



# Canopy Tree Consulting LLC

## ARBORIST REPORT

February 19, 2024



**Re: 916 Mormon Street, Folsom CA- APN 070-0102-016**

### Executive Summary:

[REDACTED] retained Canopy Tree Consulting to prepare an arborist report to accompany a tree removal permit request. The subject tree is on the southeast property line, along the street, at 916 Mormon Street, Folsom CA.

This is not a tree risk assessment.

ISA Certified Arborist Cory Kinley, WE-9717A, visited the property on February 15, 2024 to evaluate the tree & onsite conditions, collect data and capture photographs. The subject tree is a 37" dbh Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). According to the language in the City of Folsom's 'Tree Removal Permit Application' document, the subject tree is a non-native oak Heritage tree that meets the listed conditions for removal permit approval.

### Findings Summary:

The perceived risk that this tree poses is not acceptable to the property owners/risk managers. The infrastructure damage that the tree is causing is not acceptable to the property owners.

The current and future risk and infrastructure damage from the subject tree would be completely eliminated by removing the tree.

According to the language in the City of Folsom's 'Tree Removal Permit Application' document, the tree meets 2 of the listed conditions for removal-permit approval.

### Observations:

1. The subject tree is a Ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*). The tree's diameter at breast height (dbh) is 37" and it is 90' tall. Its canopy radius is approximately 30'.
2. The tree is located in the front yard of the property. Its canopy is over parts of the front yard, home-entrance pathway, sidewalk, driveway, and street. The canopy extends to the middle of the westbound lane of Mormon Street.
3. There is a water meter and water line located 41" west of the base of the tree.
4. The tree trunk bifurcates into two co-dominant stems that occur at 40'. The fall zone of both 50' long, co-dominant stems includes parts of a home, front yard, home-entrance pathway, sidewalk, driveway, and street.
5. From up to a height of 90', needle-sharp pine cones and limbs can drop onto home-entrance pathway, driveway and into the middles on the westbound lane of the street.
6. Lifting from roots is causing infrastructure damage to a permanent structure; the driveway/sidewalk.
7. The tree could be considered healthy with good vigor and good canopy density. The trunk appeared to be sound at ground level and no significant cavities or cracks were observed on the trunk or in the canopy. No significant limb failures were observed throughout the canopy and no limbs were observed to be overly heavy or extended.

8. The subject tree is a Protected Tree other than a Native Oak Tree or Landmark Tree, located on a residential property of one-half acre or less with an existing residential structure on-site.

**Discussion:**

It could be argued that the subject tree is not appropriate for its location. This Ponderosa pine is 90' tall and drops needle-sharp pinecones. The impact areas under the tree are occupied by 1.) cars that are parked in the driveway and driving on a city street, 2.) pedestrians who are using the sidewalk, driveway and 3.) residents who are using their front yard or walking to their front door. Any car or person occupying the impact zone is at risk of damage or bodily harm from a falling needle-sharp pinecone.

The fact that the subject tree has two (2) 50' co-dominant top trunk-stems represents a risk of causing serious damage to property and serious bodily harm and/or death to any property or person that is in the impact zone should one of the co-dominant top trunk-stems fail.

The subject tree's roots are causing damage to an existing permanent structure or feature that includes a combination driveway/sidewalk. According to the language in the City of Folsom's 'Tree Removal Permit Application' document, the tree meets the listed conditions for removal permit approval.

The subject tree is a Protected Tree other than a Native Oak Tree or Landmark Tree, located on a residential property of one-half acre or less with an existing residential structure on-site, and the property owner would agree to plant a replacement tree consistent with the requirements of the Zoning Code and Tree Preservation Ordinance. According to the language in the City of Folsom's 'Tree Removal Permit Application' document, the tree meets the listed conditions for removal permit approval.

**Findings:**

- Pedestrians and property are exposed to a level of risk associated specifically to the fact that this tree is a species that drops needle-sharp cones from up to 90'.
- Pedestrians and property are exposed to a level of risk associated specifically to the fact that this tree has a bifurcated co-dominant trunk structure that occurs at 40'.
- The subject tree's roots are causing damage to an existing permanent structure or feature that includes a combination driveway/sidewalk. According to the language in the City of Folsom's 'Tree Removal Permit Application' document, the tree meets the listed conditions for removal permit approval.
- Since the subject tree is a Protected Tree other than a Native Oak Tree or Landmark Tree, located on a residential property of one-half acre or less with an existing residential structure on-site, and the property owner would agree to plant a replacement tree consistent with the requirements of the Zoning Code and Tree Preservation Ordinance, according to the language in the City of Folsom's 'Tree Removal Permit Application' document, the subject tree meets the listed conditions for removal permit approval.

**Recommendations:**

1. The most effective way to mitigate the risk of property damage or bodily harm caused by needle-sharp pinecones falling from a distance of up to 90' would be to remove the tree.
2. Cabling the co-dominant trunks could be explored in order to reduce the level of risk posed by failure of either of the co-dominant top stems.



3. Installing a root barrier to prevent the lifting of driveway/sidewalk hardscape could be explored. However, the hardscape is located so close to the base of tree that buttress roots may be damaged by the installation of the root barrier. This might compromise the structural integrity of the tree. Moreover, root barriers have been found to be ineffective because adventitious roots will follow the path of least resistance. The trench cut for the root barrier contains loose soil which can lead to roots growing over top or under the root barrier and, eventually, finding their way to lifting the hardscape again.

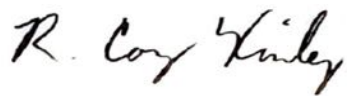
**Limitations:**

Canopy Tree Consulting's goal is to provide an accurate and candid assessment of known tree conditions and hazards, while recognizing our common commitment with our clients to tree preservation. The consultant undertakes the responsibility to report and assess the conditions, but the client assumes liability and the duty of care to minimize hazards according to their own criteria, and the guidance of recommendations in this report. The consultant would like to clarify that the client is the sole provider of funding for hazard-management, and therefore is the only one who has the actual means to change the situation. The consultant cannot be held liable for the choices made by the client.

Trees are biological organisms subject to environmental forces beyond human control. We cannot predict, with absolute certainty, the safety or structural integrity of any tree; nor can we guarantee it. We provide in this report, a summary of our assessment, performed to the best of our ability and knowledge.

This report reflects the condition of the tree at the time of examination. It is not intended to predict risk during highly unusual or catastrophic natural occurrences such as, but not limited to, floods, hurricanes, extreme wind, microbursts and earthquakes.

Report Prepared by:



R. Cory Kinley  
ISA Certified Arborist #WE-9717A, TRAQ

Appendix 1 – Tree Location Map  
Appendix 2 – Site Photographs

## Appendix 1 – Tree Location Map





## Site Photographs

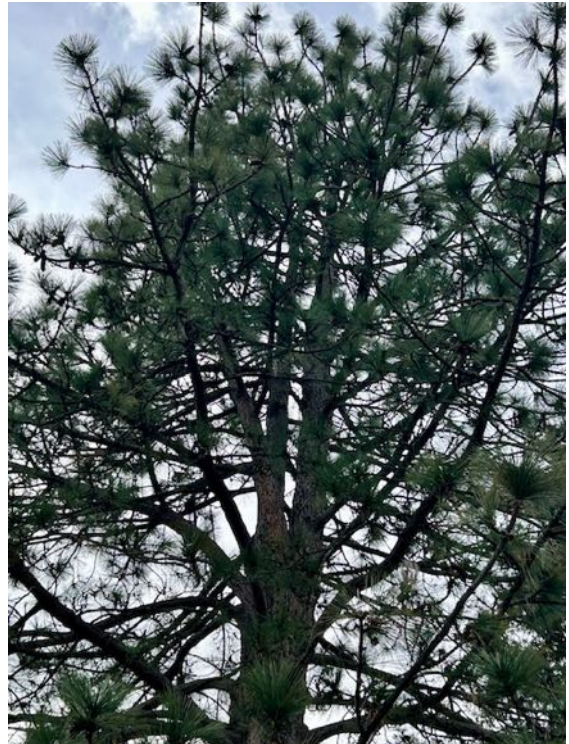
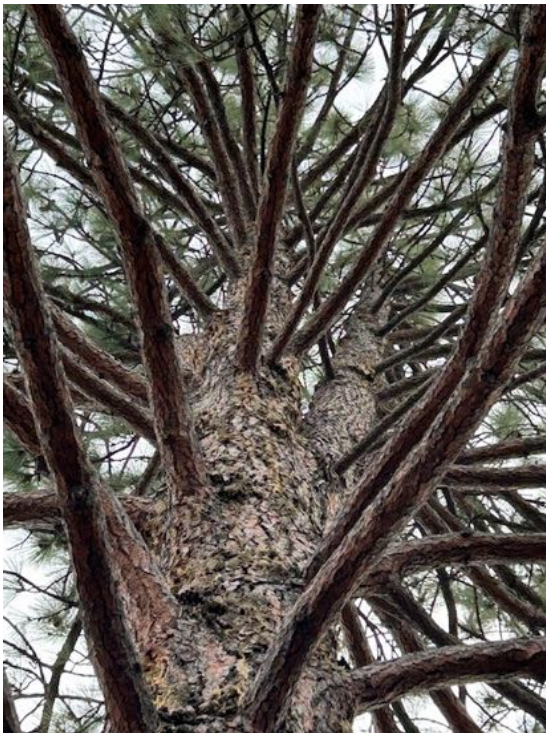
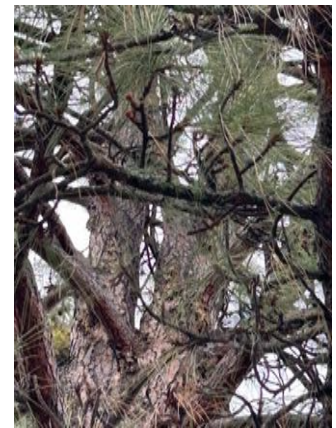
Top:

Subject Tree - Ponderosa Pine  
37" dbh, 90' Tall.

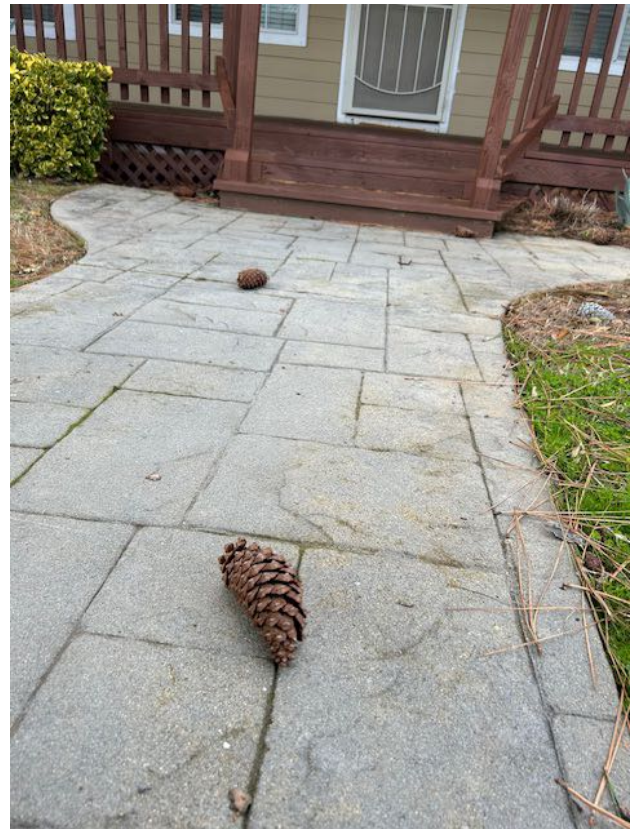


Bottom:

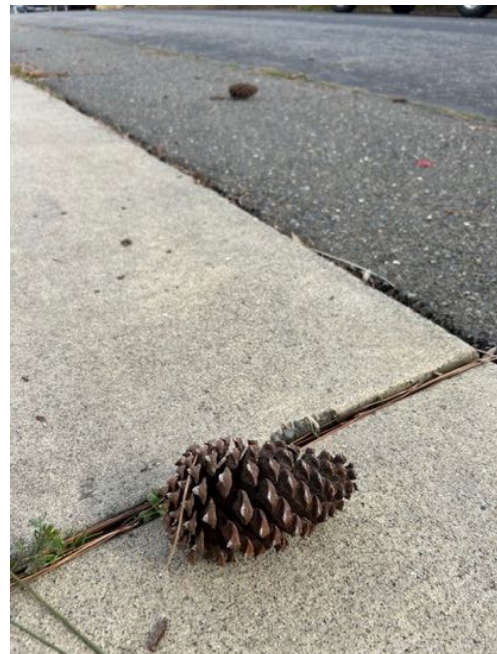
Bifurcated Codominant top occurs at  
40'.







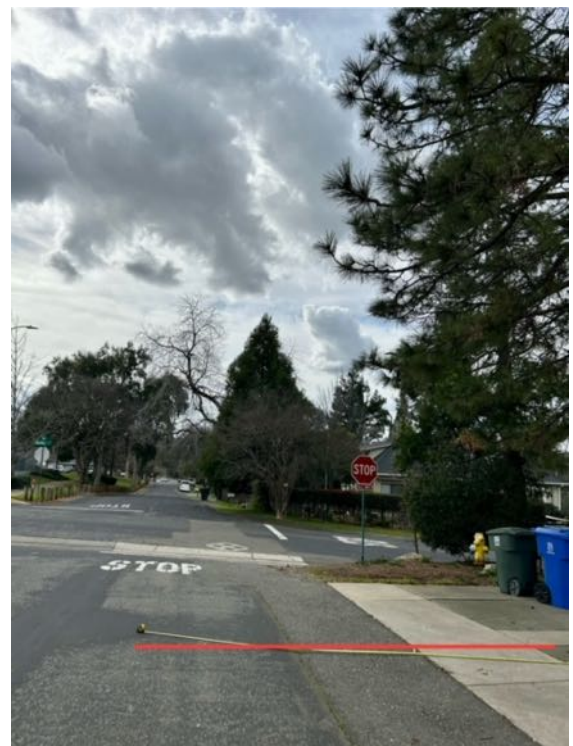
Top & Bottom: Needle-sharp pine cones on street, driveway and home-entrance pathway can fall from up to 90'







Top & Bottom: Canopy radius is approx.. 30'. From up to 90', needle-sharp pine cones and limbs can drop onto home-entrance pathway, driveway and into the middles on the westbound lane of the street.







Left: Lifting from roots is causing damage to a permanent structure; driveway/sidewalk.



Right: 37" dbh Trunk is 41" from from water meter and water line.