



**CITY OF  
SAN LUIS OBISPO**

**Fee must accompany  
original signed appeal form**

Received by: [Signature]

Date Received

RECEIVED  
JAN 11 2024  
SLO CITY CLERK

**TREE REMOVAL APPEAL FORM**  
**Public Works Department, Urban Forestry**

**SECTION 1. APPELLANT INFORMATION**

Bert F. [Redacted]

[Redacted]

Name

Mailing Address

[Redacted]

Phone

Fax

In accordance with the procedures set forth in **Chapter 12.24.180** of the San Luis Obispo Municipal Code, I hereby appeal the decision of the:

City Arborist- Tree Removal Application **12.24.090 (E)(2)** (appealed to Tree Committee)

Appeal: \$140.80

City Arborist- Tree Removal Application **12.24.090 (F)(1)** (appealed to the Community Development Director)

Appeal: \$140.80

Community Development Director- Tree Removal Application **12.24.090 (F)(2)** (appealed to the City Council)

Appeal: \$140.80

Community Development Director or Hearing Officer- Tree Removal Application **12.24.090 (E)(3)** (appealed to the City Council)

Appeal: \$140.80

Planning Commission- Tree Removal Application **12.24.090 (E)(4)** (appealed to the City Council)

Appeal: \$140.80

**SECTION 2. SUBJECT OF APPEAL:**

The date the decision being appealed was rendered: Posted on the tree 1-2-2024

Tree Removal address: 1120 Marsh St., San Luis Obispo

Explain specifically **what** action(s) you are appealing and **why** you believe your appeal should be considered. You may attach additional pages, if necessary:

Please see attached pages.

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*Bert E. Forbes*

Signature of Appellant

January 10, 2024

Date

Tree Removal Appeal Form attachment reference notice shown below in Photo 1

My concern about removing the big Ficus tree just to the south of our 1126 Marsh St. residence is the loss of greenery, the loss of CO2 removal from our atmosphere, and the cooling the tree provides. When it is gone only the ugly, tall, somewhat barren, non-native eucalyptus that is just on the other side of the sidewalk will remain. It is less fire resistant, also messy, and less beautiful than the Ficus. It also has less leaf area, for removing CO2 and providing shade. All its leaves are at the very top of the tall tree. See Photo 4 below.

The Ficus does have some dead branches on the SW side (see photo 5), possibly due to the eucalyptus growing up inside the Ficus in addition to the slow developing disease that the City Arborist mentioned. Seems to me that trimming the Ficus would be a better solution. It would be more fitting with our Tree City USA status and more environmentally appropriate.

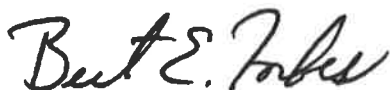
With the current increase in climate change and CO2 we need all the CO2-using trees that we have. Planting a new small one (even a 36" one) will take decades to do as much good as the current Ficus does, even in its diseased state, and may be too late for the climate.

Along that line the soil in this area is really bad—take note of our now-six-year-old street tree. It is puny even in comparison to the other six identical ones planted in front of the other brownstones, and I even gave it extra water for the first few years. The Ficus no doubt has roots that have managed to penetrate the clay and are down to the water level where it gets all the water it needs. A new tree to replace it will have to fight the same battle for decades.

From an engineering standpoint it would be better to wait to remove the Ficus until its CO2 absorbing capability is reduced to not much above the initial capacity of a small new tree. This optimizes the total CO2 absorbed over the next several decades. I don't know the rate of decay due to disease, so I can't plot it numerically, but intuitively the curves won't cross for many years. The City Arborist may be able to do this calculation.

Lastly, on a very personal basis I see this beautiful tree every day from our dining room (Photo 6), from my office and when I go out our front door (Photo 4). Yes, it is messy some of the year, but it is beautiful and soothing to look at. Our small new street tree won't begin to compete for a long time. At age 79 I won't likely live long enough to see a replacement for the Ficus become anywhere as beautiful, shady, and life-giving.

Please do not remove this tree.



Bert Forbes

January 10, 2024



Photo 1—Notice that appeared on 1/2/24 without prior info



Photo 2 from 4<sup>th</sup> floor roof deck



Photo 3 from 4<sup>th</sup> floor roof deck



Photo 4 from ground in front of 1126 Marsh (our house)



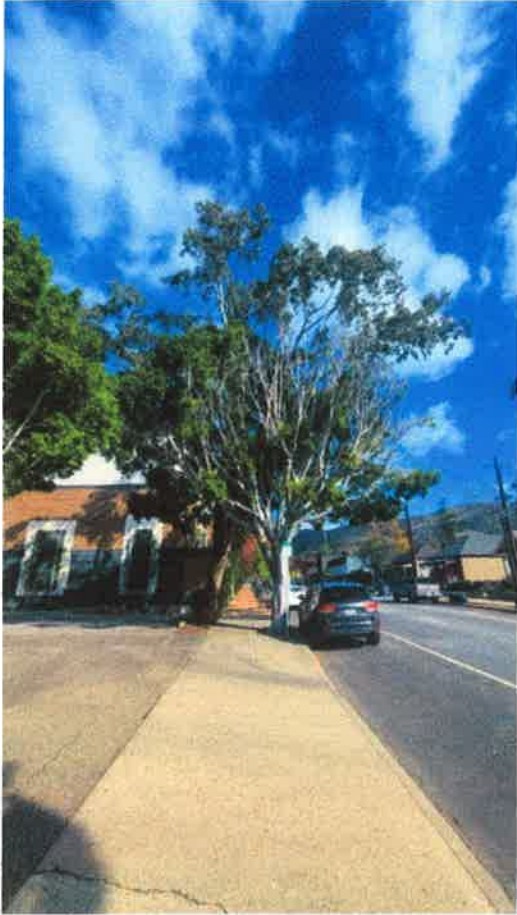


Photo 5-- ground in front of COG building looking NE towards 1126 Marsh



Photo 6--2<sup>nd</sup> floor balcony off our dining room 1126 Marsh