



PROTECTED TREE REPORT

PREPARED FOR

A&T Development LLC
6423 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90048

PROPERTY

1830 N. Blue Heights Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90069

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY	3
ASSIGNMENT	4
TREE CHARACTERISTICS AND SITE CONDITIONS	4
IMPACT ANALYSIS AND SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS	4
GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS	5
NEW TREE PLANTING	6
TREE MAINTENANCE AND PRUNING	8
DISEASES AND INSECTS	9
GRADE CHANGES	9
INSPECTION	9
ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITING CONDITIONS	10
APPENDIX A –TREE LOCATION MAP	
APPENDIX B - PHOTOGRAPHS	
APPENDIX C – SUMMARY OF FIELD INSPECTION	
APPENDIX D – SUMMARY OF DATA	

PROTECTED TREE REPORT

1830 N. Blue Heights Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90069

SUMMARY

This Tree Report was prepared at the request of the property owner, A&T Development LLC. The owner is preparing to build a single family residence on this property. **The subject property is 43,767 square feet** and is located in the **Hollywood Hills area** of Los Angeles. **It is currently an undeveloped vacant lot.** The proposed new residence will be sited at the top of this steeply sloping lot, with a first floor footprint of approximately 7,049 square feet.

PROTECTED TREES, URBAN FORESTRY DIVISION

This property is under the jurisdiction of the City of Los Angeles and guided by the Native Tree Protection Ordinance No. 177,404. **Protected Trees** are defined by this ordinance as Oaks (*Quercus* sp) indigenous to California but excluding the scrub oak (*Quercus dumosa*); Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica* var. *californica*); Western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) and California bay laurel (*Umbellularia californica*) trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of four inches (4") or greater.

At this time, I observed two (2) black walnut (*Juglans californica*) trees on the property. These two trees are on the upper portion of this steeply sloping lot well within the construction zone. These trees are drought stressed and in poor condition. They will both be significantly impacted by the proposed construction and are located in the footprint of the proposed residence. They are recommended for removal and mitigation to the satisfaction of the Urban Forestry Division. Due to the steep hillside terrain, they are not tagged, however they are located on the tree location map provided within this report.

NON-PROTECTED SIGNIFICANT TREES, DEPARTMENT OF CITY PLANNING

The Department of City Planning requires the identification of the location, size, type and condition of all existing trees on the site with a DBH of 8 inches (8") or greater. These trees will be identified as **Non-Protected Significant Trees.**

At this time, I observed seven (7) **Non-Protected Significant Trees** on the property. All seven (7) of these trees will be impacted by the proposed construction and are recommended for removal and mitigation to the satisfaction of the City of Los Angeles Department of City Planning.

ASSIGNMENT

The Assignment included a field observation and inventory of the trees on site. A Tree Location Plot Map is included in Appendix A. Photographs of the subject trees are included in Appendix B.

TREE CHARACTERISTICS AND SITE CONDITIONS

Detailed information with respect to size, condition, species and recommendations are included in the Summary of Field Inspections in Appendix C. The trees are numbered on the Tree Location Map in Appendix A.

The subject property is a 43,767 square foot undeveloped lot that slopes down from the street, located near the Hollywood Hills area of Los Angeles. The character of this property appears to be typical of the area, with a collection of native and non-native vegetation in fair to poor condition. This slope does not receive irrigation and the trees on site show drought stress.

IMPACT ANALYSIS AND SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The proposed new residence will be sited at the top of the slope, adjacent to Blue Heights Drive, and will include a new private road and three levels, including a basement. This house footprint location is ideal for the creation of views, slope retention, minimal impact to the site, and ingress and egress to Blue Heights Drive.

The two (2) protected black walnut trees at the top of the slope are within the footprint of the new residence and are recommended for removal and mitigation to the satisfaction of the City of Los Angeles, Urban Forestry Division, at a four to one (4:1) ratio, minimum 24 inch box size. A total of eight (8) native trees will be planted on site.

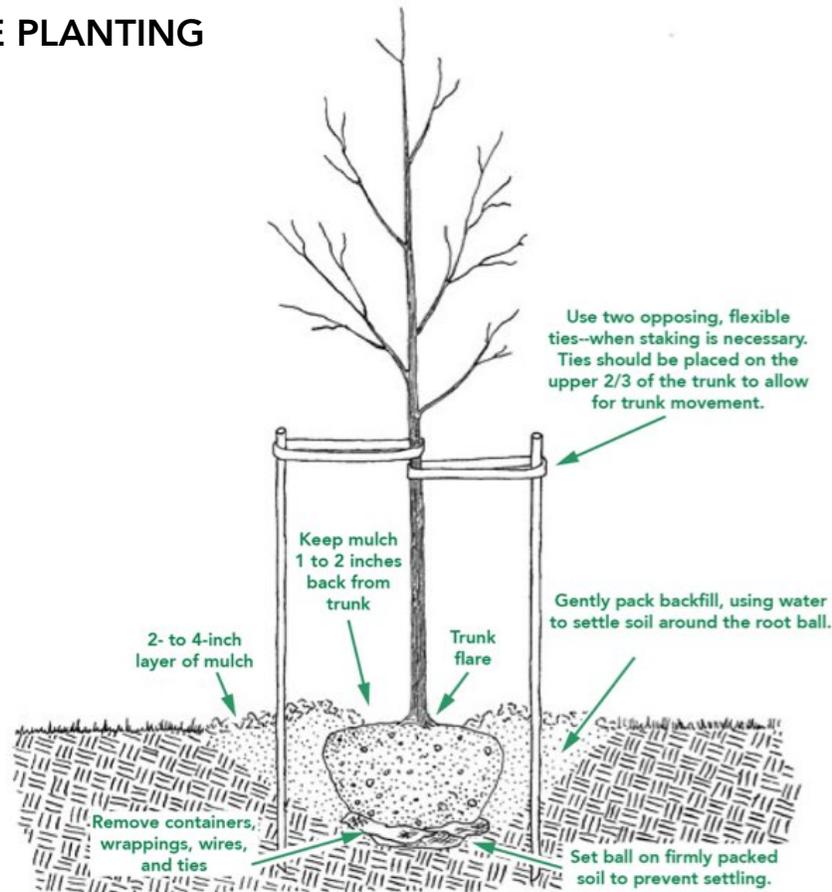
The seven (7) Non-Native Significant Trees will not tolerate the encroachment or construction activities of this project and are recommended for removal and mitigation at a one-to-one (1:1) ratio to the satisfaction of the city of Los Angeles.

Summary of Mitigation

	Existing Trees to Be Removed	Trees to be Planted in Mitigation
PROTECTED TREES MITIGATED 4:1	2	8
NON-NATIVE SIGNIFICANT TREES, 8" + DBH MITIGATED 1:1	7	7
TOTAL	9	15

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

NEW TREE PLANTING



The ideal time to plant trees and shrubs is during the dormant season, in the fall after leaf drop or early spring before budbreak. Weather conditions are cool and allow plants to establish roots in the new location before spring rains and summer heat stimulate new top growth. Before you begin planting your tree, be sure you have had all underground utilities located prior to digging.

If the tree you are planting is balled or bare root, it is important to understand that its root system has been reduced by 90 to 95 percent of its original size during transplanting. As a result of the trauma caused by the digging process, trees commonly exhibit what is known as transplant shock. Containerized trees may also experience transplant shock, particularly if they have circling roots that must be cut. Transplant shock is indicated by slow growth and reduced vigor following transplanting. Proper site preparation before and during planting coupled with good follow-up care reduces the amount of time the plant experiences transplant shock and allows the tree to quickly establish in its new location. Carefully follow nine simple steps, and you can significantly reduce the stress placed on the plant at the time of planting.

NEW TREE PLANTING, continued

1. Dig a shallow, broad planting hole. Make the hole wide, as much as three times the diameter of the root ball but only as deep as the root ball. It is important to make the hole wide because the roots on the newly establishing tree must push through surrounding soil in order to establish. On most planting sites in new developments, the existing soils have been compacted and are unsuitable for healthy root growth. Breaking up the soil in a large area around the tree provides the newly emerging roots room to expand into loose soil to hasten establishment.

2. Identify the trunk flare. The trunk flare is where the roots spread at the base of the tree. This point should be partially visible after the tree has been planted (see diagram). If the trunk flare is not partially visible, you may have to remove some soil from the top of the root ball. Find it so you can determine how deep the hole needs for proper planting.

3. Remove tree container for containerized trees. Carefully cutting down the sides of the container may make this easier. Inspect the root ball for circling roots and cut or remove them. Expose the trunk flare, if necessary.

4. Place the tree at the proper height. Before placing the tree in the hole, check to see that the hole has been dug to the proper depth and no more. The majority of the roots on the newly planted tree will develop in the top 12 inches of soil. If the tree is planted too deeply, new roots will have difficulty developing because of a lack of oxygen. It is better to plant the tree a little high, 1-2 inches above the base of the trunk flare, than to plant it at or below the original growing level. This planting level will allow for some settling.

5. Straighten the tree in the hole. Before you begin backfilling, have someone view the tree from several directions to confirm that the tree is straight. Once you begin backfilling, it is difficult to reposition the tree.

6. Fill the hole gently but firmly. Fill the hole about one-third full and gently but firmly pack the soil around the base of the root ball. Be careful not to damage the trunk or roots in the process. Fill the remainder of the hole, taking care to firmly pack soil to eliminate air pockets that may cause roots to dry out. To avoid this problem, add the soil a few inches at a time and settle with water. Continue this process until the hole is filled and the tree is firmly planted. It is not recommended to apply fertilizer at time of planting.

7. Stake the tree, if necessary. If the tree is grown properly at the nursery, staking for support will not be necessary in most home landscape situations. Studies have shown that trees establish more quickly and develop stronger trunk and root systems if they are not staked at the time of planting. However, protective staking may be required on sites where lawn mower damage, vandalism, or windy conditions are concerns. If staking is necessary for support, there are three methods to choose among: staking, guying, and ball stabilizing. One of the most common methods is staking. With this method, two stakes used in conjunction with a wide, flexible tie material on the lower half of the tree will hold the tree upright, provide flexibility, and minimize injury to the trunk (see diagram). Remove support staking and ties after the first year of growth.

8. Mulch the base of the tree. Mulch is simply organic matter applied to the area at the base of the tree. It acts as a blanket to hold moisture, it moderates soil temperature extremes, and it reduces competition from grass and weeds. A 2- to 3-inch layer is ideal. More than 3 inches may cause a problem with oxygen and moisture levels. When placing mulch, be sure that the actual trunk of the tree is not covered. Doing so may cause decay of the living bark at the base of the tree. A mulch-free area, 1 to 2 inches wide at the base of the tree, is sufficient to avoid moist bark conditions and prevent decay.

TREE MAINTENANCE AND PRUNING

Some trees do not generally require pruning. The occasional removal of dead twigs or wood is typical. Occasionally a tree has a defect or structural condition that would benefit from pruning. Any pruning activity should be performed under the guidance of a certified arborist or tree expert.

Because each cut has the potential to change the growth of the tree, no branch should be removed without a reason. Common reasons for pruning are to remove dead branches, to remove crowded or rubbing limbs, and to eliminate hazards. Trees may also be pruned to increase light and air penetration to the inside of the tree's crown or to the landscape below. In most cases, mature trees are pruned as a corrective or preventive measure.

Routine thinning does not necessarily improve the health of a tree. Trees produce a dense crown of leaves to manufacture the sugar used as energy for growth and development. Removal of foliage through pruning can reduce growth and stored energy reserves. Heavy pruning can be a significant health stress for the tree.

Yet if people and trees are to coexist in an urban or suburban environment, then we sometimes have to modify the trees. City environments do not mimic natural forest conditions. Safety is a major concern. Also, we want trees to complement other landscape plantings and lawns. Proper pruning, with an understanding of tree biology, can maintain good tree health and structure while enhancing the aesthetic and economic values of our landscapes.

Pruning Techniques – From the I.S.A. Guidelines

Specific types of pruning may be necessary to maintain a mature tree in a healthy, safe, and attractive condition.

Cleaning is the removal of dead, dying, diseased, crowded, weakly attached, and low-vigor branches from the crown of a tree.

Thinning is the selective removal of branches to increase light penetration and air movement through the crown. Thinning opens the foliage of a tree, reduces weight on heavy limbs, and helps retain the tree's natural shape.

Raising removes the lower branches from a tree to provide clearance for buildings, vehicles, pedestrians, and vistas.

Reduction reduces the size of a tree, often for clearance for utility lines. Reducing the height or spread of a tree is best accomplished by pruning back the leaders and branch terminals to lateral branches that are large enough to assume the terminal roles (at least one-third the diameter of the cut stem). Compared to topping, reduction helps maintain the form and structural integrity of the tree.

TREE MAINTENANCE AND PRUNING, continued

How Much Should Be Pruned?

Mature trees should require little routine pruning. A widely accepted rule of thumb is never to remove more than one-quarter of a tree's leaf-bearing crown. In a mature tree, pruning even that much could have negative effects. Removing even a single, large-diameter limb can create a wound that the tree may not be able to close. The older and larger a tree becomes, the less energy it has in reserve to close wounds and defend against decay or insect attack. Pruning of mature trees is usually limited to removal of dead or potentially hazardous limbs.

Wound Dressings

Wound dressings were once thought to accelerate wound closure, protect against insects and diseases, and reduce decay. However, research has shown that dressings do not reduce decay or speed closure and rarely prevent insect or disease infestations. Most experts recommend that wound dressings not be used.

DISEASES AND INSECTS

Continual observation and monitoring of your tree can alert you to any abnormal changes. Some indicators are: excessive leaf drop, leaf discoloration, sap oozing from the trunk and bark with unusual cracks. Should you observe any changes, you should contact a Tree specialist or Certified Arborist to review the tree and provide specific recommendations. Trees are susceptible to hundreds of pests, many of which are typical and may not cause enough harm to warrant the use of chemicals. However, diseases and insects may be indication of further stress that should be identified by a professional.

GRADE CHANGES

The growing conditions and soil level of trees are subject to detrimental stress should they be changed during the course of construction. Raising the grade at the base of a tree trunk can have long-term negative consequences. This grade level should be maintained throughout the protected zone. This will also help in maintaining the drainage in which the tree has become accustomed.

INSPECTION

The property owner should establish an inspection calendar based on the recommendation provided by the tree specialist. This calendar of inspections can be determined based on several factors: the maturity of the tree, location of tree in proximity to high-use areas vs. low-use area, history of the tree, prior failures, external factors (such as construction activity) and the perceived value of the tree to the homeowner.

Assumptions and Limiting Conditions

No warranty is made, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the trees or the property will not occur in the future, from any cause. The Consultant shall not be responsible for damages or injuries caused by any tree defects, and assumes no responsibility for the correction of defects or tree related problems.

The owner of the trees may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations of the Consultant, or seek additional advice to determine if a tree meets the owner's risk abatement standards.

The Consulting Arborist has no past, present or future interest in the removal or retaining of any tree. Opinions contained herein are the independent and objective judgments of the consultant relating to circumstances and observations made on the subject site.

The recommendations contained in this report are the opinions of the Consulting Arborist at the time of inspection. These opinions are based on the knowledge, experience, and education of the Consultant. The field inspection was a visual, grade level tree assessment.

The Consulting Arborist shall not be required to give testimony, perform site monitoring, provide further documentation, be deposed, or to attend any meeting without subsequent contractual arrangements for this additional employment, including payment of additional fees for such services as described by the Consultant.

The Consultant assumes no responsibility for verification of ownership or locations of property lines, or for results of any actions or recommendations based on inaccurate information.

This Arborist report may not be reproduced without the express permission of the Consulting Arborist and the client to whom the report was issued. Any change or alteration to this report invalidates the entire report.

Should you have any further questions regarding this property, please feel free to contact me at (310) 663-2290.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Smith

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ISA Certified Arborist #WE3782
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American Society of Consulting Arborists, Member



APPENDIX B - PHOTOGRAPHS



PHOTO 1. Shows views of the subject property. Clockwise from left: looking southwest down the central slope, with the main collection of eucalyptus and Brazilian pepper visible; looking to the eastern limit, to a collection of offsite trees adjacent to the neighboring residence; and a view of the two Protected black walnut (*Juglans californica*) trees at the top of the slope near the main peninsula of the property. The seven (7) Non-Protected Trees and two (2) Protected black walnut trees on site will be significantly impacted by the proposed construction and are recommended for removal.



PHOTO 2. Shows Protected black walnut (*Juglans californica*) #1 and #2 at the top of the slope near the main peninsula of the property. These two (2) Protected black walnut trees will be significantly impacted by the proposed construction and are recommended for removal and mitigation at a four to one (4:1) ratio, 24” box minimum size, to the satisfaction of the Urban Forestry Division.

APPENDIX C - SUMMARY OF FIELD INSPECTION

Rating Code: A = Excellent, B = Good, C = Fair, D = Poor, E = Nearly Dead, F = Dead

Tree #	Location	FORM					CONDITIONS				RATING				
		Species	Status	DBH (")	Height (')	Spread (')	Drought Stressed	Decay	Insect Damaged	Leaning	Health	Aesthetic	Balance	Summary of Condition	Retain or Remove
1	Top of slope	Black Walnut <i>Juglans californica</i>	Protected	3,4, 2,3, 3,3, 1	15	15	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	D	C	POOR	REMOVE
2	Top of slope	Black Walnut <i>Juglans californica</i>	Protected	6,6, 5,7	10	10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	D	D	C	POOR	REMOVE
3	Lower slope	Lemon-Scented Gum <i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i>	Non-Protected	8	40	20	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	FAIR	REMOVE
4	Lower slope	Lemon-Scented Gum <i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i>	Non-Protected	8	40	20	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	FAIR	REMOVE
5	Lower slope	Lemon-Scented Gum <i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i>	Non-Protected	8	40	20	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	FAIR	REMOVE
6	Lower slope	Brazilian Pepper <i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Non-Protected	18	20	20	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	FAIR	REMOVE
7	Lower slope	Brazilian Pepper <i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i>	Non-Protected	8	20	20	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	FAIR	REMOVE
8	Lower slope	Lemon-Scented Gum <i>Eucalyptus citriodora</i>	Non-Protected	8	40	20	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	FAIR	REMOVE
9	Eastern limit	Aleppo Pine <i>Pinus halepensis</i>	Non-Protected	10	25	15	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	FAIR	REMOVE

APPENDIX D - SUMMARY OF DATA

Table 1. Summary of Data - Total Protected Trees On Site

Black Walnut (<i>Juglans californica</i>)	2
Number of Black Walnut trees to be removed	2
Number of Black Walnut trees to be minimally impacted by the construction	0
Number of Black Walnut trees not dead, to be retained, and/or where natural grade is unchanged	0
Total Protected Trees (DBH 4" or greater)	2
Total Protected Trees to be removed	2
Total Protected Trees to be minimally impacted	0
Total Protected Trees to be retained, and/or where natural grade is unchanged	0

Table 2. Schedule of Proposed Removals

Tree #	Location	Species	Status	Condition	Retain or Remove	RECOMMENDATION
						Reason for Removal
1	Upper slope	Black Walnut <i>Juglans californica</i>	Protected	Poor	REMOVE	Construction Impact
2	Upper slope	Black Walnut <i>Juglans californica</i>	Protected	Poor	REMOVE	Construction Impact

Table 3. Summary of Mitigation

	Existing Trees to Be Removed	Trees to be Planted in Mitigation
PROTECTED TREES MITIGATED 4:1	2	8
NON-NATIVE SIGNIFICANT TREES, 8" + DBH MITIGATED 1:1	7	7
TOTAL	9	15