

### ECTYPOS 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, LLC

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RE: Morgan-Hornsby project 6405 We4st Mercer Way Mercer Island, WA. 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" 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". 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" 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 2X4s 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' 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, Tree-Gaters will be employed.

**Respectfully Submitted** 

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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**

9611 SE 36TH STREET | MERCER ISLAND, WA 98040 PHONE: 206.275.7605 | <u>www.mercergov.org</u>

### MERCER ISLAND TREE INVENTORY & REPLACEMENT SUBMITTAL INFORMATION

PROJECT INFORM	ATION
Property Owner Name:	
Site Address or Parcel Number:	
Project Contact Name:	
Contact Email Address:	
Contact Phone Number:	

### **EXCEPTIONAL TREES**

<u>Exceptional Trees</u>- 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" or greater

List tree numbers:

Number of trees 24" or greater (including 36" or greater)

List tree numbers:

Number of trees from Exceptional Tree Table (MICC 19.16)

List tree numbers:

#### LARGE REGULATED TREES

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<u>Large Regulated Trees</u>- 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		(A)
List tree numbers:		
Number of Large Regulated Trees on site proposed for removal List tree numbers:	6	(B)
Percentage of trees to be retained ((A-B)/Ax100) note: must be at least 30%	85	%
RIGHT OF WAY TREES		

### <u>Right of Way Trees</u>- means a tree that is located in the street right of way adjacent to the project property.

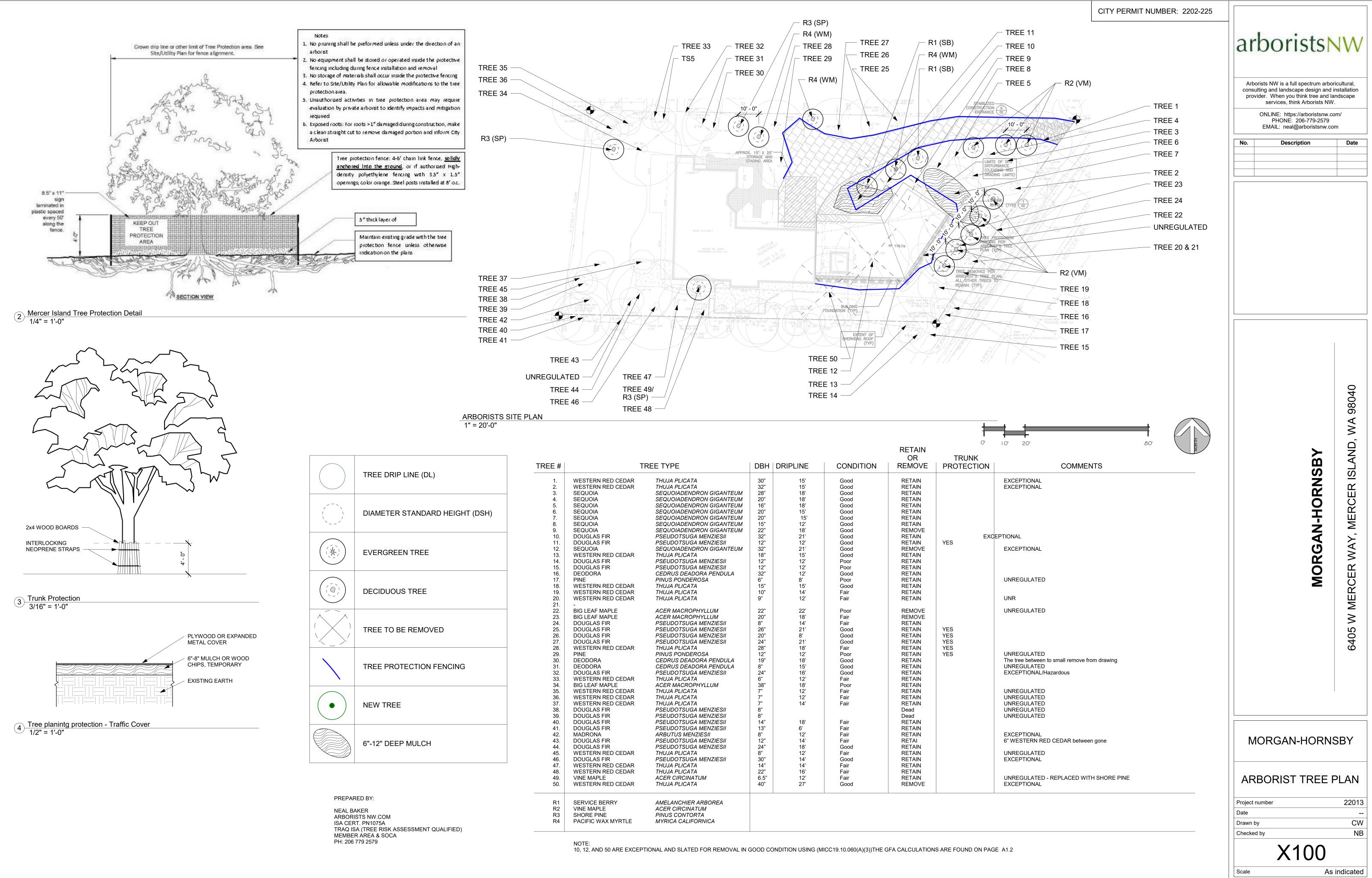
Number of Large Reg	ulated Trees in right of way 16-7	2
Number of Large Regulated Trees in right of way proposed for removal List tree numbers:		0
Reason for removal:	N/A	

### 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.

			Number of Tree	
	Tree	Number of	Required for	
Diameter of Removed Tree (measured 4.5'	replacement	Trees Proposed	Replacement Based	
above ground)	Ratio	for Removal	on Size/Type	
Less than 10"*	1			
10″ up to 24″	2	2	4	
Greater than 24" up to 36"	3	3	9	
Greater than 36" and any Exceptional Tree	6	1	6	
	TOTAL TRE	19		

\*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. \*



							RETAIN OR	TRUN
	TREE #	Т	REE TYPE	DBH	DRIPLINE	CONDITION	REMOVE	PROTECT
	1.	WESTERN RED CEDAR	THUJA PLICATA	30"	15'	Good	RETAIN	
	2.	WESTERN RED CEDAR	THUJA PLICATA	32"	15'	Good	RETAIN	
	3.	SEQUOIA SEQUOIA	SEQUOIADENDRON GIGANTEUM	28"	18' 18'	Good	RETAIN	
	4. 5.	SEQUOIA	SEQUOIADENDRON GIGANTEUM SEQUOIADENDRON GIGANTEUM	20" 16"	18'	Good Good	RETAIN RETAIN	
	6.	SEQUOIA	SEQUOIADENDRON GIGANTEUM	20"	15'	Good	RETAIN	
GHT (DSH)	7.	SEQUOIA	SEQUOIADENDRON GIGANTEUM	20"	15'	Good	RETAIN	
	8.	SEQUOIA	SEQUOIADENDRON GIGANTEUM	15"	12'	Good	RETAIN	
	9.	SEQUOIA	SEQUOIADENDRON GIGANTEUM	22"	18'	Good	REMOVE	
	10.	DOUGLAS FIR	PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII	32"	21'	Good	RETAIN	
	11.	DOUGLAS FIR	PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII	12"	12'	Good	RETAIN	YES
	12.	SEQUOIA	SEQUOIADENDRON GIGANTEUM	32"	21'	Good	REMOVE	
	13.	WESTERN RED CEDAR	THUJA PLICATA	18"	15'	Good	RETAIN	
	14.	DOUGLAS FIR	PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII	12"	12'	Poor	RETAIN	
	15.	DOUGLAS FIR	PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII	12"	12'	Poor	RETAIN	
	16.	DEODORA	CEDRUS DEADORA PENDULA	32"	12'	Good	RETAIN	
	17.	PINE	PINUS PONDEROSA	6"	8'	Poor	RETAIN	
	18.	WESTERN RED CEDAR	THUJA PLICATA	15"	15'	Good	RETAIN	
	19.	WESTERN RED CEDAR	THUJA PLICATA	10"	14'	Fair	RETAIN	
	20.	WESTERN RED CEDAR	THUJA PLICATA	9"	12'	Fair	RETAIN	
	21.			00"	00'	Deen	DEMOVE	
	22.	BIG LEAF MAPLE	ACER MACROPHYLLUM	22"	22' 18'	Poor	REMOVE	
	23. 24.	BIG LEAF MAPLE DOUGLAS FIR	ACER MACROPHYLLUM PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII	20" 8"	10	Fair Fair	REMOVE RETAIN	
	24. 25.	DOUGLAS FIR	PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII	0 26"	21'	Good	RETAIN	YES
	25.	DOUGLAS FIR	PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII	20"	8'	Good	RETAIN	YES
	20.	DOUGLAS FIR	PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII	24"	21'	Good	RETAIN	YES
	28.	WESTERN RED CEDAR	THUJA PLICATA	28"	18'	Fair	RETAIN	YES
	29.	PINE	PINUS PONDEROSA	12"	12'	Poor	RETAIN	YES
	30.	DEODORA	CEDRUS DEADORA PENDULA	19"	18'	Good	RETAIN	120
NG	31.	DEODORA	CEDRUS DEADORA PENDULA	8"	15'	Good	RETAIN	
	32.	DOUGLAS FIR	PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII	24"	16'	Good	RETAIN	
	33.	WESTERN RED CEDAR	THUJA PLICATA	6"	12'	Fair	RETAIN	
	34.	BIG LEAF MAPLE	ACER MACROPHYLLUM	38"	18'	Poor	RETAIN	
	35.	WESTERN RED CEDAR	THUJA PLICATA	7"	12'	Fair	RETAIN	
	36.	WESTERN RED CEDAR	THUJA PLICATA	7"	12'	Fair	RETAIN	
	37.	WESTERN RED CEDAR	THUJA PLICATA	7"	14'	Fair	RETAIN	
	38.	DOUGLAS FIR	PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII	8"			Dead	
	39.	DOUGLAS FIR	PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII	8"			Dead	
	40.	DOUGLAS FIR	PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII	14"	18'	Fair	RETAIN	
	41.	DOUGLAS FIR	PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII	13"	6'	Fair	RETAIN	
	42.	MADRONA	ARBUTUS MENZIESII	8"	12'	Fair	RETAIN	
	43.	DOUGLAS FIR	PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII	12"	14'	Fair	RETAI	
	44.	DOUGLAS FIR	PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII	24"	18'	Good	RETAIN	
	45.	WESTERN RED CEDAR	THUJA PLICATA PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII	8" 20"	12'	Fair	RETAIN	
	46. 47.	DOUGLAS FIR WESTERN RED CEDAR	PSEUDOTSUGA MENZIESII THUJA PLICATA	30" 14"	14' 14'	Good Fair	RETAIN RETAIN	
	47. 48.	WESTERN RED CEDAR	THUJA PLICATA	22"	14	Fair	RETAIN	
	40.	VINE MAPLE	ACER CIRCINATUM	6.5"	12'	Fair	RETAIN	
	49. 50.	WESTERN RED CEDAR	THUJA PLICATA	40"	27'	Good	REMOVE	
		SERVICE BERRY	AMELANCHIER ARBOREA		1	1	1	1
	R2	VINE MAPLE	ACER CIRCINATUM					
	R3	SHORE PINE	PINUS CONTORTA					
	R4	PACIFIC WAX MYRTLE	MYRICA CALIFORNICA					
ED)								