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Planning Department
Town of Atherton
80 Fair Oaks Lane
Atherton, CA 94027

Subject: Tree Replacement and Addition Plan – 18 Faxon Forest

Road Dear Planning Commission,

We are writing to provide additional context and follow-up regarding our request for the removal of two oak heritage trees and three Trident Maple trees on our property at 18 Faxon Forest Road. We would also like to outline our strong commitment to restoring and enhancing the natural landscape through thoughtful and ecologically responsible replanting.

We fully recognize and support Atherton's dedication to tree preservation and the essential role that heritage trees play in the community's identity, environmental health, and long-term sustainability. We share these values and are approaching this process with care and deep respect for the land.

Justification for Removal

The removal request stems from significant structural and safety concerns caused by the two oak trees. Their extensive root systems have already caused major damage to the surrounding hardscape, which was one of the factors prompting the start of our landscape renovation project. The roots previously lifted the stone paving, creating tripping hazards and compromising the integrity of the walkways and nearby foundation.

In addition to the oaks, we are requesting the removal of three Trident Maple trees. Their location conflicts with critical elements of the approved landscape and structural plans, and their removal is necessary to ensure the successful execution of the project.

The specific trees requested for removal are as follows:

- **Tree #1:** Coast Live Oak – 30" diameter
- **Tree #2:** Coast Live Oak – 26" diameter
- **Tree #3:** Trident Maple – 18" diameter
- **Tree #4:** Trident Maple – 16" diameter
- **Tree #5:** Trident Maple – 20" diameter

Any excavation located within the TPZs of the three Trident maple trees would be hand-dug or an air spade used for this work. The portions of the excavation required for the proposed pathway located within the TPZs of the two Coast live oak trees would also be hand-dug or an air spade used. Other trees will not be made during the process.

The Town of Atherton has already approved our comprehensive landscape plan, which cannot be fully implemented due to the current placement of these trees. Their proximity to the residence and landscape features interferes with construction and long-term site sustainability. Given the existing damage and the limitations imposed by their location, removal is necessary to realize the approved design and ensure a safe, durable outcome.

Tree Replacement and Landscape Enhancement Plan

Our intention is not simply to remove trees—we are committed to replacing them in a way that enhances both the immediate environment and the broader community landscape.

We are proposing a replanting plan that exceeds the town's replacement requirements and aligns with best practices in sustainable landscape design. We plan to plant the following:

- **Eight (8)** Ornamental Cherry or Japanese Maple Trees – 36" box, 10 feet tall (for seasonal beauty, habitat support, and ornamental value)
- **Two (2)** Architectural Multi-Trunk Maple Trees – 36" box, 10 feet tall (featured at the front entrance for visual interest and structure)
- **Four (4)** Redwood Trees – 36" box, 16 feet tall (native, majestic trees contributing significantly to long-term canopy and biodiversity; two will serve as replacements for the previously removed heritage trees at 88 Faxon)
- **One (1)** Pine Tree or Hinoki Cypress – 36" box, 8 feet tall (to provide evergreen coverage, balance, and year-round appeal)
- **Ten (10)** Ficus Nitida Trees – 36" box, 10 feet tall (to create privacy screening and enhance greenery)

Additionally, we are undertaking extensive landscaping improvements, including the planting of hundreds of new hedge plants at both 18 Faxon Forest Road and 12 Faxon Forest Road. These plantings will offer enhanced privacy, noise reduction, and a significant increase in green space, all in alignment with the town's ecological goals.

Conclusion

We are deeply invested in the future of this property and its contribution to the Town of Atherton's green infrastructure. This proposal reflects our commitment to thoughtful stewardship, sustainability, and the enhancement of the town's natural beauty.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration and look forward to working together to uphold the values that define our community. Please let us know if any additional information is required.

Warm regards,

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