

# *SBCA TREE CONSULTING*

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TO: Todd Williams  
Public Works Supervisor  
City of Alameda  
1616 Fortman Way  
Alameda, CA 94501

LOCATION: 2014 Central

SUBJECT: Inspection of London Plane Tree (*Platanus x acerifolia*)

Assignment: Conduct a health and safety inspection for London Plane Tree

## **Summary**

The London Plane is near dead and in a spiral of decline that cannot be reversed. The multitude of necrotic brown spots on the leaves is evidence that the tree is heavily infected with the fungal disease Anthracnose. It is recommended that the tree be removed and replaced with a 'Yarwood' Sycamore. Current safety concerns are primarily dead branches that may fail.

## **Site and Tree Descriptions**

The London Plane grows out of a parkway planting strip in front of residence 2014 Central. The tree has a DBH of 17 ½ "and is approximately 35' in height. The tree displays a large amount of dead branches, with the total live foliage remaining less than 5%. The remaining leaves are scarred with brown spots attributed to Anthracnose. Signs of Sycamore Scale were evident under the bark.<sup>1</sup>

## **Discussion and Recommendations**

The tree has past the point of stress and is now in a state of strain. Trees do not recover from strain as there is insufficient leaf area to improve energy levels. Such trees become attractive host to insects and pathogens, which is the current situation.

## **Recommendation**

Remove and replace tree.



Photo 1. Photo above shows the sparse foliage of the London Plane Tree. The tree is expected to continue to decline and eventually die.

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<sup>1</sup> Signs of Sycamore Scale are small white, waxy spots observed under the exfoliating bark.