January 9, 2015

Southern Water District

M.B. Client

Associate Project Manager

(805) 579-x000

fClient@calleguas.com

SUBJECT: Arborist Field Observation Reports, Wood Line Break

Dear Mr. Client,

I have attached three field observation reports concerning oak trees in Wood Park near the recent water line break.

I think all the oaks will be OK. The small oaks at the entry to the trailhead were not damaged. There was no damage to the trunks and branches of the trees and other shrubs along the trail. By putting gravel over the steps you protected the tree roots from compaction. Once that gravel has been removed the roots should be fine.

At the bottom of the slide, slide debris was removed from the rootzone of two affected oak trees and the area returned to near its original condition before the slide. The contractor was careful not to damage the trunk and branches during removal of the debris. The sandy soil under the oak trees will help them by minimizing the effect of compaction from the slide and its removal.

The contractor did a good job.

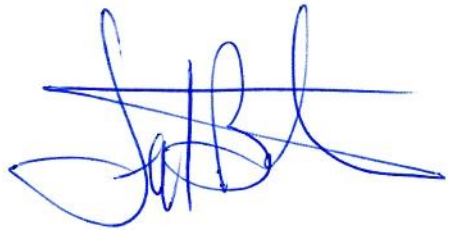
If you have further questions please let me know.

LA Johnny

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
10880 del Norte Street #27
Ventura, California 93004
805-754-9393

CA License LA 5251
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A
www.lajohnny.com
john@LAJohnny.com

Sincerely,



John Burke

Landscape Architect 5251

ISA Certified Arborist WE-8327A

LA Johnny

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805-754-9393

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Contents

LA Johnny

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Tree Map

LA Johnny

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Arborist Field Observation Report - 1

Project: Southern Water District, Wood Line Break Oaks

Date: December 18, 2014

Start: 7:00 AM

End: 11:30 AM

On Tuesday December 16, 2014 I met with M.B. Client and Jamaal at the trailhead to discuss protecting the existing native oaks while allowing ingress/egress of essential construction equipment needed to repair the water line break. We walked the first 500 hundred feet where vegetation was growing on each side of the trail.

I told them it would probably be possible to get equipment in with little or no damage. We agreed that would come back and talk to the contractor when the time came to bring in the small track vehicles and skip loaders that were too heavy for the parks bridge. That operation was scheduled for Thursday December18, 2014.

On the 18th I met with H. Hat the contractors' superintendent who was supervising the ingress of equipment through the trailhead. We walked the first 500 feet of trail and looked at all the plants especially the oaks. JD thought they could get the equipment past all the oaks without damage. A few might need to be held back either by hand or with a rope.

He thought the shrubs (lemonade berry, *Rhus integrifolia*) where the trail turned would need to be pruned back to allow enough room for clearance. We discussed how to make proper thinning cuts on those shrubs.

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Ventura, California 93004
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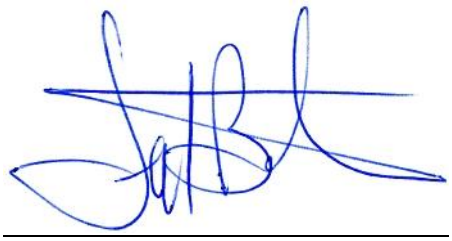
john@LAJohnny.com

Two hours later I returned to examine the oaks along the trail. None of the oaks had any damage to trunks or branches. In most places the contractor placed 18 inches of gravel mulch which protected the roots from compaction.

The conditions can be seen in the following photographs.



Date: 12/18/2014

John Burke

Landscape Architect 5251

ISA Certified Arborist WE-8327A

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
10880 del Norte Street #27
Ventura, California 93004
805-754-9393

CA License LA 5251
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A
www.lajohnny.com
john@LAJohnny.com

Photo 1-1

Above: Looking west at covered steps at the San Miguel Ct. trailhead. This is the ingress route for some construction equipment.

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
10880 del Norte Street #27
Ventura, California 93004
805-754-9393

CA License LA 5251
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A
www.lajohnny.com
john@LAJohnny.com

Photo 1-2

Above: Looking west at covered steps at the San Miguel Ct. trailhead.

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
10880 del Norte Street #27
Ventura, California 93004
805-754-9393

CA License LA 5251
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A
www.lajohnny.com
john@LAJohnny.com

Photo 1-3

Above: scrub oaks at the San Miguel Ct. trailhead.

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10880 del Norte Street #27
Ventura, California 93004
805-754-9393

CA License LA 5251
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www.lajohnny.com
john@LAJohnny.com

Photo 1-4

Above: scrub oaks at the San Miguel Ct. trailhead.

Photo 1-5

Above: San Miguel Ct. trailhead.

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
10880 del Norte Street #27
Ventura, California 93004
805-754-9393

CA License LA 5251
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A
www.lajohnny.com
john@LAJohnny.com

Photo 1-6

Above: San Miguel Ct. trailhead.

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
10880 del Norte Street #27
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805-754-9393

CA License LA 5251
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A
www.lajohnny.com
john@LAJohnny.com

Arborist Field Observation Report - 2

Project: Southern Water District, Wood Line Break Oaks

Date: December 29, 2014

Start: 7:20AM

End: 9:20AM

On December 29, 2014 I met with the contractors' foreman Art to discuss removal of the slide material around two oak trees. I also met with M.B. Client and O. M. Client.

At the bottom of the slide I saw two mature oak trees one with a 42" DBH (diameter at breast height) and another with a 30" DBH. The slide material includes soil and boulders and had piled up to over 5 feet at the deepest point. Near the edge of the oak canopies the slide tapered off to natural grade.

I explained to Art that they should try to remove all the fill below the oak canopies and restore the pre-slide grade as much as possible given the damage caused by the slide.

I noticed that a 10 foot wide hiking trail passed under the canopy of both oaks so the natural grade had been altered in the past to create the hiking trail. It appeared the trail had been created by cutting and filling to create a flat 10' wide trail in the steep slope. It appears some fill was placed under the oak canopies to create the trail. Our goal was to remove as much of the new slide material as possible while re-establishing the grade of the hiking trail.

The material within 3 feet of the trunk was to be removed using hand tools to avoid damaging the trunk. The same use of hand tools was agreed to around a partially buried scaffold branch.

It would be necessary to prune a few low branches. We discussed making proper thinning cuts.

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
10880 del Norte Street #27
Ventura, California 93004
805-754-9393

CA License LA 5251
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A
www.lajohnny.com
john@LAJohnny.com

The contractor agreed to use only small vehicles to minimize compaction.

The conditions can be seen in the following photographs.

Date: 12/29/2014

John Burke

Landscape Architect 5251

ISA Certified Arborist WE-8327A

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
10880 del Norte Street #27
Ventura, California 93004
805-754-9393

CA License LA 5251
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A
www.lajohnny.com
john@LAJohnny.com

Photo 2-1

Above: Looking north on trail beside 2 oaks at Wood Park.

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
10880 del Norte Street #27
Ventura, California 93004
805-754-9393

CA License LA 5251
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A
www.lajohnny.com
john@LAJohnny.com

Photo 2-2

Above: Looking east at slide.

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
10880 del Norte Street #27
Ventura, California 93004
805-754-9393

CA License LA 5251
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A
www.lajohnny.com
john@LAJohnny.com

Photo 2-3

Above: Looking east at slide.

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
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CA License LA 5251
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www.lajohnny.com
john@LAJohnny.com

Photo 2-4

Above: Looking south at 5’ of slide material under oak trees.

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
10880 del Norte Street #27
Ventura, California 93004
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CA License LA 5251
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www.lajohnny.com
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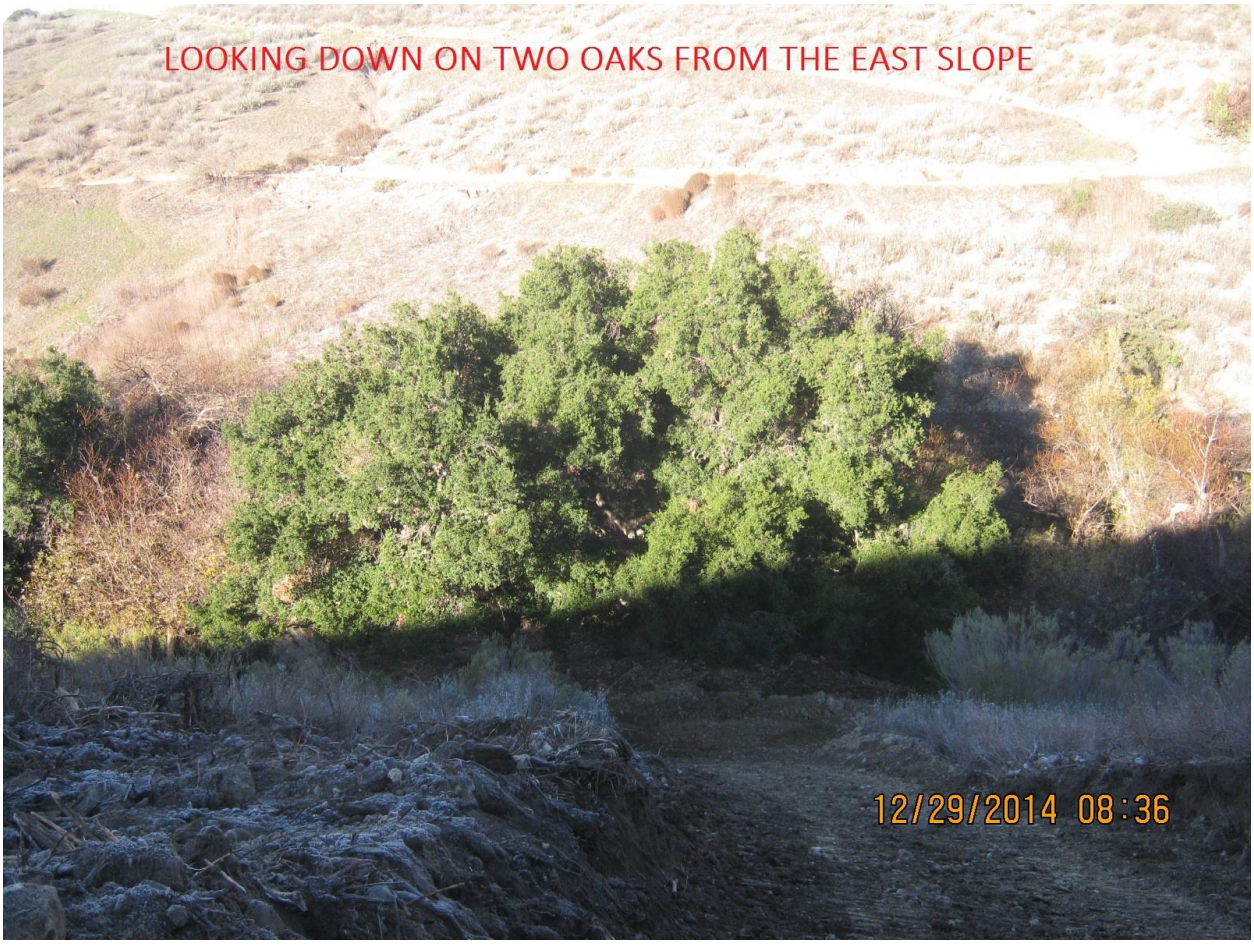
Photo 2-5



Above: looking west and down at slide and oak trees.

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
10880 del Norte Street #27
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805-754-9393

CA License LA 5251
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A
www.lajohnny.com
john@LAJohnny.com

Arborist Field Observation Report - 3

Project: Southern Water District, Wood Line Break Oaks

Date: January 6, 2015

Start: 1:10 PM

End: 2:20 PM

On January 6 I met with the contractor Rick to review removal of the slide material around two oak trees. I also met with Jamaal.

While walking the trail from the San Miguel trailhead down to the oaks at the bottom of the recent slide, I observed no damage to the trunks or branches of oaks along the trail.

The slide material had been removed to the base of the oak trees. I was able to observe the trunk flare at the base of both trees.

The trail had been restored to near its original shape where it passed below the oaks. Boulders from the recent slide had been placed against the slope to reinforce the slope below (west) the trail.

A few boulders remained to be moved away from the tree trunks. We agreed the boulders would be cleared at least four feet from the trunk.

The sandy texture of the soil should help protect the feeder roots from compaction caused by tons of slide material.

The area below the oak trees had been restored to near its grade prior to the slide.

The conditions can be seen in the following photographs.

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
10880 del Norte Street #27
Ventura, California 93004
805-754-9393

CA License LA 5251
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A
www.lajohnny.com
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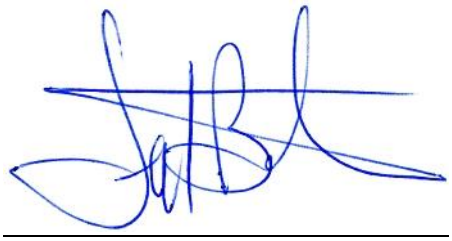

Date: 1/6/2015

John Burke

Landscape Architect 5251

ISA Certified Arborist WE-8327A

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
10880 del Norte Street #27
Ventura, California 93004
805-754-9393

CA License LA 5251
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A
www.lajohnny.com
john@LAJohnny.com

Photo 3-1

Above: Looking east at oak trees after slide material removed.

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
10880 del Norte Street #27
Ventura, California 93004
805-754-9393

CA License LA 5251
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A
www.lajohnny.com
john@LAJohnny.com

Photo 3-2

Above: Looking south at oak trees after slide material removed.

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
10880 del Norte Street #27
Ventura, California 93004
805-754-9393

CA License LA 5251
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A
www.lajohnny.com
john@LAJohnny.com

Photo 3-3

Above: Looking north at oaks and trail after slide material removed.

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
10880 del Norte Street #27
Ventura, California 93004
805-754-9393

CA License LA 5251
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A
www.lajohnny.com
john@LAJohnny.com