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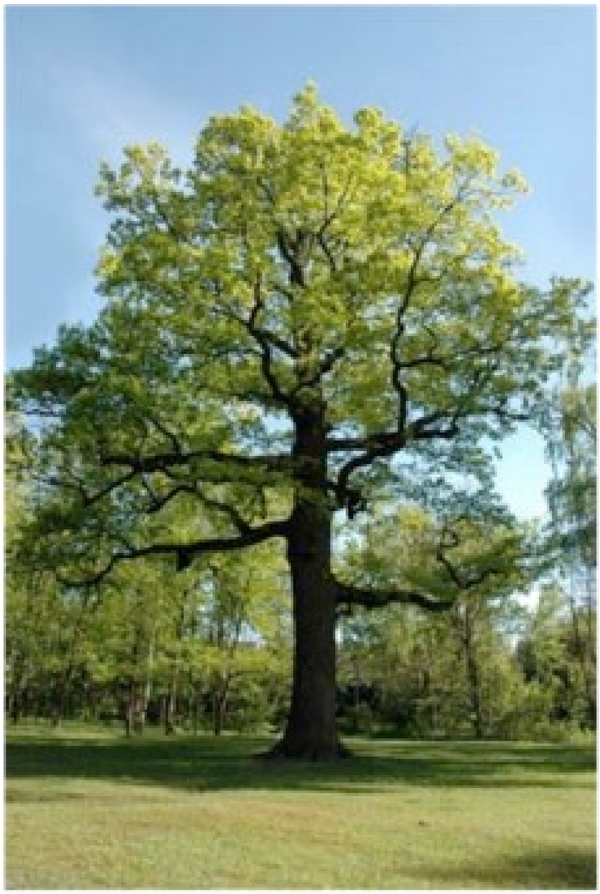
Department of Conservation and Development



Tree Evaluation

Prepared For:

Bradley and Lesley Wolff

532 Hemme Avenue

Alamo, CA 94507

Prepared By:

Bob Peralta

Bob Peralta Arbor Consulting

American Society of Consulting Arborists

237 Berna Avenue

Napa, California 94559

(707) 258-2015

April 18, 2024

Dear Bradley and Lesley,

Thank you for asking me to provide a Consulting Arborist Report to review three trees on your property located at 532 Hemme Avenue in Alamo, California. I visited the site on April 17, 2024, to review (3) Valley Oak trees (Quercas lobata). The (3) large Valley Oaks in this area have all lost several large limbs over the past two years. The assignment is to evaluate the health and safety of all three trees.

The purpose of my site visit is to evaluate the species, size, location, health, and recommendations. All the hillside Valley oaks in the East Bay have adapted well over many years to grow into very large mature trees. These three trees grew untouched and have been living in native terrain long before any land or housing developments. As roads were built, lots graded, and new homes built, the changes to the environment of these trees started to change. One of the most obvious changes to these three trees on your property is the creek that flows between, and near all three trees. The drainage into the creek started with new roads, drains and channeled water above your property into this creek. This in turn has led to erosion that has exposed roots on the oaks that border the creek. Runoff from irrigation has also led to more water in the creek during the dry months. This impacts these large trees by storing water in the canopy for longer periods of time, that does lead to large limb loss throughout the warmer months.

The other concern is the age and size of all three of the trees. All of the trees I inspected have signs of decay in the base of the trees and in the canopies. The surface roots off the root flares also show evidence of decay. Valley oaks are disease resistant and rarely die from disease. The majority of large Valley and Live oaks of the damage to these size trees is limb or total tree failure from age related causes. These can be the slow decay in the trunk or larger codominant stems. On all these trees the branch structure off the main trunk can be 50 to 80 feet long. The sheer weight of these limbs is difficult to prune without disfiguring the trees.

As you mentioned, these trees do border neighbors that do use their yards and have concern on these trees causing harm to people and property. Tree tags 1, 2, and 3 have all lost very large limbs recently. Last year's storms and limb failures had all your neighbors contact you on mitigation to prevent future failures. After reviewing these trees and looking at past pruning practices there is no way to make these trees 100% safe. The codominant stems throughout the canopies, the included bark where limbs are weakly attached all contribute to making these trees very high risk to failure. Because of their age, size and locations to the neighboring properties, all of the trees have half their canopies in the neighboring properties. Tree Tag 115 has significant trunk decay that is over 60% of the trunk. This tree will fail and is recommended to be removed before it fails. Tree Tags 2 and 3 are growing right next to each other and both have developed half canopies. Even with pruning it is difficult to correct this type of lean.

My conclusion is that there is no safe way to prune these trees to make them safe. The neighbors that these trees border, and you, all have concerns about the recent limb failures and the frequencies at which they are failing. Because of the location to your neighbor's properties, the size of each tree, age, and condition I do recommend removing all three trees before they fail and cause harm to people and property.

I have attached maps that show the general location of each tree and a picture of each tree with diameter (dbh), size and health.

Please review the health rating below and tree protection measures.

Tree Inventory and Health

Note: Trees are measured using the DBH method – circumference, measured at 4.3 above the ground

Tag #	**Species**	**Height**	**DBH**	**Health**
1	Valley Oak	60" +	50.2"	20% - Critical
2	Valley Oak	60' +	24"	20% - Critical
3	Valley Oak	60' +	15.4"	20% - Critical

The health and structure of the trees were assessed visually from the ground level. No drilling, root excavation, or ariel inspections were performed. Internal or non-detectable defects may exist and could lead to part of whole tree failures. Due to the dynamic nature of trees and their environment, it is not possible for Arborists to guarantee that trees will not fail in the future.

Please give me a call if you have any questions.

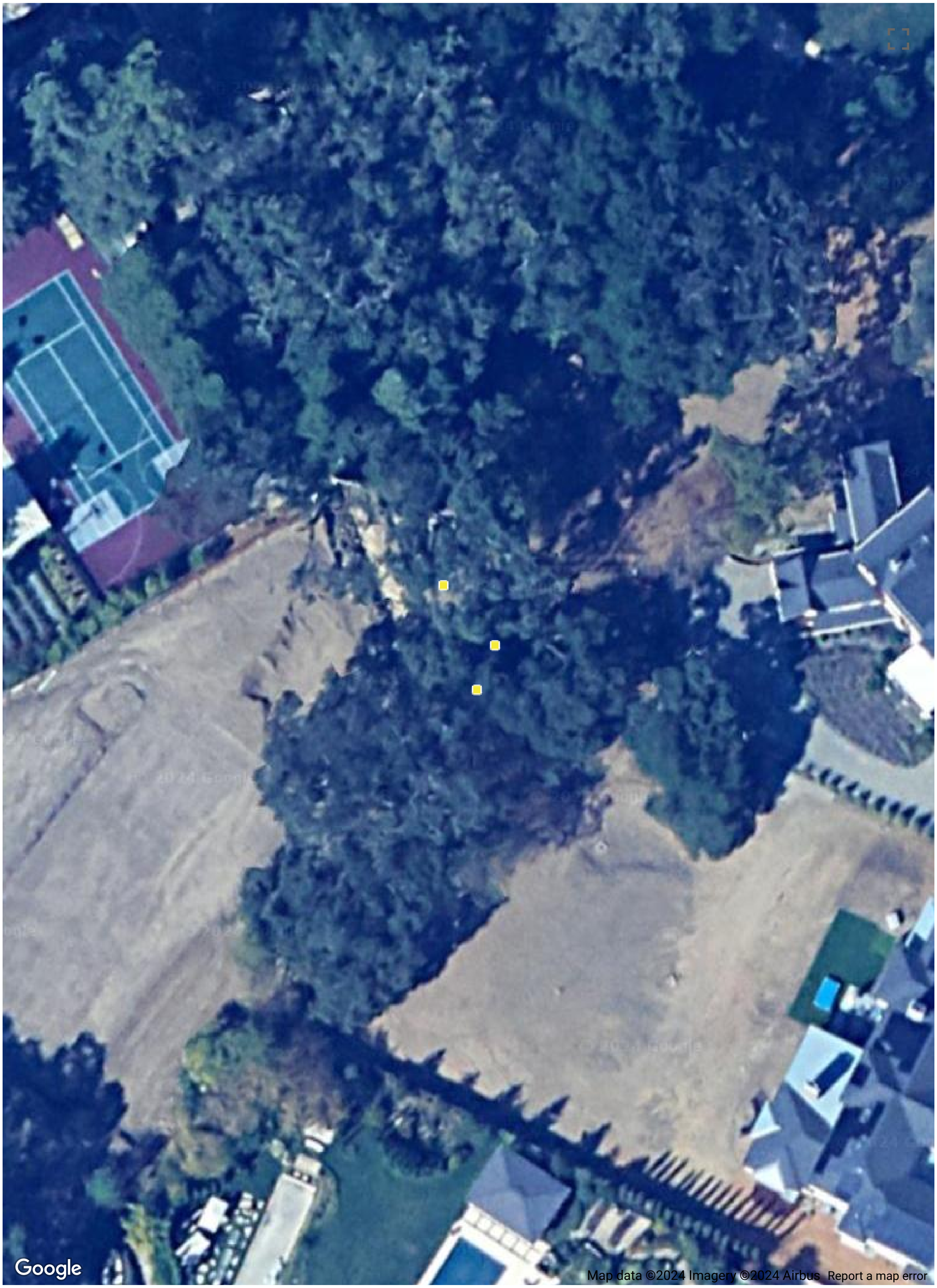
Sincerely,

Bob Peralta

Bob Peralta
Certified Arborist WE-7150A
ASCA Consulting Arborist #505

Attachments: Maps and Pictures

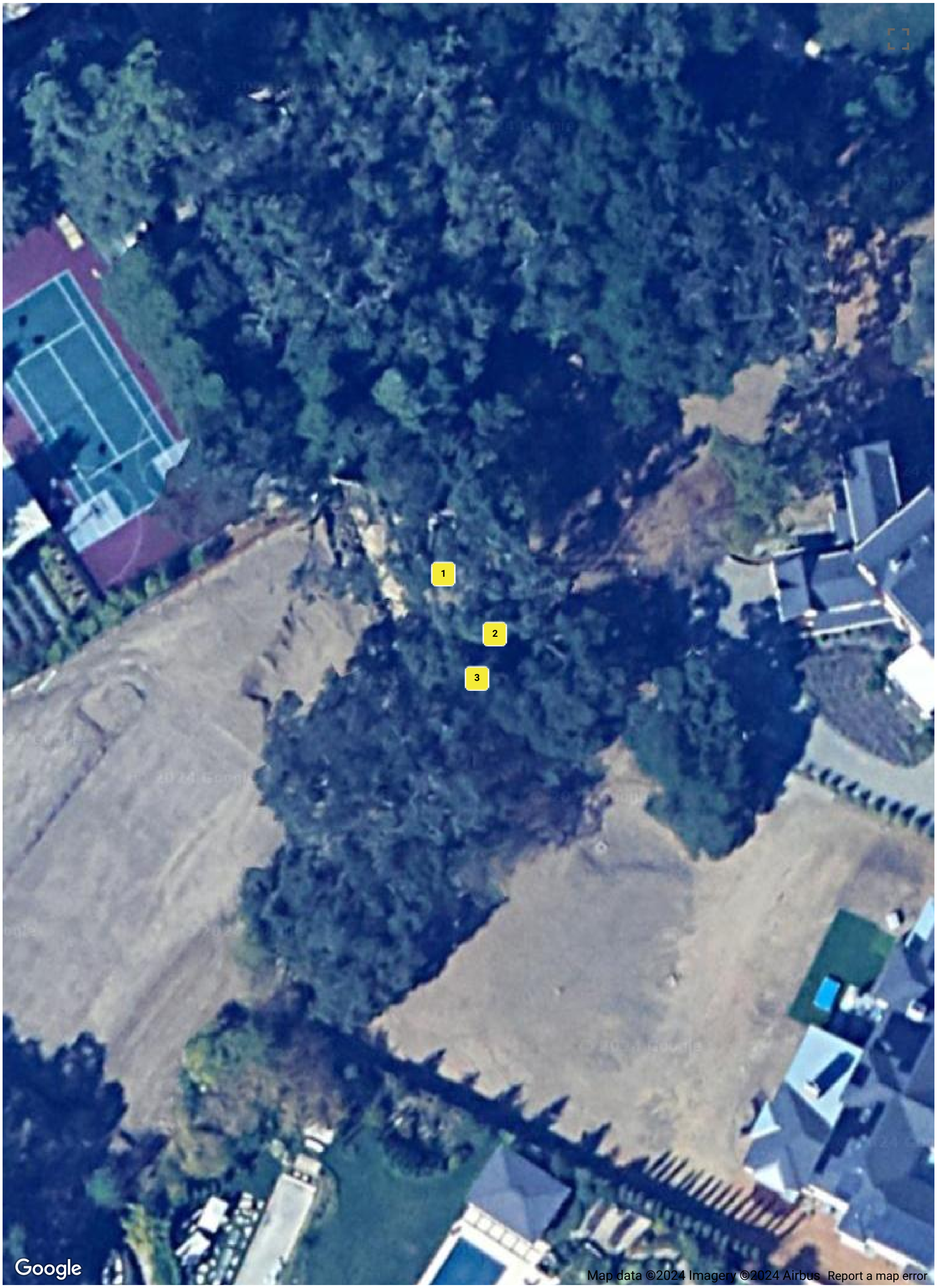
Wolff Neighboring Trees



Legend (3)

🟨 Valley Oak (3)

Wolff Neighboring Trees

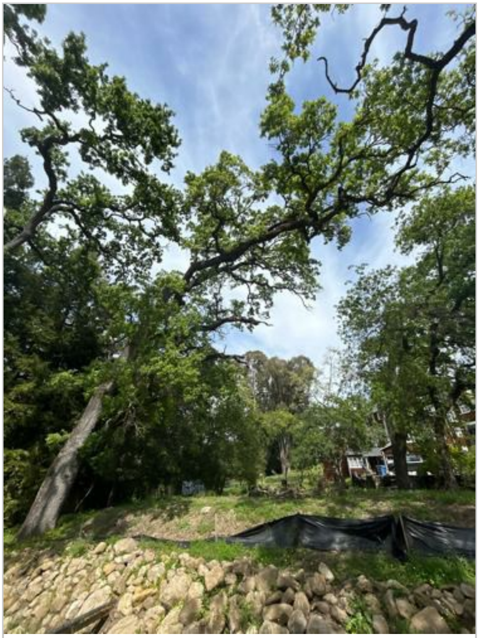


Legend (3)

🟨 Valley Oak (3)

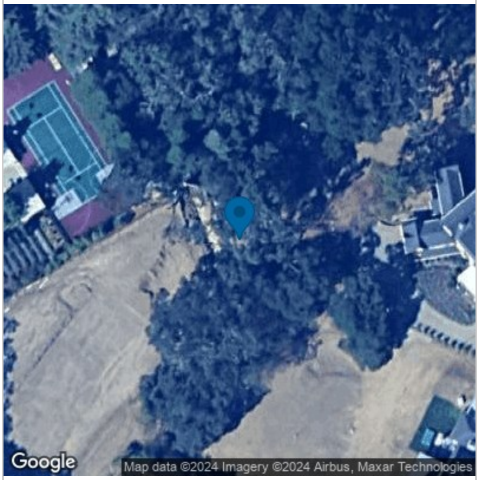
#	Species	Health	Objective
1	🟨 *Quercus lobata* 50.2 Valley Oak 46'-60'	40% - Poor	
2	🟨 *Quercus lobata* 24" Valley Oak 46'-60'	40% - Poor	
3	🟨 *Quercus lobata* 15.4 Valley Oak 46'-60'	40% - Poor	

Wolff Neighboring Trees



April 17, 2024

Quercus lobata ID# 1
Valley Oak
Height: 46'-60' DBH: 50.2
Health: 40% - Poor



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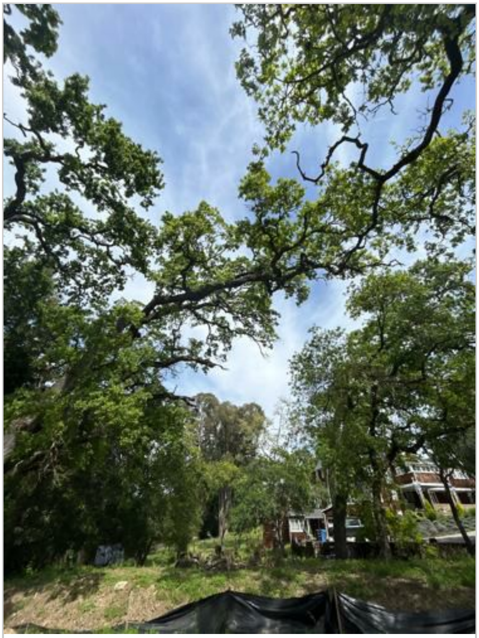

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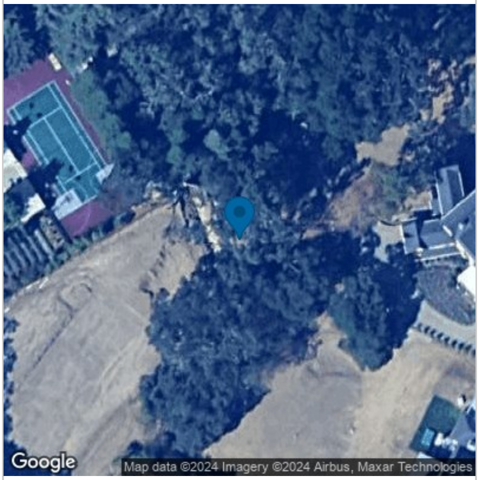

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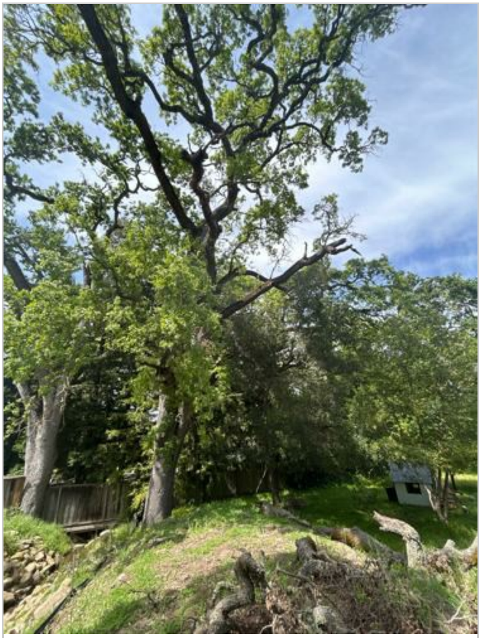

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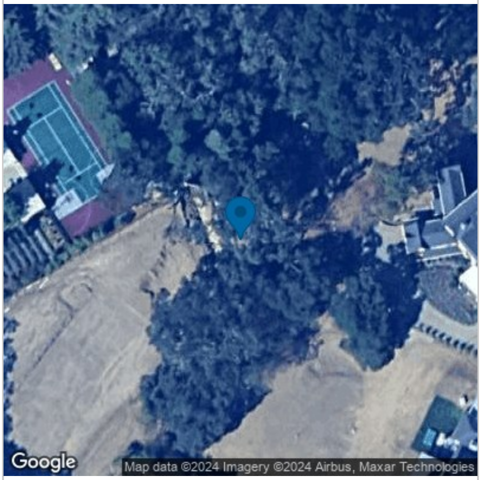

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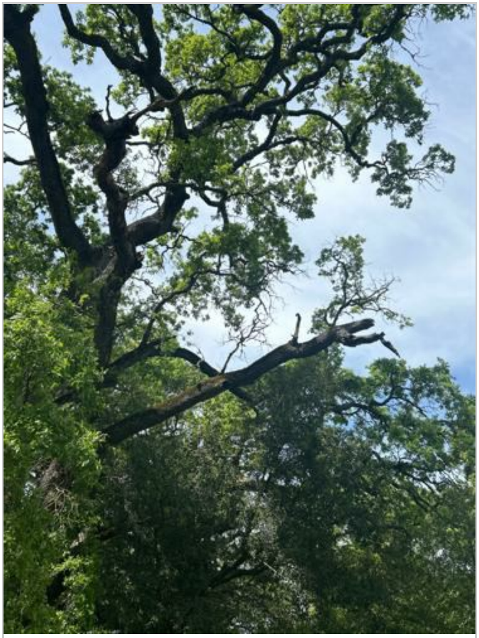
Wolff Neighboring Trees



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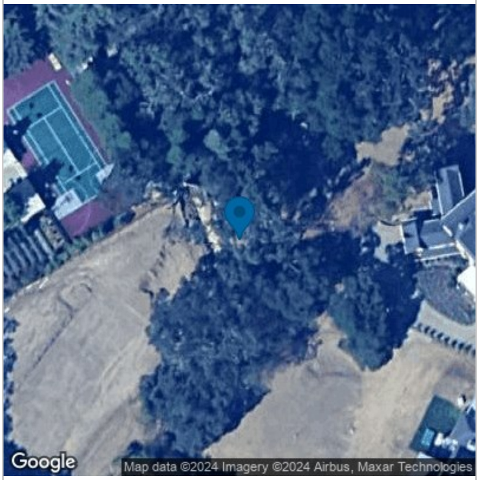

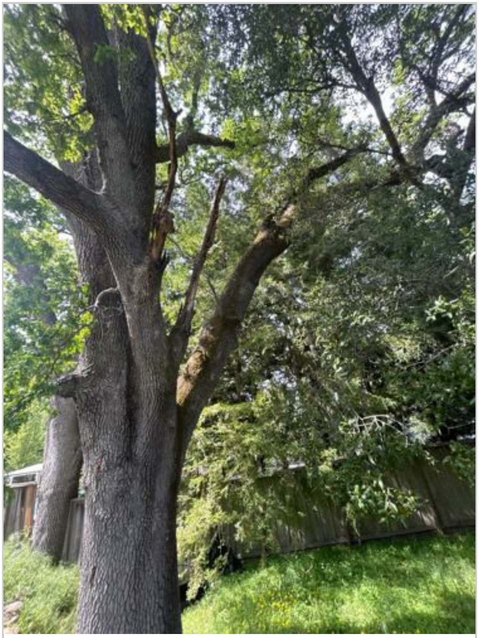

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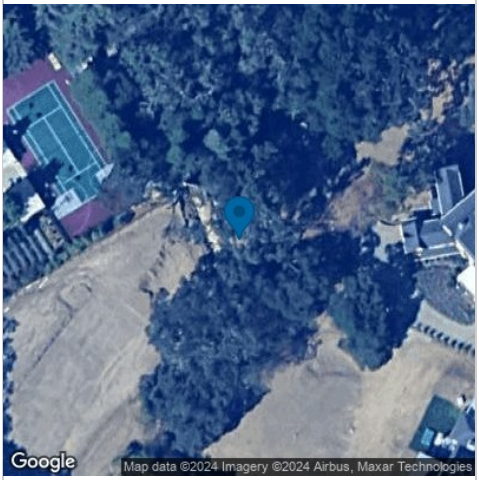
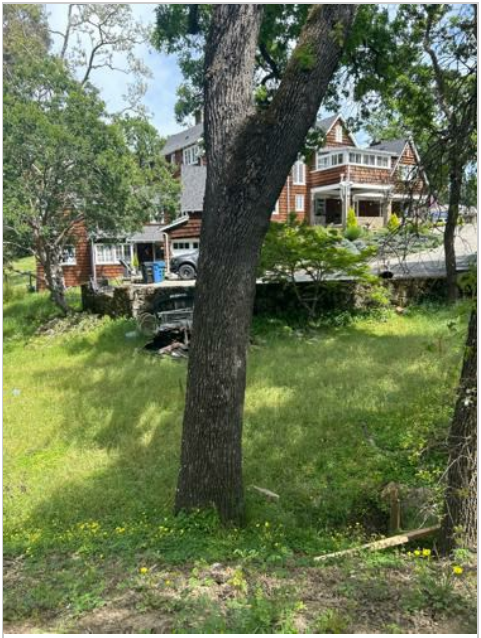
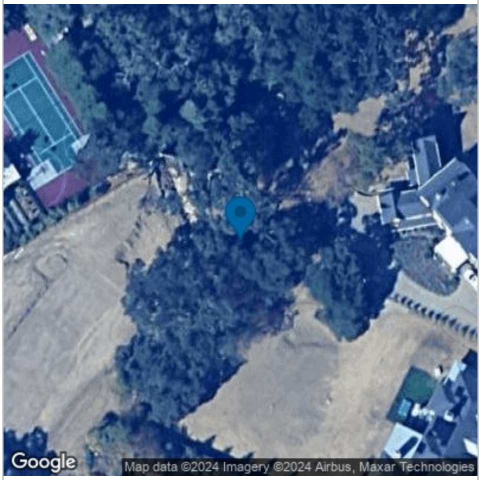
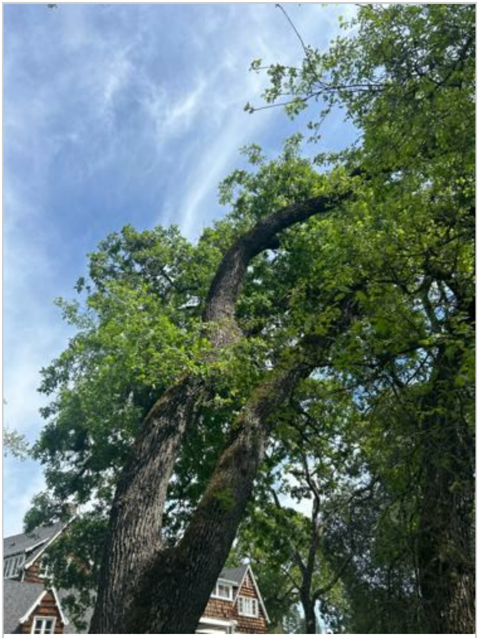




April 17, 2024

Quercus lobata ID# 2
Valley Oak
Height: 46'-60' DBH: 24"
Health: 40% - Poor





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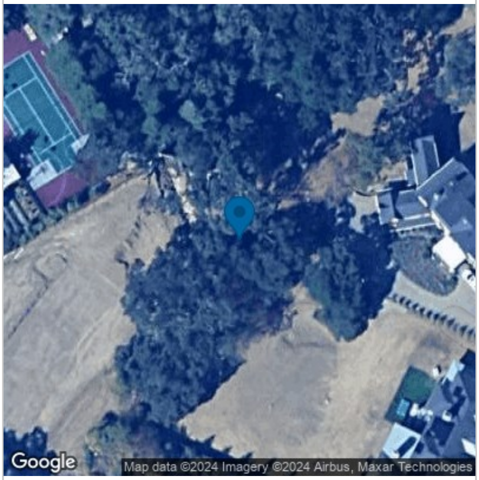

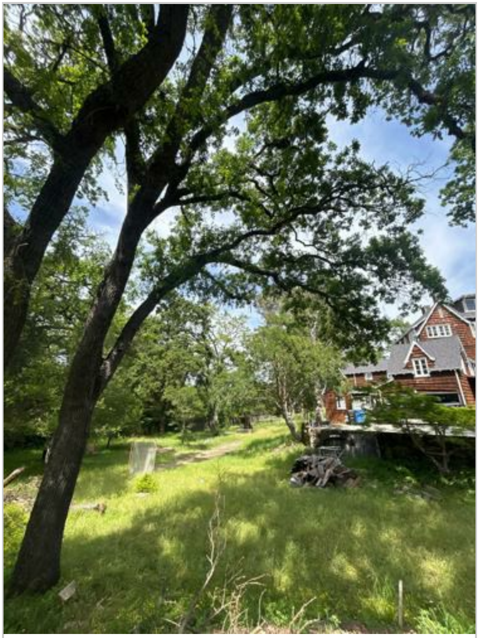

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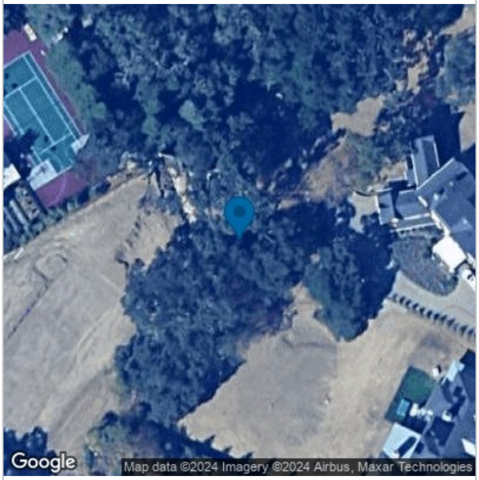

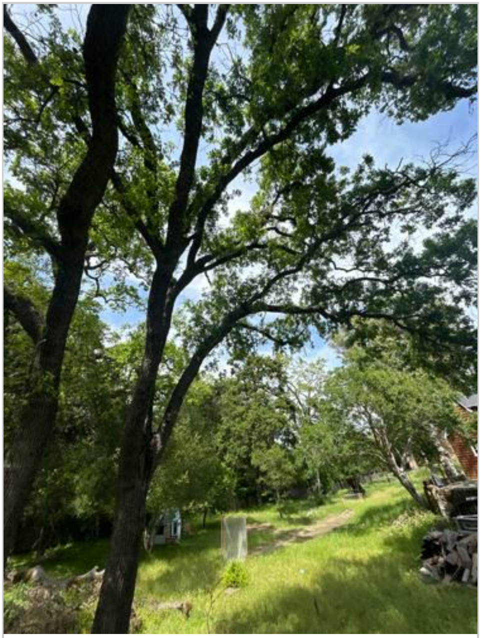

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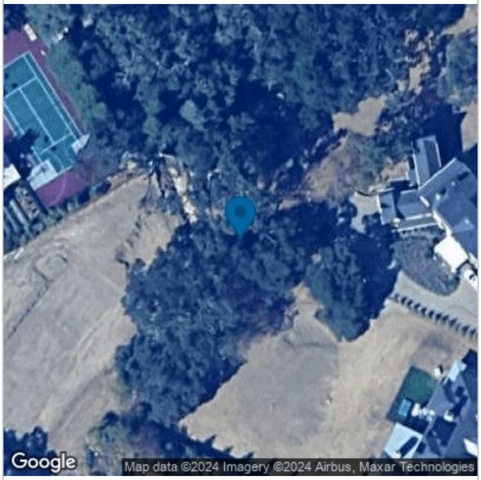

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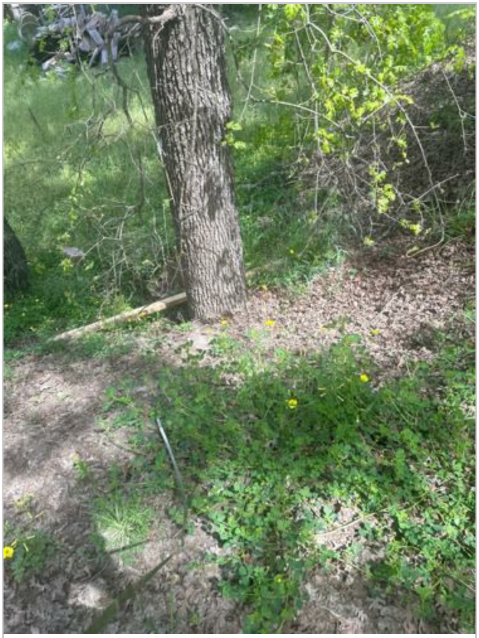
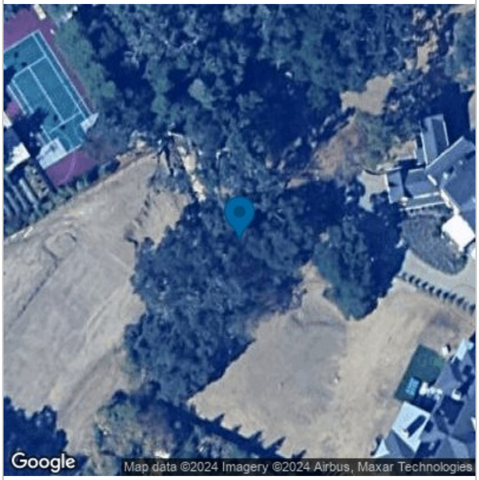
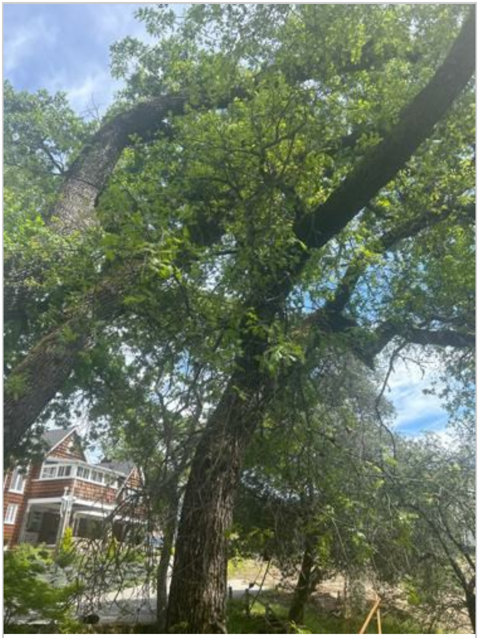
Wolff Neighboring Trees



April 17, 2024

Quercus lobata ID# 3
Valley Oak
Height: 46'-60' DBH: 15.4
Health: 40% - Poor





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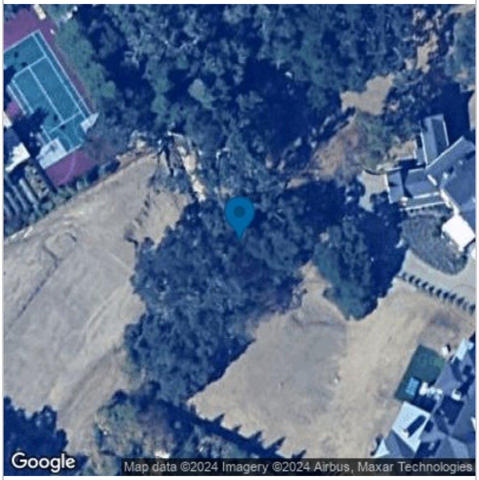
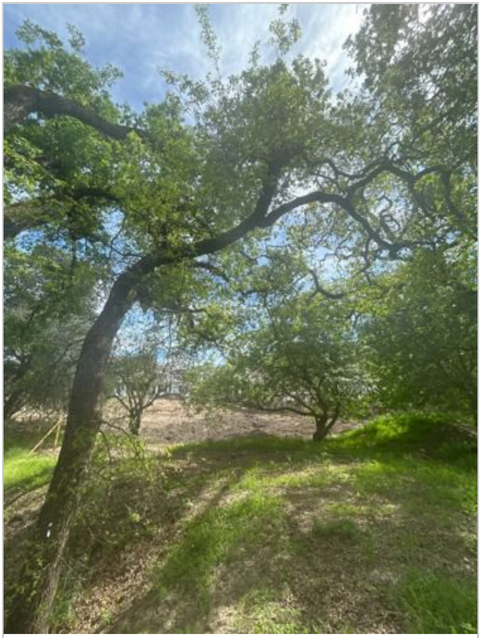
Health: 40% - Poor





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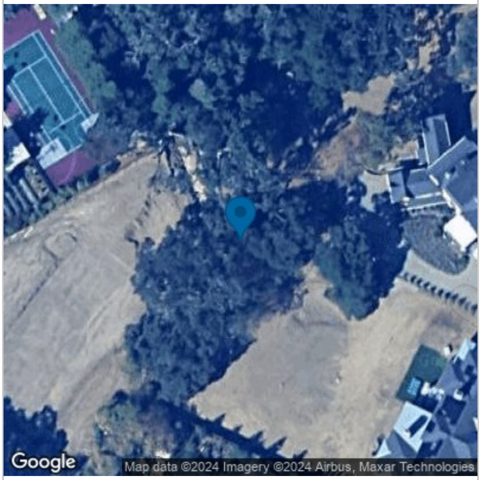
Health: 40% - Poor



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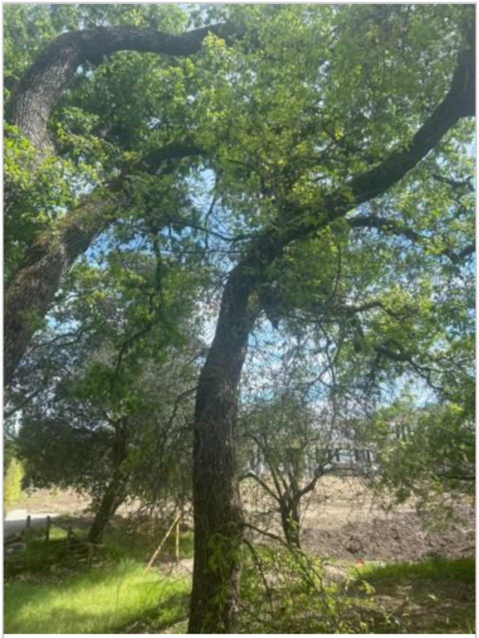

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Valley Oak	
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