# ECTYPOS <br> ARCHITECTURE 

November 4, 2022

John Kenney, City Arborist
City of Mercer Island

Re: 6405 W. Mercer Way—memo supplemental to development proposal Arborist report.
Dear John,
This letter is supplemental to the Arborist Report prepared by Neal Baker for the referred development proposal. It is necessary because the intention of the Owners cannot be reconciled in the worksheets.

The project site is very heavily treed with an existing residence built in the 1960's. The proposed addition is on the main floor level. It is intended to support the elderly parents of the Owner, and therefore needs to be continuous with the main floor and require no stairs.

The allowed gross floor area for the site is $8,368.8$ SF. The proposed total gross floor area (existing and proposed) is 5,558 SF or $66 \%$ of allowed GFA. MICC 19.10.060.3(b)

Of (50) trees on the site, (7) are identified as exceptional plus (1) exceptional/hazardous. The Arborist Report and associated Tree Inventory is assuming the removal of (3) exceptional trees plus the hazardous tree. This is a "worst case scenario."

The Owners intention, however, is to retain (2) of the (3) proposed for removal. Tree \#10 is more than 10 ' from the face of foundations. The site plan shows the roof overhangs which make work seem much closer than it is. Tree \#50 is a little over 5' from proposed work, however there is an existing slab and corner of the house immediately adjacent to the tree and there has been no indication of upheaval or cracking of either as is often the case when large trees are adjacent to buildings or slabs. It is our belief, therefore, that significant roots have redirected from this area.

The Owners have gone to great lengths to retain these trees by distancing the project from \#50 and reducing scope to protect \#10. Furthermore they intend to air spade in the areas around the trees to verify the extent of the root system. Should roots be present in these areas the structural design has accounted for pipe piles and a grade beam (note \#4 S2.0).

We recognize that the removal of exceptional trees is not desirable for the City, nor is it for the Owners. We see the proposed removal of trees \#10 and \#50 as a worst case scenario. Should, however the trees be retained due to the above efforts, the number of replacement trees will be reduced by the associated number.

Best regards,


Lucia Pirzio-Biroli, AIA

# ArboristsNW, uc 

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1710 SW 318PL 44D Federal Way WA. 98023

RE: Morgan-Hornsby project<br>6405 We4st Mercer Way<br>Mercer Island, WA.<br>98040

What follows is a discussion of ArboristsNW LLC. findings regarding trees on the property. We will discuss the species' critical root zone/limits of disturbance, condition, and status-retention and or removal with long-term viability. In addition, methods used to reach conclusions, protect those trees retained, the reasoning for removals, impact on trees to remain. Finally, tree replacement species and maintenance for two calendar years, the reasoning for species choices and locations. All trees now sport metal numbered tags that correspond to the site survey.

The site is heavily wooded with various species; the main ones are Sequoias, Western Red Cedars, Douglas firs, and Maples. Critical root zones equate to the driplines as listed on the inventory. A measuring tape and range finder was used to determine the lines. Limits of disturbance are also set at these driplines. Six trees are proposed for removal due to their proximity to and inclusion in the building footprint, with two trees numbered 22-3 Big Leaf Maples included due to poor/hazardous conditions. Please note the included memo of client intent regarding the retention of trees slated for removal that are found at the time of excavation/start of construction viable after inspection by the project arborist who is to be onsite during excavation. Tree 12, the $32^{\prime \prime}$ DBH exceptional Sequoia, is the only tree that is in the footprint and will need to be removed as the project is designed.

Tree protection measures Fencing, mulching, and trunk wrapping to be the first activity before any other work on the project. The project arborist is to be on-site during installation.

A soil compaction meter was used along the length of the driveway at every tree with a dripline that extends over it. Readings exceeded 300psi at the driveway's surface, never piercing below $1-2^{\prime \prime}$. Two hundred and below is the optimal range for root growth, and along the driveway, the readings all were off the scale. It appears that the trees along the driveway have all grown after the drive was put in use, and compaction is near absolute. Trees $1,11,25-7$ all have roots growing to the edge of the drive and then along the run. Tree 1 is so close to the driveway that
it has developed a flat spot on the drive side of its trunk. T 1


Tree 1 above
Red lines show the direction of major root growth


Tree 11 has been subjected to this same compaction. In this case, it has developed extensive surface rooting to the east, away from the drive. The soil on the east side of the tree was easily penetrated to a depth of 1-1.5'. This tree will have its trunk wrapped for protection and then a layer of mulch on the exposed roots on the other three sides of the trunk. This mulch is to be 6$8^{\prime \prime}$ deep with plywood or expanded metal placed over the mulch to protect the surface roots and preserve the tree. Tree 11, pictured below.


With the level of compaction found along the driveway, it is our opinion that no root protection be placed on the driveway. Again, trees along the driveway will have their trunks wrapped in 2 X 4 s for protection again from stray traffic, and the tree fencing to be along the edges of the driveway.

Trees 22-3 are Big Leaf Maples in poor condition, the stumps have decay in them, and the crowns have large dead scaffold branches with significant deadwood. The main targets for these trees are the many utilities that run along the west side of West Mercer and West Mercer Way itself.
These trees are slated for removal and replacement.


Stump and crown of T 22 above.


Crown and stump of tree 23 above.

Trees 9, 10, 12, 50, and 50 are in good condition but slated for removal (again, reference tree retention memo). If they have any issue, it would be that they are overcrowded by the density of the stand.

Given the degree of tree protection outlined and that all the trees in the vicinity of the removals are blocked from the wind, they are assured to be viable for many years to come. All the tree west and south of the proposed work are either blocked by neighboring trees or have grown with the full force of the SW winds on them (trees on the west lawn) and so will not be adversely affected by any removals.

With the density of the canopy on the property, the trees selected as replacements are understory trees that will withstand the deep shading by that canopy. We have locations for the replacements, so they have a minimum of $10^{\prime}$ of spacing from any other tree. The species are Vine Maple, Serviceberry, Shore Pine, and Pacific Wax Myrtle. These trees will be fed after planting again in early spring and then after the first frost the following year. This schedule to be repeated for 5 years. Monthly observations are to begin in the spring and be repeated as climate conditions dictate. Supplementary watering and or monitoring for the need for added irrigation to begin in the first spring also. If supplemental irrigation becomes necessary, TreeGaters will be employed.

Respectfully Submitted


11-4-22
Neal Baker
ArboristsNW.com
ISA Cert. PN1075A
TRAQ ISA (Tree Risk Assessment Qualified)
Member AREA \& SOCA

## CITY OF MERCER ISLAND

COMMUNITY PLANNING \& DEVELOPMENT
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PHONE: 206.275.7605 \| www.mercergov.org

## MERCER ISLAND TREE INVENTORY \& REPLACEMENT SUBMITTAL INFORMATION

| PROJECT INFORMATION |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Property Owner |  |
| Name: | Morgan-Hornsby |
| Site Address or |  |
| Parcel Number: | 6405 West Mercer Way, Mercer Island, WA. 98040 |
| Project Contact |  |
| Name: | Neal Baker |
| Contact Email |  |
| Address: | Neal@ArboristsNW.com |
| Contact Phone |  |
| Number: | 2067792579 |

## EXCEPTIONAL TREES

Exceptional Trees- means a tree or group of trees that because of its unique historical, ecological or aesthetic value constitutes an important community resource. A tree that is rare or exceptional by virtue of its size, species, condition, cultural/historical importance, age, and/or contribution as part of a tree grove. Trees with a diameter of more than 36 inches, or with a diameter that is equal to or greater than the diameter listed in the Exceptional Tree Table shown in MICC 19.16 under Tree, Exceptional.

List the total number of trees for each category and the tree identification numbers from the arborist report.
Number of trees $36^{\prime \prime}$ or greater
2
List tree numbers: 34,50
Number of trees $24^{\prime \prime}$ or greater (including $36^{\prime \prime}$ or greater)14

List tree numbers: $\quad 1-3,10,12,22,25,27-8,34,44,46,50$

Number of trees from Exceptional Tree Table (MICC 19.16)
9
List tree numbers: $\quad 1,2,10,12,22,34,46,50$

## LARGE REGULATED TREES

Large Regulated Trees- means any tree with a diameter of 10 inches or more, and any tree that meets the definition of an Exceptional Tree.

| Number of Large Regulated Trees on site | 40 |
| :--- | :--- |
| List tree numbers: | $1-13,18-39,42,44-50$ |
|  | (A) |
| Number of Large Regulated Trees on site proposed for removal | 6 |
| List tree numbers: $\quad 9,10,12,22-3,50$ | 6 |

## Percentage of trees to be retained ((A-B)/Ax100) note: must be at least $\mathbf{3 0 \%}$

## RIGHT OF WAY TREES

Right of Way Trees- means a tree that is located in the street right of way adjacent to the project property.
Number of Large Regulated Trees in right of way
2

## List tree numbers: $16-7$

Number of Large Regulated Trees in right of way proposed for removal 0
List tree numbers:
Reason for removal: N/A

## TREE REPLACEMENT

Tree replacement- removed trees must be replaced based on the ratio in the table below. Replacement trees shall be conifers at least six feet tall and or deciduous at least one and one-half inches in diameter at base.

| Diameter of Removed Tree (measured 4.5' <br> above ground) | Tree <br> replacement <br> Ratio | Number of <br> Trees Proposed <br> for Removal | Number of Tree <br> Required for <br> Replacement Based <br> on Size/Type |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Less than $10^{\prime \prime *}$ | 1 |  | 4 |
| $10^{\prime \prime}$ up to $24^{\prime \prime}$ | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Greater than $24^{\prime \prime}$ up to 36" | 3 | 3 | 9 |
| Greater than $36^{\prime \prime}$ and any Exceptional Tree | 6 | 1 | 6 |
| TOTAL TREE REPLACEMENTS |  |  |  |

*no replacement tree is needed if the tree fits all of the following;
Less than 10 inches in diameter, not an exceptional tree, and not a replacement tree from another tree permit. *


