

April 12, 2021

City of San Jose Tree and Sidewalks Office
1404 Mabury Rd, San Jose, CA 95133
via email: arborist@sanjoseca.gov

re: notice to remove multiple camphor trees along the 700-block of Harrison St. and 600-block of Fuller Ave.



Dear Sir/Madam,

This is a formal “letter of protest” regarding the numerous “tree removal notices” posted 4/6/21. These trees all appear to be healthy and are

planted in generously wide curb strips; even the sidewalks all appear to be in good condition. The official reason given for the removal notice is “curb/gutter damage”, with “potential root loss”.

The 700-block of Harrison is a one-block dead-end street that serves but twenty residences, and the 600-block of Fuller has very little traffic as well. The “damaged curb/gutter” has negligible impact on traffic flow or public safety: would it hurt too much to just leave them well enough alone? Alternatively, perhaps they could be ground-down for better alignment, or the replacement curb could “bump-out” to avoid root loss.

I have long admired the many tree-lined streets of Willow Glen. I often “forest bathe” by walking the 1000-block of Westwood Dr., which is lined with heritage camphor trees. I love the row of camphors that I planted in my curb-strip along Willow St. some forty years ago. But I'll have to admit that the camphors along Fuller and Harrison appear even larger and healthier than any of these!

I appreciate that San Jose is repairing and repaving residential streets, and it does make sense to do any *necessary* curb repair prior to repaving. But please don't “destroy the village in order to save it”, and don't deforest this beautiful tree-lined street in order to repave it.

Thank you,

~Larry Ames,
longtime community activist and tree advocate.

cc: CM Dev Davis, Dist. 6; Mary Pizzo, Drake/Fuller N'hood; Harvey Darnell, NWGNA;
Jean Dresden, SJ Parks Advocates; Jim Carter, San Jose Neighborhoods Commission.