

From: [Hill, Shannon](#)
To: [Downtown West Project](#)
Subject: FW: Tree Removal Justification
Date: Wednesday, September 9, 2020 1:07:38 AM

From: Karl Heisler <KHeisler@esassoc.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 4:13 PM
To: Linda S. Peters <lpeters@esassoc.com>; Hill, Shannon <Shannon.Hill@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: Keyon, David <david.keyon@sanjoseca.gov>; Hillary Gitelman <HGitelman@esassoc.com>
Subject: RE: Tree Removal Justification

[External Email]

The other thing to bear in mind is that is proposing to plant nearly 2,300 new trees.

Shannon—Isn't the justification for removal part of the tree removal application (and perhaps the PD Permit), as opposed to something that would normally go in the EIR (similar to any reasoning behind a project approval action)?

Karl F. Heisler

ESA | Environmental Science Associates

Note that I am working remotely – call or text my mobile at (415) 377-5303.

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From: Linda S. Peters <lpeters@esassoc.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 4:09 PM
To: Hill, Shannon <Shannon.Hill@sanjoseca.gov>
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Hi Shannon

Thank you so much for the note; I will need to confirm but I believe as we didn't know what trees might be able be retained, we took a conservative worst-case approach.

Thank you so much for passing this along, we will see what clarification or justification we can add to the document.

Linda

Linda S. Peters

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From: Hill, Shannon <Shannon.Hill@sanjoseca.gov>

Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2020 4:06 PM

To: Linda S. Peters <lspecters@esaassoc.com>

Cc: Keyon, David <david.keyon@sanjoseca.gov>; Hillary Gitelman <HGitelman@esaassoc.com>; Karl Heisler <KHeisler@esaassoc.com>

Subject: Tree Removal Justification

Hi Linda,

I have a follow-up comment/question based on review of the DWDSG that I neglected to enter on ADEIR3.

Section 2.13.2 (Demolition, Grading, and Site Preparation) of the project description includes the following text:

Other site preparation activities would involve removing vegetation, which is assumed to include all existing trees (there are no City-designated Heritage Trees on the project site); grading; and, where necessary, site remediation. (Refer to Section 3.7, *Hazards and Hazardous Materials*.)

The following text is included under Impact BI-5, Subheading “City of San José Standard Condition of Approval BI-2: Tree Replacement”:

All 537 urban street or landscape trees on-site would be removed, of which 8 are native and 529 are non-native (none are orchard trees).

Without having more detail on development, what is the justification for removing all trees on-site? It would be good to provide more information as to why this is required in both the project description and BIO section.

Thanks!

Shannon Hill, Planner

Planning, Building & Code Enforcement | Environmental Review Section

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