



Public Works Urban Forest Services

25 Prado Road, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3218
805.781.7220
Trees@slocity.org

For Office Use Only:
Date Entered:
Letter sent:
SR #

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION
RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, DEVELOPMENT

Follow Non-Construction Tree Removal Criteria and Process here (SLOMC 12.24.090.E)
Follow Construction Tree Removal Criteria and Process here (SLOMC 12.24.090.F)

Owner: BART SCHWAN Applicant: JEREMY LOWNEY
Address: 2745 JOHANSON Address: PO Box 13521
City: SLO CA Zip: 93401 City: SLO CA Zip: 93406
Phone: 805-543-7260 Phone: 805 431-0708
Email: bschwan@charter.net Email: jeremylowney@gmail.com
Address of Tree(s): 439 A+B BRANCH ST Number of trees applying to remove? 1
Tree Species: GREEN ASH (
Reason: Hazardous & Damaging property. The tree is a nuisance and needs replacement.
Is this removal a City Tree? YES X NO UNKNOWN Dog in yard? YES X NO
Is this property governed by a Homeowners Association (HOA)? YES X NO If YES, please provide HOA Board Approved Meeting minutes authorizing tree removal(s) with your tree removal application.

ALL ITEMS BELOW MUST BE INCLUDED TO PROCESS TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION:



- Tree(s) must be banded with ribbon or duct tape
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 conditions for removal 1
Replanting Plan (Consistent with 12.24.090.J) 2

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



1 Please 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 Please include a replanting plan in accordance with Section 12.24.090(J) of the City's Municipal Code. A minimum of one new tree shall be planted for each tree authorized to be removed on the same property (on site) or two new trees shall be planted for each tree authorized to be removed when planted on a different property or within the public right-of-way (off site).

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

U	SELECT ONE CRITERIA FROM BELOW SUPPORTING TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION	DECISION MAKER	APPEAL BODY
	Imminent Hazard to Life or Property Section <u>12.24.090(E)(1)(a)</u>	City Arborist	No Appeal
✓	Tree Health and Hazard Mitigation Section <u>12.24.090(E)</u>	City Arborist	Tree Committee
	Minor Ministerial Development Permit (removal for residential or accessory construction on an R-1 or R-2 lot) Section <u>12.24.090(F)(1)</u>	City Arborist	Community Development Director
	Criteria for Discretionary Permits Construction Tree Removal Section <u>12.24.090(F)(3)</u>	Community Development Director	Planning Commission City Council
	Major Development / Tentative Tract Map/ Conditional Use Permit Section <u>12.24.090(F)(4)</u>	Community Development Director	City Council

Please include a check for \$157.17 along with completed application & documentation. Tree Removal applications may be submitted in person at 25 Prado Road at the City's Corporation Yard in SLO or mailed to:

**City of San Luis Obispo**  
**Public Works- Urban Forest Services**  
**25 Prado Road**  
**San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.**

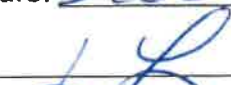
Pursuant to San Luis Obispo Municipal Code 12.24.180, any person aggrieved by an act or determination of the authorized approving authority exercising the authority herein granted shall have the right to appeal the decision of the authorized approving authority.

Appeals must be received by the city clerk within ten calendar days from the date of determination or act shall cause the director to withhold tree removal permits and any permits for construction or demolition activity relying on the subject tree removal until the appeal is heard and a decision is reached.

The fee to appeal to the Tree Committee is \$125.71

This tree removal application must be signed by the property owner or an Authorized Agent. I declare under penalty of perjury that all the facts stated within this tree removal application are true and correct.

Property Owner's Signature:  Date: 3-31-22

Applicant's Signature:  Date: 3-31-22

Please make check payable to the City of San Luis Obispo \$157.17 Check #



**TO:** THE CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO, BETTY ATEN, BART SCHWAN  
**FROM:** SOLID OAK TREE MANAGEMENT  
**DATE:** MARCH 23, 2022  
**RE:** ARBORIST REPORT FOR THE ASH TREE LOCATED AT 418 SOUTH STREET

This report is in regards to the large Ash tree located on the border of 418 South Street and 439 A&B Branch Street. The Schwan's, owners of 439 A&B Branch Street, are concerned about the increasing damages caused by the extremely large tree on the property line.

This tree was denied by the Tree Committee a few months ago, but my clients would like to appeal this decision by adding information of past damages and future imminent damages which can be avoided by removing the tree, as well as appealing to the City regarding "Good horticultural practices" about tree replacement for trees which are aged and massive and threats to the community. This tree is a threat, and the owner would like to put on record to the City of San Luis Obispo, for liability purposes, that removal of the tree is imperative to the safety of their tenants, the safety of the foundation of the home and underground utilities, and the general welfare of the property.

### Findings:

1. The tree is 50+ inches DBH and is overly mature and massive.
2. The tree is a Green Ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) a very fast growing and





Smith St

11. In addition, the tree is up in the high voltage power lines and requires constant pruning. The pruning done by Utility Line Clearing companies is substandard and creates poor structure in the canopy. Limbs overhanging the homes are a potential hazard and long-term maintenance problem.



### **Recommendations:**

Based upon good horticultural and arboricultural practices, I recommend that the tree be removed to avoid further imminent damages to the house, fence, yard, underground utilities, and irrigation.

This tree was planted long ago and was not a tree which was suitable for the small yard space. The tree is relatively young and will continue to grow at a rapid rate in diameter and root expanse.

Replanting a tree which is smaller and more suitable to a small yard is much more desirable.

### **Replanting Plan:**

The owner is willing to replant one 15 gallon tree which is on the SLO City Tree List at or near the same location (on the property of origin). Replacement will insure the longevity and uneven-aged structure of the Urban Forest

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact me by phone (805-431-0708) or email (jeremylowney@gmail.com) if you have further questions.

Thank you.

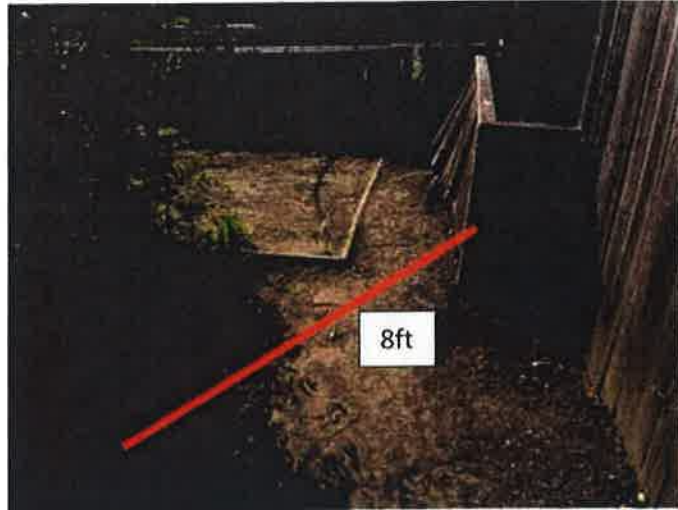
Jeremy Lowney – Owner, Solid Oak Tree Management

### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

Owner of Solid Oak Tree Management Since 1998  
California State Landscape and Tree Service Contractor (C27) #757086 Since 1998  
Certified Arborist WC-3718 1998-2015  
Former Faculty / Teacher – Urban Forestry, Dept. Forestry and Natural Resources, Cal Poly, SLO  
Former Hazardous Tree Inspector, County of San Luis Obispo Planning & Building Department  
Former Member of the California State Pitch Canker Task Force  
Certificates in Tree Risk Management & Lawsuit Prevention, and Tree Appraising and Writing Technical Reports  
Bachelor of Science in Forestry and Natural Resource Management, Cal Poly, SLO

invasive species to California, and is found in many yards throughout SLO City due to their excessive seed spread and adaptability to this climate and soil type.

3. The approximate age of the tree is only 60+/- years old.
4. Another Ash tree about the same size was approved for removal by the City on this property for the same reason, which was causing damages to a shed and the fence. When we counted the rings, it was 52 years old.
5. The tree was planted on the side of 418 South, but has grown across the property line (assuming the fence is on the actual property line) into the property of 448 South.
6. The base of the tree is very close to the Schwan residence (approximately 8ft from tree base to foundation – see photo right). It is very possible that the tree is already causing damages to the foundation. Trees of this size often do extensive damage underground because of invasive roots and the size of buttress roots.



7. The fence has been pushed over and was destroyed by the tree (See photo left).
8. Surface roots are throughout the back yard and make it difficult to landscape. See photo below.



9. Before the tree was last pruned, a branch broke off and tore off the gutter of the Schwan's home. There were numerous other times when branches fell and hit the roof. The owner did not keep a clear record of these events and repaired the house himself. (See photo below).
10. Based upon all the above conditions, the tree is a "Nuisance" according to California State Laws