

Client: Perry Patel
Project Location: 450 Jefferson St, Petaluma, Ca
Inspection Date: October 21, 2021
Arborist: Ben Anderson



Assignment

Perry Patel asked me to inspect and document the Canary Island palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) in the footprint of a planned expansion to the hotel at 450 Jefferson Street. This report is intended for the Planning Department as part of the development application. No one met me on site.

Observations

The subject parcel is a flat, mixed use (MU2) lot with a recently renovated, historic building used as a hotel. The subject tree is a Canary Island date palm with a trunk diameter of 30.5 inches and a height of approximately 65 feet¹. It is growing behind the building (Figure 1) in a raised planter in a retaining wall approximately two feet tall (Figure 2). I reviewed the Google Street photography and the grade in the planter appears to be the historic grade around the tree, which was lowered as part of the building rehabilitation. The newer fronds of the palm are slightly stunted when compared to the older, lower fronds, likely due to the stress of the initial grading in the tree's root system. The new fronds display good color and adequate size. The trunk is vertical and uniform in diameter. The tree was cleaned of dead material in the canopy and on the trunk at the time of the recent development. There are many younger palms on this and adjacent parcels that are likely volunteers from seeds of this plant.

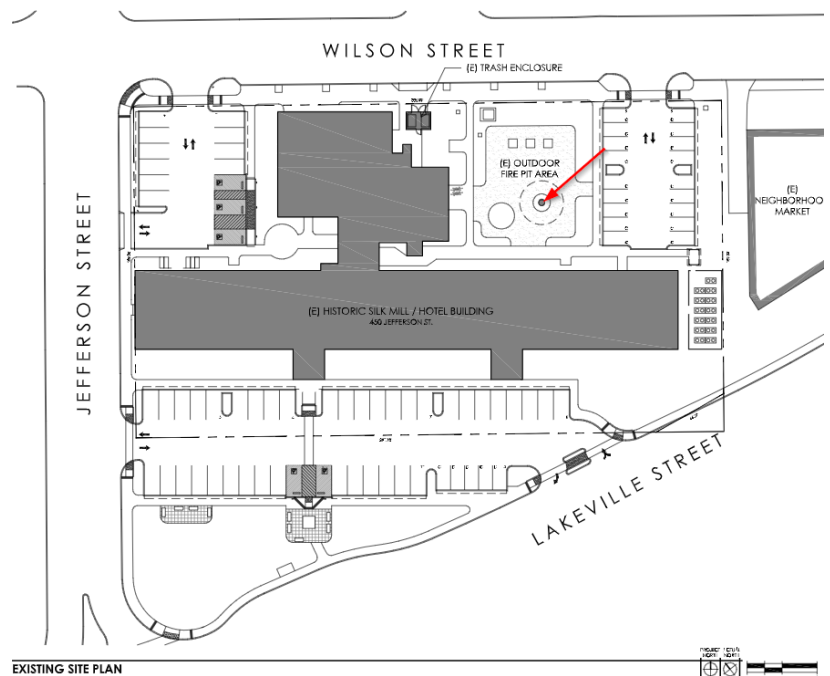


Figure 1. Section of Silk Mill Expansion plans showing tree location (red arrow)

I reviewed a plan set titled "Silk Mill Expansion" dated 8/13/2021. It appears as if this is the only tree on the site that will be impacted by the proposed development. It sits in the middle of the footprint of the proposed addition to the hotel.

Discussion

Canary Island palm is not native to the area and is mildly invasive in my experience. This appears to be true on this site judging from the young palms on adjacent lots. Palms are very different than flowering trees or conifers. They typically only have a single bud at the top of the tree and only grow vertically. The trunk does not expand and there is no way to control their height growth without also harming the tree. This is one of the tallest Canary Island palms I have seen locally (taller palms of other species are common). This means that palms of a similar size and age either died, failed, or were removed over concerns of crown failure.

¹ Measured with a Nikon Forestry Pro laser hypsometer.

SCOPE OF WORK AND LIMITATIONS

Urban Forestry Associates has no personal or monetary interest in the outcome of this investigation. All observations regarding trees in this report were made by UFA, independently, based on our education and experience. All determinations of health condition, structural condition, or hazard potential of a tree or trees at issue are based on our best professional judgment. The health and hazard assessments in this report are limited by the visual nature of the assessment. Arborists cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to the structural failure of a tree. Since trees are living organisms, conditions are often hidden within the tree and below ground. Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances, or for a specific period of time. Likewise, remedial treatments cannot be guaranteed. Trees can be managed but they cannot be controlled. To live near trees is to accept some degree of risk and the only way to eliminate all risk associated with trees is to eliminate all trees.



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Figure 2. Photo of subject palm taken from adjacent sidewalk.



Pre-move:

Pre-irrigate 2-4 weeks prior to move date (temp irrigation system or planned and managed program by individual)

trim up fronds to 45 degree angle or more. (tie up fronds if appropriate) Trimming is meant to reduce water use and prevent clearance issues with crane rigging. To help ensure enough room for crane set-up, transfer truck and excavator

Day-of move:

Excavate root ball 7x7x6 approx on all 4 sides of root ball

Hook up crane, hoist and load on truck or into final planting pit.

Planting pit 2 feet larger than root ball, back-filled with washed plaster sand and perforated drainage tubes on 4 sides of tree.

Water in, add tree specific fertilizer and water in heavily 2x 1st day

Plant 2-4 inches above natural grade to facilitate long term drainage. (Some site conditions may require height adjustment day of planning)

Post move:

Guy wires with dead-man anchors.

1 year arborist monitoring program (Moisture and health)

4-1-22
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