

FAMILY TREE RESOURCE, INC.



City of Fort Bragg
416 N. Franklin Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

Re: 350 Cypress Street
Fort Bragg, CA 95437

March 15, 2021

On March 15, 2021, I performed a basic ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) Level I/II Health Assessment on the trees located at 350 Cypress St. in Ft Bragg, Ca, for the City of Ft Bragg. The client requested an assessment on the overall health and condition of the trees due to a proposed building site at this location. This Basic Assessment is focused on mainly types of trees (species), the number of trees, and overall condition of these planted trees. I inspected the crown, trunk, trunk flare, above ground roots, and site conditions around these trees. In this “basic” ground-level inspection, the only tools used were a high-powered monocular, Nikon Laser Range Finder, and a “DB” tape--to measure the diameter at breast height (dbh @ 4.5’ above ground level). I did not enter (climb) any of the trees to assess.

All but 2 of the 29 trees assessed are located along both sides of the north-west border of the property fronting Cypress St. There are 17 mature Monterey cypress trees (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*) ranging in size from ~20” to 75” dbh, with the majority of these being >30” dbh. The estimated avg height is ~ 65’. There is another group of 10, more recently planted cypress trees of unknown variety (or, cultivar of cypress tree), at the eastern most portion of the row along Cypress St. that are multi-stemmed and lower growing. A single Monterey cypress ~ 16” x 30’ is located near the abandoned building on east side. At the south-west corner of this lot is a single 29” x 45’ Douglas fir (*P. menziesii*).

Almost all of these trees appear relatively healthy with “normal” foliage and vigor for their species with the exception of the only fir which should be greater in height considering its fairly large diameter at the base. The ten smaller cypress trees were planted too closely together and will only be showing signs of abnormal growth and branch die-back as they age due to competition for sunlight and soil nutrients. There is a considerable amount of small branch die-back in the lower portion of their canopy already happening in several of the small trees.



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The soil condition around the trees is stable and no compaction is evident due to restricted vehicle access. A healthy level of mulch/duff is present. There are no exposed roots and only one tree was observed with decay at the base near the root crown.

These 17 large cypresses look like they've either had many limb failures in the past, or they were pruned to avoid property damage if they were to fail considering the many observed old cuts. (Cypress trees typically have many large co-dominate trunks/stems as these trees do, with less-than-ideal attachment to other stems and are prone to whole limb failures. Most of these trees show this history of hazardous/problem limb removal and will likely be an issue as they age further.)

Due to the height of these mature trees, a good portion of this parcel within 1x height of a tree would be considered a target if any were to fail entirely. Within the ~60' avg dripline of these trees, the likely target would be any person/property underneath the canopy surrounding the trees. If the trees are to remain during any construction on this site, it would require strict adherence to ISA's BMPs for construction activities around trees in the Critical Root Zone, or CRZ. (The CRZ is calculated using the dbh of any tree- the larger the dbh, the greater the CRZ extends away from the tree's trunk.) Soil compaction and grade-changes, excavating/trenching through root zones can have a serious impact on a tree's health, and symptoms of the damage often will not appear for several growing seasons. There are ways to mitigate damage to trees and root zones, but many are costly and impractical. If trees are to be removed and replaced, consider more urban-friendly varieties that can also provide protection from usual weather conditions, privacy, or habitat for beneficial creatures--and be drought tolerant as well.

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Arborist Disclosure:

Arborists are tree professionals who use their education, knowledge, training, and experience to examine trees, recommend measures to enhance the beauty and health of trees, and attempt to reduce the risk of living near trees. Clients may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations of the arborist and / or seek additional advice. Arborists cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to the structural failure of a tree. Trees are living organisms that fail in ways we do not fully understand. Conditions are often hidden within trees as well as below ground. Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances, or for a specified period. Likewise, remedial treatments, like medicine, cannot guarantee. Treatment, root cutting, pruning and removal of trees may involve considerations beyond the scope of the arborist's services such as property boundaries, property ownership, site lines, disputes between neighbors, landlord-tenant matters, etc. Arborists cannot take such issues into account unless complete and accurate information is given to the arborist. The person hiring the arborist accepts full responsibility for authorizing the recommended treatment / measures. Trees can be managed, but they cannot be fully controlled. Living near a tree is to accept some degree of risk. The only way to eliminate all risks is to eliminate all trees.



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