

SFPUC Pathway Tree Removals and Trimming Information

Pathway Project: Widen pathway from 8 to 10 feet of asphalt to better accommodate pedestrians and cyclists and the improved trail connection to nearby schools and Bol Park.

Charleston/Arastradero Summary Timeline

- 06/28/2017 – SFPUC Project Review for Bike Path Widening
- 08/16/2017 – Initial walkthrough of site with SFPUC staff
- 12/15/2017 – Second walkthrough of site with SFPUC staff
- 04/11/2019 – Meeting between City and SFPUC staff
- 10/09/2019 – License is executed

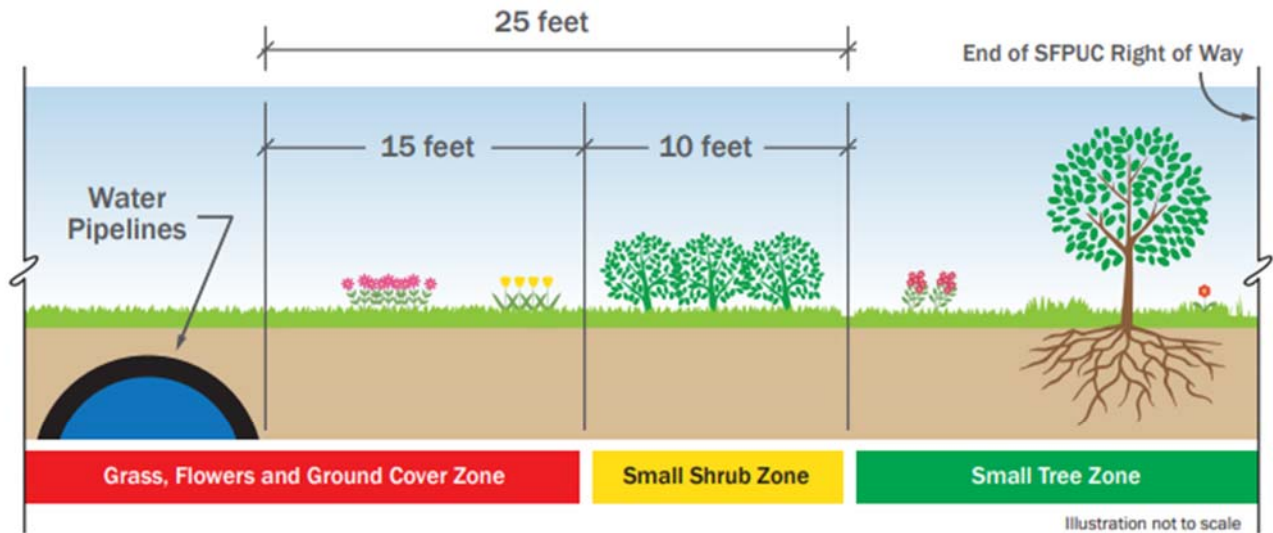
Scope of SFPUC Tree Removal/Trimming Work

- SFPUC requirement per agreement: 15 feet from northern pipeline, 20 feet from southern pipeline
- 16 trees to be removed
- Additional ~100 trees to be pruned
- Low branches creating “Tunneling” effect across pathway will be gone




Considerations

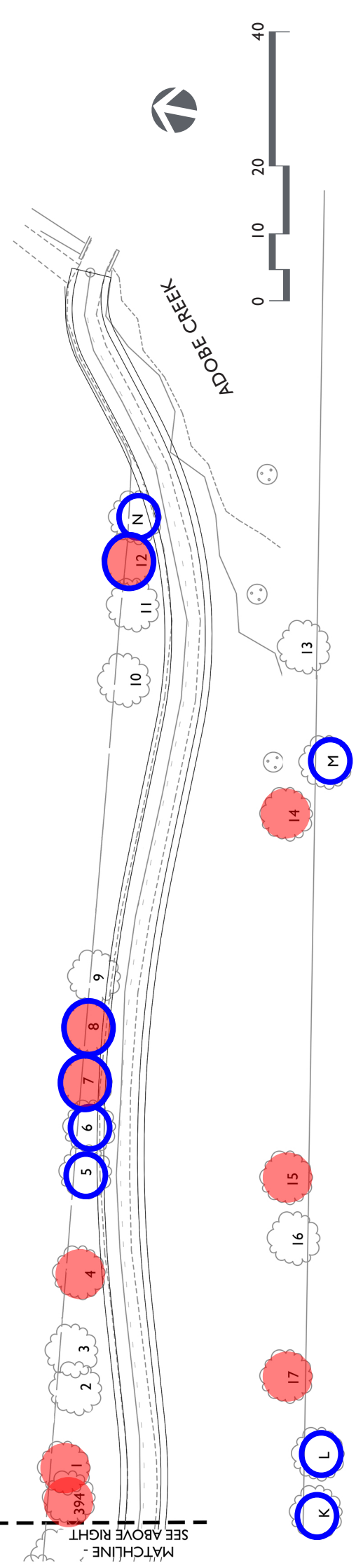
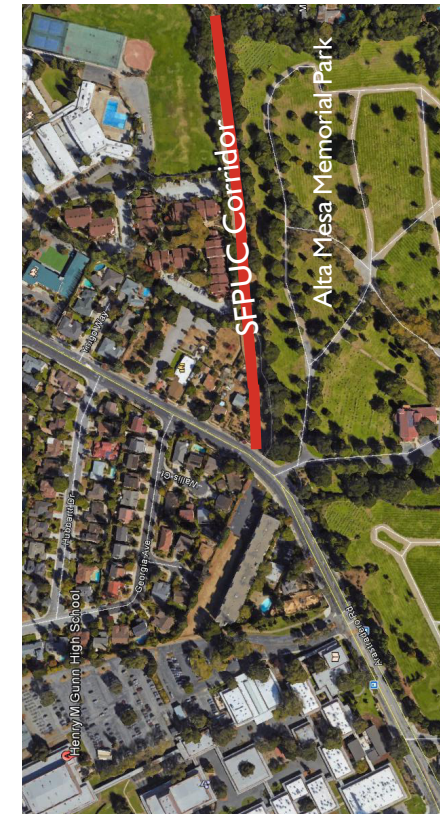
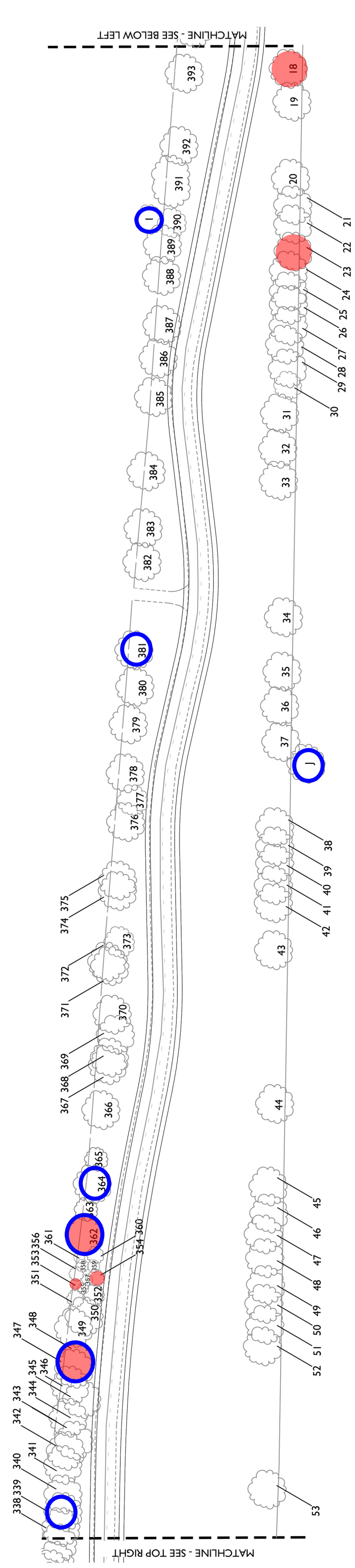
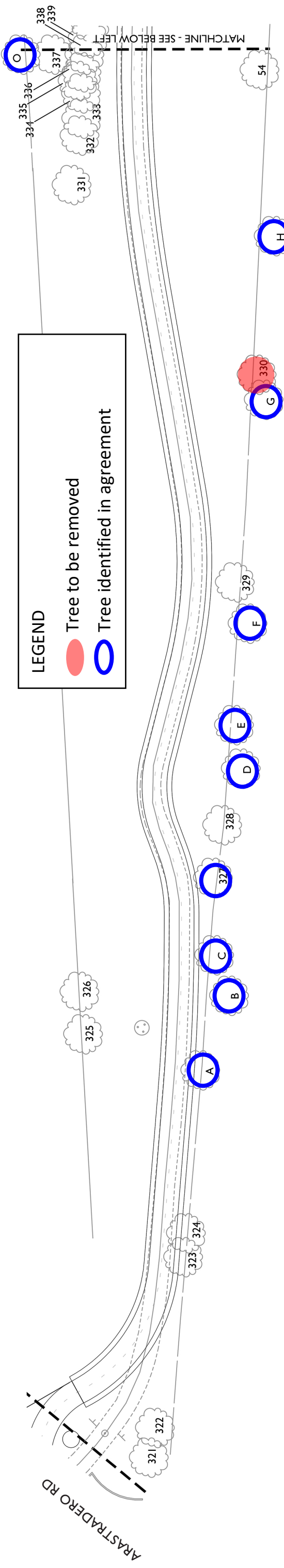
- SFPUC easement trees are not subject to City tree ordinance requirements
- Charleston/Arastradero project is paying into the Urban Forestry Fund (discretionary) for replacement of the 16 removed trees. Additionally, approximately 70 trees are being planted as part of the Charleston/Arastradero Corridor Project.
- Work is planned to be completed and supervised with in-house Urban Forestry staff rather than a contractor to minimize negative tree impacts
- If City does not complete the work, SFPUC could revoke the license and close the bike path, and/or more significantly trim or remove all trees (license requires work by 4/6/2020)
- SFPUC is updating licenses with other jurisdictions to include their newer vegetation guidelines

Right Of Way (ROW) Landscape Vegetation Guidelines



The following vegetation types are permitted on the ROW within the appropriate zones.

<p>Plantings that may be permitted directly above existing and future pipelines:</p> <p>Ground cover, grasses, flowers, and very low growing plants that reach no more than one foot in height at maturity.</p> 	<p>Plantings that may be permitted 15-25 feet from the edge of existing and future pipelines:</p> <p>Shrubs and plants that grow no more than five feet tall in height at maturity.</p> 	<p>Plantings that may be permitted 25 feet or more from the edge of existing and future pipelines:</p> <p>Small trees or shrubs that grow to a maximum of twenty feet in height and fifteen feet in canopy width or less.</p> 
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Tree Data for Removals along Los-Altos-Hetch Hetchy Bike Path

Tree #	Botanical Name	Common Name	Trunk Circumference	Canopy Width	Height
1	Acacia	Acacia	1' 8"	25'	45'
4	Ligustrum	Privet	1' 2"	9'	25'
7	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	4' 8"	30'	47'
8	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	12'	35'	43'
12	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	3' 6"	30'	9'
14	Prunus ilicifolia	Catalina Cherry	1' 1"	13'	20'
15	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	3 stems: 1' 3", 1', 1'	17'	25'
17	Sambucus caerulea	Elderberry	1' 10"	19'	23'
18	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	2 stems: 1' 8", 1' 2"	30'	42'
23	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	2 stems: 2' 4", 2' 6"	20'	25'
330	Ligustrum	Privet	6 stems: 8"-1/4"	20'	24'
348	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	6 stems: 1' 6", 11", 1' 2", 3' 6", 1' 11", 1', 3"	32'	24'
353	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	2' 6"	20'	28'
354	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	1' 8"	15'	24'
362	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	2 stems: 6', 6'	57'	45'
394	Quercus agrifolia	Coast Live Oak	6' 8"	30'	25'

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PROVIDED BY SFPUC

Background on the SFPUC property rights and primary utility purpose

- The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is a department of the City and County of San Francisco that owns and operates the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System.
- The system includes hundreds of miles of water transmission pipelines that deliver drinking water to Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo, and San Francisco counties.
- These pipelines most often run underground through swaths of land that the SFPUC owns in fee called a Right of Way.
- The primary use of SFPUC ROW property is for the reliable delivery of high quality water to the SFPUC's 2.7 million customers.
- Secondary uses of SFPUC property may be permitted if those proposed uses do not in way interfere with, endanger, or damage existing or future operations or the security of SFPUC lands and infrastructure.
- It is essential that the SFPUC always maintain unimpeded access to the pipelines in the ROW lands for operational and maintenance purposes, including for planned projects and emergency repairs.
- In the event of an emergency or planned repair, the SFPUC needs immediate access and space for equipment to make the repair and to not cause damage to the surrounding area

Consideration for a no-use fee license agreement

- The City of Palo Alto has been granted a revocable license agreement to use the SFPUC property for a bicycle and pedestrian pathway for no use fee in consideration that Palo Alto maintains the license area and the vegetation consistent with the SFPUC Right of Way Integrated Vegetation Management Policy. This can be further explained in Section 5a of the license agreement.

Vegetative Encroachment Background

- Tree limbs overhanging on the pipeline Right of Way will significantly impede the SFPUC's access to the pipelines in the event emergency repairs are necessary. Equipment Access is essential to prepare for emergencies.
- Palo Alto also requires pruning of the tree limbs in order to undergo their project to widen the pathway
- The roots from woody vegetation can impact and damage the water transmission pipelines causing expensive repairs that are then incurred by our ratepayers and putting their water supply at risk

- The SFPUC abides by an SFPUC Commission adopted pipeline Right of Way Integrated Vegetation Management Policy that restricts small trees or shrubs to be permitted 25 feet or more from the edge of existing and future pipelines. The small trees that can be allowed are restricted to species that grow to a maximum of twenty feet in height and fifteen feet in canopy width.
- The license agreement that Palo Alto negotiated with the SFPUC requires that vegetation on this stretch of land be in compliance with the existing Vegetation Management Policy on our ROW. Therefore, vegetation must be removed from the ground and airspace within 15 feet from the northern side of the edge of the SFPUC pipeline and 20 feet from the southerly side of the edge of the SFPUC pipeline. This continues to provide screening for adjacent property owners.
- To access our Right of Way Integrated Vegetation Management Policy- please visit SFwater.org
- Thank you for your continued support in keeping the pipeline ROW clear and protecting your water supply.