

December 19, 2022

Bonnie Lipscomb, Economic Development Director
City of Santa Cruz
337 Locust St.
Santa Cruz CA 95060

Re.: Consulting Arborist services for development – addendum report
Site: City Lot #4, Cedar St. between Cathcart St. & Lincoln St., Santa Cruz

Ms. Lipscomb, et al;

I am writing in response to a request from Leslie Keedy, City of Santa Cruz City Forester, to provide an updated evaluation of tree no. 4 (magnolia), including analysis of recent images¹, review of previous images and Dryad report (01/18/22), and to provide a summary and details of my findings and opinions.

SUMMARY: Tree no. 4 is a very large southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*). My initial site inspection and evaluation of this tree was on December 20, 2021. I performed a limited, visual, ground-level inspection, but the tree exhibited obvious signs of decline at that time. This species is capable of achieving tremendous size, and requires comparable growing space to thrive and provide increasing requirements for moisture, nutrition and soil aeration. The tree's size and needs have outgrown site limitations and that has necessitated significant root pruning, reducing the tree's ability to absorb even the limited elements and moisture available.

It is apparent from recent images provided by Leslie Keedy that the tree has declined significantly from its already poor condition one year ago. It is reasonable to assume such decline will continue. Even if significant site changes were possible, such as major redesign of the proposed structures, major expansion of the rooting area, hand removal of hardscapes, soil cultivation, etc., the tree would still present risk to the adjacent sidewalk and street and additional space could not be added to that side (southwest). Further, it is also likely decline would continue, based upon current condition and age of the tree.

This tree is a poor candidate for retention on site, and its existing condition renders it a poor candidate for relocation, a process that would severely exacerbate the conditions that lead to its current state of decline.

RELEVANT EXCERPTS FROM DRYAD LLC REPORT OF 01/18/2022:

• Page 1, Recommendations:

2. For trees to be retained, expand and enhance rooting areas to at least the driplines or preferably, the fall zones.
3. Install fencing or other deterrents to pedestrians and traffic surrounding the trees at the driplines or preferably the fall zones, to reduce risk from failures.
4. Consider removing and replacing all twelve trees with sound specimens that will not achieve large size, and provide sufficient growing spaces."

• **Page 1, Discussion:** "These trees will continue to increase in size, exacerbating current conditions. Many of the conditions observed can be expected to worsen over time."

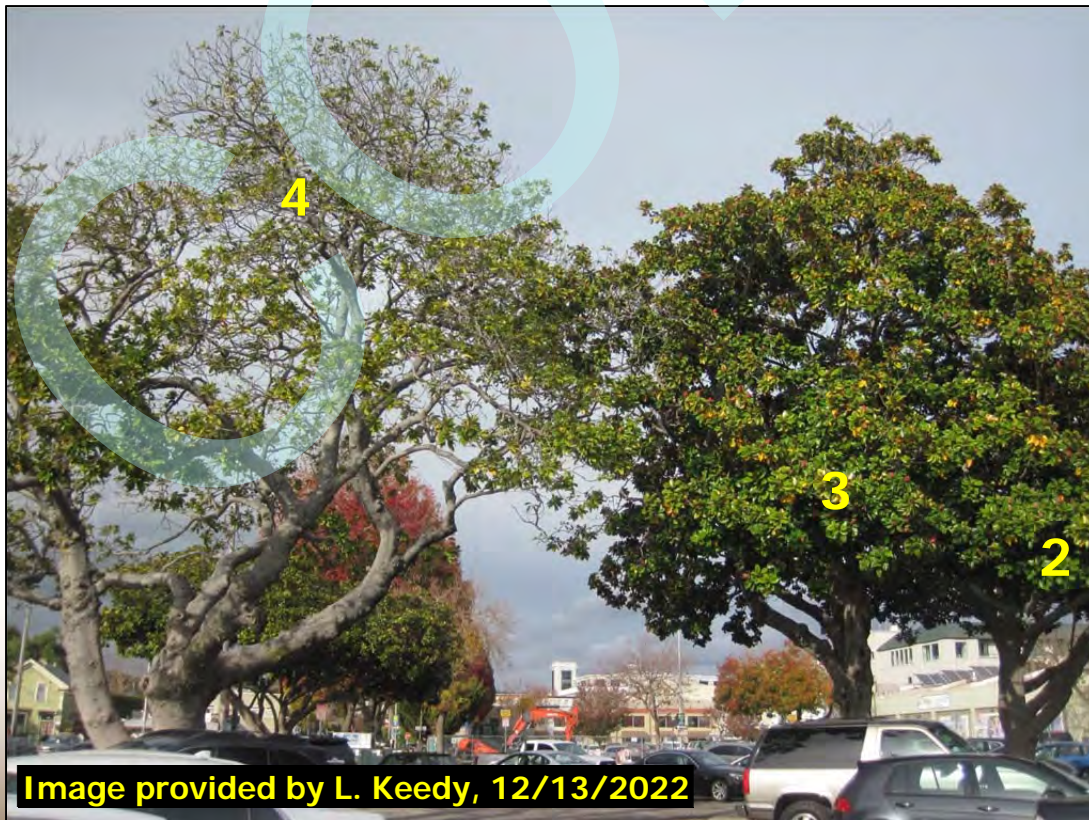
• **Page 2, paragraph 2:** "In my opinion, it is ill advised to retain these trees on site unless extensive design accommodation can be undertaken to both enhance their growing conditions and reduce risk. Increasing the rooting areas, free of hardscape and with an organic mulch cover, is critical to improving physiological condition. Fencing trees at least at the driplines or preferably, at the perimeters of fall zones, can reduce the risk of failures and resulting injury or damage. Judicious pruning may improve structure and can reduce but not eliminate the risk of future failures."

• **Page 5, Tree Inventory Data & Evaluations, Tree no. 4, Observations/Comments:** "Canopy thin, stunted and chlorotic with tip dieback... raised and lion-tailed; many large pruning cuts with decay... root pruning apparent."

¹ Recent images of tree no. 4, dated 12/13 & 12/14/2022, were provide by Leslie Keedy.

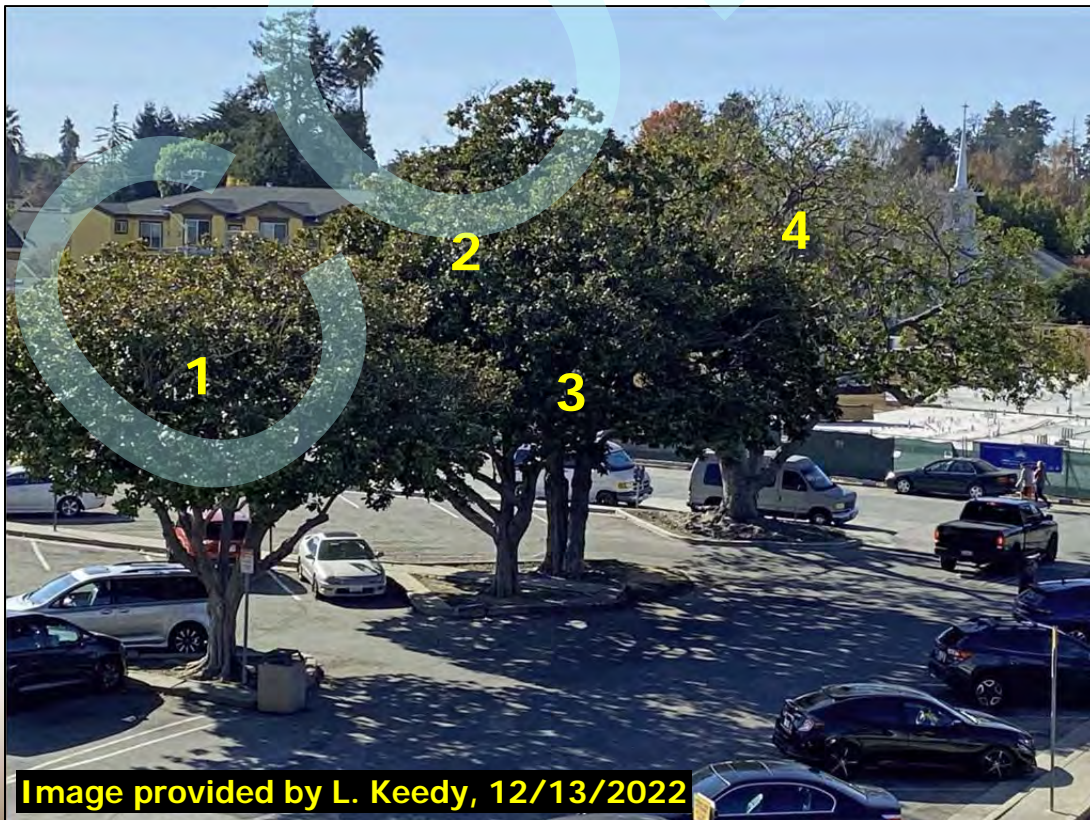
COMPARISON IMAGES:

Note: Trees nos. 2 & 3 are also southern magnolia trees, but exhibiting much denser canopies than tree no. 4.



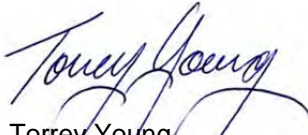


Note: Trees nos. 1, 2 & 3 are also southern magnolia trees, but exhibiting much denser canopies than tree no. 4.



Please feel free to contact me with questions or comments.

Respectfully,



Torrey Young
Registered Consulting Arborist

ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist, no. 282
ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, no. WE-0131BM
CUFC Certified Urban Forester, no. 121
ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified
ASCA Tree & Plant Appraisal Qualified
CA Contractors License no. 363372 (C-27 & D-49; inactive)

