

CITY OF CUPERTINO
10300 Torre Avenue
Cupertino, California 95014

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-XX

OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CUPERTINO
APPROVING A TREE REMOVAL PERMIT TO ALLOW FOR THE
REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT OF FOUR OAK TREES IN
ASSOCIATION WITH REAR YARD IMPROVEMENTS AND A
PROPOSED TWO-STORY RESIDENCE LOCATED AT 22068 SAN
FERNANDO COURT (A.P.N. 357 12 012)

SECTION I: PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Application No.: RM-2024-028
Applicants: David Kuoppamaki
Location: 22068 San Fernando Court; APN: 357 12 012

SECTION II: FINDINGS FOR A TREE REMOVAL PERMIT

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission of the City of Cupertino received an application for a Tree Removal Permit as described in Section I of this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.) ("CEQA"), together with the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15000 et seq.) (hereinafter, "CEQA Guidelines"), the City staff has independently studied the proposed Project and has determined that the Project is exempt from environmental review pursuant to the categorical exemption in CEQA Guidelines section 15303 for the reasons set forth in the staff report dated January 27, 2026 and incorporated herein; and

WHEREAS, the necessary public notices have been given as required by the Procedural Ordinance of the City of Cupertino, and the Planning Commission has held at least one public meeting in regard to the application; and

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2026, the Planning Commission held a duly noticed public hearing to receive public testimony on the Project, including the categorical CEQA exemption in CEQA Guidelines section 15303, and reviewed and considered the information contained in the staff report pertaining to the Project, all other pertinent documents, and all written and oral statements received by the Planning Commission at or prior to the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the applicant has met the burden of proof required to support said application; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission finds as follows, with regard to this application, that:

1. That the mature specimen trees with single trunk between twelve inches DBH and twenty-four inches DBH, or multi-trunk between twenty-four inches DBH and forty-eight inches DBH in R1, A1, A, RHS, and R2 zones will be replaced by planting a replacement tree and/or by contribution to the City's Tree Fund.

The removal of four specimen (oak) trees with diameters at breast height (DBH) of between twelve and twenty-four inches is proposed by the applicant to accommodate rear yard grading. The project is conditioned to provide replacement oak trees on the site, where feasible, in conformance with the Municipal Code Ordinance requirements and proposes to contribution to the City's Tree Fund for all other replacements.

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has independently reviewed and considered the Project and the basis for the exemption prior to taking any approval actions on the Project, and exercising its independent judgment, based upon the entire record before it, has determined that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15303, which applies to new construction or conversion of single-family residences and accessory structures; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Planning Commission takes the following actions:

1. Exercises its independent judgment and determines that the Project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15303. The exemption in CEQA Guidelines section 15303 applies to new construction or conversion of single-family residences and accessory structures. The proposed project is a new single-family residence.
2. Approves the application for a Tree Removal Permit, Application no. TR-2024-043 subject to the conditions which are enumerated in this Resolution beginning on PAGE 3 thereof. The conclusions and sub-conclusions upon which the findings and conditions specified in this resolution are based, including those contained in the Public Hearing record concerning Application no. TR-2024-043 as set forth in the Minutes of Planning Commission Meeting of January 27, 2026, are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the foregoing recitals are true and correct and are included herein by reference as findings.

SECTION III: CONDITIONS ADMINISTERED BY THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

1. APPROVED EXHIBITS

Approval is based on the plan set consisting of twenty one (21) sheets, labeled Sheets CRV1, C-0, C-2, PLN1 through PLN4, A0.1 through A0.3, A2.1, A2.2, A3.1, A3.2, A4.1, A5.1 through A5.3, L-1 through L-3, and TOPO, submitted by the Applicants.

Plans shall be revised to preserve the 12-inch oak tree located adjacent to the rear property line. This approval includes the removal of up to four oak trees with diameters, as measured from 4.5 feet above grade, between 12 and 24 inches.

These plans are approved, with the modifications outlined above, and as may be amended by conditions in this resolution.

2. CONCURRENT APPROVAL CONDITIONS

The conditions of approval contained in file nos. EXC-2025-007, EXC-2025-008, R-2024-029, and RM-2024-028 shall be applicable to this approval.

3. ACCURACY OF PROJECT PLANS

The applicant/property owner is responsible for verifying all pertinent property data including but not limited to property boundary locations, building setbacks, property size, building square footage, any relevant easements, and/or construction records. Any misrepresentation of any property data may invalidate this approval and may require additional review.

4. TREE REPLACEMENT

The required tree replacement is either four (4) 36" box trees or eight (8) 24" box trees, or a combination thereof meeting the requirements of Municipal Code Section 14.18.160, located in the rear yard of the property. The replacement trees shall be a native oak species.

The replacement planting shall be planted on the subject property within 30 days of tree removal. The applicant shall provide the Department of Community Development adequate documentation, including but not limited to photographs, receipts, or invoices, to verify that the replacement trees have been planted.

Should it be determined that planting of replacement trees in the quantity or a portion of the quantity specified above cannot be accomplished in accordance with best

forestry management practices, the applicant shall pay an in-lieu fee for each tree not replaced on site in accordance with the in-lieu fee requirements outlined in Municipal Code Section 14.18.160 (B).

5. PROTECTED TREES

The applicant understands that replacement trees may not be removed without a Tree Removal Permit and that they shall be responsible for ensuring the proper maintenance and care of the trees. The applicant shall also disclose the location and species of all replacement trees on site upon sale of the property.

6. LANDSCAPE PROJECT SUBMITTAL

Prior to issuance of building permits, the applicant shall submit a full Landscape Documentation Package, per sections 14.15.050 A, B, C, and D of the Landscape Ordinance, for projects with landscape area 500 square feet or more or elect to submit a Prescriptive Compliance Application per sections 14.15.040 A, B, and C for projects with landscape area between 500 square feet and 2,500 square feet. The Landscape Documentation Package or Prescriptive Compliance Application shall be reviewed and approved to the satisfaction of the Director of Community Development prior to issuance of building permits, and additional requirements per sections 14.15.040 D, E, F, and G or 14.15.050 E, F, G, H, and I will be required to be reviewed and approved prior to final inspections.

7. AVOID NESTING BIRDS DURING CONSTRUCTION

Prior to issuance of the any demolition, grading and building permit, indicate the following on all construction plans:

- a. Demolition, construction, ground-disturbing, and tree removal/pruning activities shall be scheduled to be completed prior to nesting season (February 1 through August 31), if feasible.
- b. If demolition, construction, ground-disturbing, or tree removal/pruning activities occur during the nesting season (February 1 and August 31), preconstruction surveys shall be conducted as follows:
 - i. No more than 7 days prior to the start of demolition, construction, ground-disturbing, or tree removal/pruning activities, in order to identify any active nests with eggs or young birds on the site and surrounding area within 100 feet of construction or tree removal activities.
 - ii. Preconstruction surveys shall be repeated at 14-day intervals until demolition, construction, ground-disturbing, or tree removal/pruning activities have been initiated in the area, after which surveys can be stopped.

As part of the preconstruction survey(s), the surveyor shall inspect all trees and other possible nesting habitats in, and immediately adjacent to, the construction areas for active nests, while ensuring that they do not disturb the nests as follows:

- 1) For projects that require the demolition or construction one single-family residence, ground disturbing activities affecting areas of up to 500 square feet, or the removal of up to three trees, the property owner or a tree removal contractor, if necessary, is permitted to conduct the preconstruction surveys to identify if there are any active nests. If any active nests with eggs or young birds are identified, the project applicant shall retain a qualified ornithologist or biologist to identify protective measures.
 - 2) For any other demolition, construction and ground disturbing activity or the removal of four or more trees, a qualified ornithologist or biologist shall be retained by the project applicant to conduct the preconstruction surveys.
- iii. If the preconstruction survey does not identify any active nests with eggs or young birds that would be affected by demolition, construction, ground-disturbing or tree removal/pruning activities, no further mitigating action is required. If an active nest containing eggs or young birds is found sufficiently close to work areas to be disturbed by these activities, their locations shall be documented, and the qualified ornithologist or biologist shall identify protective measures to be implemented under their direction until the nests no longer contain eggs or young birds.
- iv. Protective measures may include, but are not limited to, establishment of clearly delineated exclusion zones (i.e., demarcated by identifiable fencing, such as orange construction fencing or equivalent) around each nest location as determined by the qualified ornithologist or biologist, taking into account the species of birds nesting, their tolerance for disturbance and proximity to existing development. In general, exclusion zones shall be a minimum of 300 feet for raptors and 75 feet for passerines and other birds. The active nest within an exclusion zone shall be monitored on a weekly basis throughout the nesting season to identify signs of disturbance and confirm nesting status. The radius of an exclusion zone may be increased by the qualified ornithologist or biologist, if project activities are determined to be adversely affecting the nesting birds. Exclusion zones may be reduced by the qualified ornithologist or biologist only in consultation with California Department of

Fish and Wildlife. The protection measures and buffers shall remain in effect until the young have left the nest and are foraging independently or the nest is no longer active.

- v. A final report on nesting birds and raptors, including survey methodology, survey date(s), map of identified active nests (if any), and protection measures (if required), shall be prepared by the qualified ornithologist or biologist and submitted to the Director of Community Development or his or her designee, through the appropriate permit review process (e.g., demolition, construction, tree removal, etc.), and be completed to the satisfaction of the Community Development Director prior to the start of demolition, construction, ground-disturbing, or tree removal/pruning activities.

8. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Prior to the issuance of any demolition, grading or building permit involving soil disturbance, the project applicant shall provide written verification, including the materials provided to contractors and construction crews, to the City confirming that contractors and construction crews have been notified of basic archaeological site indicators, the potential for discovery of archaeological resources, laws pertaining to these resources, and procedures for protecting these resources as follows:

- a. Basic archaeological site indicators that may include, but are not limited to, darker than surrounding soils of a friable nature; evidence of fires (ash, charcoal, fire affected rock or earth); concentrations of stone, bone, or shellfish; artifacts of stone, bone, or shellfish; evidence of living surfaces (e.g., floors); and burials, either human or animal.
- b. The potential for undiscovered archaeological resources or tribal cultural resources on site.
- c. The laws protecting these resources and associated penalties, including, but not limited to, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990, Public Resources Code Section 5097, and California Health and Safety Code Section 7050 and Section 7052.
- d. The protection procedures to follow should construction crews discover cultural resources during project-related earthwork, include the following:
 - i. All soil disturbing work within 25 feet of the find shall cease.

- ii. The project applicant shall retain a qualified archaeologist to provide and implement a plan for survey, subsurface investigation, as needed, to define the deposit, and assessment of the remainder of the site within the project area to determine whether the resource is significant and would be affected by the project.
- iii. Any potential archaeological or tribal cultural resources found during construction activities shall be recorded on appropriate California Department of Parks and Recreation forms by a qualified archaeologist. If the resource is a tribal cultural resource, the consulting archaeologist shall consult with the appropriate tribe, as determined by the Native American Heritage Commission, to evaluate the significance of the resource and to recommend appropriate and feasible avoidance, testing, preservation or mitigation measures, in light of factors such as the significance of the find, proposed project design, costs, and other considerations. The archeologist shall perform this evaluation in consultation with the tribe.

9. NOISE AND VIBRATION NOTICE

At least 10 days prior to the start of any demolition, ground disturbing, or construction activities, the project applicant/contractor shall ensure that a sign measuring at least two feet by three feet shall be posted on construction fencing at the entrance(s) to the job site, clearly visible to the public, and include the following:

- a. Permitted construction days and hours;
- b. A description of proposed construction activities;
- c. Telephone numbers of the City's and contractor's authorized representatives that are assigned to respond in the event of a noise or vibration complaint; and
- d. Contact information for City's and contractor's authorized representatives that are assigned to respond in the event of a complaint related to fugitive dust, pursuant to the requirements for compliance with [BAAQMD's CEQA Air Quality Guidelines](#).

If the authorized contractor's representative receives a complaint, they shall investigate, take appropriate corrective action, and report the complaint and the action taken to the City within three business days of receiving the complaint.

10. NOISE AND VIBRATION SIGNAGE

At least 10 days prior to the start of any demolition, ground disturbing, or construction activities, the project applicant/contractor shall ensure that a sign measuring at least two feet by three feet shall be posted on construction fencing at the entrance(s) to the job site, clearly visible to the public, and include the following:

- a. Permitted construction days and hours;
- b. A description of proposed construction activities;
- c. Telephone numbers of the City's and contractor's authorized representatives that are assigned to respond in the event of a noise or vibration complaint; and
- d. Contact information for City's and contractor's authorized representatives that are assigned to respond in the event of a complaint related to fugitive dust, pursuant to the requirements for compliance with [BAAQMD's CEQA Air Quality Guidelines](#).

If the authorized contractor's representative receives a complaint, they shall investigate, take appropriate corrective action, and report the complaint and the action taken to the City within three business days of receiving the complaint.

11. NOISE DURING CONSTRUCTION

Prior to issuance of any demolition, grading or building permit, include on plans a note that, during project construction, the project applicant shall incorporate the following measures to reduce noise during construction and demolition activity:

- a. The project applicant and contractors shall prepare and submit a Construction Noise Control Plan to the City's Planning Department for review and approval prior to issuance of the first permit. The Construction Noise Plan shall demonstrate compliance with daytime and nighttime decibel limits pursuant to Chapter 10.48 (Community Noise Control) of Cupertino Municipal Code. The details of the Construction Noise Control Plan shall be included in the applicable construction documents and implemented by the on-site Construction Manager. Noise reduction measures selected and implemented shall be based on the type of construction equipment used on the site, distance of construction activities from sensitive receptor(s), site terrain, and other features on and surrounding the site (e.g., trees, built environment) and may include, but not be limited to, temporary construction noise attenuation walls, high quality mufflers. During the entire active construction period, the Construction Noise Control Plan shall demonstrate that compliance with the specified noise control requirements for construction equipment and tools will reduce construction noise in compliance with the City's daytime and nighttime decibel limits.
- b. Select haul routes that avoid the greatest amount of sensitive use areas and submit to the City of Cupertino Public Works Department for approval prior to the start of the construction phase.

- c. Signs will be posted at the job site entrance(s), within the on-site construction zones, and along queueing lanes (if any) to reinforce the prohibition of unnecessary engine idling. All other equipment will be turned off if not in use for more than 5 minutes.
- d. During the entire active construction period and to the extent feasible, the use of noise producing signals, including horns, whistles, alarms, and bells will be for safety warning purposes only. The construction manager will use smart back-up alarms, which automatically adjust the alarm level based on the background noise level or switch off back-up alarms and replace with human spotters in compliance with all safety requirements and law.

12. INDEMNIFICATION

As part of the application, to the fullest extent permitted by law, the applicant shall agree to indemnify, defend with the attorneys of the City's choice, and hold harmless the City, its City Council, and its officers, employees, and agents (collectively, the "indemnified parties") from and against any liability, claim, action, cause of action, suit, damages, judgment, lien, levy, or proceeding (collectively referred to as "proceeding") brought by a third party against one or more of the indemnified parties or one or more of the indemnified parties and the applicant related to any Ordinance, Resolution, or action approving the project, the related entitlements, environmental review documents, finding or determinations, or any other permit or approval authorized for the project. The indemnification shall include but not be limited to damages, fees, and costs awarded against the City, if any, and cost of suit, attorneys' fees, and other costs, liabilities, and expenses incurred in connection with such proceeding whether incurred by the Applicant, the City, or the parties initiating or bringing such proceeding.

The applicant shall agree to (without limitation) reimburse the City its actual attorneys' fees and costs incurred in defense of the litigation. Such attorneys' fees and costs shall include amounts paid to the City's outside counsel and shall include City Attorney time and overhead costs and other City staff overhead costs and any costs directly related to the litigation reasonably incurred by City. The applicant shall likewise agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the indemnified parties from and against any damages, attorneys' fees, or costs awards, including attorneys' fees awarded under Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5, assessed or awarded against the indemnified parties. The Applicant shall cooperate with the City to enter a Reimbursement Agreement to govern any such reimbursement.

The Applicant shall agree to (without limitation) reimburse the City for all costs incurred in additional investigation or study of, or for supplementing, redrafting, revising, or amending, any document (such as an Environmental Impact Report, negative declaration, specific plan, or general plan amendment) if made necessary by proceedings challenging the project approvals and related environmental review, if the applicant desires to continue to pursue the project.

The Applicant shall agree that the City shall have no liability to the Applicant for business interruption, punitive, speculative, or consequential damages.

13. NOTICE OF FEES, DEDICATIONS, RESERVATIONS OR OTHER EXACTIONS

The Conditions of Project Approval set forth herein may include certain fees, dedication requirements, reservation requirements, and other exactions. Pursuant to Government Code Section 66020(d) (1), these Conditions constitute written notice of a statement of the amount of such fees, and a description of the dedications, reservations, and other exactions. You are hereby further notified that the 90-day approval period in which you may protest these fees, dedications, reservations, and other exactions, pursuant to Government Code Section 66020(a), has begun. If you fail to file a protest within this 90-day period complying with all of the requirements of Section 66020, you will be legally barred from later challenging such exactions.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 27th day of January, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission of the City of Cupertino, State of California, by the following roll call vote:

AYES: COMMISSIONERS:
NOES: COMMISSIONERS:
ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS:
ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS:

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Piu Ghosh
Planning Manager

Santosh Rao
Chair, Planning Commission