

Memo

To: The Atherton Planning Commission
From: Sally D Bentz, Town Arborist
CC: Sung Kwon, Principal Planner
Date: June 2023
Re: Heritage Tree Removal Application at 92 Inglewood

I have reviewed the application at 92 Inglewood and offer the following observations and recommendation for your review:

At staff level I approved 3 Palms and 1 Oak at this site.

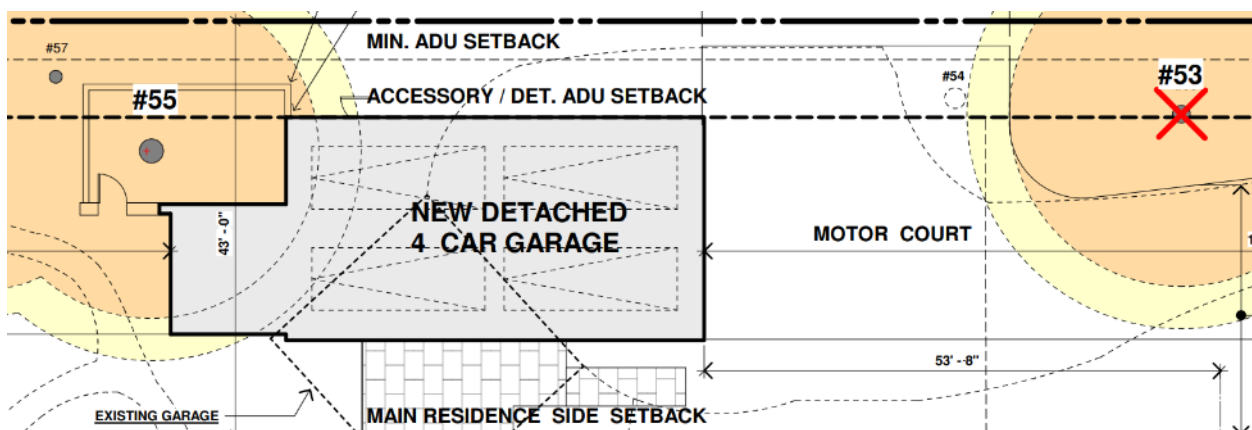
The applicant is asking to remove tree #53 for a 807 square foot detached garage.

Per Urban Tree Managements arborist report dated November 29th, 2022:

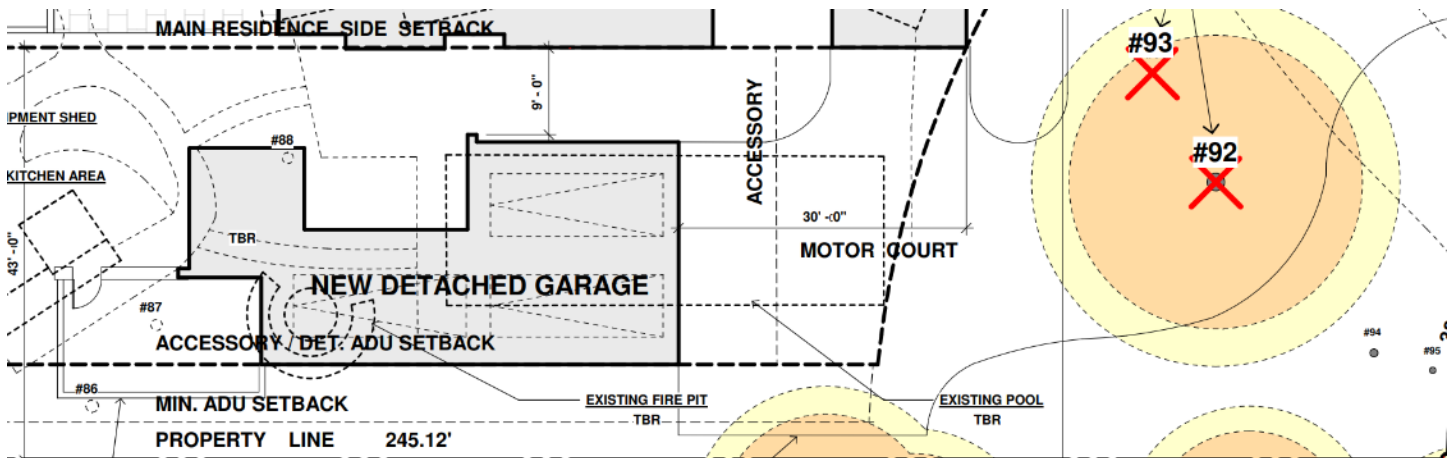
“Tree #53 is a Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) with a DBH of 26.8”. This tree stands 65’ tall with a 25’ canopy spread and receives a “fair” rating for both health and structure. This tree is rated “C” as far as tree the tree disposition category which states “May be preservable but is not worthy of extensive effort or design accommodation”. Our conclusion is that the removal of tree #53 will preserve the large Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) trees #54 and #55. We recommend the removal of the Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) tree #53 to allow construction of the detached garage and motor court to proceed as planned.”

The applicant explored 2 additional locations for the detached garage.

- 1) Located further back towards Oak #55. Per the applicant this would still not allow for cars to back up.



- 2) Located on the other side of the property. This location would require the removal of two heritage Oak trees, #92 and #93. I am not in favor of this location.



At the discretion of the planning commission, for each heritage tree permitted to be removed the permittee may be required to plant three trees of fifteen-gallon container size, or two trees of twenty-four-inch box container size, or one tree of fifteen-gallon container size and one tree of thirty-six-inch container size. Where heritage oak trees are allowed to be removed from within the buildable area, they shall each be replaced with one or more trees of forty-eight-inch container size of oak species at a location approved by the planning commission. The planning commission may also attach other reasonable conditions to ensure compliance with the intent and purpose of this chapter.

The applicant proposes replacement for tree #53 with 3- 36" box trees. 1 is a shrub and 2 are deciduous. This meets the requirement however I would not consider the Laurel a tree and to remove a large evergreen tree with 2 deciduous trees does not compare. I would recommend that they also plant 2 evergreen trees that are not shrubs. The applicant will also be required to replant the Oak and palms approved at staff level.

I can recommend the removal of #53 because of the below as long as the applicant plants at least 2- 15-gallon evergreen trees that are not shrubs.

- Tree is in fair condition and not in its native range. Per arboricultural standards it is rated C.
- Removal of tree will allow Oak tree #53 to be more vigorous.
- Other locations will cause removal of additional heritage trees or encroachment.

My recommendation is based on the below code:

6. The necessity to remove the heritage tree(s) to allow reasonable use or other enjoyment of the property when there is no demonstrated feasible alternative to the removal while meeting other adopted goals and policies of the general plan to the greatest extent feasible.

The information included in this memo is believed to be true and based on sound arboricultural principles and practices.

Sincerely, Sally Bentz
Town Arborist, Certified Arborist WE#9238AM