



City of Sebastopol Design Review Board/Tree Board Staff Report

Meeting Date: February 27, 2024
Agenda Item: 7A
To: Tree Board
From: John Jay, Associate Planner
Subject: Tree Removal Permit
Recommendation: Denial

Applicant/Owner: Justin Allamano
File Number: 2023-055
Address: 6700 Sebastopol Avenue
CEQA Status: Categorical Exemption: Section 15304: Class 4
General Plan: Light Industrial (LI)
Zoning: Commercial Industrial (CM)

Introduction:

The project applicant is seeking approval from the Tree Board for the removal of a protected Bunya Bunya “monkey puzzle” (araucaria araucana) tree at 6700 Sebastopol Avenue on the corner of Hwy-12 and Morris Street.

Project Description:

The application proposes removal of the following trees: one (1) Bunya-Bunya “monkey puzzle” (araucaria araucana) tree. The tree proposed for removal is located in the areas as shown in the site photos submitted by the applicant and included as attachments in the report. The tree is 35” dbh, approximately 75-85’ tall, and has branches that range from 6-15’ long horizontally with hard spiky fronds. The project has been heard by the Design Review Board on two occasions thus far. The first meeting was held on November 28th but due to a noticing error was not able to be acted upon. The board then heard the project again at their January 23rd meeting where the board directed staff to return with findings of denial.

Environmental Review:

The proposed tree removal is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, pursuant to Section 15304, Class 4 which includes minor alterations to existing topographical features, such as the removal of a tree.

Tree Protection Ordinance Consistency:

Requirements for Tree Removal Permit: Section 8.12.060.D of the Tree Protection Ordinance states that a Tree Removal Permit may be approved when an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist has verified at least one of the following conditions:

- 1. The tree is diseased or structurally unsound and, as a result, is likely to become a significant hazard to life or property within the next two (2) years.**
- 2. The tree poses a likely foreseeable threat to life or property, which cannot be reasonably mitigated through pruning, root barriers, or other management methods.**
- 3. The property owner can demonstrate that there are unreasonably onerous recurring maintenance issues, which are deemed necessary for safety or protection of property. The property owner is responsible for providing documentation to support such a claim.**
- 4. A situation exists or is proposed in which structures or improvements, including, but not limited to, building additions, second units, swimming pools, and solar energy systems, such as solar panels, cannot be reasonably designed or altered to avoid the need for tree removal.**
- 5. The tree has matured to such an extent that it is determined to be out of scale with adjacent structures and utilities, or with other landscape features.**

Public Comment:

Since the meeting of January 27th of the Design Review Board where it was continued to a date certain of February 27th, 2024 the Planning Department has not received any additional public comments for the request to remove the Bunya Bunya tree.

City Departmental Comment:

The Planning Department routed this application to the various city departments and no comments have been provided as part of this report.

Analysis:

Becky Duckles, an ISA Certified Arborist serving as the City Arborist, conducted an evaluation and prepared an Arborist's Report dated November 20, 2023 (attached). In summary, the report states: That while the monkey puzzle tree appeared to be in good health, the live crown ratio is low which resulted in a top-heavy tree that is more likely to snap or drop fronds. The fronds (which can weigh up to 15 lbs.) can cause serious injury to pedestrians or property damage. Many dead fronds, approximately 2-4' long already litter the ground. Consequently, since a higher level of activity is expected due to the expansion of the outside patio under the tree, there is an increased safety hazard. The City Arborist recommends removing the monkey puzzle tree due to the lack of mitigation measures that would ensure the safety of patrons without killing the tree itself. This verifies the 2nd condition of the Tree Protection Ordinance, which shows that the tree is a foreseeable threat to life or property which cannot be reasonably mitigated by pruning or management methods.

On November 28th, the Design Review Board received a preliminary report on the tree removal at their regular meeting, heard a staff report and heard public comment. However, no deliberations or decision was conducted due to noticing concerns (later found to be a notice that had been removed by a member of the public). As the review was preliminary, staff requested any input from the Board regarding requests for additional information they might need to formally deliberate the application.

At that time, the Board requested to see this application again when there was a tenant so they could review the tree removal within the context of any proposed site design changes for the building as was mentioned in the Applicant's project description.

Since that time, the applicant has requested that the tree removal permit be considered again solely in light of the continued safety issues of the tree for the current site conditions. The applicant finds these is a massive concern and prohibitive for procuring a tenant and, as noted, the City's Arborist has found these safety concerns to be justified, and delay of approval/removal would result in a dangerous condition continuing.

From the January 23rd meeting the Design Review Board directed staff to return with findings of denial for the removal of the one Bunya Bunya tree onsite at 6700 Sebastopol Ave as the board was unable to make the findings required to allow for the tree removal.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board deny the removal of the tree based on the facts and findings and analysis set forth in this staff report.

Attachments:

Exhibit A: Findings of Denial
Application Documents
Public comments

**EXHIBIT A
TREE REMOVAL PERMIT
6700 Sebastopol Ave
Removal of Protected Tree**

Recommended Findings of Denial

1. That the application is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act, pursuant to Section 15304, Class 4 which includes minor alterations to existing topographical features, such as the removal of a tree.
2. The tree is not diseased or structurally unsound and, as a result, is not likely to become a significant hazard to life or property within the next two year in that the City Arborist found that there is no sign of significant disease or structural damage to warrant the removal of this tree.
3. The tree does not pose a likely foreseeable threat to life or property in that the City Arborist noted that with proper mitigation and tree pruning the tree would not be a threat to life or property.
4. The property owner cannot demonstrate that there are unreasonably onerous recurring maintenance issues, which are deemed necessary for safety or protection of property. The property owner is responsible for providing documentation to support such a claim in that the applicant has not provided any proof or documentation to claim onerous reoccurring maintenance issues other than occasional pruning of dead limbs.
5. No situation exists or is proposed in which structures or improvements, including, but not limited to, building additions, second units, swimming pools, and solar energy systems, such as solar panels, cannot be reasonably designed or altered to avoid the need for tree removal.
6. The tree has not matured to such an extent that it is determined to be out of scale with adjacent structures and utilities, or with other landscape features in that the tree was in place before this building and the Barlow were constructed.



City of Sebastopol

Planning Department
7120 Bodega Avenue
Sebastopol, CA 95472
(707) 823-6167

MASTER PLANNING APPLICATION FORM

APPLICATION TYPE

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Permit Review | <input type="checkbox"/> Lot Line Adjustment/Merger | <input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Use Permit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol Use Permit/ABC Transfer | <input type="checkbox"/> Preapplication Conference | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tree Removal Permit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conditional Use Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Review | <input type="checkbox"/> Variance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Design Review | <input type="checkbox"/> Sign Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

This application includes the checklist(s) or supplement form(s) for the type of permit requested: Yes No

REVIEW/HEARING BODIES

- Staff/Admin Design Review/Tree Board Planning Commission City Council Other _____

APPLICATION FOR

Street Address: **6700 SEBASTOPOL AVE** Assessor's Parcel No(s): **004-750-001**

Present Use of Property: **Vacant** Zoning/General Plan Designation: **CM**

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Property Owner Name: **Barlow Star, LLC**

Mailing Address: **6780 Depot Street, #110** Phone: **707.824.5600**

City/State/ZIP: **Sebastopol, CA 95472** Email: **jennifer@thebarlow.net**

Signature: _____ Date: **9/14/2023**

Authorized Agent/Applicant Name: **Justin Allamano**

Mailing Address: **6780 Depot Street, #110** Phone: **707.824.5600**

City/State/ZIP: **Sebastopol, CA 95472** Email: **justin@aldriddgedevelopment.net**

Signature: _____ Date: **9/14/2023**

Contact Name (If different from above): _____ Phone/Email: _____

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND PERMITS REQUESTED (ATTACH ADDITIONAL PAGES IF NECESSARY)

A
pplicant would like to remove the large tree on the corner of Hwy 12 and Morris Street. T
he tenant is very concerned about the risk posed by the sharp fronds and heavy cones from t
his tree. While the Applicant currently prunes the tree yearly, the sharp fronds are daily risk a
nd the consequences of missing a cone could be deadly.

CITY USE ONLY

Fill out upon receipt:	Action:	Action Date:
Application Date: _____	Staff/Admin: _____	Date: _____
Planning File #: _____	Planning Director: _____	Date: _____
Received By: _____	Design Review/Tree Board: _____	Date: _____
Fee(s): \$ _____	Planning Commission: _____	Date: _____
Completeness Date: _____	City Council: _____	Date: _____

SITE DATA TABLE

If an item is not applicable to your project, please indicate "Not Applicable" or "N/A" in the appropriate box; do not leave cells blank.

SITE DATA TABLE	REQUIRED / ZONING STANDARD	EXISTING	PROPOSED
Zoning	N/A		
Use	N/A		
Lot Size			
Square Feet of Building/Structures <i>(if multiple structures include all separately)</i>			
Floor Area Ratio (F.A.R)	_____ FAR	_____ FAR	_____ FAR
Lot Coverage	_____ % of lot	_____ % of lot	_____ % of lot
	_____ sq. ft.	_____ sq. ft.	_____ sq. ft.
Parking			
Building Height			
Number of Stories			
Building Setbacks – Primary			
<i>Front</i>			
<i>Secondary Front Yard (corner lots)</i>			
<i>Side – Interior</i>			
<i>Rear</i>			
Building Setbacks – Accessory			
<i>Front</i>			
<i>Secondary Front Yard (corner lots)</i>			
<i>Side – Interior</i>			
<i>Rear</i>			
Special Setbacks (if applicable)			
<i>Other (_____)</i>			
Number of Residential Units	_____ Dwelling Unit(s)	_____ Dwelling Unit(s)	_____ Dwelling Unit(s)
Residential Density	1 unit per _____ sq. ft.	1 unit per _____ sq. ft.	1 unit per _____ sq. ft.
Useable Open Space	_____ sq. ft.	_____ sq. ft.	_____ sq. ft.
Grading	Grading should be minimized to the extent feasible to reflect existing topography and protect significant site features, including trees.	N/A	Total: _____ cu. yds. Cut: _____ cu. yds. Fill: _____ cu. yds. Off-Haul: _____ cu. yds
Impervious Surface Area	N/A	_____ % of lot	_____ % of lot
		_____ sq. ft.	_____ sq. ft.
Pervious Surface Area	N/A	_____ % of lot	_____ % of lot
		_____ sq. ft.	_____ sq. ft.

CONDITIONS OF APPLICATION

1. All Materials submitted in conjunction with this form shall be considered a part of this application.
2. This application will not be considered filed and processing may not be initiated until the Planning Department determines that the submittal is complete with all necessary information and is "accepted as complete." The City will notify the applicant of all application deficiencies no later than 30 days following application submittal.
3. The property owner authorizes the listed authorized agent(s)/contact(s) to appear before the City Council, Planning Commission, Design Review/Tree Board and Planning Director and to file applications, plans, and other information on the owner's behalf.
4. The Owner shall inform the Planning Department in writing of any changes.
5. **INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT:** As part of this application, applicant agrees to defend, indemnify, release and hold harmless the City, its agents, officers, attorneys, employees, boards, committees and commissions from any claim, action or proceeding brought against any of the foregoing individuals or entities, the purpose of which is to attack, set aside, void or annul the approval of this application or the adoption of the environmental document which accompanies it or otherwise arises out of or in connection with the City's action on this application. This indemnification shall include, but not be limited to, damages, costs, expenses, attorney fees or expert witness fees that may be asserted by any person or entity, including the applicant, arising out of or in connection with the City's action on this application, whether or not there is concurrent passive or active negligence on the part of the City.

If, for any reason, any portion of this indemnification agreement is held to be void or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the agreement shall remain in full force and effect.

NOTE: The purpose of the indemnification agreement is to allow the City to be held harmless in terms of potential legal costs and liabilities in conjunction with permit processing and approval.

6. **REPRODUCTION AND CIRCULATION OF PLANS:** I hereby authorize the Planning Department to reproduce plans and exhibits as necessary for the processing of this application. I understand that this may include circulating copies of the reduced plans for public inspection. Multiple signatures are required when plans are prepared by multiple professionals.
7. **NOTICE OF MAILING:** Email addresses will be used for sending out staff reports and agendas to applicants, their representatives, property owners, and others to be notified.
8. **DEPOSIT ACCOUNT INFORMATION:** Rather than flat fees, some applications require a 'Deposit'. The initial deposit amount is based on typical processing costs. However, each application is different and will experience different costs. The City staff and City consultant time, in addition to other permit processing costs, (i.e., legal advertisements and copying costs are charged against the application deposit). If charges exceed the initial deposit, the applicant will receive billing from the City's Finance department. If at the end of the application process, charges are less than the deposit, the City Finance department will refund the remaining monies. Deposit accounts will be held open for up to 90 days after action or withdrawal for the City to complete any miscellaneous clean up items and to account for all project related costs.
9. **NOTICE OF ORDINANCE/PLAN MODIFICATIONS:** Pursuant to Government Code Section 65945(a), please indicate, by checking the boxes below, if you would like to receive a notice from the City of any proposal to adopt or amend any of the following plans or ordinances if the City determines that the proposal is reasonably related to your request for a development permit:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A general plan | <input type="checkbox"/> A specific plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> An ordinance affecting building permits or grading permits | <input type="checkbox"/> A zoning ordinance |

Certification

I, the undersigned owner of the subject property, have read this application for a development permit and agree with all of the above and certify that the information, drawings and specifications herewith submitted are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and are submitted under penalty of perjury. I hereby grant members of the Planning Commission, Design Review Board and City Staff admittance to the subject property as necessary for processing of the project application.

Property Owner's Signature: Justin Allamano Date: 9/14/2023
DocuSigned by: Justin Allamano 00F104B3BD86415...

I, the undersigned applicant, have read this application for a development permit and agree with all of the above and certify that the information, drawings and specifications herewith submitted are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and are submitted under penalty of perjury.

Applicant's Signature: Justin Allamano Date: 9/14/2023
DocuSigned by: Justin Allamano 00F104B3BD86415...

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the applicant and their representatives to be aware of and abide by City laws and policies. City staff, Boards, Commissions, and the City Council will review applications as required by law; however, the applicant has responsibility for determining and following applicable regulations.

Neighbor Notification

In the interest of being a good neighbor, it is highly recommended that you contact those homes or businesses directly adjacent to, or within the area of your project. Please inform them of the proposed project, including construction activity and possible impacts such as noise, traffic interruptions, dust, larger structures, tree removals, etc.

Many projects in Sebastopol are remodel projects which when initiated bring concern to neighboring property owners, residents, and businesses. Construction activities can be disruptive, and additions or new buildings can affect privacy, sunlight, or landscaping. Some of these concerns can be alleviated by neighbor-to-neighbor contacts early in the design and construction process.

It is a “good neighbor policy” to inform your neighbors so that they understand your project. This will enable you to begin your construction with the understanding of your neighbors and will help promote good neighborhood relationships.

Many times, development projects can have an adverse effect on the tranquility of neighborhoods and tarnish relationships along the way. If you should have questions about who to contact or need property owner information in your immediate vicinity, please contact the Building and Safety Department for information at (707) 823-8597, or the Planning Department at (707) 823-6167.

I have informed site neighbors of my proposed project: Yes No

If yes, or if you will inform neighbors in the future, please describe outreach efforts:

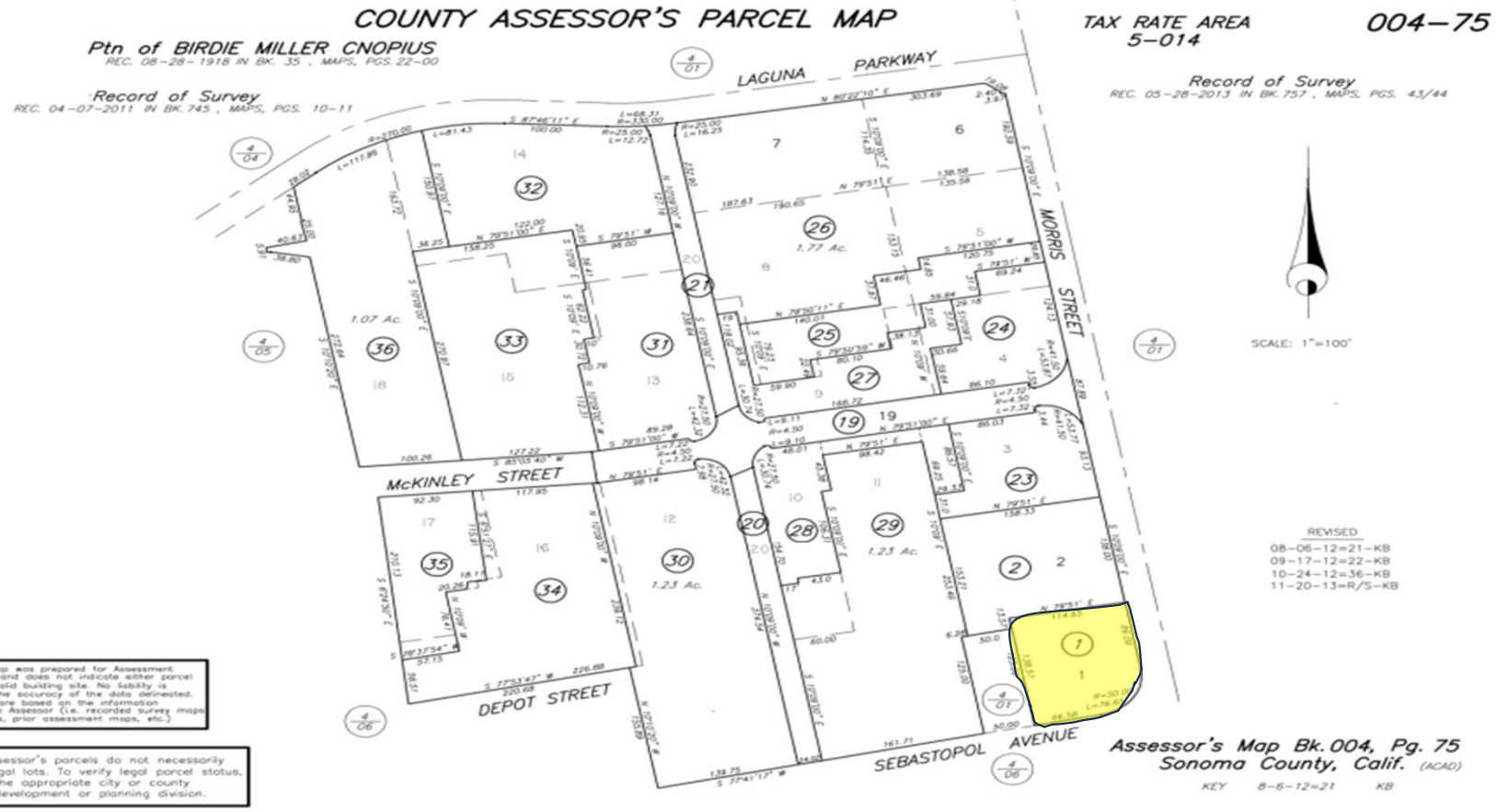
Website Required for Major Projects

Applicants for major development projects (which involves proposed development of **10,000 square feet of new floor area or greater, or 15 or more dwelling units/lots**), are required to create a project website in conjunction with submittal of an application for Planning approval (including but not limited to Subdivisions, Use Permits, Rezoning, and Design Review). Required information may be provided on an existing applicant web site.

The website address shall be provided as part of the application. The website shall be maintained and updated, as needed until final discretionary approvals are obtained for the project.

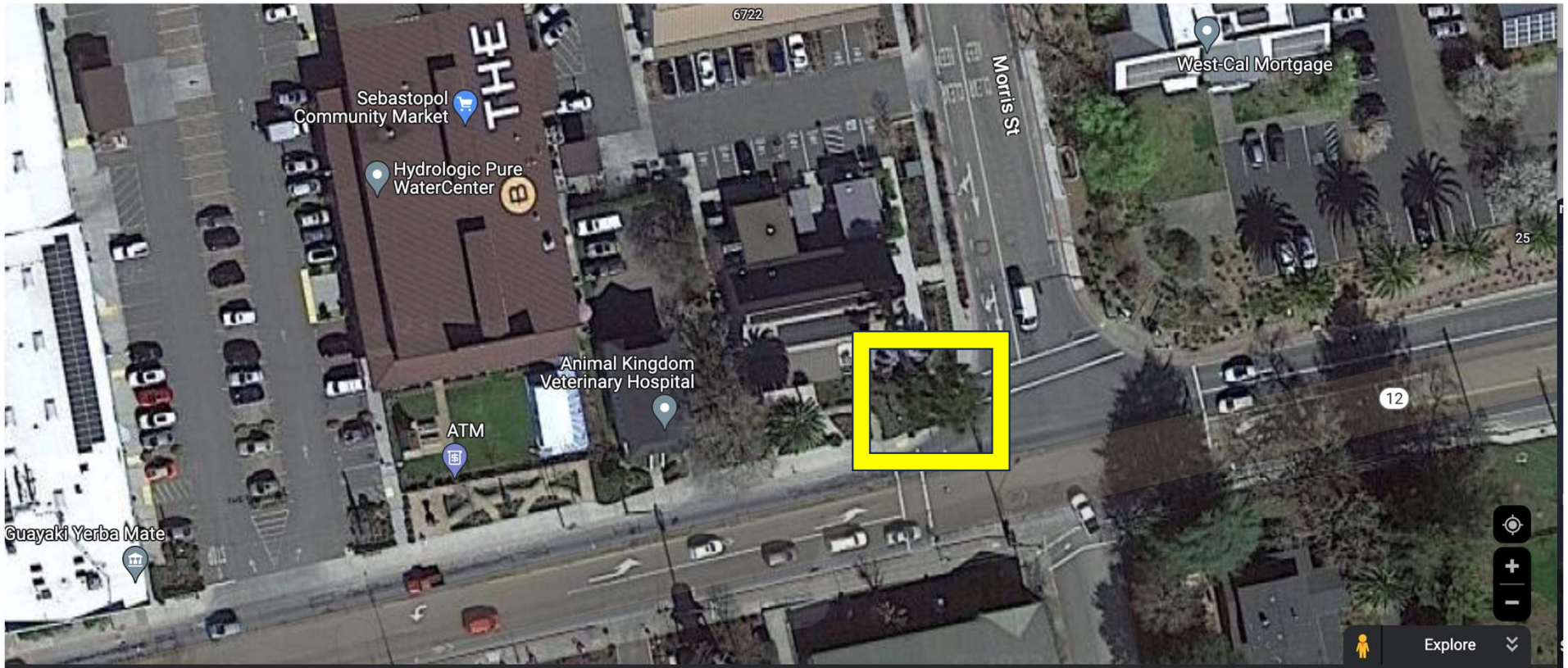
Such website shall include, at a minimum, the following information:


- ✓ Project description
- ✓ Contact information for the applicant, including address, phone number, and email address
- ✓ Map showing project location
- ✓ Photographs of project site
- ✓ Project plans and drawings

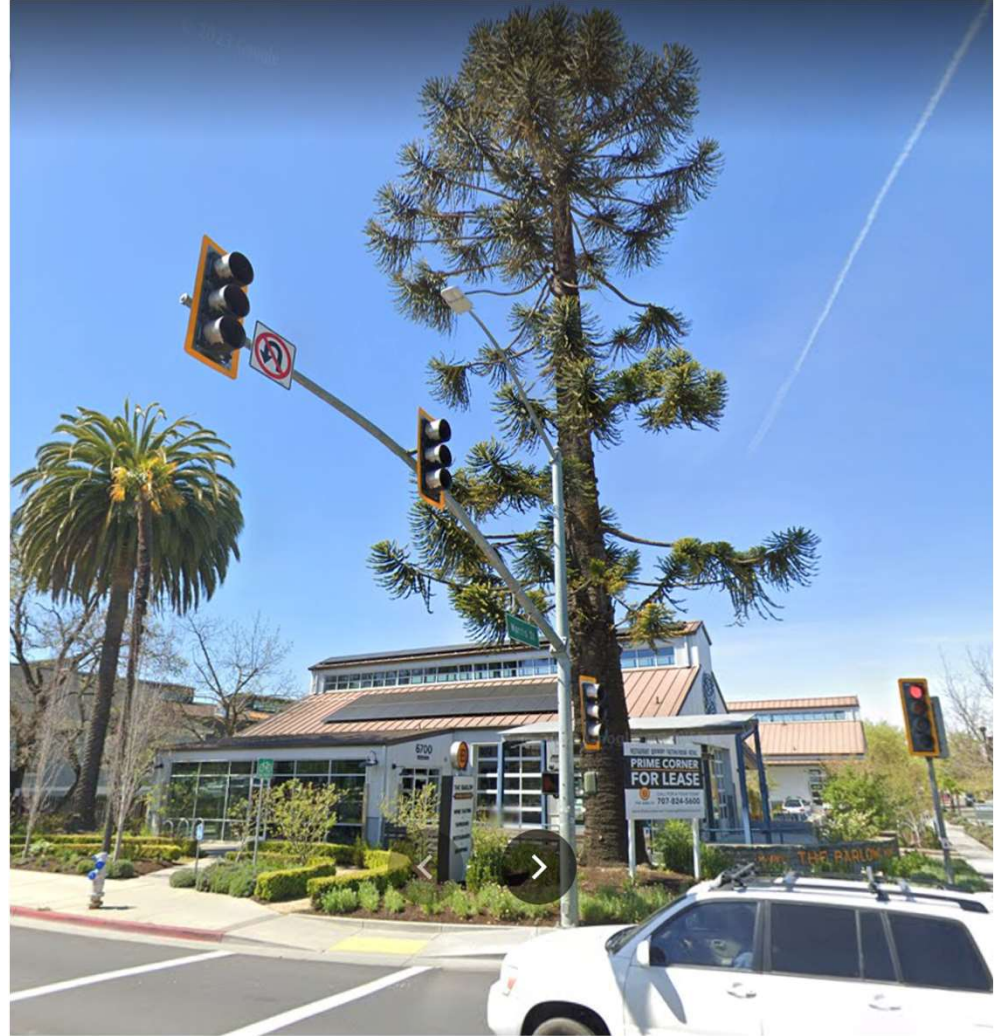


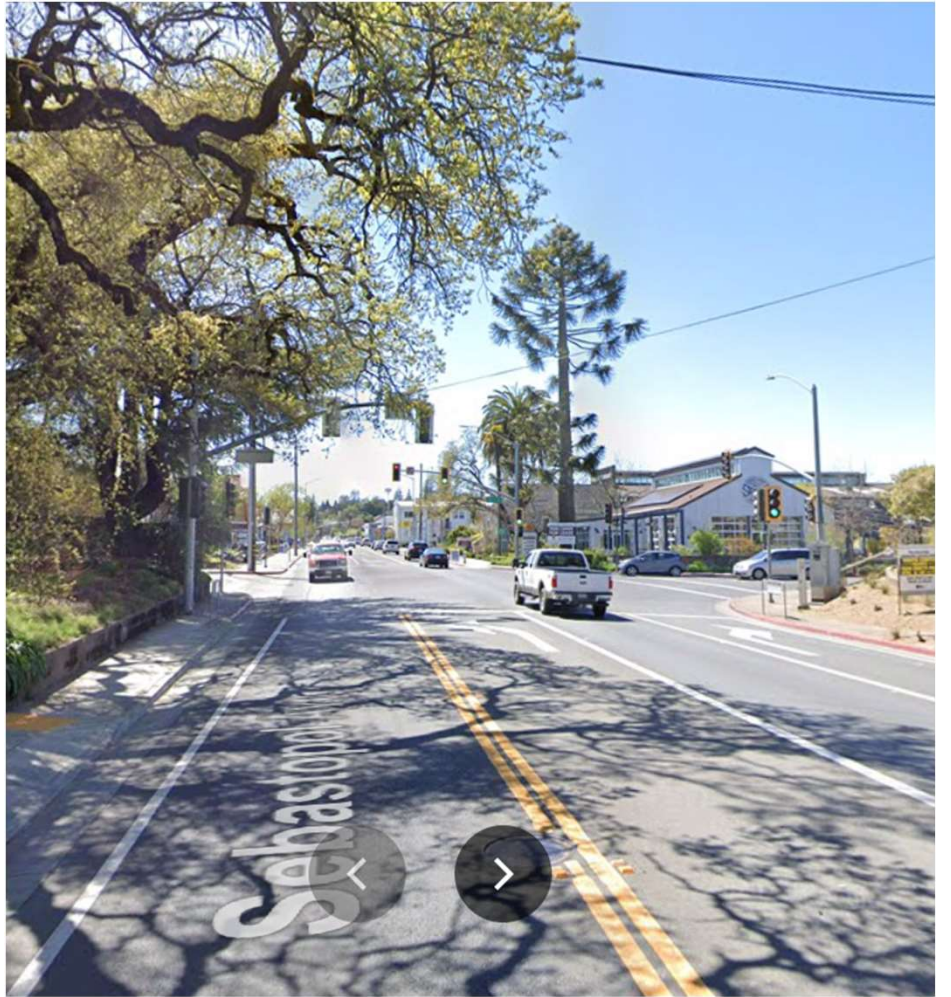
NOTE: This map was prepared for Assessment purposes only and does not indicate either parcel legality or a valid building site. No liability is assumed for the accuracy of the data presented. The acreages are based on the information supplied to the Assessor (i.e. recorded survey maps recorded deeds, prior assessment maps, etc.)

NOTE: Assessor's parcels do not necessarily constitute legal lots. To verify legal parcel status, check with the appropriate city or county community development or planning division.



 Location of subject tree

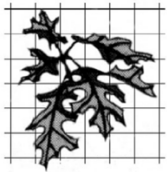




Applicant would like to remove the large tree on the corner of Hwy 12 and Morris Street. According to Becky Duckles, Sebastopol City Arborist, the tree is most likely a monkey puzzle tree, *Araucaria araucana*. Applicant has been told the tree is a Bunya Bunya tree.

A new Barlow tenant is planning a family friendly restaurant at the old Seismic space at the Barlow (6700 Sebastopol Avenue, Sebastopol, CA 95472.) They are planning to have lots of open space for kids to play around the building. The tenant is very concerned about the risk posed by the sharp fronds and heavy cones from this tree. While the Applicant currently prunes the tree yearly, the sharp fronds are daily risk and the consequences of missing a cone could be deadly.

With the increasing activity planned under this tree, the applicant believes it is time to remove it to reduce the potential hazard of cones and fronds dropping on pedestrians or children below. Becky Duckles noted in an email dated September 6, 2023 that she would support removal due to reduce the potential hazard caused by this tree.



LORI CAGWIN R.I.A. #3103
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE



22 January 2024

Sebastopol Planning Department
nmahungu@cityofsebastopol.net
jjay@cityofsebastopol.net

RE: NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO REMOVE TREE
6700 Sebastopol Avenue, Sebastopol

REQUEST TO RETAIN: 35" DBH ARAUCARIA BIDWILLII – False Monkey Puzzle, Bunya-Bunya

I am a practicing Landscape Architect having served Sonoma and Napa Counties for the last 35 years. I served as the Sebastopol Design Review Board's Landscape Architect from 1993 thru 1997, being a resident here since 1981. My son still lives in Sebastopol and sent me the notice to request removal of this historic, iconic tree welcoming us into Sebastopol. I had to act to show my support to save this tree.

I taught UC Berkeley Extension students about this tree, back in the 80s where there is one in Golden Gate Park. This strange prehistoric tree with its unique shape and foliage, harkens back to the Jurassic age of dinosaurs. It is native to Queensland, Australia and is revered by the Aborigines for its life giving sustenance and is historically known to bring tribes together peacefully while in its presence.

For us Americans, The Araucaria bidwillii was brought to California in the early 1800s as an exotic in the Victorian age of Botany. Luther Burbank made his home and Gold Ridge Experimental Farm here. He graced his home and the Petaluma Carnegie Library with this tree. There is conjecture that he brought this tree to Sebastopol as well in 1885. In 1961, the Petaluma Heritage Tree Ordinance was passed to save this tree and other old Heritage trees.

We do not find many of these Bunya-Bunya trees anymore; mainly Botanical Gardens, Old Estates, Veteran's Homes, Universities... This tree is most likely 140 years old and speaks of history and bears witness to the struggles of man and nature. This tree is a living fossil from the Jurassic age, one that survived the ice age, and dinosaurs, and there are not many old ones like Sebastopol's Bunya-Bunya any more. I can name a handful in all my years in this profession visiting sites and gardens.

I read back thru the history of this same Sebastopol tree and 10 years ago, when Barlow came into existence, there was a successful resident fight to keep this tree because it was beloved and irreplaceable in our lifetime, and 6 generations beyond. The sidewalk was narrowed. Today, it appears that the large edible cones are harvested, limbs thinned, dead branches with leaves removed to mitigate safety issues. This methodology should continue.

The New Hotel Sebastopol is designed to have mesh cladding for buildings and a kinetic sculpture for the parking structure. Could we not design a similar structure below the branches to cradle the Bunya-Bunya's leaves and cones before they fall, as an additional mitigation measure?

Sebastopol is known for stewardship, sustainability, love of nature and our place in nature, Not Man Apart. We must find a way to save this historic living landmark having welcomed us for over 140 years. Please save this tree for its residents, visitors and children. It is a testament to our global community, past and present, and our fragile natural world.

Sincerely,

Lori Cagwin

January 22, 2024
Sebastopol California



January 16, 2013
Sebastopol, California



**A PRAYER FOR BUNYA-BUNYA
in 2013, Re-transcribed by Magick**

*I have stood amongst you for generations,
So many sweet bird songs have been sung in my branches,
I am home to hundreds of species,
that no one is speaking for.*

*Squirrels chatter in my arms,
I feel the winds of change in my branches
I bend and sway so I may keep growing,
So can you!*

*I can live 500 years...
That's many generations for you, my human sisters and brothers,
Do you not know that you cannot breath
If I do not live?
I am witness
to so many lumber trucks
carrying the corpses of my kin,
and yet I know
In your hearts
you care about me.
You don't want
to sacrifice me to industry.*

*What puzzles me
Is that you make laws
that do not abide by the intrinsic laws of nature
and then feel compelled to uphold them.
Some of these laws say you
own me, how can that be?*

*One of your Supreme Court justices, William O Douglass,
declared in a court decision,
That Trees have Standing,
have the right to exist-
our autonomy rooted
in the rights of all species to exist.
The earth is not a resource but source, itself.*

*I like your song, "just like a tree standing by the water
I shall not be moved" ...*

*I am an immigrant, my family is from Australia,
I am not an invader, you brought me here,
Maybe to deliver a message.
The people of Sebastopol have felt divided
again and again over the use of land.*

*The aboriginal people honored me as sacred,
I fed them and they gathered around me to declare
an end to all feuds.
I can help you heal.*

*Let go of your hubris, become humble
and really human;
the roots of all those words are the same;
they come from hummus, the earth itself,
All of creation is calling you home.*

*Circle me, let the music of the one song
break down your animosity,
let the drums of life
find resonance in your hearts.
All of us, you and I, are
one family.*

*Use your gift of consciousness wisely,
Every day you must choose between right and wrong,
it is not so hard, love will always guide you...*

*I know you can do it-
When you do are so beautiful, creative,
Celebrating life...
Let your children, and your children's children,
be greeted by me-
they will tell the story of your finest hour;
When you were no longer puzzled.
by greed and power
I am standing tall among you, let me be!*

speaking for the Bunya, Bunya

Deny permission to remove this historic bunya bunya tree

Lisa Breschi [REDACTED]

Mon 1/22/2024 7:14 AM

To: Kari Svanstrom <ksvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Cc: Nzuzi Mahungu <nmahungu@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Dear City Council,

The 100 yr old Bunya bunya tree on Morris & Hwy 12 is **Historic** in age and uniqueness and was planted by Luther Burbank - one of 2 remaining in Sebastopol. Luther Burbank's botanic legacy is integral to the city's history.

Please put a plaque at the base of the tree, so that folks can appreciate the importance of it.

Please **DO NOT** cut it down.

Thank you,
lisa breschi

--

Lisa Breschi | **She/Her/Hers** |



Every Single Soul Is A Poem

-- Michael Franti

-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa Meeker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, December 04, 2023 9:03 PM
To: Kari Svanstrom <ksvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.gov>
Subject: Proposed bunya bunya tree removal at the Barlow

I am writing to request that the bunya bunya tree remain at the Barlow. It is a beautiful tree, and used as a landmark by many entering the town. I think it adds beauty to the area.

Lisa Meeker

[REDACTED]
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Save bunya bunya tree

Michelle Kelly <[REDACTED]>

Sun 1/21/2024 6:44 PM

To: Brooke Holve <[REDACTED]>; Lisa Breschi Almond <[REDACTED]>; Mary Killian

<[REDACTED]> Paolo and Ann <[REDACTED]>

Hi guys,

My comments are below, be sure to scroll down.

This 100 year old tree is at Morris and Hwy 12-

Application for removal goes up on 1/23

See staff report:

<https://www.cityofsebastopol.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/7A-2023-055-6700-Sebastopol-Avenue-Staff-Report-1-23-meeting.pdf>

Your comment can be a one sentence email!

Submit your comment to

Kari Svanstrom

ksvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.gov

Cc

Nzuzi Mahungu

Nmahungu@cityofsebastopol.gov





My submitted comment:

Bunya bunya tree - some background

The estimated age of this tree 100+ years

Drought tolerant, native to Australia, average life span of 600 years. Cones are the size of pineapples are only produced every 3 years. Some communities mitigate risk by roping off area under tree during periods when mature cone's drop.

Why is this tree important to Sebastopol?

Historic both in age and uniqueness. It is reported to be one of 3 bunya bunya planted by Luther Burbank. This tree is now one of 2 remaining in Sebastopol. Luther Burbank's botanic legacy is integral to the city's history.

What about risks?

The risks of cones are only every 3 years. Reducing risks addressed by the metal roof covered seating area. Owner could consider roping off area under tree during mature cone periods.

Considerations

Compare risks of falling tree material to redwoods. Redwood's unpredictably drop large branches as part of a natural growth cycle, as do oaks. If risks of falling material from trees is used as the main criteria for tree removal, most mature trees in our city would be eligible for cutting down.

A bunya bunya tree in Santa Rosa near Salvation Army housing complex bordering a sidewalk was recently spared from removal by their Planning Commission. This tree was also reported to have been planted by Luther Burbank.

Recommendation

Deny permission to remove this historic bunya bunya tree.

PS

Adding a small plaque near the tree outlining its historic significance might be a nice addition

Respectfully

Michelle Kelly

-----Original Message-----

From: Ruby Steinbrecher [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 7:38 AM

To: Kari Svanstrom <ksvanstrom@CITYOFSEBASTOPOL.GOV>; John Jay <jjay@CITYOFSEBASTOPOL.GOV>

Subject: Save the monkey tree!

Hello,

I am very concerned about the proposal to remove this tree from the corner of Morris and Hwy 12. Sebastopol is the kind of town that should do everything in its power to preserve this tree that is close to 100 years old and can live to 1000 years!

It would be very disappointing for the planning department and the city to condone this tree removal.

Please continue to set an example for other municipalities on how important it is to preserve this natural treasure and lead the way to show how it's done!

Thank you,

Ruby Steinbrecher

Attorney

From: Kari Svanstrom
Sent: Sunday, January 28, 2024 7:26 AM
To: John Jay
Subject: Fwd: Save bunya bunya tree

Kari

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 12:35:06 PM
To: Kari Svanstrom <ksvanstrom@cityofsebastopol.gov>
Subject: Save bunya bunya tree

Hi Kari,

I am a 30 + year resident of Sebastopol and love our town's attention to saving trees and the natural environment which is a huge attraction to this beautiful growing town.

Please note my request to save the bunya bunya tree at Morris and Hwy 12. Nature needs to be protected in this case as it is an historic tree planted by Luther Burbank. Our history as a town that preserves it's natural beauty can be continued by some simple measures such as roping off the surrounding area under the bunya bunya tree with a plaque to commemorate its significance., This tree could then grow in notoriety and be preserved and appreciated. It is such a unique tree. Please help save it.

Sincerely,
Tara West
Resident Sebastopol