



744-3921

Received  
by  
City Clerk's Office  
12/28/06  
*[Signature]*

**MEMORANDUM**

December 28, 2006

To: Mark Jomsky ✓  
From: Sid Tyler  
Re: **Private Tree Removal - PLN2006-00617**

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Mark:

Per your request, I wish to have this item placed on the Council Agenda for consideration of a review by the Board of Zoning Appeals. Thank you.

*[Signature: Sid Tyler]*



PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
PLANNING DIVISION

December 18, 2006

Ms. Frine Flores  
Properties International, Agent for 366 South Mentor LLC  
175 N. Lake Ave., Suite 208  
Pasadena, CA 91101

**RE: NOTICE OF DECISION Application for Private Tree Removal  
366 South Mentor – PLN2006-00617**

Dear Ms. Flores:

Your application for the removal of a protected tree under the provisions of the Pasadena Municipal Code (§8.52.070 and 8.52.075) was reviewed by the Planning and Development Department. This was an application requesting permission for the following:

**Removal of a Cinnamomum camphora (Camphor) with a 33.5-inch diameter breast height (dbh), a height of 40 feet, and a 55-foot spread.**

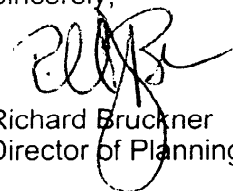
After careful consideration of this application, and with full knowledge of the property and vicinity, the finding in Attachment A to this letter has been adopted. Based upon this finding, the application is hereby **approved**.

This decision becomes effective on **Friday, December 29, 2006**. Before the effective date, the City Council or the Planning Commission may call for a review of this decision. In addition, you or any interested person may appeal this decision to the Board of Zoning Appeals before the effective date by filing an appeal in writing. Appeal applications must cite a reason for objecting to a decision. The regular appeal fee is \$200.85. The appeal fee for non-profit community-based organizations pre-registered with Neighborhood Connections is \$100.43

This approval expires two years from the effective date. The approval period may be extended once — for a third and final year — by filing a written request and paying a fee with the Director of Planning and Development before the expiration of the two-year effective date.

For further information regarding this case, please contact Emily Stadnicki at (626) 744-4342.

Sincerely,

*JRF*  


Richard Bruckner  
Director of Planning and Development

Attach: A. Findings of Fact for Tree Removal  
B. Arborist Report prepared by Land Design Consultants

cc: Code Enforcement, Case File (PLN#2006-00617), 2006 Reading File; Case File; Planning Commission (9); City Council; Forestry Operations; Betty Anderson

Flores  
Request for Private Tree Removal  
December 18, 2006  
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**ATTACHMENT A  
FINDING OF FACT FOR TREE REMOVAL**

*There is an objective feature of the tree that makes the tree not suitable for the protections of this chapter.* The certified arborist evaluation found that although the *Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor) has significant decay and termite infestation, the tree is not thought to be in imminent danger of failure. However, the subject tree is located on the property line and the roots are causing significant uplift to the neighboring driveway and the destruction of a portion of a cinder block wall. The continued growth of this tree will exacerbate these conditions. Furthermore, complete repairs to the adjacent driveway would require significant root removal and could compromise the health and stability of the tree.

Staff Use  
**Tree Evaluation Form**

Site Address: 366 S. Mentor Avenue Cross Street: Del Mar  
Zoning Designation: N/A Parcel Number: N/A  
Activity/Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Inspection: 11-21-06  
Inspector: TMG  
ASCA/ISA Certified Arborist #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**TREE CHARACTERISTICS:**

Species: Cinnamomum camphora Camphor  
Genus Species 'Cultivar' Common Name

Tree ID#: NA DBH: 33.5 # of trunks: 1 Height: 40 Spread: Max 55'

Status:  landmark  specimen  native  street tree  other public tree

Form:  generally symmetric  major asymmetry  stump sprout  stag-headed

Age:  young  semi-mature  mature  over-mature/senescent

Pruning:  lion-tailed  crown raised  topped  multiple pruning events

cabled/braced  flush cuts  pollarded  excessively thinned  none

Amount of Deadwood:  0-10%  11-20%  21-30%  over 30%

Location & Extent of Decay: Decay noted in buttress where a buttress root had been historically removed. Additional decay noted in pruned branches indicating that there may be significant decay in the trunk of the tree. Termites are also noted in the buttress cut.

Known History of Failure: None

Pests or Diseases: Termites observed in the buttress cut and other exposed wood.

Other Inspections:  Decay Test  Canopy Inspection  Root Crown Excavation (limited)

General Condition Rating:  Very Poor  Poor  Good  Very Good  Excellent

Recommendation for Removal:  Deny Removal  Recommend removal (state reasons below)

Tree Condition Summary : Though there is decay and termite infestation in the trunk of the tree, camphor trees are quite resilient and these probably are not a threat to the survival of the tree. The tree appears to have been regularly trimmed and does not support excess dead wood or an excessively heavy canopy. The recommendation to deny removal is based only on the health of the tree, and indicates that the tree is not thought to be in imminent danger of failure and is not a threat to life or property due to sudden failure

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**SITE CONDITIONS**

Owner:  Public  Private  Unknown  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Year Site Developed: \_\_\_\_\_ Historic Register:  yes  no

Site Use:  residence  commercial  natural area  park  Institutional

industrial  open space  other \_\_\_\_\_

Tree Location:  Front yard  Rear yard  Side yard  Corner-side yard

Public-right-of-way     Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

**Landscape Type:**  lawn     shrub area     natural hillside     parkway     courtyard  
 other: English ivy landscape area.

**Surroundings:**  Tree overhangs/extends to adjacent property

**Irrigation conditions:**     none     adequate     inadequate     excessive     trunk wetted

**Irrigation type:**  spray     drip     automatic     manual     other

**Site Disturbance:**  none     soil     grade change     construction     chemical

% dripline paved 60 % dripline w/fill soil \_\_\_\_\_ % dripline with grade lowered \_\_\_\_\_

**Soil Problems:**     none     drainage     shallow     compacted     saline  
                           alkaline     acidic             clay             expansive

**Slope:**  none     hillside under 20%     hillside over 20%    Slope aspect \_\_\_\_\_

**Site prone to wind:**  yes     no            **Prevailing wind direction:** Protected by adjacent buildings

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**PROJECT:**

**Violations:**     Removal without permit     Severe injury     Landmark pruning no permit  
                           No protection fencing     Construction material/waste in root protection zone  
                           Grade change     Roots severed/exposed     Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Refer to (date):**     Code Enforcement \_\_\_\_\_     City Prosecutor \_\_\_\_\_  
                           Police Department \_\_\_\_\_     City Manager \_\_\_\_\_  
                           Arborist \_\_\_\_\_     Other \_\_\_\_\_

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**GENERAL COMMENTS**

This tree is a large, generally healthy tree, with good symmetrical growth form and a well distributed and professionally trimmed canopy. The tree exhibits decay in a moderate sized lower branch and in the buttress. These exposed decay points indicate that there may be a substantial column of decay in the trunk of the tree. However, camphor trees are quite resilient and the large size combined with good growth form and well pruned canopy lead to the conclusion that the tree is not in immediate danger of catastrophic failure of limbs or trunk.

Conversely, the tree is causing significant uplift to the neighboring driveway and has caused the destruction of a portion of a low boundary wall constructed of cinder block. The tree trunk reduces the usable portion of the adjacent driveway. This tree is just over three feet in diameter but camphor trees may reach diameters in excess of six feet. The continued growth of this tree will further impact the adjacent driveway and boundary wall. In addition, complete repairs to the adjacent driveway would require significant root removal and could compromise the health and stability of the tree.

**Attachments:**  None     Location Map     Site Plan     Photographic Record     Arborist Letter/ Report     Other: E-mail transmittal.

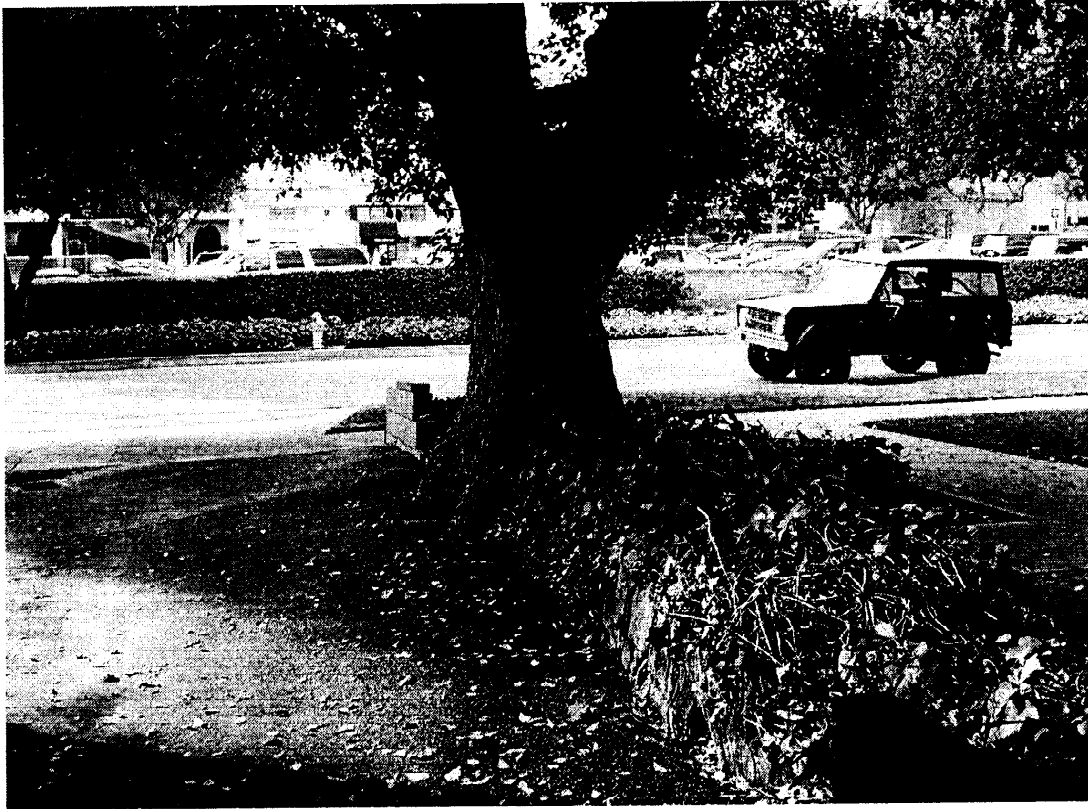


Photo illustrating driveway and wall impacts.



Photo illustrating buttress decay .