

Carmel City Council
Carmel CA
February 8, 2020
To Whom It May Concern:

We are new homeowners in the beautiful town of Carmel. We decided to move here from Pacific Palisades because of the wonderful trees and nature we saw all around us when we visited in May of 2020. We love to hike and see wildlife and were happy to find a house near the Mission Trail that we could purchase and take care of. The former owners had done some work on it, but it was badly in need of TLC.

My wife loves to plant trees as well as native plants. Everywhere we've lived she's worked on turning the landscape into native habitat to nurture the birds and pollinators. She took horticulture classes at Long Beach City College, and we visited arboretums and nurseries that specialized in native trees to learn more about the varieties of trees and plants native to the California Coastal climate. At our house on Ocean Blvd, we planted Torrey Pines and Ironwoods and Coastal Live Oak and Ray Hartman Ceanothus, as well as many California native plants. After 15 years the yard looks like a wildlife preserve. People love it. My wife also gathered and potted acorns and grew baby oak trees that she gave away to anyone who wanted one.

We moved to Carmel because we both have immune issues, and because I could continue working as a college professor and researcher on climate change and social policy online. I have heart conditions and a form of blood cancer and am over seventy but still loving life! We are happy to be around so much beauty in your town of Carmel by the Sea. We've just begun to meet our new neighbors who've lived on Junipero Ave. for decades, and they've been extremely welcoming.

We're doing work on the house, and one of the things we wanted to do right away was to work on the back yard. The front yard has beautiful oak trees. The large back yard has two oak trees and a pine tree, all of which need attention. Along the fence, there were three Pittosporum trees that were about 15 feet tall which were growing into the oak trees that lined the street on the other side of the fence. Otherwise, the yard is totally bare. The former owner had a large carpet of plastic grass set out over the yard so his kids could play. I've attached a picture of the three trees from the Zillow advertisement just before we purchased the house; you can see the plastic grass. Please note that we didn't cut down the trees to get a view, as you can see from the picture. You can also see that although the tree root might have been big these trees did not have very thick trunks, and that they are growing into the oaks, which can cause disease.

We wanted to do what we've done with our other houses and plant more natives, so we hired gardeners to remove the 3 non-native trees. Before they were totally removed, an inspector arrived and called Ms. Davis to come and view the tree removal. We were informed that we had to have our trees inspected to see if we needed a permit and would be granted one. We know that many native trees are protected. But we didn't know the rules here, and afterwards we spoke to our neighbors and they explained how important it was for Carmel to review requests for landscaping to preserve the beauty of the town. We read up on the city website and now realize that we did not follow the correct procedure.

We would like to plant three native trees to replace the Pittosporum, either from the native tree list or one that Ms. Davis recommends. We are thinking of *Lyonthamnus floribuda aspleniforus*,

Catalina Ironwood or Ceanothus Ray Hartman which we planted at our Ocean Blvd home and is flourishing. We've been reading that the yard may be big to plant some higher canopy trees that are companions to the oaks and are considering those too. We are working with a licensed landscaper on creating a plan for the back yard so we make sure we plant trees and plants that are mutually beneficial for each other. We understand the city rules and plan to abide by them.

Thank you for taking the time to hear from us.

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