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Date: June 1, 2007

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

Location: 1728 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 has had rubber sidewalk installed earlier. The tree roots are growing under the pavement of the street. The tree is also growing quite close to a storm drain.

The curb has been depressed as a result of the weight of the tree that has grown on top of the curb. The tree has a lean toward the street that is consistent with the depressed curb. This is a possible indication that the tree lean has been increasing.

Though it is a large mature tree, the tree has grown larger than the site support.

Tree Description

The liquidambar tree has a DBH of 34", is in stable health and in fair structural condition. Tree roots appear to be under the street.

Site Description

Rubber sidewalk has been installed in place of the previous concrete sidewalk. There appear to be no problems at this time. The tree has expanded beyond to limits of the planting site and is likely in the adjacent storm drain. There is evidence of possible root growth as much as 10' into the street.

Assessment

This tree is too large for the planting location restrictions. The future holds little hope for this tree without a significant maintenance expense. Full assessment of the extent of the root intrusion under the street cannot be made until the area is exposed.

Recommendations

It is recommended that consideration be given to removal and replacement of this tree. The replacement tree should be a smaller stature tree and be planted farther away from the storm drain.

Photo 1. Photo shows the base of the liquidambar tree and the street uplift. The rootcrown has grown out over the curb that is being depressed by the weight of the tree.



Photo 2. Photo to the right shows the parkway planting strip and the rubber sidewalk that has been used to accommodate the ever expanding roots of the liquidambar tree.

The lean into the street is evident and is likely causing the depression in the curb.



End Report

