed from the stem where the topping occurred. In the photographs, the limbs reacted to the topping. They are overextended and lions tailed (lions tail pruning damages the health, and structural stability of the tree. It is a pruning method where all of the interior branches are removed, leaving only tufts of leaves and small branches at the ends of the large limbs. Trees suffer from malnutrition, sunburn, and increased limb breakage. Removing excessive amounts of leaves reduces the ability of a tree to make food. The reduction of foliage on branches to a small tuft at the end of a long limb creates a lever that catches the wind, often snapping the branch off).

The topping cut also removed most of the upper crown leaving limbs exposed, so that the pine cannot recover its natural shape. The topping exposed previously shaded bark to the full sun causes it to dry out. The direct sunlight caused the bark to sunburn (this explains the greyed wood) and exposing the tree to damage from disease and insects.

CONCLUSION

The tree was problematic structurally. Erratic limb growth from topping and the problematic base of the tree creates liability for the city. Because the tree was a standing liability, it reasonable to assume the tree as a good candidate for abatement.

Sincerely,



Frank Ono

Certified Arborist #536

This report is based on a visual inspection of tree condition and for obvious defects. It is not intended to constitute a complete health and hazard evaluation. Further investigation would be required to more definitively evaluate the health and hazards posed by the subject trees, some of which may not be disclosed by visual inspections. Investigations include but are not limited to core samples, root crown excavation, and visual inspection of the entire trees by climbing. Please be advised that healthy trees and/or limbs may fail under certain conditions and that the above recommendations are based on industry standards of tree care. This report is made with the understanding that no representations or warranties, either expressed or implied are made that any trees referred to in the report or located on or adjacent to the subject property are sound or safe.



Remaining bole of subject tree



Small 3-4-year-old Pine sapling growing out from base of the tree at the base of a decay seam



Pine sapling

Google Maps 1st Ave



Topped pine

Image capture: Jun 2011 @ 2020 Google

Carmel-By-The-Sea, California



Street View

Google Maps 1st Ave



previous root disturbance and repair, prior to 2011

Image capture: Jun 2011 © 2020 Google

Carmel-By-The-Sea, California



Street View



Topped Tree -1st 2SW of Monterey

Legend



Google Earth

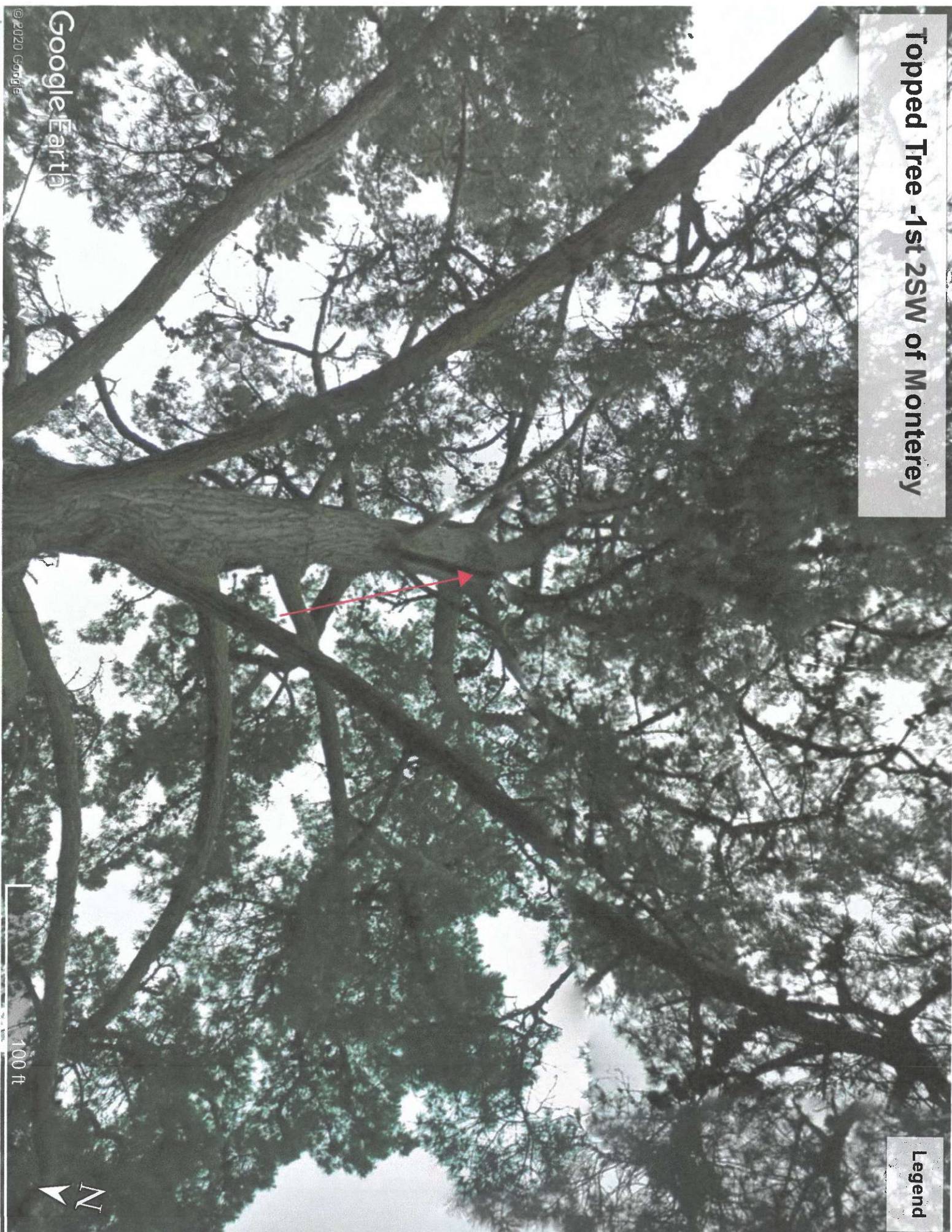
© 2020 Google

30 ft



Topped Tree - 1st 2SW of Monterey

Legend



Google Earth

© 2020 Google

100 ft



Google Maps Valley Way



Construction in street adjacent to subject pine

Image capture: Dec 2016 @ 2020 Google

Carmel-By-The-Sea, California



Street View



https://www.google.com/maps/@36.5618346,-121.9138236,3a,75y,247.73h,99.45t/data=!3m1!1e1!3m4!1s8M2MxbkL3OZ3osm6VsD8_w12a017113312186656

1st 2SW of Monterey

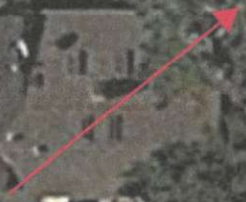
2018 Aerial

Legend

Monterey St

1st Ave

Subject tree with topped and thinning crown



100 ft

