





*"Dedicated to the Protection and Preservation of Trees"*

December 15, 2011

Marny Randall  
Development Consulting/Landscape Design  
909 Euclid #6  
Santa Monica, CA 90403

RE: "Whole Foods In The Park" Project (Sycamore Trunks), Malibu, CA

At the request of Ms. Randall, on 12-6-11, at 2:30PM, I inspected a number of California Sycamore trees (*Platanus racemosa*) located in or near the footprint of the planned "Whole Foods" project at the intersection of Civic Center Way and Cross Creek Road. I was asked to review the tree report prepared by Christopher A. Joseph & Associates and to inspect the sycamore trees to determine the exact number of trees that will require the 10:1 replant mitigation.

### **FINDINGS**

**A.** Walking northward from the access gate on Civic Center Way, the first grouping or stand of sycamore trees encountered were those found in **Figure 5**. **This stand is comprised of three (#'s 1, 2 & 3) California Sycamores (two with multi-trunks (two stems each) and one single-trunk as shown in the original report (Christopher Joseph & Assoc.). Figure 5: There are three trees to be mitigated.**

**B.** The next grouping of sycamore trees is referred to in **Figure 4**. The report lists four (#'s 4, 5, 6 & 7) California Sycamore trees (two with multi-trunks (one @ 4 stems and one @ 2 stems and two with single-trunks). My inspection revealed that this stand is remnant regrowth, originating from the stump of a giant old sycamore that has long since died and decayed away (see Photo Page #1). There are seven visible trunks and one additional stem that either died or fell away (now gone). These are growing in a circular pattern having originated from the buttress flare of the parent tree (see Drawing A). I have observed this phenomenon (also known as "natural coppicing") in several redwood groves in northern California and Canyon Live Oak groves in the eastern Sierra. It is commonly found at the bases of ancient California Live Oaks as well. It is apparent to me that this seven-stem multi is one tree, having grown directly from the stump of a single tree. Note: Additionally, there is one stand-alone stem (#4) separated from the coppice.

## FINDINGS (Cont'd)

**B.** Cont'd) I excavated between the five stems along the east side of the coppice and found them to be fused or joined. This is typically how a determination is made whether a tree is a multi-trunk or a single-trunk). I did not find that stem #7 (tagged) and its closest associated stem (26" dia.) to be joined with stem #5. Based on my investigation, it may be reasonable (for mitigation purposes) to categorize this coppice as **one single tree** (one @ 7 stems).

**Figure 4: There are two trees to be mitigated.**

**C.** The third recorded stand is shown in **Figure 3** (see Photo Page #2). It is comprised five stems or trunks. There is a single tree standing 18' away from four others (#12). It is obviously a single tree. The remaining four trees may have originated from the base of a single "parent" stump. I found stem #'s 10 and 11 to be fused (see Drawing B). I also found stem #11 to be fused to stem#8. There are remnants of a missing stem between these two. All three are fused or grown together. I would term these three stems (one visible at ground level only) as one tree. I did not find that stem #8 and stem #9 were fused. This tree (#9) could then be categorized as one tree. In my opinion, **this stand can be considered as two separate trees.**

**Figure 3: There are three trees to be mitigated.**

## CONCLUSION

It is apparent to me that the California Sycamore coppice found in Figure 4, is one tree, having originated from a single large tree. It appears that the stand of sycamores found in Figure 3 comprise two trees. I have relied on the standard methodology of determining multi-trunk trees from single-trunk trees, that of excavation to see if stems are joined or fused below ground.



Robert W. Wallace  
Registered Consulting Arborist

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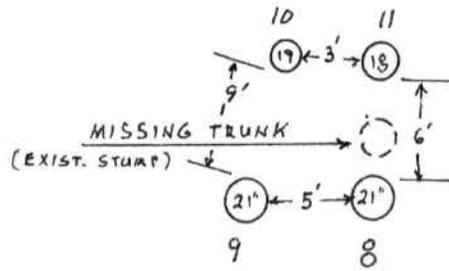


FIGURE 3

TRUNKS 8 10 & 11 ARE FUSED

DRAWING B

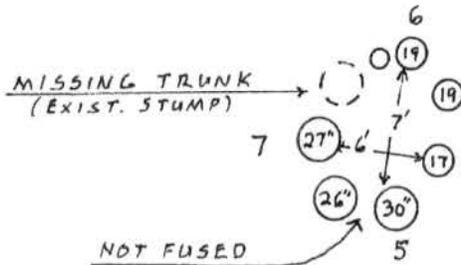


FIGURE 4

NOT FUSED  
ALL OTHER STEMS ARE FUSED (JOINED)

DRAWING A

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4



Photo #1 - Looking westward - This stand of sycamores is an example of a natural coppice (originating from a single parent tree).

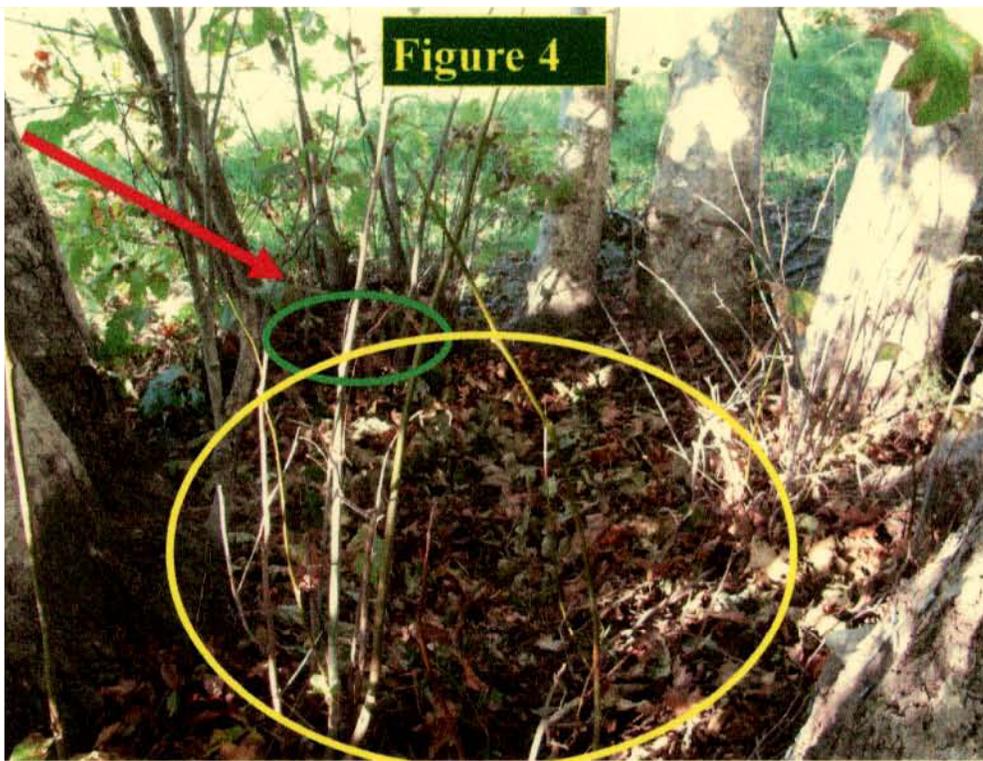


Photo #2 - Center of the coppice (yellow circle). The green circle shows lesser example of a coppice of suckers surround a missing trunk.

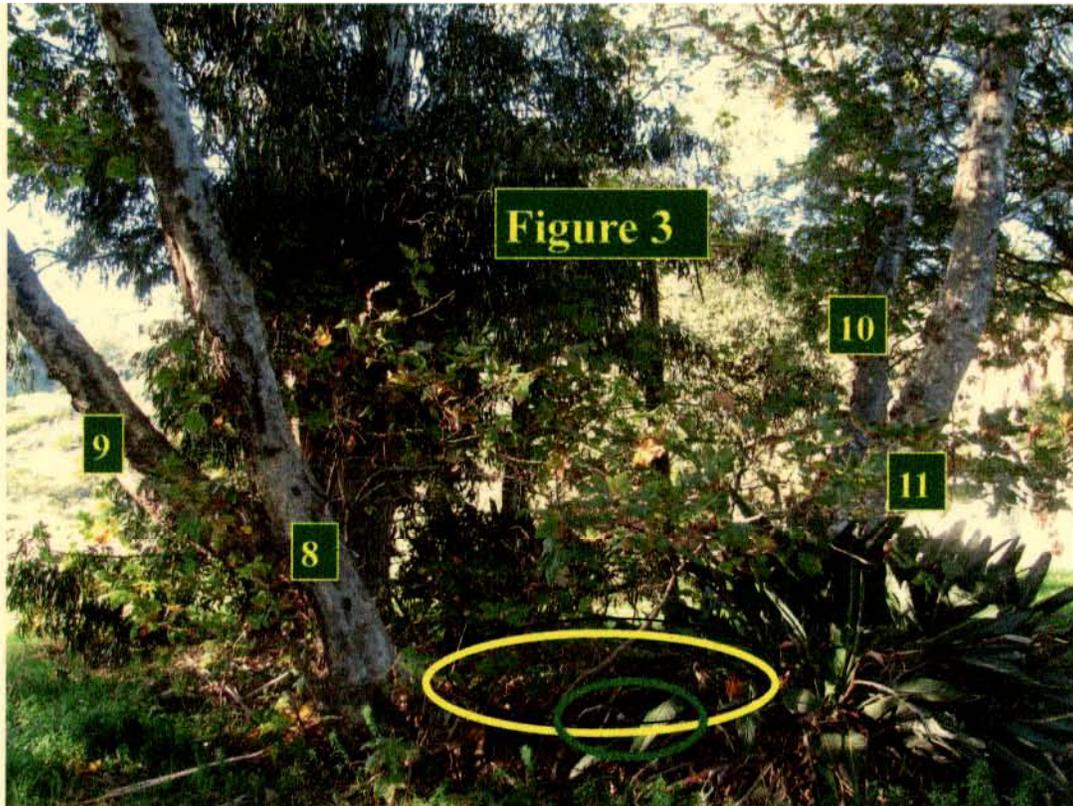


Photo #3 - Looking westward - There are four trunks that appear to originating from a single trunk (yellow ring). The green ring shows location of missing trunk.

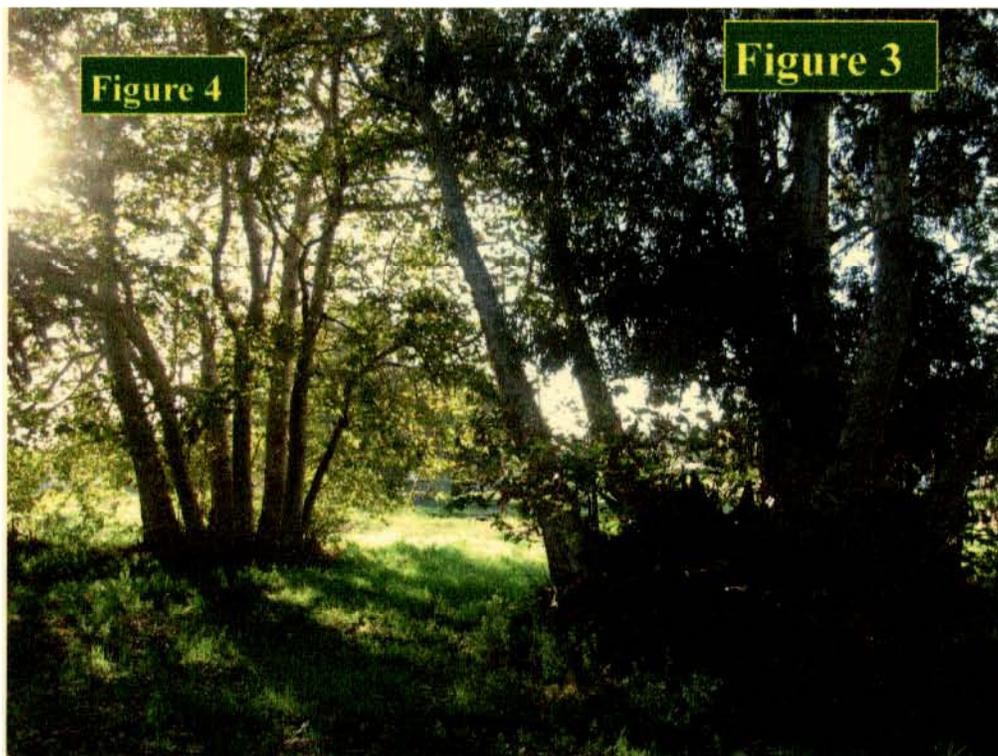


Photo #4 - Looking westward at two groupings of sycamore stems (each a natural coppice).

Pacific Northwest Chapter  
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 International Society of Arboriculture

**Certified Tree Risk Assessor**

*Robert W. Wallace*  
 signature

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This Certifies that  
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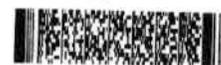


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### **DEGREE AND LICENSES**

Certified Tree Risk Assessor #1224 (2011-2015)  
Registered Consulting Arborist – (1990 to Present)  
Board Certified Master Arborist (2008- Present)  
Certified Crop Advisor - California/National - (2001-Present)  
California State licensed Pest Control Advisor (1979-Present)  
International Society of Arboriculture - Certified Arborist (since 1989)  
California Pesticide Applicator's license (1979-Present)  
A.S. Degree in Horticulture - Pierce Junior College, Woodland Hills, California (1982)  
Qualified as a Tree Surgeon by the City of Los Angeles – 1969 & 1989

### **AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS**

Owner Tree Life Concern, Inc. – 1989 to present  
Member American Society of Consulting Arborists - 1990  
Member California Agricultural Production Consultants Assoc. - 1979  
Member California Native Plant Society  
Member California Oak Foundation  
Member Professional Association of Pesticide Applicators  
Member Western Chapter International Society of Arboriculture - 1989

### **PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION**

City of Beverly Hills Tree Expert  
County of Los Angeles Oak Tree Consultant  
City of Los Angeles Qualified Oak Tree Experts  
City of Santa Clarita Oak Tree Consultant  
City of Calabasas Oak Tree Consultant  
Faculty Member Learning Tree University, Chatsworth, CA., Classes taught;  
(1991-1994) Preserving the California Oak Tree, Environmentally Safe  
Pest Control, Tree Pruning  
Tree People (Los Angeles) Lecturer (Pruning, Insect and Disease I.D.)  
Monitor "Tree Hotline"  
Seminar speaker Professional Assoc. of Pesticide Applicators (PAPA)  
WCISA Regional Conference (Common Pests in So. Cal. &  
Oak Tree Issues) – Tree Risk Assessment Seminar (LAC)  
ASCA 2005 Annual Conference -

### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

1989 - Present Arboricultural Consultant/Owner Tree Life Concern, Inc.  
Expert Witness and Litigation Consultant  
1993 - 2001 City Arborist Consultant (1 of 4) - City of Calabasas, CA  
1979 - 1989 Owner/Operator Wagner Pest Control Company - Diagnosis  
and treatment of insect, disease, weed, and nutrient deficiency  
problems for large estate landscapes, corporations,  
and residential properties; horticultural consultant, tree pruning  
and support systems  
1978 - 1979 Foreman - Line Clearing Crew, Farrens Tree Surgeons, GA  
1975 - 1978 Tree Trimmer Working Foreman, City of Los Angeles, CA  
1974 - 1975 Tree Surgeon - City of Los Angeles  
1970 - 1974 USAF  
1969 - 1970 Tree Surgeon - City of Los Angeles  
1968 - 1969 Tree Trimmer Assistant - City of Los Angeles  
1958 - 1968 Groundman - Family Tree Business, Canoga Park, CA