Arborist Report Memorandum

DATE: February 26, 2026

TO: Erin Smith, Public Works Director
City of Alameda

FROM: Darya Barar, Managing Consulting Arborist and Urban Forester
Ryan Suttle, Consulting Arborist and Urban Forester
HortScience | Bartlett Consulting

SUBJECT: Tree #1564
3120 Gibbons Drive, Alameda

The City of Alameda enlisted HortScience | Bartlett Consulting, Divisions of the F.A. Bartlett Tree Expert Company, (H|BC) to assess a population of mature sweetgums (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) along Gibbons Drive in Alameda. In December 2025, H|BC delivered a Tree Inventory Report which describes our assessment and preliminary recommendations to assist with creating an equitable and community-oriented management plan. Following the December 2025 Report, the City of Alameda requested that H|BC prepare individual reports for trees recommended for removal. This letter responds to that request.

LOCATION: 3120 Gibbons Drive, Tree #1564
SPECIES: Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)
TRUNK DIAMETER: 34 inches
CONDITION: Poor. The root flare and surface roots had filled the available space. Multiple scaffold branches emerged between 10 – 15 feet above grade to form a candelabra shape. A cavity was present on the north side of the trunk (1x3', approximately 20 – 30% cross-sectional area). Compartmentalization was minimal, indicating the tree was not responding well to the damage. See photos 1 – 4, next page.
SIDEWALK DAMAGE: Significant. Heaving and patched sidewalk with large roots visible below throughout street corner. Significant damage to neighboring driveway. Utility pull box heaving upwards.
CURB DAMAGE: Significant. The curb was lifted and bowed into the street or completely missing in sections. Asphalt in the roadway was damaged.

RECOMMENDATION: Remove the tree.
REMOVAL CRITERIA: See City of Alameda Tree Removal Policy Section D – All Other Tree Removals, Subsection 2C.

HortScience | Bartlett Consulting

Ryan Suttle, Consulting Arborist & Urban Forester
ISA Board Certified Master Arborist, Utility Specialist No. WE-12647BU
ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualified
ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist #813
ASCA Tree and Plant Appraisal Qualified

Photo 1 (top left): Looking south at tree #1564
Photo 2 (top right): Closeup of cavity. Note minimal reaction wood.
Photo 3 (bottom left): Looking east at the base of the trunk.
Photo 4 (bottom right): Looking south at the base of the trunk.