

Appendix B:
Biological Resource Information



**BARRIE D. COATE
and ASSOCIATES**

Horticultural Consultants
23535 Summit Road
Los Gatos, CA 95033
408/353-1052

**An Evaluation of the Existing Trees
Classic Communities Development Project
36120 Ruschin Drive
Newark, California**

Prepared at the Request of:

Adam Kates

Mozart Development

akates@mozartdev.com

Scott Ward

Classic Communities

sward@mozartdev.com

Prepared by:

Michael L. Bench, Consulting Arborist

January 28, 2014

Job #01-14-2006



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Horticultural Consultants
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36120 Ruschin Drive
Newark, California**

Assignment

I was asked by Mr. Adam Kates, Project Manager, to prepare an evaluation of the existing trees on the existing commercial property at 36120 Ruschin, Newark California.

The map provided for this evaluation is a Conceptual Site Plan prepared by Bassenian Lagoni Architecture. I have marked the approximate locations of the existing trees on this map, which is included in the attachments.

Summary

There are 25 trees included in this survey. Round tree tags have been affixed to the trees with their assigned numbers for field reference. The numbers on the tags are 6965 through 6989, but only the last two digits are used in this report. Thus, trees are referenced in this report as Trees #65-89.

Methods

The trunk of each tree was measured using a standard measuring tape at 4 ½ feet above soil grade (referred to as DBH or Diameter at Breast Height), except those specimens whose form does not allow for a representative measurement at this height. The measurement for multi-stem specimens is taken below the lowest fork on the trunk when possible in accordance with the International Society of Arboriculture standards. The canopy height and spread are estimated using visual references only.

The condition of each tree was observed by visual assessment only from a standing position without climbing or using aerial equipment. No invasive equipment was used (a Class II examination). Consequently, it is possible that individual tree(s) may have internal defects, which are not detectable by visual inspection. Invasive exploratory inspection and analysis is beyond the scope of this evaluation.

Observations

I inspected the existing trees on January 28, 2014.

There are 24 trees on this property and 1 tree (Tree #80) located on an adjacent property, all of which may be impacted by proposed construction.

Trees #81-86 are located inside a locked chain-link fence enclosure, and Trees #87, 88, and 89 are located inside a courtyard between classroom buildings. I could not enter those areas and for that reason, I estimated the trunk measurements of those trees at a distance.

The 25 total trees are listed by number on the List of Trees, which follows this text. This list provides the basic information about each tree, including the species, trunk diameter, height, spread, health, and an estimate of structural integrity. The health and structural integrity is rated on a scale of 1-5: (1) Excellent, (2) Good, (3) Fair, (4) Poor, (5) Extremely Poor.

The property is a school site, which is no longer used as a school. Non-profit groups now use portions of the school. The exterior schoolyards and landscaped areas have been neglected, except for the mowing of weeds and other weed control.

The majority of the trees on this property are in fair to good health, but most have minor to severe structural weaknesses. Many of these weaknesses were created by poor pruning practices.

Comments About Individual Trees

The fruitless mulberry Trees #68-71 have been “Topped” numerous times at approximately 8 feet above grade. The new growth is weak and highly prone to failure. This is compounded by pockets of fungus disease around and between the pruning wounds on 3 of the trees. Trunk wounds also have decay pockets. These trees are not at the point of being considered hazardous, but they are not worth preserving.

Each of Trees #68, 69, 74, 75, 83, 84, and 85 have co-dominant leaders with imbedded bark. This naturally occurring genetic weakness often results in one of the leaders splitting apart from the trunk and falling. This flaw can usually be eliminated by proper pruning when the trees are young. These trees are well past the point of pruning to eliminate this risk. Pruning at this point may, however, reduce the risk. Cabling is the standard method, often combined with end-weight pruning. If any of these trees would be preserved, they would require the installation of cables, which is reasonably effective for this condition.

The neighboring Tree # 80 is a cypress. It is in good health. Its canopy extends onto this site by a few feet. Its root system no doubt also extends onto this site. To preserve this tree, it will be essential that no excavation or trenching be done within 8 feet of the trunk.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael L. Bench, Consulting Arborist

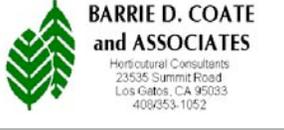


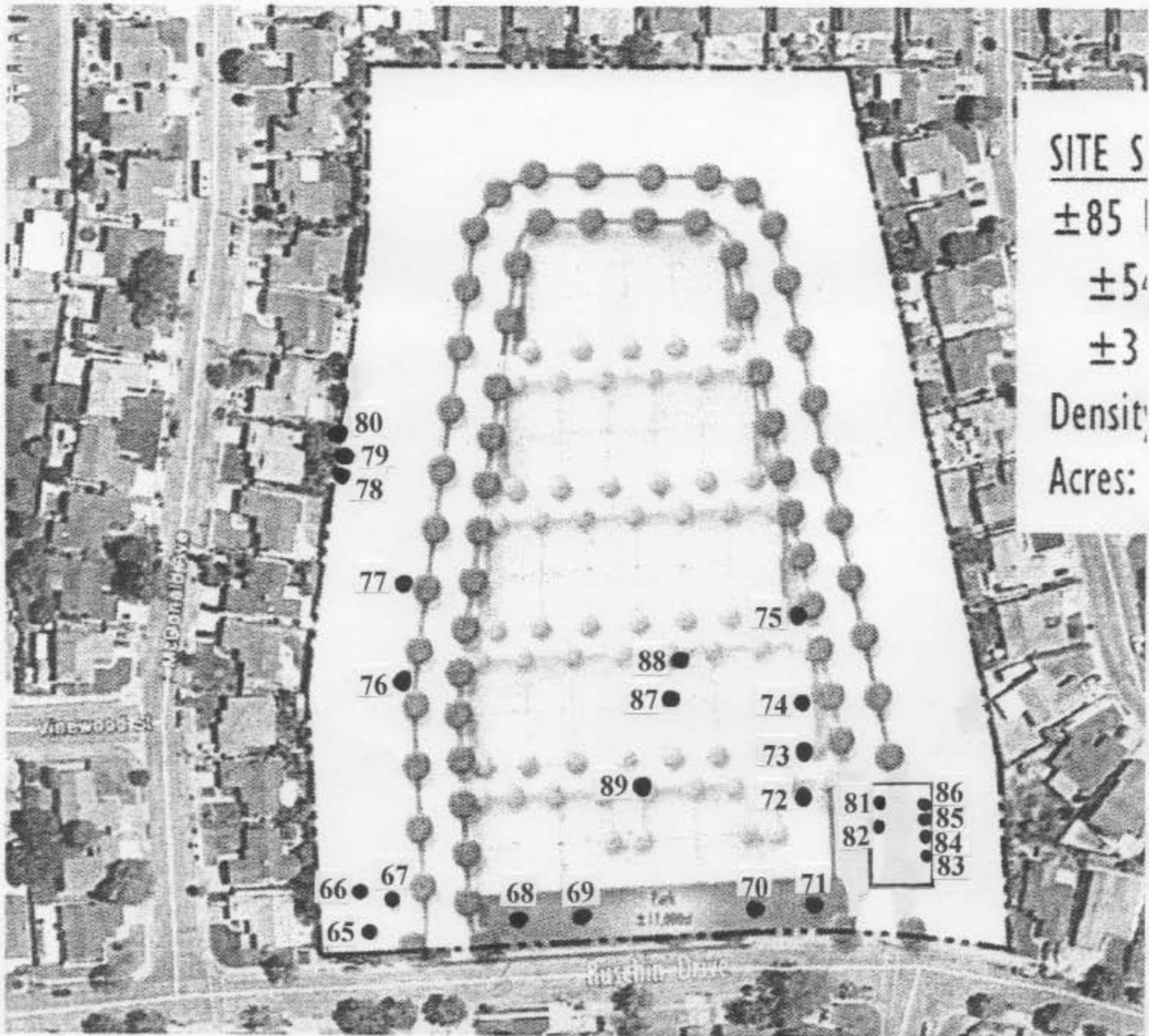
Barrie D. Coate, Principal

MLB/li

Enclosures: Assumptions and Limiting Conditions
Site Plan
Field Data Sheet

List of Trees

Field Data Sheet		Trunk Diameter In Inches	Canopy Height In Feet	Canopy Diameter In Feet	Health 1 - 5 = Good to Poor	Structure 1 - 5 = Good to Poor		DBH = Diameter at Breast Height = 54 inches Above Grade
 <p>BARRIE D. COATE and ASSOCIATES Horticultural Consultants 23535 Summit Road Los Gatos, CA 95033 408953-1052</p>								
Tree Name	DBH	Canopy Height	Canopy Spread	Health	Structural Integrity	Overall Condition	Notes	
65 Shamel or Evergreen Ash (<i>Fraxinus uhdei</i>)	38	75	50	1	3	Good	Co-Dominant Leaders with Imbedded Bark	
66 Shamel or Evergreen Ash	35	75	60	1	3	Good	Co-Dominant Leaders with Imbedded Bark	
67 Shamel or Evergreen Ash	4/3	15	15	1	4	Poor	Trunk Girdled	
68 Fruitless Mulberry (<i>Morus alba</i>)	18	25	25	1	4	Poor	Topped @ 8 feet	
69 Fruitless Mulberry	16	25	25	1	4	Poor	Topped @ 8 feet	
70 Fruitless Mulberry	15	25	25	1	4	Poor	Topped @ 8 feet	
71 Fruitless Mulberry	19	25	25	1	4	Poor	Topped @ 8 feet	
72 Modesto Ash (<i>Fraxinus velutina</i> 'Modesto')	21	30	35	1	3	Fair		
73 Modesto Ash	17	30	35	1	3	Fair		
74 Modesto Ash	24	30	40	1	4	Poor	Co-Dominant Leaders with Imbedded Bark	
75 Modesto Ash	21	30	30	1	4	Poor	Co-Dominant Leaders with Imbedded Bark	
76 Carob (<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i>)	11	10	15	1	2	Good		
77 Edible Plum (<i>Prunus cultivar</i>)	6	10	15	2	1	Good		
78 Wild Plum (<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>)	4/3/1	8	10	1	4	Very Poor	Topped @ 2 feet	
79 Wild Plum	7/7/6/5	12	15	1	3	Fair		
80 Cypress (<i>Cupressus species</i>)	18	20	25	1	2	Good		
81 Hollywood Juniper (<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Kaizuka')	10/10	10	15	1	1	Good		
82 Japanese Privet (<i>Ligustrum japonicum</i>)	10	15	15	2	2	Fair		
83 Blackwood Acacia (<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>)	7/6	25	15	1	4	Fair	Co-Dominant Leaders with Imbedded Bark	
84 Japanese Privet	6/6/5/4	15	25	2	4	Poor	Co-Dominant Leaders with Imbedded Bark	
85 Japanese Privet	5/5	15	15	2	3	Poor	Co-Dominant Leaders with Imbedded Bark	
86 Japanese Privet	5/4	15	10	2	4	Poor	Topped @ 2 feet	
87 Silk oak (<i>Grevillea robusta</i>)	19	65	35	1	3	Good		
88 Silk oak	15	65	30	1	3	Good		
89 Raywood ash (<i>Fraxinus oxycarpa</i> 'Raywood')	8	20	20	1	3	Good		



Tree Map
A Mark-Up of the Conceptual Survey Plan
Tree Locations Estimated
Site: Classic Communities Development
36120 Ruschin Drive
Newark, California
1-28-14
Prepared by Michael L. Bench,
Consulting Arborist
Barrie D. Coate and Associates

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