



Sep 11TH, 2024
9 Knoll Vista, Atherton, CA 94027

Subject: Request for Tree Protection Zone Exception for New Swimming Pool and Paving

Dear Members of the Town of Atherton Commission,

On behalf of the property owners, we are submitting this request for an exception to the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) regulations for the construction of a new swimming pool and hard paving around the pool. The proposed project will be built entirely within the footprint of the existing swimming pool and retaining wall, ensuring that the current living conditions of the trees are maintained without any adverse impact.

We are specifically requesting TPZ exceptions for the following trees:

- Tree #38: TPZ 8X
- Tree #37: TPZ 5X
- Tree #36: TPZ 3X
- Tree #35: TPZ 3X
- Tree #34: TPZ 5X

Several key design decisions have been made to protect the trees on the property:

1. Maintaining the Existing Footprint

The new swimming pool and hardscape will remain within the boundaries of the old pool and retaining wall. This approach avoids any further encroachment into the TPZ and limits the disturbance to the surrounding area.

2. Increasing Growing Space for the Trees

We are raising the pool elevation and pulling the pool closer to the house. This change will provide more open soil and growing space for the trees, improving their conditions compared to the existing setup.

We are **not using the existing retaining wall** for the new pool construction, which allows us to optimize the pool placement and tree protection measures.

Additionally, we explored alternative locations for the pool, but none of them are suitable for the following reasons:

- **Option 1: Front Yard**

The front yard space is too tight to host a pool. While we could fit the pool within



the setback lines, it would leave minimal space for a pool deck and circulation, making the area impractical for use.

- **Option 2: Lower Area (10 feet below house level)**

This area is significantly lower than the house's finished floor. Due to the grade change, the clients feel disconnected from the house and the rest of the property when using this location. It would also make it difficult for them to supervise their children while swimming.

- **Remaining Areas**

The rest of the property is either too steep or allocated for the driveway and circulation, leaving no viable space for the pool.

Our intent is to improve the property for the owners while also ensuring the health and longevity of the trees, which are vital to the landscape and environmental balance. We believe these measures reflect a responsible approach to the project and provide strong grounds for granting the exception.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request. We look forward to working with the Commission to move forward with the project while protecting the natural environment.

Sincerely,

Haiyun Li

Senior Associate/ Project Manager