

*Steve Batchelder, Consulting Arborist*  
1534 Rose Street, Crockett, CA 94525  
WC ISA Certified Arborist #228  
Calif. Contractor Lic. (C-27) 533675  
Phone (510) 787-3075, Fax (510) 787-3065  
E-mail sbcatree@comcast.net

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**TO:** Chi-Wai Chung, P.E.  
City of Alameda Public Works Dept.

**Location:** 1720 Chaplin

**Species:** Liquidambar Tree

**Subject:** Root-Sidewalk Conflict

***Assignment:** Arborist was asked to provide assessment of the liquidambar tree with a focus on the roots. Comments cover tree condition, conflicts with surrounding hardscape and recommendations for treatment.*

### **Summary**

This tree is large and beginning to cause repeated sidewalk damage. Assessment of the roots under the street can only be made after the pavement is removed. Any decision to remove the tree is influenced by the rate at which liquidambar trees will be replaced in the City. With repairs, the tree could be maintained for a number of years.

### **Tree Description**

The liquidambar tree has a DBH of 39 ½". The tree is in good health and has fair structural qualities due to decay and a number of lateral stems with excess branch end weight. The tree roots are causing significant displacement of surrounding street, curb and sidewalk.

### **Site Description**

The parkway planting strip is 6' wide. The curb, street and sidewalk adjacent to the tree have all been displaced. The street pavement uplift appears to be impeding the flow of water in the gutter.

### **Assessment**

Even with a 6' wide parkway the liquidambar tree is a problem as the base of the tree has nearly filled the entire 6'. An assessment of the roots under the street pavement can be made when exposed. If root cutting is deemed to compromise the root anchoring of the tree arborist will make a recommendation for removal.

## **Recommendations**

It is recommended that consideration be given to removing and replacing this tree primarily due to the costs associated with maintaining this tree.

**Photo 1.** Photo shows the subject tree in the 6' wide parkway. The street is elevated, likely by tree roots.



**Photo 2.** Photo shows the parkway planting area and the adjacent sidewalk that has been previously repaired. Even with an expanded area around the tree the damage is expected to continue to occur at more frequent intervals.



**End Report**

