

Thank you for the opportunity to help you with your project. As you are aware, I visited the site, 121 Sombrero, on May 7th, 2024, to look at the oak tree in the back which was surrounded by decking attached to the house.

The tree is a Blue Oak, *Quercus douglasii*, measuring 27" at 1' off the ground. It has a codominant junction at 4-5' and so was measured lower than the standard 54". The junction is fair but since the main stems are codominant, the tree was previously cabled. The cable is too low in the canopy to be considered an effective mitigation for failure of this main codominant junction.

The tree is declining in the upper canopy and black rusty staining can be seen underneath the bark in a few places near old pruning and/or failure locations on the trunk (7-10'). All of the newer pruning wounds (within the last 6 months) even at the branch ends have heartwood that appears blackened from the introduction of spores during the rainy weather this spring.

The arborist rating for this tree is a 2 (fair to poor). It is diseased and unlikely to have a long life-span regardless of future care. In addition, most of the remaining canopy is over the house and a high useage deck that is being rebuilt and attached to the house. Failures are likely to occur (natural branch drop and dead branches) and will fall onto the house and deck. It is my opinion that this tree would be difficult to manage with small children playing near and under it often.

Accordingly, it is my professional opinion that the best option is to remove the tree.

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