



Community Development

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

May 14, 2024

Sent via email

San Luis Coastal Unified School District
Buildings, Grounds & Transportation Department
c/o Chris Bonin
937 Southwood Drive
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Subject: TREE-0200-2024 (2125 Story Road)
Review of proposed removal of two (2) *Fraxinus udei* (Shamel Ash) trees

Dear Chris Bonin,

On April 23, 2024, the City received your submittal for the removal of two (2) *Fraxinus udei* (Shamel Ash) trees at 2125 Story Road. The proposed tree removal request is related to Tree Health and Hazard Mitigation and is therefore subject to Municipal Code Section 12.24.090(E). In accordance with the Code, the proposed tree removal request is subject to City Arborist review. On May 14, 2024, I reviewed your request and consistency of the tree removal application with city policies and standards applicable to the site. After careful consideration, I have denied your request based on the findings below.

Findings:

1. The proposed tree removal request is inconsistent with the Tree Regulations because the proposed tree removals do not conform to the circumstances outlined in Municipal Code Section 12.24.090(E)(1)(a-g).
 - a. The two trees proposed for removal are not an imminent hazard to life or property, dead or dying, contain structural defects and/or deficiencies that will limit lifespan, densely clustered amongst other trees, obstructing vision, access, or mobility of public traffic, nor demonstrate an ongoing maintenance burden for the property owner exceeding routine tree maintenance.
 - b. The two trees proposed for tree removal have caused damage to the sidewalks and curbs, but it is not severe enough to justify removal. Other measures or strategies such as sidewalk repair and minor root pruning are feasible alternatives that could alleviate the damage rather than removing the trees. Although the trees are growing into overhead power, data and fiber lines, Municipal Code Section 12.24.090(E)(1) does not list this as a circumstance in which a tree may be removed. Pruning is a feasible alternative that could help adjust the interaction of wires with the tree.

My action is final unless appealed within 10 calendar days from the date of the decision. Anyone may appeal the action by submitting a letter to the Community Development Department within the time specified. The appropriate appeal fee must accompany the appeal documentation. Appeals will be

scheduled for the first available Tree Committee meeting date. If an appeal is filed, you will be notified by email of the date and time of the hearing.

If you have any questions, or if you need additional information, contact me by phone at (805) 781-7578 or by email at wgault@slocity.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Walter Gault". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Walter" and last name "Gault" clearly distinguishable.

Walter Gault
City Arborist
Community Development