



January 23, 2020

Tambri Heyden  
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**Re: Response to recommendations by neighbor's arborist, re: 0 West Newell Avenue, Walnut Creek**

Dear Tambri,

Per your request, I reviewed the review letter by McNeil Arboricultural Consultants LLC, dated 12/20/19. This letter comprises my responses to selected items, as discussed during our phone conversation last week.

Comment item #1 states that all trenching for utilities within 20' of tree #38 must be conducted with airspade, or to allow no utility trenching within 20' of the tree.

- Airspades are useful in that they permit excavation around trees without damaging small roots. However they are specialized tools that most contractors do not own, nor are they readily available (if at all) for rental. An acceptable alternative to the use of an airspade is to perform all trenching by hand, as long as the roots are not damaged in any way (e.g. bark damage from shovels/picks). Roots smaller than 2" diameter can be removed to allow access around the larger roots.

Comments #6 & 8 are related, in that the recommendations in comment #8 inform the recommendations of comment #6. Both discuss the retaining wall footings (piers) by the oak. Comment #8 specifies that air excavation should be used to dig a trench along the proposed wall, with the following dimensions: 10' long, width of the piers, 3' deep.

- As with comment #1, hand digging may be used in lieu of air spade excavation, once again assuming that the roots remain undamaged during the course of excavation. Pre-construction exploratory trenching is useful in that the pier locations can be determined in advance, and an arborist can review and make recommendations for pier placement (and pre-prune roots if needed).
- The pier locations could also be excavated by hand during construction for the upper 3' of soil. If roots  $\geq 2"$  in diameter are encountered, the pier locations shall be flexible so that they can be shifted to preserve the large roots. I recommend having an arborist on-site during this process to assess roots; selected large roots may need to be pruned to accommodate piers if they cannot be shifted far enough to preserve all large roots.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Tso  
Certified Arborist #WE-10270A  
Tree Risk Assessor Qualified