

RFE Construction

General Contractor

1220 Liberty St.
El Cerrito, CA 94530
License #870788

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am a California licensed contractor, License No. 870788, and I have inspected the garage structure located at 1428 Union Street, Alameda, CA 94501.

Based on my inspection and observations, I have determined that the tree and root system of the tree located on the northeast corner of the property at 1426 Union Street, adjacent to garage structure located on the southwest corner of 1428 Union Street, has caused and will continue to cause structural damage to the garage structure and its foundation. The tree and tree roots are impacting the garage foundation and structural components, resulting in intrusion into the garage walls and structure, cracking of the foundation, and vertical structure displacement of 2 or more inches across the width of the structure.

Anecdotally, I have talked to the homeowner at 1426 Union and based on existing tree landmarks, he believes the tree has started to "lean" more in the past year than observed in previous years.

In my professional opinion, the continued growth of the tree and its root system presents an ongoing risk of additional damage to the garage structure. Based on the conditions I observed, I believe that removal of the tree is necessary to prevent further structural damage and to allow for appropriate repair and stabilization of the garage structure. I respectfully request that the City consider and approve removal of the oak tree based on the structural damage and potential for continued damage to the garage. I am available to provide additional information regarding my inspection and observations if needed.

I certify that the statements above accurately reflect my professional observations and opinions based on my inspection of the property.

Photos 1, 2, and 3 were taken on August 3, 2026 and show visual evidence of the aforementioned situation.

Sincerely,
Robert Ergenbright
Principal
RFE Construction
License No. 870788
Phone: (510)387-1334

Signature: _____



Date: _____

8-10-26

Demolition Certificate of Approval
Supplemental Application (Misc. Resource/Accessory Structure)

City Architectural and Historic Resource Designation: 1426 Union Street, 94501, affecting
1428 Union Street

Age of Resource/Date of Construction: House 1908. Not sure how old the tree is, but pretty old.

Describe the physical features of the resource:
large, old oak tree

Explain why, in detail, the resource is to be removed:

The oak tree penetrates the wall and is visible from the inside of the detached garage structure at 1428 Union Street. It is cracking the foundation and lifting the right side (when facing the structure, the southwest side) by at least 2 inches, but probably more. Also, the tree is leaning more than normal.

What are the proposed plans for the site after the removal of the resource:

The site is too close to the neighbor to plant another tree. We would probably use the space for either a flower bed or garden. Or maybe another tree if someone could convince us certain trees would not damage the neighbor's structure.

There is no space, no yard on this property to plant another tree. To replace this tree, we are open to have a City tree planted in front of our house between the sidewalk and the curb. Knowing that the City would really like 2 trees to be planted, we would try to sponsor another location per City advice.

Submittal Requirements:

1. Color photographs of the resource Attached are some photos, additional photos have been sent to Ben Wu
2. Site Plan I'm not sure what to submit for this.
3. Arborist Report, if appropriate
4. Inspector's Report, if appropriate Attached.

PLN26-0566 – 1426 Union St.

Site Photos



Photo 3. Cracking of structure foundation



Photo 2. Outside and inside structure view of tree intrusion to garage structure



Photo 1. Street view of garage structure, showing tree lean and garage vertical displacement.











