

**ARBORIST FIELD REPORT: Tree Planting & View Obstruction at 1154 Channel Dr.**

July 14, 2016

County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors  
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 COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA  
 CLERK OF THE  
 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**RE: Board Hearing July 19, 2016 -- 1154 Channel Drive, 14CDH-00000-000014, Olsten Trust Appeal from Montecito Planning Commission Denial**

**BACKGROUND & ASSIGNMENT**

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

I was contacted by a representative of the Hair property on Hill Road, regarding the proposed landscape plan for 1154 Channel Drive. The owners of this 1154 Channel Drive property to the southwest, are proposing to install trees that will eventually obstruct views from the neighboring properties. I was retained to investigate the tree planting plan and provide information on the potential heights of these trees at maturity.

**INVESTIGATION**

I investigated the seven species of trees identified on the landscape plan in the following references:

<b>Genus and Species</b>	<b>Tree Common Name</b>	<b>Sunset Garden Book</b>	<b>Trees of Santa Barbara</b>	<b>Cal Poly SelecTree</b>
<i>Arbutus marina</i>	Strawberry Tree	to 30' tall (usually less) and equally wide	small evergreen to 20'	up to to 50' tall x 40'
<i>Lyonothamnus floribundus</i>	Catalina Ironwood	to 35' tall x 15' wide	narrow upright evergreen to 45'	up to 60' tall x 40' wide
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	New Zealand Xmas Tree	to 30' tall or more spreading as wide as tall	spreading evergreen to 60'	up to 35' tall x 35' wide
<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	Western Sycamore	fast growth to 80' tall x 50' wide	open deciduous to 100'	up to 80' tall x 50' wide
<i>Prunus caroliniana</i>	Carolina Cherry	when trained as tree, up to 40' tall x 40' spread	oval evergreen to 30'	up to 30' tall x 25' wide
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	California Live Oak	to 70' tall with greater spread	broad-crowned evergreen to 75'	up to 70' tall x 70' wide
<i>Umbellularia californica</i>	California Bay Laurel	up to 75' tall x 100' wide	rounded evergreen to 70'	up to 75' tall x 75' wide

1. *SelectTree Cal Poly* (on line reference) [www.selecttree.calpoly.edu](http://www.selecttree.calpoly.edu)
2. *Sunset Western Garden Book*, Eighth Edition, Menlo Park, Ca. 2014.
3. *Trees of Santa Barbara*, Muller, Robert N. and Haller, Robert J., Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens, 2005.

## DISCUSSION

There is some variability among resources. The maximum heights and spreads are listed to illustrate their potential sizes, although some of these trees could be smaller. This is largely due to influence of climate, soil, and care.

All of the trees can be pruned to control size. However, there is no assurance that anyone will keep trees at the heights that do not block views of neighboring properties or the public. There are also potential consequences to health and structure of trees that are pruned to alter their form.

## CONCLUSION

The trees identified in the landscape plan all have the potential to grow tall and wide and obstruct views from the neighboring properties.

Please contact me with any questions.

### Prepared by:

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