

March 16, 2015

M.B. Client Properties, LLC

Oaks Blvd, Suite 103

Southern, CA 91000

SUBJECT: Arborist Health Assessment Report Chinese Elm Tree

Dear Mr. Client,

I examined the Chinese elm tree (*Ulmus parvifolia*) growing near the front door to your office building. It is coming into leaf more slowly than the others in the parking lot. The way it has been pruned is probably the major reason. It will probably leaf out soon just like the others.

That tree has a lot more small branches than the others. It may have a lot more leaves to push out. Most of those small branches sprout from old pruning cuts. These watersprouts are weak fast growing branches which happen when pruning removes the dominant growth bud on the branch. That is called topping, it is also called making an inter nodal cut (a cut between the nodes on a branch).

By contrast a proper thinning cut is made where a lateral branch grows from the branch you are trying to shorten. The lateral branch then becomes dominant which minimizes the growth of watersprouts.

Another issue may be the amount of foliage removed in a single pruning. When you remove too much foliage the tree reacts by creating watersprouts. 20% is considered the maximum but you would only take that much in unusual circumstances.

Heath wise the tree looks good. It has the same trunk size as the others, the root zone if anything looks better than the other planters I checked. Moisture levels look fine.

The remedy is restoration pruning to slowly remove the watersprouts and restore the open branch structure these trees should have. The tree needs a year to recover. After a year you start thinning the

M.B. Client Property Management

LA Johnny

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist

ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A

805-754-9393 www.lajohnny.com

Arborist Report

Page 1 of 6

sprouts that have formed at each heading cut. You chose the best 1/3 of the sprouts to keep, remove the worse 1/3 and shorten the other third. It may take two or three years to restore it.

Not all tree care companies are trained to the same level of expertise. Their major trade group is the Tree Care Industry of America (TCIA). Hiring companies that are members of TCIA is one way to insure a minimum level of training. Many contractors are also members of the International Society of Arboriculture, (ISA) and send their workers to be ISA trained and ISA certified tree workers.

Training young landscape trees through careful pruning is key to reducing the long term maintenance cost. There are few reasons to prune trees except when they conflict with people. Raising trees for clearance is a valid reason to prune. Reduction pruning to create clearance at buildings is another reason to prune.

It's not possible to control the height of a tree by "giving it a haircut", a dense canopy of watersprouts is the result of that kind of pruning and it usually needs to be repeated every few years once it starts. Eventually it leads to structural problems and increased risk of branch failure.

Recommendations:

1. Let the tree recover for a year.
2. Prune to restore starting in the summer of 2016

If you have further questions please let me know.

Sincerely,



John Burke

Landscape Architect 5251

ISA Certified Arborist WE-8327A

M.B. Client Property Management

LA Johnny

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist

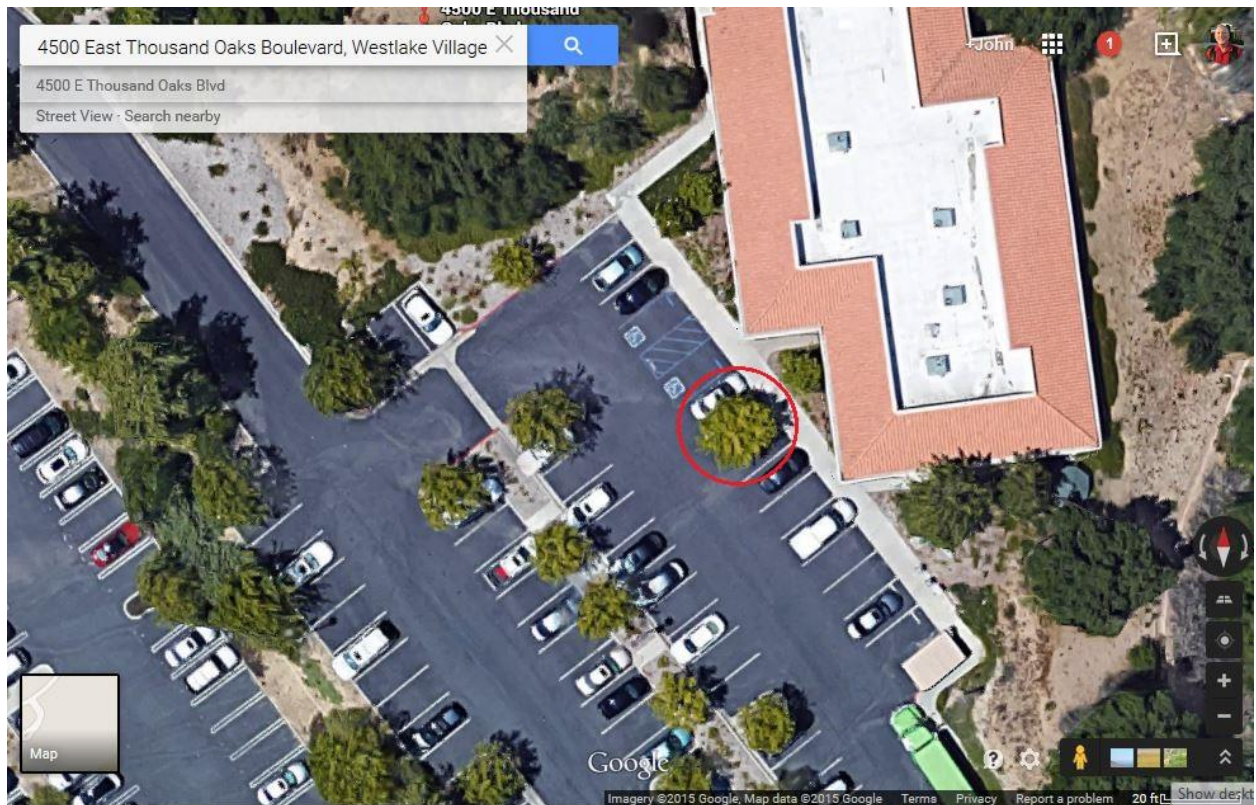
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A

805-754-9393 www.lajohnny.com

Arborist Report

Page 2 of 6

Tree Map



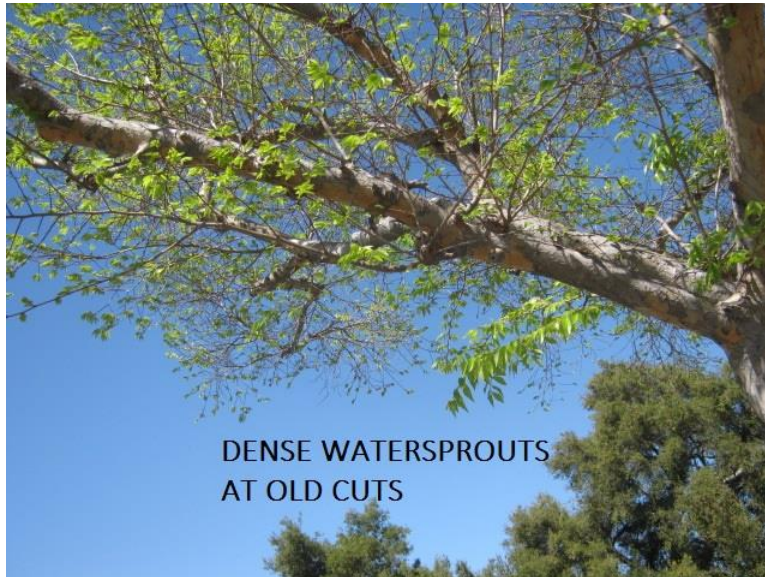
Tree Map

M.B. Client Property Management

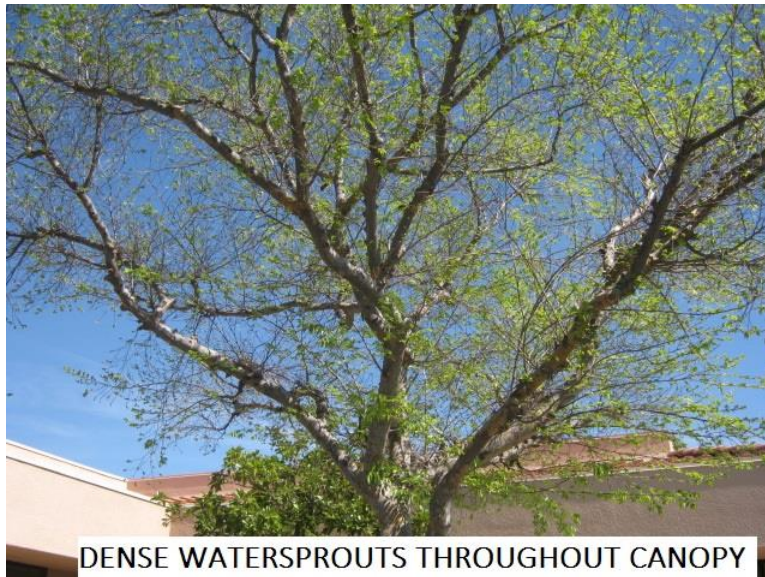
LA Johnny

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A
805-754-9393 www.lajohnny.com

Arborist Report
Page 3 of 6



DENSE WATERSPROUTS
AT OLD CUTS



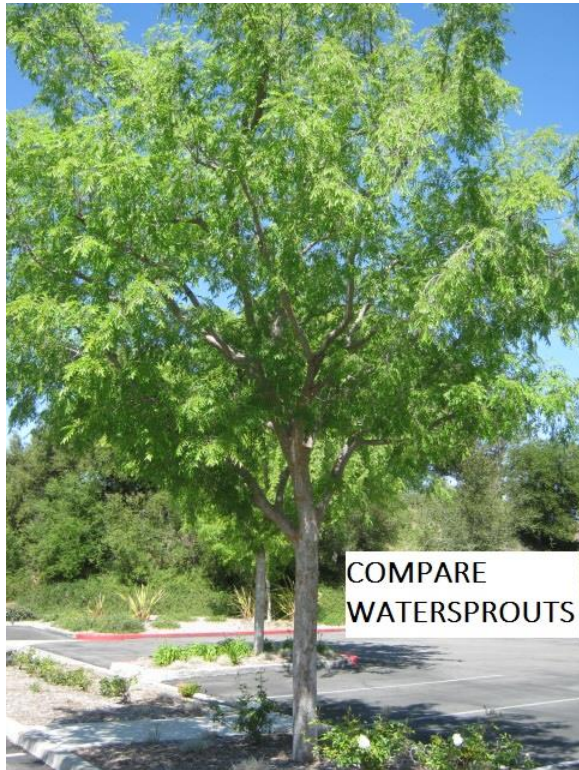
DENSE WATERSPROUTS THROUGHOUT CANOPY

M.B. Client Property Management

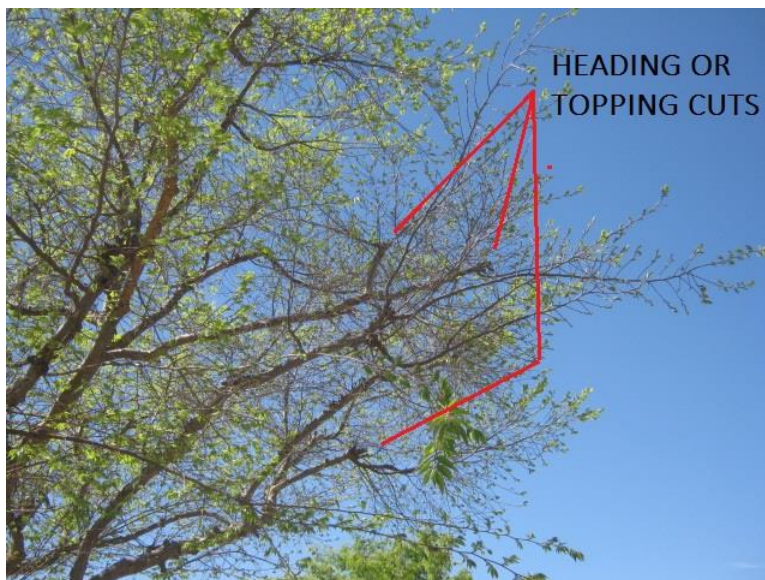
LA Johnny

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A
805-754-9393 www.lajohnny.com

Arborist Report
Page 4 of 6



Adjacent elm

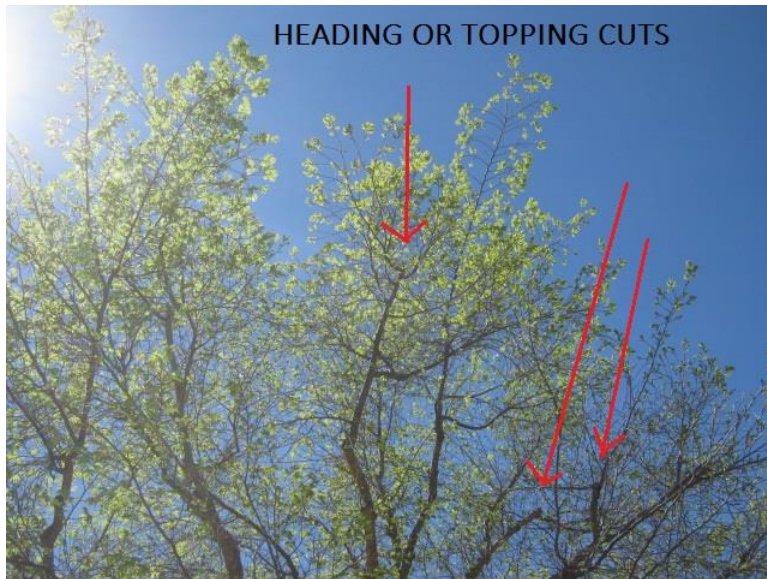


M.B. Client Property Management

LA Johnny

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A
805-754-9393 www.lajohnny.com

Arborist Report
Page 5 of 6



M.B. Client Property Management

LA Johnny

Landscape Architect & Consulting Arborist
ISA Certified Arborist WE8327A
805-754-9393 www.lajohnny.com

Arborist Report
Page 6 of 6