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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION
City of Albany

Community Development & Environmental Resources
Application to Remove a City Tree

Owners Name Chris Petzold / Jessica Petzold

Phone Number XX

Property Address 839 Washington Ave Albany CA 94706

Number of City trees requested to be removed 1

Monterey Cypress next to property along Catherine's Path.

Reason for removal request:

The tree is dead.

The tree is storm damaged, vandalized, diseased or infested beyond reclamation.

The tree is a potential safety hazard and liability.

The tree is causing substantial damage to adjacent subsurface gas and/or water service.

The tree has damaged the adjacent sidewalk to an extent that constitutes a tripping hazard, and the City tree has caused the property owner to has repaired the adjacent sidewalk on at least one (1) previously documented occasion.

The tree is detrimental to the public safety or materially injurious to the property owner or improvements in the vicinity.

The tree does not conform to the approved plan for the area in question.

Jessica Petzold
Chris Petzold
839 Washington Ave
Albany, CA 94706

CITY OF ALBANY

OCT 16 2013

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT**

Oct 11th, 2013

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing to request the removal of the large Monterey Cypress tree next to our property. In addition to noticing a crack in the retaining wall of our house on the same side of the tree, we've also notice damage to our roof prior to the last pruning due to the branches scraping against the shingles as well as clogging our gutters. Because our driveway is on a slope, the constant presence of tree needles has caused several slips and falls due to it's looseness on the ground. During winter months when the weather is windy and rainy, there has been incidences where small branches have fallen off the tree and narrowly missed our heads. Furthermore, the tree is home to innumerable spiders that make their way into our car, our garage, even our clothes as we pass by.

Notwithstanding the above nuisance that the tree has caused, the biggest reason we want the tree removed is the potential danger and risk that the tree poses to our lives due to it's lean on the telephone pole and power lines. Because of the close proximity of the power lines to our property, we've become increasingly worried that the next storm/wind would cause the branches to put more weight on the power lines and cause significant damage and at worst a spark and fire. The tree is quite old for a Monterey Cypress and with the bend in the trunk making it structurally weak the potential for it to fall over towards the house is high. It also overhangs a portion of Catherine's walk, an Albany path, and would cause significant damage to the path and whoever may be using it at the time.

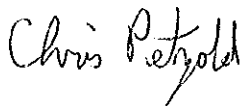
We ask earnestly that you would take this matter seriously and respond urgently before any unforeseeable event occurs.

Sincerely,

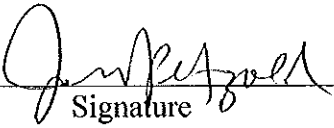
Jessica Petzold
jesslikethis@yahoo.com



Chris Petzold
cjpetzold@lbl.gov



I understand that removal of a tree that does not constitute a hazard to public or private property requires review by the Parks & Recreation Commission at a public meeting. Enclosed is the \$200 fee to review the removal of City trees at my address.


Signature

10/8/13
Date

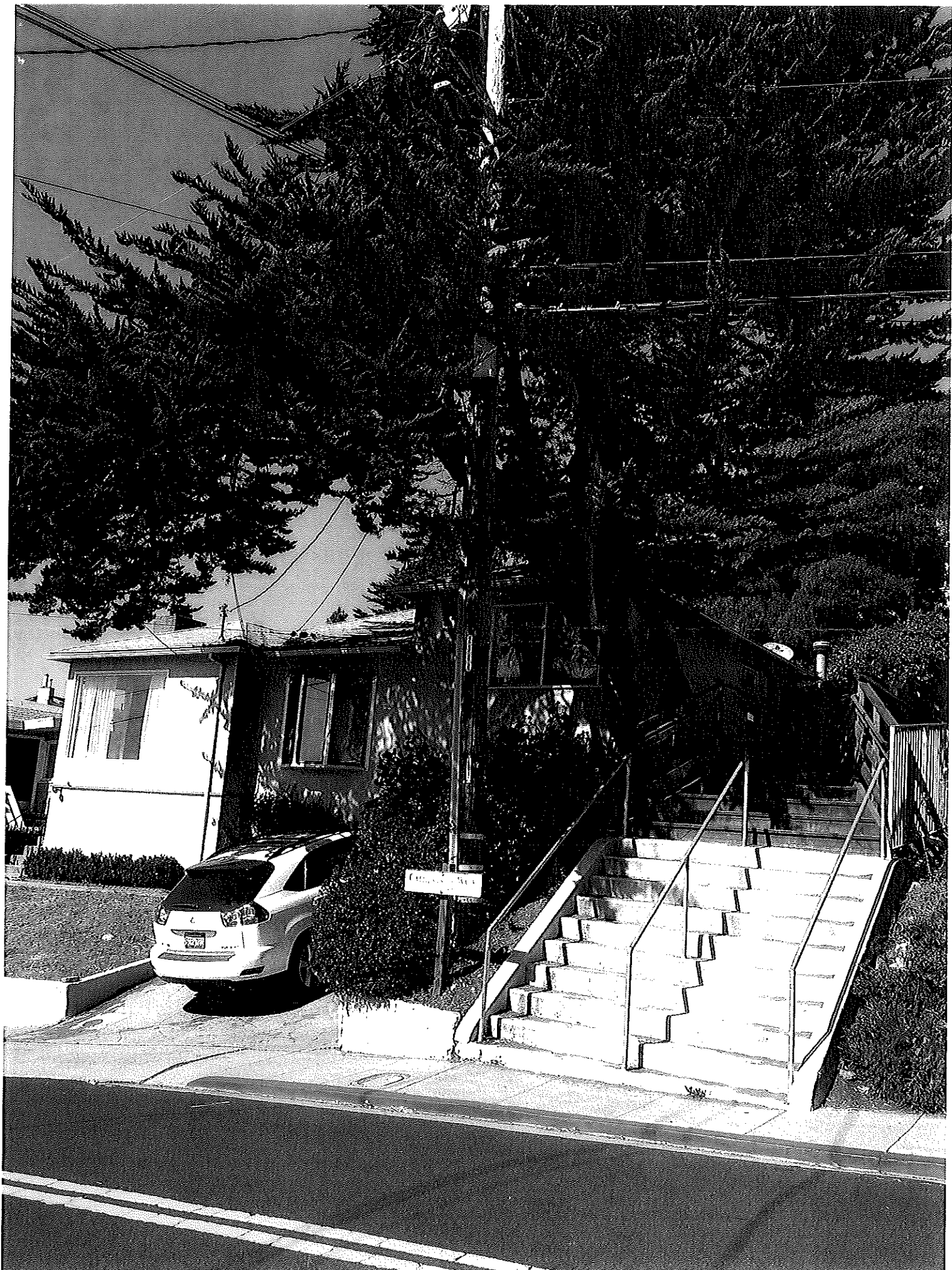
City Action

Application Number _____ - _____

Fee Received (Receipt No.) 8/6556

Approved _____ Declined _____ Date _____

Return to: City of Albany Community Development & Environmental Resources
Department, 1000 San Pablo Avenue, Albany CA 94706.









To

Tony Wolcott

City Arborist

City of Albany, Albany, CA 94706

October 23, 2013

Subject: Removal of the Cypress tree west of Catherine walkway in between 839 and 841 Washington Ave

The Cypress tree is located between 839 and 841 Washington Avenue on west side of Catherine walkway. I am the owner of 841 Washington Avenue. Over the last 15 years, the Cypress tree grew and now has become a safety hazard for my neighbor's property and mine. The branches are leaning over my property and the leaves are clogging the drains of my front decks. Every week I clean the leaves from my driveway; moreover I pay extra to my gardener to clean the decks and drains of fallen leaves.

The Cypress tree roots are now dangerously close to the retaining wall of my driveway. Eventually the root system will damage the wall and the surrounding drainage system. During high winds, which is common in the area the branches may fall and cause damage to adjacent power, cable lines and cars.

I kindly request City of Albany to remove the Cypress tree as a safety measure before it damages surrounding properties causing unnecessary financial and mental stress to my neighbors and me.

Sincerely,



Md Salahuddin

841 Washington Ave

Albany, CA 94706

510 872 7536

CITY OF ALBANY
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT

Agenda date: December 12, 2013

TO: Park and Recreation Commission

FROM: Tony Wolcott, Urban Forester

SUBJECT: 839 to 841 Washington Avenue - Urban Forester report on one existing *Hesperocyparis macrocarpa* (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) Monterey cypress - tree located between two addresses just west of Catherine's Walk steps.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

This tree grades out as a 'moderate' risk, and if it were to remain, it needs to be inspected annually for any signs of decay or defects. I would be happy with either decision but will recommend removal because any tree failure, branch, stem or whole tree is going to cause significant damage and interruption of electrical service. Although only possible, impact to a car or person would be significant to severe. There is always risk with trees, a little more than I like here. Replacement with a smaller flowering tree is recommended.

BACKGROUND

The existing tree occupies a space on a slope between the steps and the property at 839 Washington. There are power lines with some high voltage in close proximity. This tree has been pruned to avoid these wires. The canopy is one-sided. There is significant canopy above the wires and somewhat counterbalancing the tree. This tree is regularly pruned to window wires and keep weight on the ends reduced.

ANALYSIS

This tree is in good health despite its odd shape. The roots appear solid as does the trunk. There are few Monterey cypresses here and this is a mature tree. The multiple stems are a concern, especially with the wires and house always there.

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost of removal will be about \$2500, grinding the stumps- \$400. A new tree, more suitable will be planted in the vicinity. Instead of removing the trunk, it could be carved into the shape of an eagle, might be expensive.

Conclusion

Tough call but the tree should come out.