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**CITY OF FORT BRAGG**

**ARBORIST'S REPORT**  
**July 23, 2012**

Assignment/Scope of Work

David Goble, Director of Public Works asked me to evaluate 6 trees within the City right-of-way, at the north end of Harrison St. Recently a large branch had broken off one of the 5 mature eucalyptus trees in the group and nearby residents had expressed concern. I agreed to inspect the trees from the ground, using hand tools and visual tree analysis.

Site Description

The site is at the end of a cul-de-sac in a residential neighborhood, with City trees on both sides of a wooden fence. Two parallel fences enclose a utility right-of-way where a sewer line runs through on the north side of the first fence and the grove of trees. The trees have not been overpruned in the past, and do not have large decayed areas resulting from large pruning cuts. Some branches have failed, and those sites and patterns were evaluated as I inspected the trees.

There is a lot of debris at the base of the eucalyptus trees from past branch failures and foliage that has dropped. It is now dry and should be cleared at some point to reduce the danger of fire and infestation by rodents. Ivy grows densely at the bases and on the trunks of two eucalyptus trees. A resident cut the stems of the ivy growing on one of the trees (#2), which is good because it removes the dense foliage on the trunk which traps moisture and may protect pathogens and rodents, but has left dry stems on the tree above the cuts. The dry ivy stems should be removed a few more feet higher up (8-10') to reduce the chance of fire climbing the dead, woody stems.

Tree #1 - 35" dbh (diameter at breast height, 4'-6") Monterey cypress/*Cupressus macrocarpa*  
Condition/Health: Good. Structure: Fair/Good

This is the southernmost tree in the grove, a relatively young cypress suppressed by the eucalyptus trees growing over it. Trunk and root flare were visible and normal. Most of its crown, branches and foliage are growing on the south and east, towards available light. One low, hanging branch can be seen which should be removed. It was probably broken when a larger branch fell from the eucalyptus above it. This tree is relatively healthy, with normal growth and no apparent pests or diseases, and does not need other treatment.

Tree #2 - 54" dbh Blue gum eucalyptus/*Eucalyptus globulus*  
Condition/Health: Good. Structure: Fair/Good

This mature tree stands a few feet behind the cypress. It has normal growth and branching, approximately 90' tall, with no apparent pests. The single trunk is normal, with good root flare and structure. No decay or abnormalities were noted in the lower trunk and root crown.

The adjacent property owner cut the ivy stems at the base of this tree, as mentioned above. A couple of sites of old branch failures can be seen on the trunks, typical for this species and age. Some large, long branches grow towards the south, over the yard of the adjoining residence. On one low branch, approximately 18" diameter, a tree climber from a qualified tree service should reduce the end weight of at least two of the branches by approximately 20'. They should be cut back to large lateral branches, cutting to those growing upright as much as possible.

ATTACHMENT 1

Tree #3 - 53" dbh Blue gum eucalyptus/Eucalyptus globulus

Condition/Health: Good Structure: Fair/Good

This tree is growing behind the first fence, farther from homes, parking or other targets. Ivy was also cut at the base of the trunk of this eucalyptus. The single trunk, branches and foliage are normal, with no abnormalities, decay or pests noted. Sites of some past branch failures can be seen, but there are no long, poorly-tapered branches or decayed areas or issues which suggest predictable future failures. This tree does not need any remedial work at this time.

Tree #4 - 28" dbh Blue gum eucalyptus/Eucalyptus globulus

Condition/Health: Good Structure: Good

This is a smaller, single-trunk eucalyptus tree growing on the far side of the first fence. It is relatively healthy with good form. It needs no pruning or other treatment

Tree #5 - 74" dbh Blue gum eucalyptus/Eucalyptus globulus

Condition/Health: Fair/Good Structure: Fair

Remove 12"± horizontal lateral branch growing to the south, approximately 30' high on main trunk  
Cut ivy stems to allow better monitoring of lower trunk and reduce pathogen and rodent habitat.  
Reduce end weight of lateral branches growing towards south on ivy-covered trunk.

Tree #6 - 67" dbh Blue gum eucalyptus/Eucalyptus globulus

Condition/Health: Fair Structure: Poor

This tree has sparse foliage in the upper canopy, suggesting root problems. It has long, curving, over-extended branches with weaker attachments than adjacent trees, with several past branch failure sites. It is very close to a sewer line and cleanout on the north side of the fence, and has probably lost roots when the line was installed and when it has been cleaned. When we cleared ivy from sections of the base, superficial decay could be seen, but not enough to weaken the trunk. This tall tree also arches over power lines and a residence. Because of its poor form and history of branch failures, with low vigor and poor health, this tree should be removed. Because the prevailing winds and winter storms come from other directions, its removal will not adversely affect the other trees.

Summary

Tree #1 - Remove hanging dead branch(es)

Tree #2 - Reduce end weight on several long lateral branches growing to south towards residence

Tree #5 - Remove 12" horizontal branch growing to south; reduce end weight on lateral branches growing to south on ivy-covered trunk. Cut ivy stems climbing tree

Tree #6 - Remove tree

Remove dry debris at base of trees to facilitate inspection and reduce fire danger

Please call if clarification is needed on any of these issues. If further information or evaluation is needed, I'd be glad to provide it.

Respectfully submitted,

*Becky Duckles*

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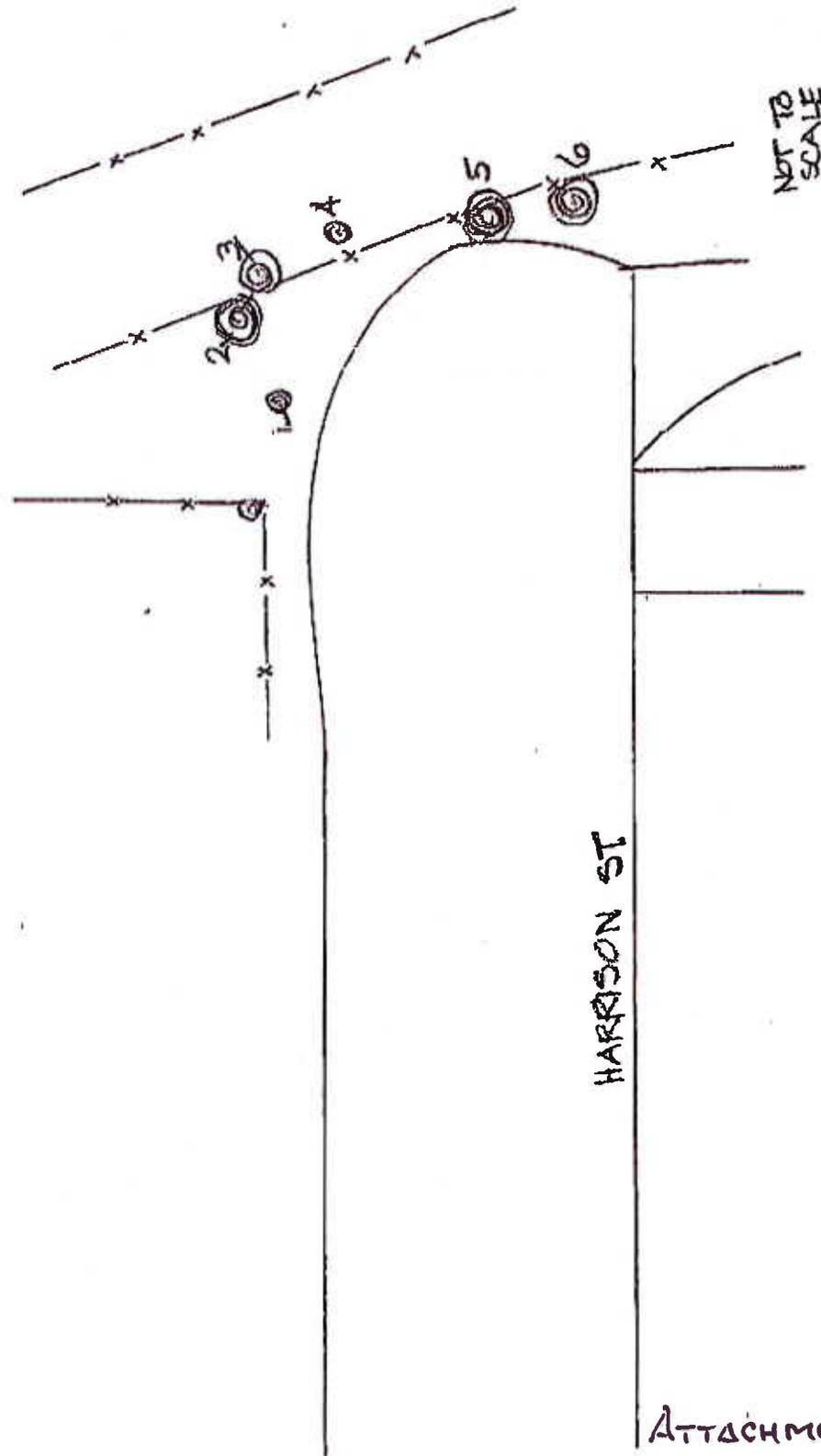
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ATTACHMENT I

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TREE LOCATION MAP



ATTACHMENT 1