



9/14/15

Bob McKee St. Luke Lutheran Church
1025 The Dalles Ave.
Sunnyvale, CA 94087

Re: **Blue Oak Tree House**

To Whom It May Concern:

Assignment

It was my assignment to inspect the Blue Oak (*Quercus douglasii* – see image to right), advise on the proposed deck and “tree house” and make recommendations for the care of this tree.



Summary

This tree is in good health and has a Fair Structure. With careful preparation, thoughtful placement of the piers, and a smart contractor I believe this structure can be installed and the tree will be able to continue to thrive.

<u>KEY</u>	<u>Health</u>	<u>Structure</u>
Good	excellent/vigorous	flawless
Fair/good	healthy	very stable
Fair	fair	routine maintenance needed
Fair/poor	declining	mitigation needed
Poor	dead or near dead	hazard

Discussion

The Blue Oak is located on the side of the building and is currently in Good Health with a Fair Structure. This tree is approximately 60' tall and wide. The tree currently has several old cables in it to help prevent major limb failures. This tree needs end weight reduction pruning all over,

and the installation of 3 cables to help prevent limb failures at this time. With this work the tree will be more stable overall.

Additionally, to help improve the overall health of this tree, I recommend:

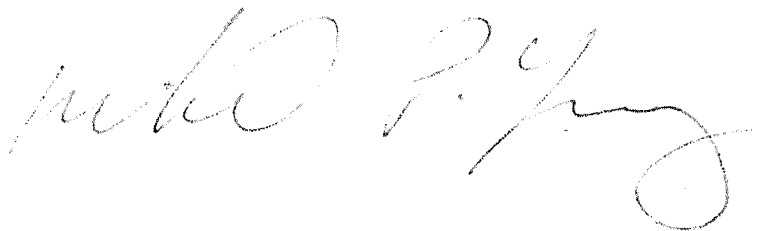
1. All of the soil under this tree is aerated.
2. All bare soils are covered with 10" of chipped tree trimmings, keeping the root collar free of debris.
3. The Root Collar is excavated and left open.
4. All bare soils under the tree are irrigated to a soil depth of 24" once/month during the dry season, in perpetuity.
5. The foliage of the tree is treated for insect or fungal pathogens as they arise.

In order to best plan the development around the structure near the tree I recommend:

1. The engineer visit the site, learn where the main buttress roots of the tree are expected to be, and plan to *not* put piers in these locations.
2. Once the engineers gives preliminary instructions on pier locations, the top 24" of the soil shall be carefully hand dug to determine if there are any significant roots (at the pier locations). All roots ~~2" diameter +~~ must be preserved in this discovery process. If roots 2" diameter + are discovered than pier locations must be moved to avoid such roots.
3. Once it is determined the piers can be drilled than a track driven drilling rig must be employed to drill the piers. If the drilling will happen during the winter months than steel plates must be placed over the mulch in order to prevent soil compaction. Driving repeatedly over the root system is unacceptable. Branches must be avoided by the drilling rig.
4. The whole work site must be treated with care, because there is a living root system under the tree. This root system is critical to the survival of the tree, especially during construction. A smart contractor must be selected that will respect the tree roots.
5. Furthermore, no materials may be stored, mixed, or dumped under the tree.
6. I should review the pier locations and the pier digging processes.

Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael P. Young". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Michael P. Young