

February 12, 2024

Mr. Brad Raulston
Town Manager
Town of Yountville
6550 Yount St.
Yountville, CA 94599

Dear Sir,

My husband and I live across the street from a huge Coast Redwood tree that stands in front of the house at 6750 Jefferson Street, owned by Christine and Bryan Lilienthal. Our address is 6749 Jefferson Street. I am reaching out to you today to express my serious concern regarding this tree, which is currently leaning towards my property. With the upcoming storm season, I am increasingly worried about the potential threat this tree poses to my home, my family's safety, and the general public.

This is particularly concerning because of the inherent instability of single Redwood trees. The leaning Redwood in question lacks the natural support system provided by a grove, making it susceptible to strong winds and heavy rains. This condition is exacerbated by its shallow root system and evidence that its roots have been compromised by traffic on Jefferson Street. Given the size and potential reach of a falling Redwood, this poses a substantial risk to any nearby properties, including my own, and to public safety.

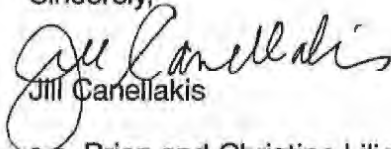
During the recent storm, a large branch broke off this tree and landed right near our car parked in front of our house on February 4th (see Group 1 photos attached). I was walking in the area not long before this happened and could have been seriously hurt.

Each time we have heavy rain and wind we wonder if this is when the tree will come down or a large branch will land on our house. We appreciate the survey markers monitoring the lean of the tree but this does not monitor large branches about to fall. Also, Redwood trees do not gradually fall, they fall suddenly and unpredictably so the monitoring markers are somewhat futile. The tree is dangerous and needs to come down before someone gets killed. It is a nice looking tree but it is not appropriate for its location. Our neighbors agree that it should be removed.

The Lilienthals also had a large branch land on the wires in their yard which caused damage during the storm (see Group 2 photos attached). Some branches were pruned 2 years ago with little effect - nothing had been done for years before that. The roots have displaced the Lilienthal's fence over the years as well.

I would appreciate it if you could take this matter seriously and have the tree removed.

Sincerely,


Jill Canellakis

c.c. Brian and Christine Lilienthal
Mayor Marjorie Mohler
Vice Mayor Hillery Bolt Trippe
Councillor Eric Knight
Councillor Robin McKee-Cant
Councillor Pam Reeves

Received

FEB 12 2024

Town of Yountville



Area 1 photos



Greg's photos

Grav 2
photos



Gray 2
photo



GALLOWAY / HERING
6757 JEFFERSON ST
YOUNTVILLE, CA 94599

February 13, 2024

Mr. Brad Raulston
Town Manager
Town of Yountville
6550 Yount St.
Yountville, CA 94599

RE: REDWOOD TREE LOCATED IN FRONT OF 6750 JEFFERSON ST

Dear Mr. Raulston:

We own the home at 6757 Jefferson St in Yountville. Ownership of the home is a 50/50 partnership between my wife Susan and I, and our good friends Jack & Donna Galloway. We use the home as a vacation property and normally reside in the San Diego area.

I am writing to express our grave concern about the risk presented by the large redwood tree located across the street from our home and in front of the house located at 6750 Jefferson St. This home is owned by Bryan and Christine Lillienthal.

We have been concerned about this tree for some time. It appears to already be tilting away from a perpendicular angle to the street. We know that the tree has been surveyed and is being monitored but this is merely a passive approach.

During the most recent storms, large branches fell from this tree causing some damage in the area. Sadly, we too frequently learn of horrible outcomes with property damage and loss of life, including in the greater Napa area, from falling trees.

While this tree is certainly beautiful, there is no way that it's preservation can outweigh the potential risk of the catastrophic damage it would undoubtedly cause if it were to fall. We are asking that the Town of Yountville please take prudent and appropriate action immediately to have this tree removed.

Thank you very much for your attention and consideration,



Paul Hering (on behalf of the Galloways and Herings)
PaulHering1@gmail.com
858-967-8054

Received

FEB 16 2024

Town of Yountville

February 14, 2024

Received

Brad Raulston
Town Manager
Town of Yountville
6550 Yount Street
Yountville, CA 94599

FEB 16 2024

Town of Yountville

Brad,

It was a pleasure briefly meeting you on that Sunday afternoon during the storm in front of my house at 6750 Jefferson. I'm in receipt of Jill Canellakis' letter of February 12.

Reading your bio, even though you are new to your position and the Town, I feel you are able to carry out things effectively. I want to provide some background and context to the position my wife, Christine, and I have on the redwood tree.

This house and property have been in my family for over 100 years. Specifically, my Grandmother and Grandfather purchased it ~1920. In my youth and young adulthood, I grew up spending a great deal of time at the property and I got to know the property very well. My Grandmother passed the house to me when she passed in 1996. Since that time, I developed, with the Town's input, plans that refurbished the house in 2008; bringing back original elements in a project that fit into the Old Town guidelines. The ZDRB was very pleased with the project as were we.

The recent storm that rolled through Town brought down branches both large and small. One large branch took out our communication cable to the house and in the process damaged our house in the area where it was mounted. The Town Staff helped us remove that large branch and we are very grateful.

I appreciate the Town's data driven approach to monitoring the tree trunk lean. (I recall that the tree has always had a lean.) However, after all my years at this property, this storm left my wife and I fearful for our safety and for the safety of our neighbors and anyone walking or driving in the vicinity of the tree. The size of the limbs coming off the tree and the force of the wind in the recent storm transformed the branches into dangerous projectiles. The branches landed in both directions of the trunk. That added to our past concerns on the general safety of tree. If lean measurements show no change, the branches torn off are a concern. The injuries to the tree might add to infections or other issues. I don't know.

If we are to trust that our region will continue to see extreme weather events, we support the removal of the tree. Perhaps the tree could be removed in such a manner the vertical grain redwood could be salvaged as useful lumber for a future project. We would miss the tree, but believe the safety concerns raised by Jill and our own experiences in the past storm make removal a necessary course of action.

If you feel some type of petition of the neighbors would be useful, I'd be happy to help facilitate. We all appreciate the beauty and age of this tree. Unfortunately, the liability and safety to all of us outweighs that.

Very Respectfully,



Bryan P. Lilienthal, CPSM, CPSD

February 18, 2024

Subject: Support for Removal of Hazardous Redwood Tree on Town Property

Dear Town Manager and Council Members,

We are writing to express our support for the concerns raised by our neighbors, the Lilienthals and the Canellakises, regarding the safety of the historic and magnificent redwood tree located on town property in front of 6750 Jefferson Street. Over recent times, there have been instances of falling branches and growing anxiety among residents due to the potential catastrophic failure of the tree.

One of two outcomes will occur. Either the tree will be taken down or it will fall. We ask the town to take it down as soon as reasonably possible.

As people who deeply value the importance of trees and their contributions to both humanity and nature, we understand the significance of preserving them whenever possible. However, the safety and well-being of our community must take precedence in situations where there is a clear and imminent threat to life and property.

Reflecting on Alan's involvement in the citizen-led effort to preserve the heritage oak tree near the Hopper Creek Condominiums, we recognize the importance of responsible action when faced with deteriorating conditions and potential hazards. Some years later after the condition of the tree took a turn for the worse, he agreed with the assessment of arborists and supported the removal of dangerous portions to ensure the safety of the surrounding area.

With the increasing frequency and intensity of storms, what may have been considered safe in the past may no longer hold true for the present or future. Therefore, we urge the Town to prioritize the safety of our residents and address the concerns raised by our neighbors by removing the hazardous redwood tree in a responsible manner.

Thank you for considering taking the tree down now.

Sincerely,



Alan and Ashley Tenscher
6740 Jefferson St.
Yountville, CA 94599