

251 Selby In – PLANNING COMMISSION

Subject: Request for Exemption from Tree Protection Zone for Carport and Driveway Construction, T16.

Dear Members of the Atherton Planning Commission,

I hope this message finds you well. I'm writing to kindly request an exemption from the Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) requirements for a carport and driveway we're planning to build on our property. The proposed construction would encroach 24.9% into the TPZ. Our family has always had a deep appreciation for nature, and we've taken great care in designing our home to coexist harmoniously with the surrounding environment. We've made every possible effort to avoid impacting the TPZ, but due to specific constraints, we find ourselves in need of this exemption.

Here's Why We're Requesting the Exemption:

1. **Proximity to Adjacent Structure:** The carport must maintain at least an 8-foot distance from the adjacent structure to comply with building codes and ensure safety. We explored multiple alternative locations outside the TPZ, but each would either violate setback rules or interfere with other critical areas on the property. Moving the carport further away from the TPZ simply isn't possible without causing significant issues elsewhere.
2. **Utility Requirements and Service Enclosure:** We also considered relocating the carport to the area currently designated for the service enclosure. However, this would actually increase the encroachment into the TPZ. PG&E requires that the electrical meter and utility lines be installed in that specific location, which would necessitate extensive trenching and root disturbance within the TPZ. By keeping the carport in its proposed location, we avoid additional digging and disruption, which helps to protect the tree's root system.
3. **Accessibility and Practical Use:** The proposed location of the carport was chosen after careful consideration of vehicle access and daily functionality. Moving the carport outside of the TPZ would create significant challenges, making it difficult or even impossible to use effectively. The layout of our property doesn't support a functional



driveway connection to another location, meaning that any alternative would result in a carport that is not practically accessible.

Throughout our planning process, we have made every effort to minimize the impact on the TPZ. We explored various design alternatives, consulted with professionals, and adjusted our plans multiple times in an attempt to avoid encroachment. Unfortunately, due to the constraints mentioned, an exemption is necessary to proceed.

Our family has always cherished the natural environment and has carefully designed our home to blend seamlessly with the surroundings. The trees on our property are a vital part of the landscape we love, and we are committed to preserving them as much as possible. The proposed carport and driveway have been thoughtfully placed to balance the practical needs of our home while minimizing the impact on the TPZ.

We kindly ask that you consider our request for this exemption, keeping in mind our deep appreciation for nature and our desire to maintain the beauty of the environment we are fortunate to live in.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

