

Project No. 2019-001049-(5)

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Fri 2020-08-07 01:20

To: Steven Jones <sdjones@planning.lacounty.gov>

CAUTION: External Email. Proceed Responsibly.

August 7, 2020

Ms. Gina Natoli, Hearing Officer
Mr. Steven Jones, Planner
Los Angeles Dept of Regional Planning
320 W. Temple St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Sent via email to: sdjones@planning.lacounty.gov

Re: Agenda Item 5

Encroachment into the Protected Zone of 20 Oak Trees Project No. 2019-001049-(5)

Honorable Ms. Natoli:

As past Vice President of Santa Clarita Oak Conservancy our 501-c-3 organization worked to help create the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance currently being used to protect our native California oak trees. This Project No. 2019-001049-(5)s in direct violation of that ordinance. The number of oak trees and their exact location to be impacted needs clarification . The map of the pipeline removal has not been included in the permit request. Where is the pipe to be removed in relation to the different oak trees root system and drip lines? Where is the "map" of the pipeline as to where it is located in the root system of the oaks? All digging under the oaks plus five-feet out past the drip-line needs to be done with HAND TOOLS ONLY, **No machines are allowed.** Any soil removed from the root system must be replaced. All roots cut as a result of the pipe being removed must be protected and wrapped in burlap to prevent them from drying out and causing damage to the Oak tree. We surveyed the site and found that not all of the Oak Trees were properly numbered. The Oak Tree Ordinance clearly states the Oak report must show the location and health/classification of each tree.

The Oak tree report on this project must give the "health" of each oak tree and the likely-hood of survival for such a damaging cutting to root system. IF it is a NON functional line, why does it need to be removed at all? Why can't it wait until the road is being widened or the road built? This was the problem that occurred down the Pico Canyon Road at Old Glory Heritage Oak tree. That premature action request caused a TREE-SIT with National and international attention, that lasted three months and having the Heritage Oak, Old Glory, moved at a cost of over a million dollars to save it from destruction. That road has yet to be built more than TWENTY years later....Old Glory is still alive and thriving.

Pico Canyon Road or any unnamed street should be built AROUND this stand of Oak Trees, creating a lovely center-piece. The applicant owns the land so going around or creating a "round-a-bout" should be no problem. This would make a dynamatic entrance to California State Landmark # 516, Mentryville Oil Town of 1876 which is just ahead on Pico Canyon Road.

The oak trees impacted by the trenching for the pipe removal should be monitored for 5 -7 years to be sure they remain healthy.

Any Oak tree damaged or destroyed must be replaced with like species oak trees on a 10-one basis. No monies should be accepted into the "Oak Tree Fund."

Any "replacement Oak Trees" must be placed along Pico Canyon Road in public view and monered/watered for a period of 10-15 years, Twenty if there is a drought.

I would respectfully request that this permit be denied.

Very truly yours,

Cynthia Harris

Co-Founder of the Santa Clarita Oak Conservancy

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