



Tree Committee  
AGENDA

Monday, October 28, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Council Hearing Room, 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo

The Tree Committee holds in-person meetings. Zoom participation will not be supported at this time. Attendees of City Council or Advisory Body meetings are eligible to receive one hour of complimentary parking; restrictions apply, visit [Parking for Public Meetings](#) for more details.

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Public Comment prior to the meeting (must be received 3 hours in advance of the meeting):**

**Mail - Delivered by the U.S. Postal Service.** Address letters to the City Clerk's Office at 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, California, 93401.

**Email - Submit Public Comments via email to [advisorybodies@slocity.org](mailto:advisorybodies@slocity.org).** In the body of your email, please include the date of the meeting and the item number (if applicable). Emails *will not* be read aloud during the meeting.

**Voicemail - Call (805) 781-7164 and leave a voicemail.** Please state and spell your name, the agenda item number you are calling about, and leave your comment. Verbal comments must be limited to 3 minutes. Voicemails *will not* be played during the meeting.

*\*All correspondence will be archived and distributed to members, however, submissions received after the deadline may not be processed until the following day.*

**Public Comment during the meeting:**

**Meetings are held in-person.** To provide public comment during the meeting, you must be present at the meeting location.

**Electronic Visual Aid Presentation.** To conform with the City's Network Access and Use Policy, Chapter 1.3.8 of the [Council Policies & Procedures Manual](#), members of the public who desire to utilize electronic visual aids to supplement their oral presentation must provide display-ready material to the City Clerk by 12:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Contact the City Clerk's Office at [cityclerk@slocity.org](mailto:cityclerk@slocity.org) or (805) 781-7114.

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Elizabeth Lucas will call the Regular Meeting of the Tree Committee to order.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

The public is encouraged to submit comments on any subject within the jurisdiction of the Tree Committee that *does not* appear on this agenda. Although the Committee will not take action on items presented during the Public Comment Period, the Chair may direct staff to place an item on a future agenda for discussion.

**3. CONSENT**

Matters appearing on the Consent Calendar are expected to be non-controversial and will be acted upon at one time. A member of the public may request the Tree Committee to pull an item for discussion. The public may comment on any and all items on the Consent Agenda within the three-minute time limit.

**3.a CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES - AUGUST 26, 2024 TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

5

Recommendation:

To approve the Tree Committee Minutes of August 26, 2024.

**4. TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION**

**4.a REVIEW A TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION TO REMOVE TWO (2) COAST LIVE OAK (QUERCUS AGRIFOLIA) TREES LOCATED AT 2675 JOHNSON AVE (TREE-0497-2024)**

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Recommendation:

Review the proposed tree removal application for consistency with the Municipal Code Section 12.24.090(E) and provide a recommendation to the Community Development Director.

**5. COMMENT AND DISCUSSION**

5.a 2025-27 TREE COMMITTEE GOAL SETTING AND THE FINANCIAL PLAN AND BUDGET PROCESS

Identify Tree Committee goals and work programs for the 2025-27 Financial Plan.

5.b ARBORIST REPORT

Receive a brief update from Urban Forest Program Coordinator / City Arborist Walter Gault.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Tree Committee will hold a **Special Meeting on Monday, December 2, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Hearing Room** at City Hall, 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo. The Regular Meeting of November 25, 2024 will be cancelled due to the Thanksgiving Holiday.

LISTENING ASSISTIVE DEVICES are available -- see the Clerk

The City of San Luis Obispo wishes to make all of its public meetings accessible to the public. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities. Any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting should direct such request to the City Clerk's Office at (805) 781-7114 at least 48 hours before the meeting, if possible. Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (805) 781-7410.

Agenda related writings or documents provided to the Tree Committee are available for public inspection on the City's website:

<https://www.slocity.org/government/mayor-and-city-council/agendas-and-minutes>. Meeting video recordings can be found on the City's website:

<http://opengov.slocity.org/WebLink/Browse.aspx?id=61087&dbid=0&repo=CityClerk>





## Tree Committee Minutes

August 26, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Council Hearing Room, 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo

Tree Committee Members Present: Member Alan Bate, Member Henry Bonifas, Member Brian Pineda, Member Emily Rosten, Vice Chair Ben Parker, Chair Elizabeth Lucas

Tree Committee Members Absent: Member Daniel Canella

City Staff Present: Urban Forest Program Coordinator / City Arborist Walter Gault, Principal Planner Rachel Cohen, Deputy City Clerk Megan Wilbank

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### 1. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the San Luis Obispo Tree Committee was called to order on August 26, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Hearing Room at City Hall, 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, by Chair Lucas.

### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Public Comment:

None

--End of Public Comment--

### 3. CONSENT

#### 3.a CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES - JUNE 24, 2024 AND JULY 22, 2024 TREE COMMITTEE MINUTES

**Motion By** Member Rosten

**Second By** Vice Chair Parker

To approve the following Tree Committee Minutes:

- June 24, 2024
- July 22, 2024

Ayes (6): Member Bate, Member Bonifas, Member Pineda, Member Rosten, Vice Chair Parker, and Chair Lucas

Absent (1): Member Canella

CARRIED (6 to 0)

**4. TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION**

- 4.a REVIEW A TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION TO REMOVE ONE SWEETGUM (LIQUIDAMBAR STYRACIFLUA) TREE LOCATED AT 470 PISMO STREET (TREE-0221-2024)

Urban Forest Program Coordinator / City Arborist Walter Gault presented the staff report and responded to Committee inquiries.

The Applicant’s representative, Lin Jin, provided an overview of the Tree Removal Application.

Chair Lucas opened Public Comment

Public Comment:

None

--End of Public Comment--

Chair Lucas closed Public Comment

**Motion By** Chair Lucas

**Second By** Member Bate

To recommend the Community Development Director deny the Tree Removal Application (TREE-0221-2024) to remove one (1) Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) tree based on insufficient findings to support removal under Section 12.24.090(E).

Ayes (6): Member Bate, Member Bonifas, Member Pineda, Member Rosten, Vice Chair Parker, and Chair Lucas

Absent (1): Member Canella

CARRIED (6 to 0)

**5. NEW BUSINESS**

- 5.a REVIEW LAGUNA LAKE DOG PARK REVITALIZATION PROJECT REPLANTING PLAN (TREE-0344-2024)

Urban Forest Program Coordinator / City Arborist Walter Gault presented the staff report and responded to Committee inquiries.

Chair Lucas opened Public Comment

Public Comment:

None

--End of Public Comment--

Chair Lucas closed Public Comment

**Motion By** Chair Lucas

**Second By** Vice Chair Parker

The Tree Committee reviewed the Laguna Lake Dog Park Revitalization Planting Plan and provided the following recommendations for species selections based on the information provided in the plans and characteristics specific to the site:

- Avoid planting White Alder because it has high water needs. Consider replacing with Acacia tree species.
- Replace most of the proposed Coast Live Oaks with Blue Oaks because that variety does not have spikey leaves, which could injure a dog's paw.
- Avoid planting Monterey cypress because there are already some on the site and they are not thriving. Consider replacing with Red Flowering Gum.
- Consider replacing some of the proposed Chitalpa trees to add more species diversity along the border of the project.
- Keep the proposed Sycamore trees.
- Generally, in favor of species that are drought tolerant, moderate salinity tolerance due to the proposed reclaimed water irrigation, avoid species with poisonous bark/leaves/litter, excessive sap, and allergy irritants to dogs and/or people.

Ayes (6): Member Bate, Member Bonifas, Member Pineda, Member Rosten, Vice Chair Parker, and Chair Lucas

Absent (1): Member Canella

CARRIED (6 to 0)

## **6. COMMENT AND DISCUSSION**

### **6.a ARBORIST REPORT**

Urban Forest Program Coordinator / City Arborist Walter Gault provided a general update on replanting trends for new construction projects and some of the factors that may limit the number of trees that are replanted on a site compared to the compensatory replanting recommendations from the Tree Committee.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 p.m. The next Regular Meeting of the Tree Committee is scheduled for September 23, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Hearing Room at City Hall, 990 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo.

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APPROVED BY TREE COMMITTEE: XX/XX/2024



## TREE COMMITTEE AGENDA REPORT

**SUBJECT:** REVIEW A TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION TO REMOVE TWO (2) COAST LIVE OAK (QUERCUS AGRIFOLIA) TREES LOCATED AT 2675 JOHNSON AVE (TREE-0497-2024)

**FILE NUMBER:** TREE-0497-2024

**PROJECT ADDRESS:** 2675 Johnson Ave

**FROM:** Walter Gault, City Arborist  
Phone Number: (805) 781-7578  
Email: [wgault@slocity.org](mailto:wgault@slocity.org)

**APPLICANT:** Ron Combs, Bunyon Bros. Tree Service

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### RECOMMENDATION

Review the proposed tree removal application for consistency with the Municipal Code Section 12.24.090(E) and provide a recommendation to the Community Development Director.



**Figure 1: View of the trees from Johnson Ave**

TREE-0497-2024 (2675 Johnson Ave)  
Tree Committee Report – October 28, 2024

## 1.0 APPLICATION DESCRIPTION

Ron Combs (Applicant) has requested the removal of two (2) Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) trees in the front yard at 2675 Johnson Ave per Municipal Code Section 12.24.090.E(3) related to property owner convenience. The applicant would like to remove the trees and replace them with thirteen (13) *Lyonothamnus floribundus ssp. aspleniifolius* (Catalina Ironwood) trees.



## 2.0 COMMITTEE PURVIEW

The Tree Committee's role is to review the removal request in accordance with the process set forth in San Luis Obispo Municipal Code (SLOMC) [Chapter 12.24](#), specifically Section [12.24.090\(E\)\(3\)](#). This code section utilizes the process set forth in [subsection F\(2\)](#), the relevant additional application requirements in [subsection \(D\)\(2\)](#) and the criteria set forth in [subsection \(G\)](#).

## 3.0 TREE REGULATIONS

The City's Tree Ordinance (Municipal Code Chapter 12.24) was adopted in 2010 and recently updated in 2019 with the purpose of establishing a comprehensive program for installing, maintaining, and preserving trees within the City. This ordinance establishes policies, regulations, and specifications necessary to govern installation, maintenance, removal, and preservation of trees to beautify the city; to purify the air; to provide shade and wind protection; to add environmental and economic value; and to preserve trees with historic or unusual value.

TREE-0497-2024 (2675 Johnson Ave)  
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Criteria for Convenience Tree Removal Applications.

SLOMC §12.24.090 subsection (E)(3) requires review by the Tree Committee using the criteria set for in SLOMC §12.24.090(G). Applicable criteria are provided in italics below and followed by a description of the proposed tree removals as it relates to that criterion.

- *(G)(1). Size of Tree. The scale of the tree shall be considered, as well as the size of the tree's canopy. Larger, more visually prominent trees may have a higher preservation priority than smaller, less visually prominent trees.*

The trees proposed for removal are small-medium size and visually prominent in the front yard of the property.

- *(G)(2). Location of Tree on Private Property. The location of the tree on private property shall be considered. Trees located in a private rear yard, which are not highly visible from the public right-of-way, may have a lower preservation priority than trees with a high visual impact to the neighborhood.*

The trees proposed for removal are located within the front yard and are highly visible from the public right of way.

- *(G)(3). Species of Tree. Native trees shall have a higher preservation priority than non-native trees.*

The trees proposed for removal are native.

- *(G)(6). Compliance with Subsection J of This Section Regarding Compensatory Plantings. The approving authority may consider an application proposal to provide compensatory plantings in excess of required minimums in evaluating this criterion.*

The applicant is proposing to replant 13 trees in place of the two tree removals.

**4.0 ACTIONS**

- 4.1** Recommend findings of consistency with the Tree Regulations. An action recommending approval of the application based on consistency will be forwarded to the Community Development Director for final action. This action may include recommendations regarding the compensatory replanting plan with size and species of tree.
- 4.2** Recommend findings of inconsistency with the Tree Regulations. An action recommending denial of the application should include findings that cite the basis for denial and should reference inconsistency with the General Plan, Tree Regulations, or other policy documents.

TREE-0497-2024 (2675 Johnson Ave)  
Tree Committee Report – October 28, 2024

- 4.3** Continue the project to a hearing date certain, or uncertain. An action continuing the application should include direction to the applicant and staff on pertinent issues.

**5.0 ATTACHMENTS**

- A - Tree Removal Application for 2675 Johnson Ave (TREE-0497-2024)
- B - Replanting Plan



Community Development

919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3218
805.781.7170
slocity.org

mat

TREE-0497-2024

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION

For all Non-Construction and Construction related tree removals

Owner Name: Todd Aburashed, Applicant Name: Bunyon Bros. Tree Service (from bunyons)
Address: 2075 Johnson Ave, Address: 5345 Davenport Creek Rd
City: San Luis Obispo, Zip: 93401, City: San Luis Obispo, Zip: 93401
Phone: (805) 550-9203, Phone: (805) 547-1903
Email: rammy.aburashed@gmail.com, Email: contact@bunyonbros.com
Address of Tree(s): 2075 Johnson Ave
Number of trees applying to remove: 2
Tree Species: Quercus Agrifolia - (Remove)
Reason for Removal: Unhealthy. New landscaping, planning low water use, proposed multiple large shrubs/trees replanted.
Is this removal a City Tree? YES NO DON'T KNOW Dog in yard? YES NO
Is this associated with a Building Permit or Development Plan? YES NO
If YES, please provide appropriate reference numbers:
Is this property governed by a Homeowners Association (HOA)? YES NO If YES, please provide HOA Board Approved Meeting minutes authorizing tree removal(s) with your tree removal application.

(805) 441 9396
2024

ALL ITEMS BELOW MUST BE INCLUDED TO PROCESS TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS

- Tree(s) banded with ribbon or duct tape for identification
Site plan drawing or photo of tree site with Tree ID (Tree#1, Tree #2, etc.)
Supporting documentation (repair, receipts, etc.)
Photo log showing damage or reasons for removal
Replanting plan
Arborist Report

INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.
FAILURE TO KEEP TREES BANDED MAY RESULT IN A REJECTED APPLICATION.



1. Include a photo log that clearly shows the trees requested for removal. All tree(s) must be uniquely identified by a number and a ribbon, or an identifier wrapped around the trunk in the photo and prior to inspection.



2. Include a replanting plan in accordance with Section 12.24.090(J) of the City's Municipal Code. A minimum 1:1 replanting rate is required for plantings onsite, and a minimum 2:1 replanting rate is required for plantings offsite or within the public right-of-way.



3. An application for tree removal on a site where a discretionary or ministerial development permit is requested shall include an arborist report and a site plan that includes accurate drip line delineation and cross sections of construction work impacting both trees proposed for removal and trees planned to remain.



**Tree Removal Decisions as outlined in Section 12.24.090 of the City's Municipal Code**

SELECT TYPE OF TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION BEING SUBMITTED	DECISION MAKER
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Imminent Hazard to Life or Property</b> SLOMC <u>12.24.090(E)(1)(a)</u>	City Arborist
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Tree Health and Hazard Mitigation</b> SLOMC <u>12.24.090(E)</u>	City Arborist
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Convenience Removal</b> SLOMC <u>12.24.090(E)(3)</u> <i>Tree Committee makes recommendation to Community Development Director</i>	Community Development Director
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Minor Ministerial Development Permit</b> SLOMC <u>12.24.090(F)(1)</u> <i>Removal for residential or accessory construction on an R-1 or R-2 lot</i>	City Arborist
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Discretionary Permits Construction Tree Removal</b> SLOMC <u>12.24.090(F)(3)</u>	Community Development Director
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Major Development / Tentative Tract Map/ Conditional Use Permit</b> SLOMC <u>12.24.090(F)(4)</u>	Planning Commission

**Submittal Instructions**

Submit Tree Removal applications to the City of San Luis Obispo, Community Development Department at the following address: 919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401 or by email to trees@slocity.org.

Payment of the "Tree Removal Permit" fee shall be submitted along with this application. Refer to the City's current Comprehensive Fee Schedule for the current fee.

**Property Owner Authorization:**

By signing this application, I certify that I have reviewed this completed application and the attached material and consent to its filing. I agree to allow the Community Development Department to duplicate and distribute submitted materials to interested persons as it determines is necessary for the processing of the application.

Rammy Aburashed                      8/21/24  
 Signed    Date

**Applicant/ Representative Certification:**

By signing this application, I certify that the information provided is accurate. I understand the City might not approve what I'm applying for or might set conditions of approval. I agree to allow the Community Development Department to duplicate and distribute submitted materials to interested persons as it determines is necessary for processing of the application.

Ben Conner                                      08/21/24  
 Signed    Date

**Permission to Access Property:**

This section is to be completed by the property owner and/or occupant who controls access to the property. To adequately evaluate the submitted proposal, Community Development Department Staff, Commissioners and City Council Members will have to gain access to the exterior of the real property in order to adequately review and report on the proposed request. Your signature below certifies that you agree to give the City permission to access the project site from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, as part of the normal review of this application.

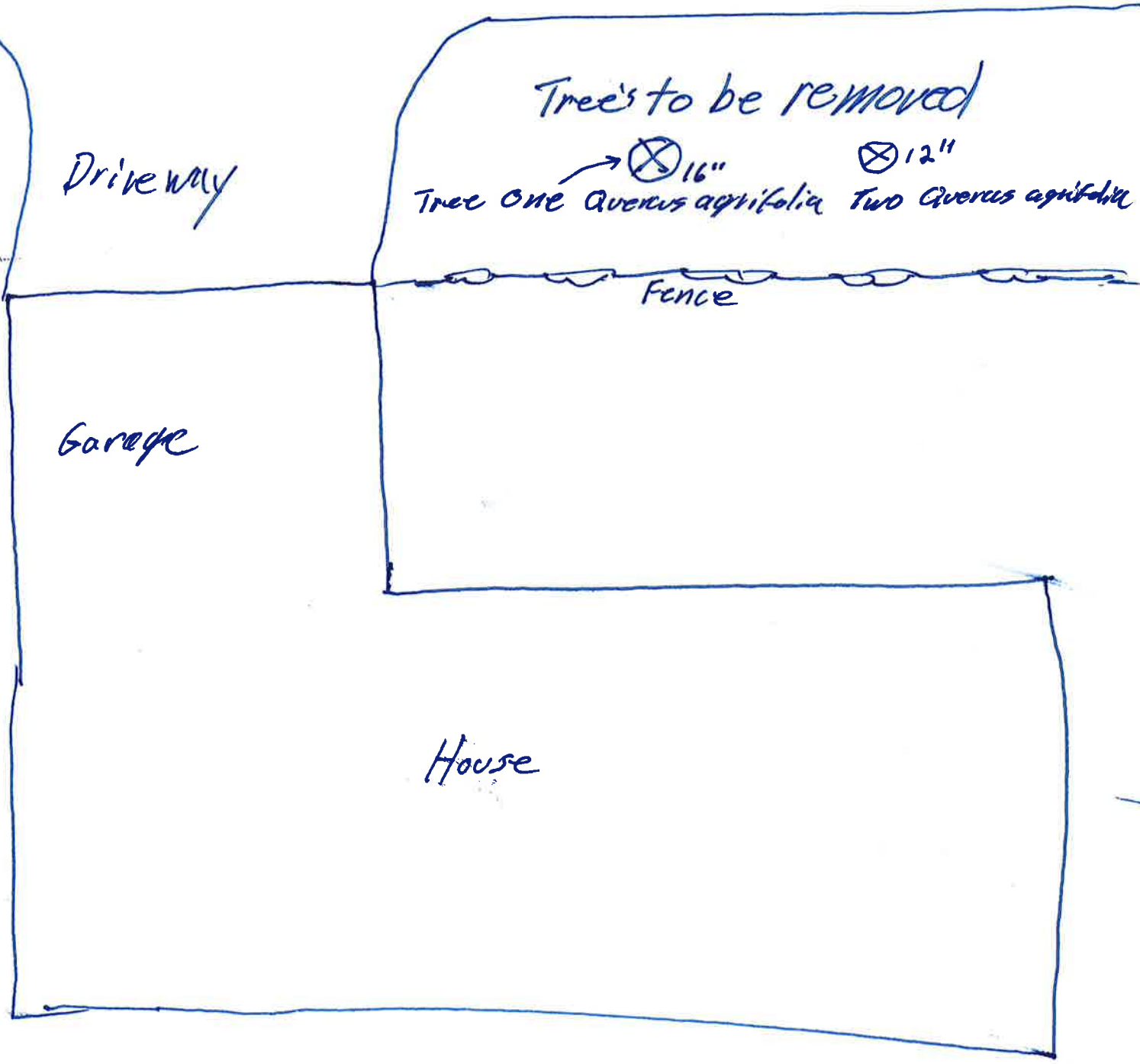
Rammy Aburashed                      8/21/24  
 Signed    Date

**Indemnification Agreement:**

The Owner/Applicant shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City or its agents or officers and employees from any claim, action or proceeding against the City or its agents, officers or employees, to attack, set aside, void, or annul, in whole or in part, the City's approval of this project. In the event that the City fails to promptly notify the Owner / Applicant of any such claim, action or proceeding, or that the City fails to cooperate fully in the defense of said claim, this condition shall thereafter be of no further force or effect.

Ben Conner                                      08/21/24  
 Signed    Date

- - 2675 Johnson Ave - - - -



Remove

- - 2675 Johnson - - - -

← 50' 60' →

Trees to be Planted. *Lyonthamnus Floribundus*



Fence → Black Wall →

House

Trees to be planted along black wall as large hedge. Multiple *Lyonthamnus Floribundus* or Catalina iron wood trees to be used as a sound and site barrier wall, 60' feet or so long.

Trees symbolised with 

spadilla@slo city.org

replant