



**ARBORIST - WOODSMAN - TIMBER FALLER - CLIMBER**  
**A BALANCED APPROACH TO GENERAL TREE WORK**

Sapp Residence 2 Tallent Lane Yountville, CA

January 13, 2025

Regarding the trees on 2 Tallent Lane:

The *Quercus lobata* on the northwestern corner of the property immediately next to the PG&E power pole. This juvenile tree has multiple problems when viewed through the lens of long-term viability. First is its proximity to the power pole and conductors; these are not going to move or be put underground anytime soon. Correct cultural practice is never a concern or consideration in utility line clearance for obvious reasons. In this case the utility work has and will continue to expose the structural scaffold to the south and east resulting in severe sun stress. It is the plant's habit through phototropism to orient itself and grow towards the sun and therefore into the utility. This new growth will repeatedly be removed thereby leaving the structural scaffold which must be shaded, exposed, causing stress and sunburn. Second, this tree has a large part to the east and a smaller piece to the west. It is my opinion that the smaller portion is a separate tree originating from an acorn that germinated in a gopher hole in the root crown of the larger. The roots of the two are grafted together but not the stems as can be seen in the included bark between the two. This will be a long-term problem. These realities have pushed all new growth to the north and over the proposed new construction without balance and shade which is not conducive to long term viability.

The *Quercus agrifolia* on the eastern neighbors' property whose canopy is above the project in question. This tree is young but reasonably well established. It has potential long-term viability. Viability will require correct protection of the rootzone and correct maintenance of the canopy, the responsibility for which must be borne by both parties in a coordinated effort. The odd growth habit of this tree will in the future require specialized measures such as props and cables.

My intention is to affect the greatest good for all parties involved; the trees, people, properties, town of Yountville and the utility. As such, it is my opinion that the *Quercus lobata* be removed and the *Quercus agrifolia* be maintained. This action will provide relief to the *agrifolia* by moving the proposed construction as far as possible out of its rootzone and dripline. Further discussions of the *agrifolia*'s protection during construction will be warranted when a final design plan is agreed to.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Heiko Gerdes  
President Pope Valley Tree, LLC  
WE-7146A

1.27.25

Kari Svanstrom  
Town of Yountville  
Planning and Development Department

Re: Response to Neighboring Oak Trees @ 2 Tallent Lane  
Parcel #036-0410-032 / Planning File: LUP 24-11

Dear Kari,

Thank you for your response letter and the opportunity to address the neighboring oak tree situation.

Currently, we have two differing opinions from certified arborists regarding the 21.5" White Oak located at the Northwest property line. The City of Yountville's arborist advocates for preserving the tree's health, while our arborist has expressed concerns about its condition, citing heavy internal canopy pruning by the utility company, severe sun stress, and potential liability concerns. Since the tree is on neighboring property, our ability to take direct action is limited.

We propose finding a middle ground to allow the tree to be preserved, without limiting the reasonable development of the property.

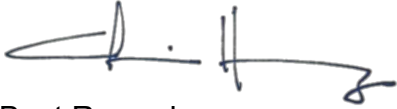
We proposed the following measures to protect the tree during construction:

- Minimizing root zone compaction by installing temporary protective fencing.
- Preserving existing grades by ensuring no grading occurs at the adjacent side yard driveway.
- Avoiding root zone disturbance by minimizing trenching within the critical root zone.
- Implementing a permeable driveway solution using Gravel Pave 2 mats placed on existing grade, topped with decorative, permeable gravel. This approach will prevent root zone compaction while providing water permeability and a stable surface for walking and driving. Although this is a residential application, the product is ADA-certified.
- Eliminating irrigation within the tree's root zone
- Contacting a qualified arborist to review any sub-grade root systems uncovered during construction
- Utilizing a foundation 'bridge' to avoid damage to any roots the arborist finds necessary for tree health.

- Carry out the duties of care for Heritage Oak Trees per Municipal Code for the Town Of Yountville section 177.128.100

The 31.5" Coast Live Oak on the southern neighbors side needs maintenance (see our Arborist report). We propose removing the building and deck that currently reside under the canopy. The same considerations for tree protections mentioned above to be applied to this tree as well.

As Landscape Architects we do the best to our ability to protect any tree that may be impacted by our work.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Christian Hedberg', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Best Regards,  
Christian Hedberg, PLA  
[cb@christinabarrettla.com](mailto:cb@christinabarrettla.com)  
707.312.0021

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**Re: [EXTERNAL] Preliminary on 2 Tallent Way**

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**From** Tony Wayne Wolcott <twhort2200@gmail.com>

**Date** Fri 1/31/2025 12:05 PM

**To** Kari Svanstrom <ksvanstrom@yville.com>



External (twhort2200@gmail.com)



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**Subject:** Review of Development Plans - Tree Protection Considerations

Dear Kari,

I have reviewed the two letters and arborist report regarding the proposed development. The plans show promising consideration for tree preservation, particularly the proposed permeable gravel surface within the Critical Root Zone and the relocation of utilities away from the valley oak. I would like to highlight a few important technical points for consideration:

First, regarding taxonomy: The specimen in question is specifically a valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), rather than a white oak. While *Q. lobata* belongs to the white oak subfamily, this distinction is important as "white oak" commonly refers to *Quercus alba*, an eastern species with different characteristics.

Second, concerning the coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) in the rear corner: This species requires particular attention due to its vulnerability to sun scald and conditions such as witches broom. Unlike the deciduous valley oak, which adapts well to full sun exposure, the evergreen coast live oak maintains a naturally shaded interior that must be protected.

Third, and most critically, the current language regarding "minimizing trenching within the critical root zone" requires strengthening. I recommend prohibiting all trenching within the chain link fence protecting the valley oak. Should work within the protected zone become absolutely necessary, it must be conducted under the direct supervision of either a Registered Certified Arborist Consultant or a Board Certified Master Arborist, with all digging performed by hand.

Please let me know if you need any clarification on these points.

Best regards,



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