

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 #1538
2927 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: 2927 Gibbons Drive, tree #1538
SPECIES: Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)
TRUNK DIAMETER: 43 inches
CONDITION: Poor. Two large scaffold branches arose from a codominant attachment at ~8 – 10 feet. The attachment was wide and had a cavity in the center in the tension wood where loading forces would be greatest. A central column of decay appeared to connect from this cavity to a decaying wound at the base of the south side (~20% circumference). Foliage on the south side was thin and yellow. Surface roots filled the available growing space. See photos 1 – 4, next page.
SIDEWALK DAMAGE: Significant. Severe displacement throughout street corner.
CURB DAMAGE: Significant. The curb was lifted and bowed into the street.

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 north at tree ##1538.
Photo 2 (top right): Closeup of cavity in main attachment.
Photo 3 (bottom left): Looking north at the base.
Photo 4 (bottom right): Looking southeast at the base.