



Corner of E. Blithedale & Camino Alto, Mill Valley, CA

## Freeman Park Neighborhood Association Campaign

### Save the Trees Frequently Asked Questions

Question #1: Why does this request for a tree removal permit come to the City Council?

The Mill Valley City Tree Policy states: *No more than three trees of any kind may be cut in any 12 months without a tree permit.* The Zoning Administrator (2/19) forwarded the permit request to the Planning Commission (3/10). They approved the permit with a 3/1 vote. The Freeman Park Neighborhood Association, with a passion for the environment, neighborhood, community, and clarity paid the \$500 fee to put the item on the May 4 City Council agenda.

Question #2: Do the trees pose a safety risk that requires removal? A: NO.

1. Sidewalk uplift could be repaired with a process called "grinding." Three of four Planning Commissioners said they didn't see an issue with the sidewalk.
2. Low hanging limbs that interfere with a motorist's site distance or branches that might fall can be trimmed or removed.
3. The Red Ironbark Eucalyptus is one of 150 species of eucalyptus trees planted in CA. This species is not a fire hazard.
4. The City's arborist reported 4 of the 5 trees "exhibit good health" and that the dead tree should be removed.

Question #3: Are there benefits to preserving the trees? A: YES

1. The 4 mature trees in good health provide environmental benefit by removing CO<sub>2</sub> and pollutants; providing shade, breezes and cooling; capturing and conserving water, reducing noise, and providing habitat for bugs, birds, and other living creatures.
2. The 40' drought-resistant trees provide a year-round, distinctive, and attractive entry into our community. If removed, nine newly planted 14' trees (2- 48" Box Fruitless Olive and 7- 24" Box Upright English Oaks) will take years to grow and require regular watering. According to the *New Western Garden Book*, the Upright English Oak is "narrow and upright" and loses leaves in the fall "without much color change."

3. The trees announce a transition from the freeway and commercial businesses into a residential/community area. The natural beauty of the trees invites people to take a deep breath. Relax. Slow down.
4. Trimming the trees and repairing the sidewalk is far less costly and less drastic than removing them.

Question #4: Doesn't Mill Valley need to support the business community? A: YES  
Absolutely. We support Apizza, too, and want to see them open their doors, be successful, revitalize the corner and be the neighborhood go-to pizza place of choice when we wonder, "What's to eat?"

Question #5: Who supports/opposes tree removal?

- SUPPORT. In an email dated 2/19/20, the Director of Planning wrote, "The tree removal application is being driven by the Public Works Department." The applicant, Apizza, wants to offer a fresh, new urban landscape design and alleviate liability risk for the uneven sidewalk and potential danger from low-hanging limbs. The Planning Commission approved the application with a 3/1 vote.
- OPPOSE. The Freeman Park Neighborhood Association opposes removal and favors preserving the trees. We stand with environmental advocates around the globe who recognize trees as a primary defense against global warming. It does no good to give lip service to saving the Amazon Rain Forest and then cut down healthy trees at the entrance to our own hometown. A growing number of individuals, including renowned poet Jane Hirshfield, see community benefit to keeping trees. The Sierra Club--Marin Group and Sustainable Mill Valley have joined in efforts to Save the Trees.

**Comment by April 28 for the May 4<sup>th</sup> Mtg: [CityCouncil@CityofMillValley.org](mailto:CityCouncil@CityofMillValley.org)**

**Zoom Tree Town Hall, Sat. April 25, 1 pm. Mtg ID: 817 3513 7456; Password: 780080  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81735137456?pwd=cIBmYk9MaHI2THBWQkkzZ2NIQm8zUT09>**

**Trees & Pizza and Community Good Will = A winning combination!**