



HeritagePreservation AP &lt;heritagepreservation@sunnyvale.ca.gov&gt;

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## Butcher's Corner 300 year old valley oak

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**Martin Landzaat**

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Wed, Apr 27, 2016 at 11:01 AM

To: "HeritagePreservation@sunnyvale.ca.gov" &lt;HeritagePreservation@sunnyvale.ca.gov&gt;

Cc: Martin Landzaat

Dear Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) Members,

I asked the city council to add the 300 year old valley oak at Butcher's Corner to the heritage resource inventory at their meeting on Feb-09-2016. Council Member Whittum asked the Mayor to put my request on the city council agenda. According to Council Member Whittum, the Mayor would prefer that I ask the HPC to review my request. I am attaching the PowerPoint slides I used at the City Council meeting. A video of the City Council meeting is available at [http://sunnyvaleca.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view\\_id=4&clip\\_id=1857](http://sunnyvaleca.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=4&clip_id=1857), my presentation starts at 00:27:30.

Here's a link to the section of the municipal code, [19.96.060](#) that explains how the process works. The HPC can initiate an application to add the valley oak to the heritage resource inventory. I urge you to start the process at your next meeting.

Regards,

Martin Landzaat

Sunnyvale, CA



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**M. Landzaat Feb-09 Public Comments-Version 1.pptx**

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HeritagePreservation AP &lt;heritagepreservation@sunnyvale.ca.gov&gt;

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## Agenda Item Request - May 4 Meeting

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Wed, Apr 27, 2016 at 11:38 AM

To: HeritagePreservation@sunnyvale.ca.gov

Heritage Preservation Commissioners,

I would like to add an item to the May 4, 2016 agenda.

I am requesting that the commission begin the application process to designate the grove of oak trees at El Camino Real and Wolfe Road (Butcher's Corner) as heritage trees. An arborist report is available and these trees are healthy and are protected because of their age and size. They qualify as heritage trees because of their location.

The Sunnyvale Municipal Code 19.96.050 Criteria for evaluation and nomination of heritage resources, item (f), states that a tree may be designated a heritage resource if "It has a unique location or singular physical characteristic or is a view or vista representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the city of Sunnyvale."

The group of trees on the corner is a familiar visual feature of the neighborhood and the city. Protection of the trees would maintain the established vista at this busy intersection. It would also preserve one of the few remaining areas along El Camino that have large trees.

I have been informed that the Heritage Preservation Commission can initiate the process with the goal of approval by the City Council.

Thank you,  
Mary Brunkhorst



HeritagePreservation AP &lt;heritagepreservation@sunnyvale.ca.gov&gt;

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## Heritage Oaks at Butcher's Corner

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Thu, May 5, 2016 at 9:29 AM

To: ael-hajj@sunnyvale.ca.gov, heritagepreservation@sunnyvale.ca.gov

Amber,

Here is some background on the oak trees at Butcher's Corner regarding condition and age. Hopefully this information will prove useful as you prepare your report.

First, two separate requests were made at the meeting and should be considered as two requests.

Martin requested that the one large oak tree (#106) be designated as a heritage tree.

I requested that the oak grove on the corner of Wolfe and El Camino be designated as heritage trees (#119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 126). I will discuss the oak grove.

I am referencing the Butcher's Corner DEIR, as they have numbered and evaluated the trees. The DEIR also provides a bit of background on the trees.

I want to point out that my initial questions to you date back to October 29, 2015, right after this property was annexed into the city (on October 13). It was the annexation that prompted my actions. The fact that the trees have been targeted for removal as part of the Butcher's Corner project simply adds urgency to the request. On the plus side, the DEIR and arborist report that were prepared for the project have provided supporting data.

History of the Trees - In the video listed below, Audrey Butcher explains how she planted a number of the oak trees near the corner fifty or more years ago. In the video from 2007, she said that she planted them over forty years earlier (which would make them over fifty today).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrRhWVFLXJg>

DEIR - Appendix E - Arborist Report and Biological Resources Data -

The Tree Assessment Plan identifies the location and condition of the trees of interest. The grove of trees are listed as protected trees in good condition with a moderate suitability for preservation. The trees are healthy.

DEIR - Within the DEIR, Section 4.0 Biological Resources - Under the BIO-2 discussion (page 4.3-14), it is stated that "Of particular interest is a grove of mature native coast live oaks near the intersection of El Camino Real and Wolfe Road that contribute to the aesthetic and habitat values of the site. These consist of five mature coast live oaks (Trees #119, 120, 121, 123, and 126), all of which are of a protected tree size, are in good to excellent condition and have a moderate suitability for preservation according to the Preliminary Tree Report."

DEIR Project Info - The arborists report lists the trees as healthy and they are expected to live a long life. Despite the health of the trees, and the stated interest in the trees, the proposed project would basically raze the property and remove 245 trees, while saving only one tree.

Heritage Worthy -

The group of oak trees at the corner of Wolfe Road and El Camino Real qualify as heritage trees. The Sunnyvale Municipal Code 19.96.050 Criteria for evaluation and nomination of heritage resources, item (f), states that a tree may be designated a heritage resource if "It has a unique location or singular physical characteristic or is a view or vista representing an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the city of Sunnyvale."

The group of trees on the corner is a familiar visual feature of the neighborhood and the city. Protection of the trees would maintain the established vista at this busy intersection. It would also preserve one of the few remaining areas along El Camino that have large trees.

As development encroaches on that area, preserving the trees is an important step to saving the visual feature

and will benefit both the neighbors and the city. Removal of these trees would greatly alter the look and feel of the area, and they should be protected. Adding a heritage tree status should add an extra layer of approvals required to receive a tree removal permit.

I am requesting that the oak grove be declared heritage trees on their own merit, not simply because of this project. This designation should move forward regardless of the project, as the project may change as it goes through the review process.

Please let me know if there is any other data you need. I might have something in the various documents I have accumulated.

Please pass this information on to the Heritage Preservation Commission members.

Thank you,  
Mary Brunkhorst