

March 12, 2009

Sage Institute, Inc
7343 El Camino Real, PMB #135
Atascadero, CA 93422
Attn: Mr. Jason Kirschenstein

RE: Consulting Arborist's **Protected Tree Report** – Southern California Gas Company Pipeline Protection Plan Project in "Sullivan Canyon" (**City of Los Angeles**)

(For Construction of SoCalGas Line Protection Measures, Road Repairs, and Protected Tree Removal Permit - **31 Protected Trees are listed for removal**)

THE REPORT

This report is broken down into several subsections, which include:

1. **Tree Location Map (TLM)** showing the location of existing trees and a number assigned to each tree.
2. **Summary of Field Inspection (Protected Trees)** with information regarding:
 - A. Form (tree number corresponding to the number on the Tree Location Map, species of tree, and size)
 - B. Physical condition
 - C. Recommended treatment
 - D. Rating: Tree vigor is rated alphabetically (Example:
 - a. Excellent, b. Good, c. Fair, d. Poor, e. Nearly Dead, f. Dead)
3. **Summary of Data (Protected Trees)** (Refer to Table 1) A summary of impacts in terms of trees present, trees impacted and trees to be removed
4. **Mitigation Measures**
5. **Photographs**
6. **PCA License**

Note: There are 216 Protected Trees

LOCATION

The Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) Sullivan Canyon Pipeline Protection Plan Project is located within the Sullivan Canyon Floodplain approximately 2.5 miles west of the San Diego Freeway (405) and can be reached by exiting that freeway at Sunset Boulevard and traveling west to Mandeville Canyon. Turn right (north) and drive ¼ mile to Westridge Road and turn left (west). Continue on Westridge Road approximately one mile to Bayliss Road and turn left. Drive ahead ¼ mile to Queensferry Road and turn left. Continue on to the dead-end and the access gate to Farmers Fire Road (trail) which is the entry point to the project area. The trail begins just above the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (LACDPW) Debris Basin at that point and continues upward approximately 4.5 miles to Mulholland Drive. The site can also be reached by entering Farmers Fire Road (trail) or the Sullivan Fire Road (to Farmers Fire Road) from Mulholland Drive (see Thomas Guide page 631, C-1 and 591, A-2).

The majority of the project area is owned by SoCalGas, although the lower approximately 0.2 miles is owned by LACDPW. Although owned by LACDPW, this parcel is located within the jurisdictional limits of the City of Los Angeles.

All of the listed trees in this report are designated as either ES (east side of trail) or WS (west side of trail) for ease of reference when in the field.

THE ASSIGNMENT

On October 20, 2008, Mr. Kirschenstein of Sage Institute contacted my office at Tree Life Concern regarding the need for a City of Los Angeles required, Protected Tree Report for the Sullivan Canyon Pipe Protection Project. This Report has been prepared to meet the requirements of City of Los Angeles Protected Tree Ordinance No. 177.404 and Article 6 § 46.00 et seq., of the City of Los Angeles Municipal Code (see attached). The focus of this report is native "Protected Tree" preservation during construction and mitigation for necessary tree losses. Sage Institute is currently contracting with SoCalGas, and has been performing environmental studies in relation to the project. There were four on-site tree surveys conducted by Tree Life Concern beginning on 11-5-08, followed by site visits on 11-10-08, 11-13-08 and 11-19-08. Digital photos were taken of each numbered tree for inclusion in this report.

A follow-up site visit was conducted with Mr. Kirschenstein, SoCalGas representative (Johnny Grady), and City of Los Angeles Urban Forestry Division tree inspector (Tim Tyson) on February 26, 2009 to verify the findings within the original report dated January 22, 2009. This updated report represents minor modifications to the January report based on the subsequent visit with SoCalGas and City staff representatives.

Protected Trees include: California Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), California Sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), Southern California Black Walnut (*Juglans californica*) and California Bay (*Umbellularia californica*).

Limits of Investigation

This report and the observations included herein are based on my four site visits, data included in the tree inventory, and additional information obtained during the February 26, 2009 site visit. I did not perform hazard inspections on any of the trees observed or described in this report. All tree observations were visual and non-invasive. Climbing inspections were not performed.

Root collar inspections for disease or for structural integrity were not performed. Many of the trees on this site, being found in a natural, riparian setting have never been maintained by pruning and are thus subject to unexpected limb failures and could be described as "hazardous trees".

OBSERVATIONS

The majority of the trail is lined primarily with California Sycamore trees (*Platanus racemosa*) and a number of California Live Oak trees (*Quercus agrifolia*). Many of these trees are mature specimens which overhang the trail and planned repair areas. Additionally, there are seven Southern California Black Walnut trees (*Juglans californica*) and one California Bay tree (*Umbellularia californica*) that will be encroached upon during the Pipeline Protection Project. Many of the sycamore trees reach well over 100' in height and there are several enormous oak trees.

All of the trees in this canyon are growing in a "riparian scrub" setting and are thriving naturally with no custodial maintenance. They have never been maintained by pruning and are subject to limb failures, uprooting or windthrow. Many limbs and trees have fallen and will continue to fall throughout the duration of this project and beyond. Construction workers, hikers and bikers should be aware that trees in natural areas do pose a safety risk.

The recommended pruning measures described in this report are written only to provide the necessary access and clearance to both workers and vehicles while performing the functions required to construct and repair the roadway and not for safety purposes.

Only trees that will be impacted by construction activities (216 listed) related to the "project" including, road repair, pipe repair areas or staging zones have been numbered in this study. Impacted trees are those which will either be pruned significantly to provide construction clearance, i.e., those requiring cuts 2" diameter or larger and/or where construction activities may negatively affect the root zone of a particular tree to some degree. Generally, all trees where root zone encroachments are foreseen to reach within ten feet from a Protected Tree trunk have been listed as Impacted by Encroachment (IE). All trees to be significantly pruned are listed as Impacted by Pruning (IP). Many trees are forty-feet or more away from the repair areas, growing from embankments or across natural gullies. Their canopies extend to or over the repair areas yet their root zones will not be impacted. These trees were not included in the study except in cases where their canopies were low to the ground and pruning for clearance is required.

Trees where construction encroachments have been determined to be severe and likely to result in the decline and/or death of the tree are shown in the list of Protected Trees listed as "removals" (R). There are 31 trees designated for removal (all sycamores) including one on LACDPW property at the extreme southern end of the SoCalGas Pipeline Protection Project.

There are 54 oak trees, 108 sycamore trees, 7 black walnut trees and 1 bay tree listed as impacted by either pruning or root zone encroachment. Additionally, there are 15 trees (13 oaks & 2 sycamores) that fall on LACDPW property. These trees are shown in the list of Protected Trees as impacted by encroachment (IE) or pruning (IP).

All numbered trees have been "tagged" in the field with a number which corresponds with its identification on the TLM.

No Non-Protected trees have been included in this Report.

This Tree Report is being prepared at the request of the City of Los Angeles Board of Public Works and in accordance with the City of Los Angeles Protected Tree Ordinance No. 177.404.

A separate Report has been prepared for County review detailing the Protected Trees located on LACDPW property.

Robert W. Wallace
Registered Consulting Arborist

SUMMARY OF DATA (Protected Trees)

Total number of Protected Trees over 4" dia. (or larger) on map -----216

Total number of dead Protected Trees ----- 0

Total number of Protected Trees to be removed (excl. dead trees) ----- 31
(#'s 1, 9, 12, 16, 17, 40, 50, 51, 52, 58, 62, 76, 77, 96, 103, 106, 124, 141, 143, 145, 173, 179, 181, 183, 186, LAC207, PIP1, PIP2, PIP3, PIP4, PIP5) – all sycamores)

Total number of Protected Trees to be impacted by const. activities
(Encroach or Prune within their Protective Zones) ----- 185

(110 Sycamore (incl. 2 LAC): #'s 2-8, 10, 13-15, 18-19, 22-23, 27-37, 42-49, 53-55, 61, 63-66, 68-69, 71-75, 78-85, 88-95, 97-102, 104-105, 107, 110, 112-113, 115, 117, 127, 131, 134-136, 139-140, 142, 144, 146-148, 150-153, 158-159, 165, 172, 178, 180, 181A, 182, 184, 187-189, LAC 192A, LAC 206)

(67 Oak (incl. 13 LAC): #'s 20-21, 24-26, 38-39, 41, 59-60, 67, 70, 86-87, 108-109, 111, 118-121, 126, 128-130, 132-133, 137-138, 149, 154-157, 160-164, 166-171, 174-177, 185, 190-192, LAC 193-205)

(7 Black Walnut: #'s 56-57, 114, 116, 122-123, 125)

(1 Bay: # 11)