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September 22, 2010

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Friel
311 Eureka St.
San Francisco, CA 94114

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Friel,

On September 3, 2010, I visually inspected the north neighbor's Monterey cypress, *Cupressus macrocarpa*. The tree has an estimated diameter at 54 inches above grade of 30 inches.

The existing house is to be removed and a new four-story structure will replace it. The purpose of this inspection was to determine tree health and structure. The tree is about 12 feet from the fence/property line, but still overhangs the property by 15 feet or more. The tree forks at about 18 feet into three tops which are thick and heavy. Trees with multiple tops and heavy canopies are more at risk of failure.

There are two main concerns regarding construction impacts to the cypress. The first will be to the roots from foundation excavation. A general recommended foundation that is root friendly is a pier-and-grade beam system. I do not know if this is accepted in San Francisco and/or how deep the grade beams need to be to be earthquake proof. Hand dig the upper 18 inches of the pier hole and move position if roots 3 inches in diameter or larger are encountered.

Prevailing winds generally come from the north or west. This means that minor root cutting on the south side will not have significant impact to tree support, as root cutting will be at least 10 feet away from the trunk. The existing foundation may have deflected roots east and west and back northward or downward. Therefore, placing the new foundation in the same footprint may not be too damaging to roots.

The second concern is with overhanging limbs. It appears that 2 to 4 limbs may require removing. This, of course, depends on the actual roof height and slope. There may be the need for some minor small limb removal for clearance.

I recommend that extreme care be taken so that tree impacts are reduced from demolition of the existing building. Placing lumber around the trunk can reduce physical bark damage from falling debris.