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1017 SAN ANTONIO AVENUE  
ALAMEDA, CA 94501

April 13, 2009

**TO: City of Alameda Public Works Department**

**SUBJECT: Proposed street tree removals in the 3200 and 3300 blocks of Fernside Blvd.**

I would like to protest the proposed removal of the subject trees. Considering such removal at this time is premature, because the specific improvements to implement the Fernside Resurfacing Project have not yet been designed and it is not yet clear whether removal of any of the trees is, in fact, necessary. As part of the resurfacing project the following measures should be considered:

1. **Reduced curb widths and more breaks in the curb to allow the bases of the trees within the curb area to be retained.** This has been standard City practice in the past.
2. **Relocating the curbs as far as possible into the roadway to reduce potential root cuts and provide an expanded planting strip to minimize future hardscape-damage.** Fernside Boulevard's ample roadway width appears sufficient to do this.
3. **Reduction of the standard 4" asphalt pavement thickness over tree roots within the parking lanes to minimize possible root cuts.** Parking lane pavement is not subject to the same levels of stress as in travel lanes and can perform adequately with reduced pavement thickness, especially where the reduced thickness is limited to just where tree roots exist.
4. **Using 1 7/8" thick rubberized sidewalks rather than standard 4". thick concrete sidewalks where reduced sidewalk thickness will reduce root removals.**
5. **Root shaving in combination with Strategies 3 and 4 above to promote root retention.**

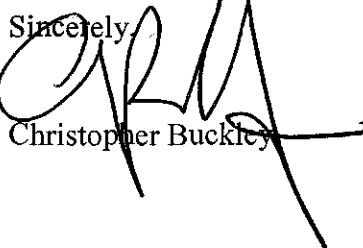
The trees should not have been proposed for removal until after the Fernside Resurfacing Project had been designed and until after documentation had been made available to the public demonstrating that tree retention measures such as those listed above had been considered and found infeasible to implement.

**I therefore recommend that the proposed removals be withdrawn and resubmitted, if necessary, after the project has been designed and the above measures considered and found infeasible.**

In addition, it has been reported that another reason for some of the proposed removals is relocation of a sewer line under the sidewalk along the east side of Fernside. If this is true, the relocation should have been noted in the tree removal notice.

The notice also does not have the box checked that replacement trees will be provided. Was this intentional? **Replacement trees should be planted whenever possible, especially on highly visible major streets such as Fernside.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me at 523-0411 or [cbuckley@alamedanet.net](mailto:cbuckley@alamedanet.net) if you would like to discuss these comments.

Sincerely,  
  
Christopher Buckley