



C-849

November 2, 2020

San Elijo Hills I HOA  
C/o Sandy Punch  
630 San Mario Drive  
Solana Beach, CA 92075

Re: Large *Eucalyptus* tree evaluation - Area B

Dear Ms. Punch,

On 10-22-20, I conducted a site visit and walk to assess the large *Eucalyptus* trees in the eastern portion of the association, the area we have labeled Area B (see enclosed site map). My assignment was to evaluate the large *Eucalyptus* trees and offer recommendations for Pruning, Removal, or No Action based on a walk-by assessment. Also present were you, Uli Stang (association), Ken Ayers (association, briefly), Mario Martinez (landscape contractor), and Albert Sanchez (tree care contractor). We had an open walk and discussion. I mentioned the dominant large *Eucalyptus* tree was the sugar gum, but that there were also silver dollar gum and lemon-scented gum in the inventory.

***NOTE: This report, specifically the color-coded site map, is best viewed in color. Any copies in black and white may make some details difficult to understand. Atlas accepts no responsibility for misunderstandings due to a reading of a black and white copy of this report.***

The enclosed map includes *approximate* property lines, addresses, lot numbers, and all the large *Eucalyptus* trees currently in Area B. Trees are identified with circles and color-coding, to reflect my current recommendations. Green indicates a pruning recommendation, red indicates a removal recommendation. If there is no color shade, then there is no action recommended at this time.

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All trees were assessed from ground level only utilizing a walk-by visual evaluation. I did not perform any detailed inspection on any individual tree. My assessment was based on observable elements and conditions present at the time of the assessment. I have considered tree maintenance needs for the subject trees for the next 24 months. My field work was complete as of 10-22-20. When thinking about potential action on any individual tree I considered tree species, location, general condition, potential targets, etc. No specific tools were used to gain additional information about any tree, and no advanced assessment techniques such as an aerial or climbing inspection, wood-resistance drilling, tissue analysis, root collar excavation, load testing, etc. were performed.

It is important to remember that while they may be hidden or unobservable to humans, defects and/or imperfections can exist in any tree at any time. If an observable condition exists that would warrant removal, then I have recommended that tree be removed. Considerations/reasons for removal recommendations include dead or declining trees, leaning trees, trees with new exposure or poor structure, etc.

If a tree has been included on the map (and listed for Pruning or “No Action”), it is expected that such a tree will be receiving bi-annual review and attention moving forward. Please note that this assessment is not a guarantee against tree failure, and does recognize that additional tree work, above and beyond the work recommended in this plan, may be needed on these Association trees throughout the next 24 months due to unusual weather events, owner requests, special projects, etc.

In Area B, there are approximately 70 large eucalyptus trees. I have recommended 17 for pruning and 1 for removal. The pruning specification is either for Crown thinning by approximately 25% (especially the heavy ends on many of the trees) or specialized pruning as indicated on the map. The removals should be cut to a low stump.

We briefly discussed replacement trees for the association. There is a list of trees for slope replacements that includes about 6-8 small to medium sized species. This list should continue to be utilized for most replacement trees. I was asked about larger trees, possibly a ‘good’ *Eucalyptus* species to use on the slopes. If a *Eucalyptus* species is to be planted on slopes, I recommend the *Corymbia citriodora* (formerly *Eucalyptus citriodora*), lemon-scented gum. It is a well-behaved, attractive tree that is dependable with few significant pest or disease issues. It has a clean, smooth trunk and bright green foliage. It is tolerant of most soils and can take much or little water once established.

Crown thinning includes the removal of dead, dying, diseased, crowded, weakly attached, and low-vigor branches and watersprouts from a tree crown as well as the selective removal of live branches to increase light penetration and air movement into the crown. This selective live branch removal should include branches *2 inches in diameter or less*. It is preferred that many smaller branches be removed during a thinning process than fewer larger branches. Increased light and air stimulates and maintains interior foliage, which in turn improves branch taper and strength. Thinning reduces the wind sail effect of the crown and the weight of heavy limbs. In general, the trees should be pruned in such a way as to maintain their natural structure and shape. Pruning should be performed to enhance the safety, health and beauty of the trees and should comply with sound arboricultural practices for the particular species of tree(s) being pruned.

Additionally, we looked at and discussed the 4 sugar gum trees behind 647 Santa Camelia. We had met with the homeowner earlier this year specifically to discuss these trees, and we revisited our discussion with the same homeowner during our site walk. Due to elevated concern about these trees and an identified low risk threshold from the lower neighbor (1339 Santa Luisa), I recommend Crown thinning these trees at this time. They will also be reviewed and assessed next year as they are in Area A.

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We also reviewed the sugar gum tree at 1242 Santa Luisa (rear slope along Santa Victoria). It had Crown reduction and thinning about March 2020. It appears the work was done properly, and the tree is fine at this time. It will also be reviewed and assessed next year as it too is in Area A.

Arborists are tree specialists who use their education, knowledge, training, and experience to examine trees, recommend measures to enhance the beauty and health of trees, and attempt to reduce the risk of living near trees. Clients may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations of the arborist or seek additional advice.

Arborists cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to the structural failure of a tree. Trees are living organisms that can fail in ways we do not fully understand. Conditions are often hidden within trees and below ground. Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances, or for a specified period of time. Likewise, remedial treatments, like any medicine, cannot be guaranteed.

Treatment, pruning, and removal of trees may involve considerations beyond the scope of the arborist's services such as property boundaries, property ownership, site lines, disputes between neighbors, landlord-tenant matters, etc. Arborists cannot take such issues into account unless complete and accurate information is given to the arborist. The person hiring the arborist accepts responsibility for authorizing and/or accomplishing the recommended treatment or remedial measures once explained and acknowledges that successful results can never be guaranteed.

Trees can be managed, but they cannot be controlled. To live near trees is to accept some degree of risk. The only way to eliminate all risks from trees is to eliminate all trees.

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If you should have any questions, please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,



Ron Matranga  
ISA Board-Certified Master Arborist  
ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified  
ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist  
RM/ms



# San Elijo Hills I

## 2020 Tree Maintenance

### LEGEND

- E - Eucalyptus [71]
- No Work [53]
- Prune [17]
- Removal [1]

