



Memo

To: The Atherton Planning Commission
From: Sally D Bentz-Dalton, Town Arborist
CC: Radha Hayagreev, Senior Planner
Date: 7/26/23
Re: Tree Protection Zone (TPZ) Exception 29 Stockbridge Ave.

I have reviewed the application at 29 Stockbridge Ave. and offer the following observations and recommendation for your review:

I approved staff level exceptions to 8x for tree #6 and #11 for the pool house foundation.

The applicant originally applied to the Planning Commission asking for 5.5x away, however I could not recommend it, so the applicants are asking for the below:

The applicant is now applying for Planning Commission TPZ exceptions for the following trees:

Request 1: Tree #5 – 7x away for a proposed pool house

Request 2: Tree #14 – 7x away for the proposed main house

In June of 2023, an Arborist report inventory was conducted for the three trees by Kielty Arborist Services LLC.

Tree #5 - Canary Island pine (*Pinus canariensis*)- 34” dbh Fair vigor and fair structure.

Tree #14 – Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) – 27.9” dbh Fair vigor, poor structure, codominant at 3’ with included bark, cabled in past, suppressed, grows into site.

Request #1- Tree #5 – 7x away for a proposed pool house

The applicant is asking for the proposed pool house to be located 19’8” away or 7x from tree #5. Four roots were encountered measuring 1” in diameter or larger. The size of the roots were: 1.8”, 2”, 1”, and 2.2”. Due to the applicant redesigning the pool house and that fact the tree is in fair health and no large roots were found I can recommend the 7x. The applicant moved the pool house out of the critical root area.

The alternative location of moving the pool and pool house to the back would cause a request for trees removals and additional TPZ exceptions.

I can recommend 7x with the following recommendation from the private arborist: Hand excavation under the Project Arborist supervision is required for excavating the foundation of the pool house when working within 10x the tree's diameter. All roots encountered measuring 1" in diameter or larger will need to be documented in the required monthly inspections. Encountered roots are recommended to be cleanly cut with cut root ends on the tree side covered in layers of wetted down burlap. This will help to avoid desiccation. Between the pool house and tree, it is recommended to irrigate the soil when within 10x the tree's diameter using 200 gallons of water before the start of excavation for the pool house foundation and again 2 weeks later. This will act as mitigation for the minor impacts. Irrigation will be prescribed during the monthly inspections as needed.



Request #2- Tree #14 – 7x away for a proposed main house

The applicant is asking for the proposed main house to be 16'2" from the heritage Oak or 7x away. Tree #14.

I can recommend 7x due to the fact that no roots 2" or less were found. The applicant moved the main house out of the critical root area of this tree allowing the tree more room and less conflict.

I can recommend 7x with the below private arborist recommendation. All excavation is to be done by hand under the Project Arborist supervision when within 10x the tree's diameter. Any roots encountered are recommended to be retained within the decomposed granite area by packing rock or granite around tree roots. Between the home and tree and decomposed granite area, it is recommended to irrigate the soil when within 10x the tree's diameter using 200 gallons of water before the start of excavation for the foundation and again 2 weeks later. This will act as mitigation for the minor impacts.

In conclusion:

I can recommend the below 2 requests:

Request 1: Tree #5 – 7x away for a proposed pool house

Request 2: Tree #14 – 7x away for the proposed main house

7x is less than the staff exception and allows the applicant to still move forward with the project. It allows more room for the trees. I can recommend the two trees for a 7x TPZ with the below requirements.

The following are requirements:

- All excavation is to be done by hand under the Project Arborist supervision when within 10x the tree's diameter.
- Irrigate the soil when within 10x the tree's diameter using 200 gallons of water before the start of excavation for the foundation and again 2 weeks later.
- All roots encountered measuring 1" in diameter or larger will need to be documented in the required monthly inspections. Encountered roots are recommended to be cleanly cut with cut root ends on the tree side covered in layers of wetted down burlap.
- Mulch should cover all bare soil within the tree protection fencing. This material must be 6-8 inches in depth after spreading, which must be done by hand. Coarse wood chips are preferred because they are organic and degrade naturally over time.
- Sufficient tree protection installed.

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