

Client: Leslie Lava

Arborist: Zach Vought

Project Address: 11 Mateo Dr., Tiburon, CA 94920

Inspection Date: January 26, 2026



ASSIGNMENT

Leslie Lava hired me to inspect the health and structural stability of a group of landscape trees on her property and to provide management recommendations. As part of ongoing property improvements, including an electrical system upgrade, a utility trench was excavated through several of the trees' root systems, prompting the inspection. I met onsite with Ms. Lava and her contractor.

OBSERVATIONS

- The subject trees grow in a dense group near the southeast corner of the Lava property, within the front yard, and in close proximity to the residence at 9 Mateo Drive. All trees exhibit good overall health, with varying structural condition and canopy form ratings (Figure 1).
- Tree 1 is an Italian stone pine (*Pinus pinea*) with a trunk diameter of 19.5 inches, located approximately eight feet from the trench. The tree exhibits a pronounced lean to the north and an asymmetric canopy extending toward the neighboring property.
- Tree 2 is an Italian stone pine (*Pinus pinea*) with a trunk diameter of 19.5 inches. It is located approximately two and a half feet from the trench and displays a similarly asymmetric crown. This tree also extends over the adjacent neighbor's front yard.
- Tree 3 is an Italian stone pine (*Pinus pinea*) with a trunk diameter of 19 inches. This tree is located less than two feet from the trench and appears to be situated within the City right-of-way.
- Tree 4 is a Monterey cypress (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*) with a trunk diameter of approximately 12 inches, located less than one foot from the trench. The tree is suppressed, with a tall, narrow crown form. A decay cavity is present at a wound located approximately one foot above grade on the north side of the lower trunk.
- Tree 5 is a Monterey cypress (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*) with a trunk diameter of approximately 14.5 inches, located roughly two feet from the trench. The tree has a narrow, upright canopy form.
- Four additional trees are present within this group, including two Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) trees with trunk diameters of approximately 13.5 inches and 20 inches, located between the street and the trench at distances of approximately 15 feet and 8 feet from the trench, respectively; one Italian stone pine with a trunk diameter of approximately 36 inches located about 10 feet from the trench; and one Monterey cypress with a trunk diameter of approximately 24 inches located near the property boundary downslope from Tree 1 and approximately 10 feet from the trench (Figure 2).

DISCUSSION/ CONCLUSIONS

I have recommended the removal of Trees 1 through 5. A permit is required to remove Trees 1 and 2 due to the fact that their trunk circumferences exceed 60 inches. A permit is also required for Tree 3, as it is reportedly located within the Town right-of-way.

The utility trench had the greatest impact on the root systems of Trees 2, 3, and 4, as it ran within three feet of these trees and required the cutting of supportive roots. The contractor advised that this location of the trench was required due to the location of the main PG&E electrical box and also due to a neighborhood safety concern that an alternate path could have ruptured a PG&E gas line. In addition, the asymmetric crown architecture of Trees 1 through 3, combined with their target zone over the neighboring property, further increases their risk profile.

Trees 1 and 2 were also affected by the trench; however, root pruning alone was not the sole basis for recommending removal. Rather, removal is recommended due to the combined effects of root loss and the suboptimal pre-existing conditions of each tree, including pronounced trunk lean and asymmetric crown development.

Tree 5 is recommended for removal due to its proximity to the trench and for aesthetic reasons. Removal of Trees 2 and 3 will leave Tree 5 newly exposed, which will further negatively accentuate its already suboptimal crown form.

Removal of Trees 1 through 5 will also reduce the wildfire fuel load adjacent to the property line, thereby reducing wildfire ignition potential in this area.

The trenching occurred well outside the critical root zones of the remaining trees in the vicinity, and therefore had a negligible impact on their structural stability. These trees include two Monterey pine trees, one Italian stone pine, and one Monterey cypress.

SCOPE OF WORK AND LIMITATIONS

Urban Forestry Associates has no personal or monetary interest in the outcome of this investigation. All observations regarding trees in this report were made by UFA, independently, based on our education and experience. All determinations of health condition, structural condition, or hazard potential of a tree or trees at issue are based on our best professional judgment. The health and hazard assessments in this report are limited by the visual nature of the assessment. Defects may be obscured by soil, brush, vines, aerial foliage, branches, multiple trunks or other trees. Even structurally sound, healthy trees are wind-thrown during severe storms or other weather events. Consequently, a conclusion that a tree does not require corrective surgery or removal is not a guarantee of no risk, hazard, or sound health.



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Figure 1. Trees slated for removal

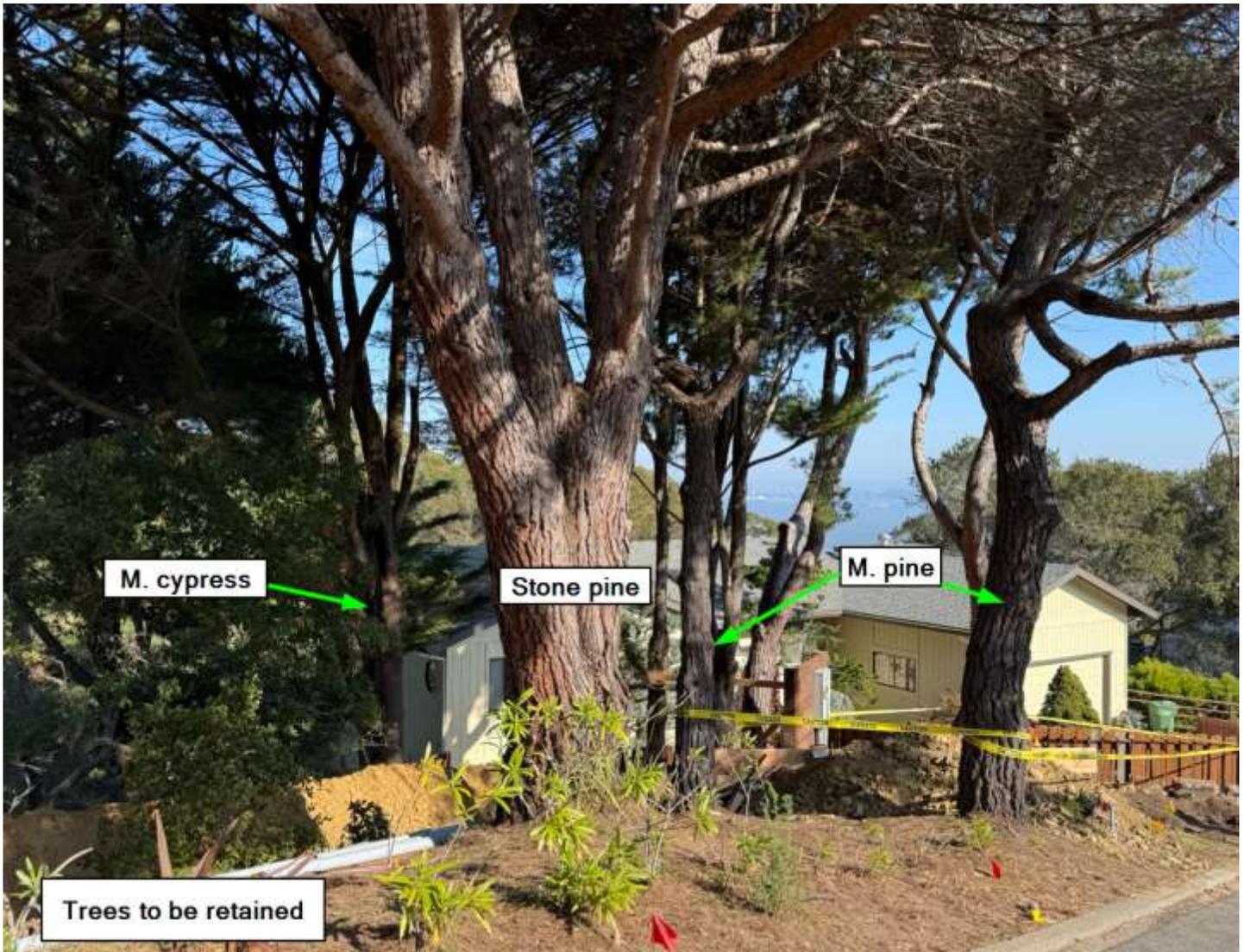


Figure 2