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Consulting Arborist

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ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist® No. 402

ISA Certified Arborist No. WE2257A

ISA-TRAQ Tree Risk Assessment Qualification

CA DPR Qualified Applicator Certificate No. 82521

APA Certified Aesthetic Pruner No. 010



asca AMERICAN SOCIETY of
CONSULTING ARBORISTS

May 22, 2017

Ahmad Sheikholeslami
Menlo Park City School District
Chief Business and Operations Officer
Menlo Park City School District
181 Encinal Avenue
Atherton, CA 94027

Re: Lower Laurel School – Tree 29
Letter of Addendum to Arborist Report of April 25, 2017

Dear Mr. Sheikholeslami:

At the request of the Menlo Park City School District (MPCSD), Fujiitrees Consulting, LLC completed a root collar inspection (RCX) of Tree 29 on May 4, 2017. Family related travels was the reason for the delay in providing this letter of addendum to you.

To provide timely information, Fujitrees Consulting, LLC emailed a letter to you on May 9, 2017 that summarized findings from the tree risk assessments conducted on Trees 29 and 16. The provided information was expected to be sufficient enough to make an informed decision. The consultant followed up with a telephone call to you on May 12, 2017 to answer any possible questions.

Executive Summary

During the initial inspection of Tree 29, on April 18, 2017, Fujiitrees Consulting, LLC (Consultant) recommended a root collar examination of Tree 29. The trunk was considered to be sound but the condition of the upper structure and root system were in question.

Soil was excavated from the base of Tree 29 by the MPCSD staff. This excavation allowed the Consultant to complete a root collar examination (RCX) of the subject tree on May 4, 2017.

Findings from this inspection determined that Tree 29 presents a moderate to high risk to students and staff during normal weather conditions. Risk will increase when student activities occur during severe or unpredictable weather conditions.

Tree 29 should be scheduled for removal within the next six months. Temporary barriers should be placed around this tree until it is properly removed.



Introduction

During the initial inspection of Tree 29, on April 18, 2017, Fujitrees Consulting, LLC (Consultant) recommended a root collar examination of Tree 29. Also noted was a cabled limb extending over the classroom building that presents a moderate to high risk that requires mitigation pruning. The trunk was considered to be sound but the condition of the upper structure and root system were in question.

The Menlo Park City School District (MPCSD) requested the Consultant to complete the recommended root collar examination.

Observations and Discussion

Identification: valley oak (*Quercus lobata*)

Trunk Diameter: 56.3 inches at 4.5 feet above the existing grade.

Approximate Height: 83 feet

Approximate Crown: North: 47 feet, South: 39 feet, East: 46 feet and West: 48 feet

Tree 29 is located between a classroom building and the service roadway. (Photos 1 and 2) The Consultant was informed that construction operations took place near Tree 29 in 2012.

Soil was excavated from the base of Tree 29 by the MPCSD staff. This excavation allowed the Consultant to complete a root collar examination (RCX) of Tree 29 on May 4, 2017. The depth of excavation was approximately 12 to 16 inches around the base of the trunk. (Photo 3)

Bark below the soil line was observed to be eroded. Buttress roots were exposed on the north, east and south sides. (Photos 3, 4 and 5) No buttress roots were displayed on the west side. (Photo 6)

Analysis

Please refer to the Arborist Report of April 28, 2017 for an explanation of a resistance recording drill.

Nine sites were sampled by use of a resistance recording drill (RRD). (Refer to Appendix 2.1.1 – Tree 29 Diagram) The presence of sound wood was strongest on the north trunk side based on sampling from two sites. (Photo 7) The remaining seven sites were determined to be a mix of limited sound wood, insipient decay and decayed wood. (Photos 8 through 14)

Sample sites 8 and 9 taken from the north side of trunk produced charts of consistently sound wood. (Appendix 3.1.3 – Samples 8 and 9)

Sample sites 1 through 7 were of mixed wood densities and quality. (Appendices 3.1.1, 3.1.2 and 3.1.3) These inconsistent wood density samplings determined by the RRD are indicative of root damage that has moved into the lower trunk.

Conclusions

Based on observations from the root collar examination and charts produced from the resistance recording drill, stability of the root system was significantly compromised.

Root damage of mature oaks in the urban environment are often the result of human alterations to site conditions. This situation is not unusual for mature trees impacted by irrigated landscapes or construction operations. The Consultant was informed that construction operations took place near Tree 29 in 2012.

Were the target of a tree failure, an occasionally used storage shed the risk rating would be significantly low due to the low value of the target. However this is not the case.

Within the target zone of Tree 29 are classrooms, a lunch area, a service roadway and a soft path used by students and staff. The close proximity of Tree 29 to on-going student activities, limited to weekday hours were factors taken into consideration when making this risk determination.

Under current, normal weather conditions Tree 29 presents a moderate to high risk to student activity and structures beyond the area of its dripline. Risk will increase when student activities occur during severe or unpredictable weather conditions.

Tree 29 should be scheduled for removal within the next six months. A temporary barrier should be placed around Tree 29 until it is properly removed.

Kindly contact me with your questions.

Respectfully,

FUJITREES CONSULTING, LLC

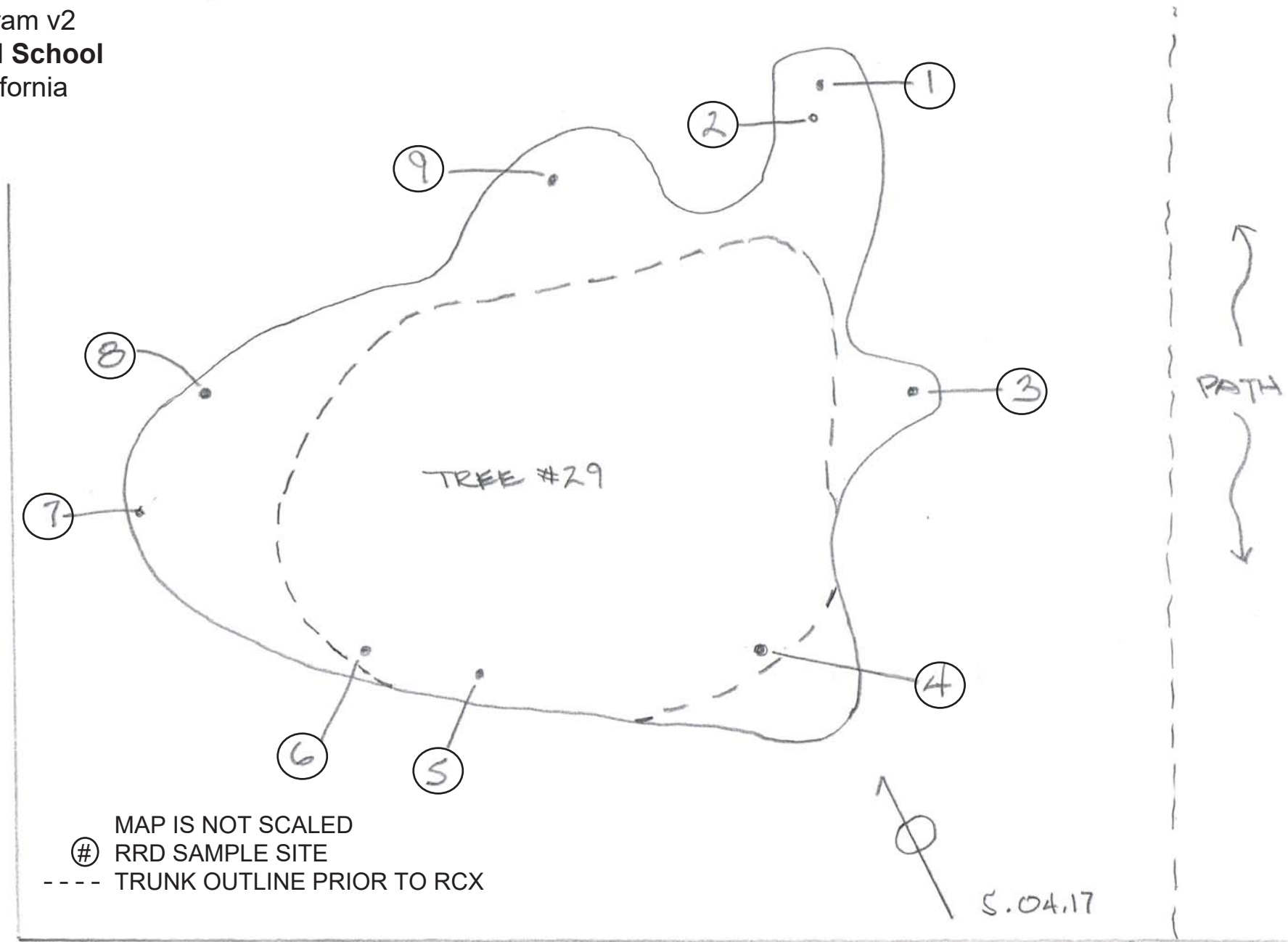
By: 
Walter Fujii, RCA®
Manager and Consulting Arborist



Please see Attachments on the following page.

Attachments: Appendix 1.2 Photograph Exhibit
Appendix 2.2.1 Tree 29 Diagram
Appendix 3.1.1 Tree 29 RRD Charts 1 – 3
Appendix 3.1.2 Tree 29 RRD Charts 4 – 6
Appendix 3.1.3 Tree 29 RRD Charts 7 – 9
Certificate of Performance
Terms and Conditions

Appendix 2.1.1
Tree 29 Diagram v2
Lower Laurel School
Atherton, California



MAP IS NOT SCALED
RRD SAMPLE SITE
- - - - TRUNK OUTLINE PRIOR TO RCX

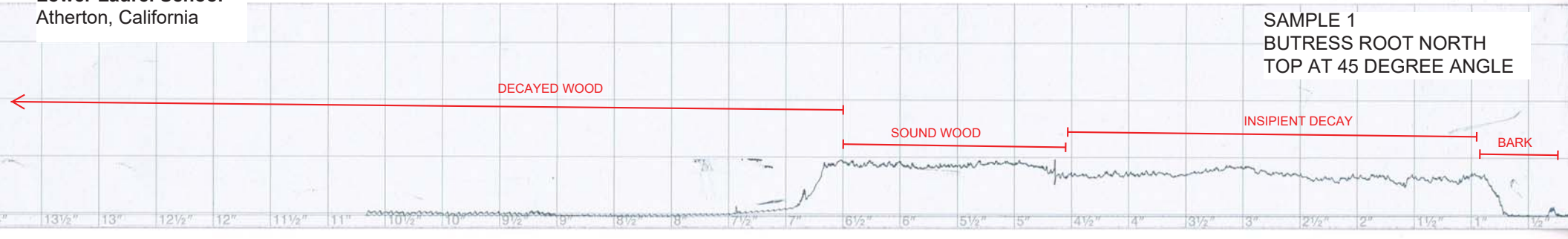
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CLASSROOM

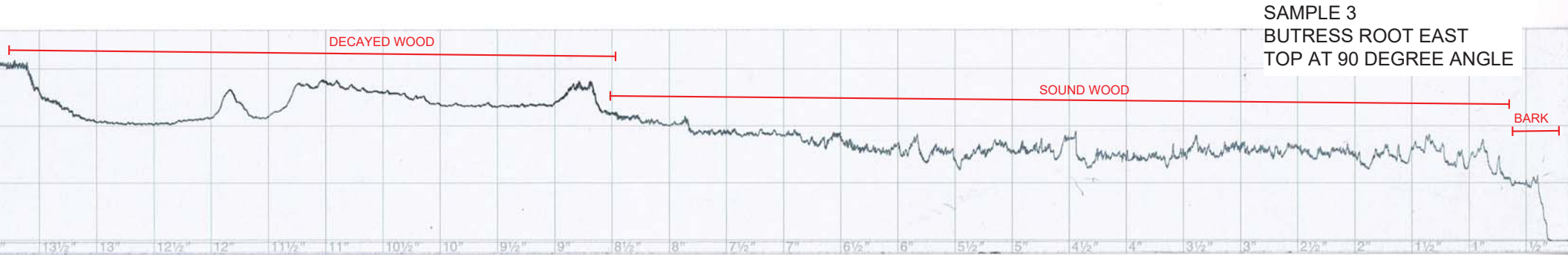
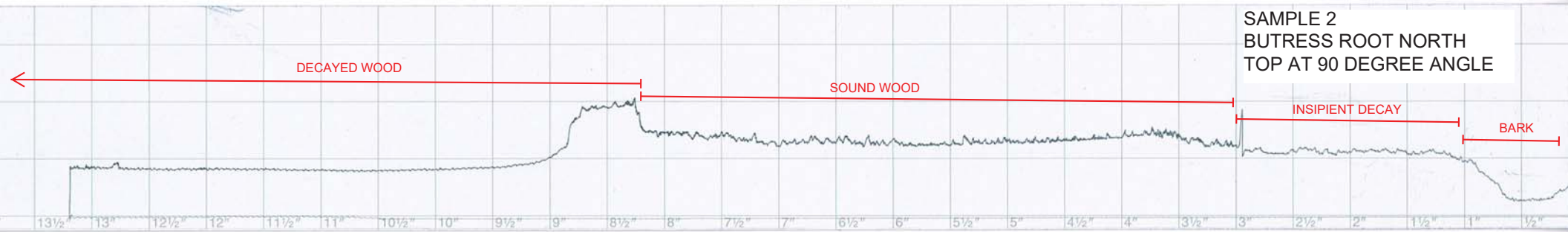
LUNCH
AREA

Appendix 3.1.1
Tree 29 - RRD Charts
Lower Laurel School
Atherton, California

DATE OF SAMPLES: MAY 4, 2017
CHARTS 1, 2 AND 3

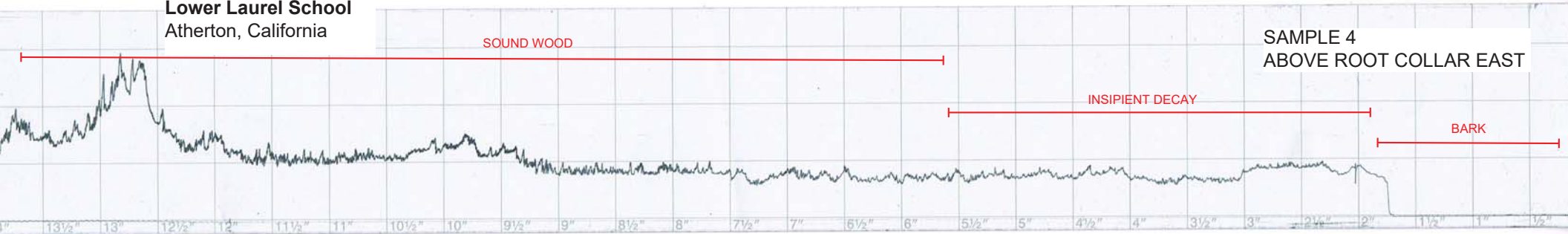


CHARTS ARE NOT SCALED

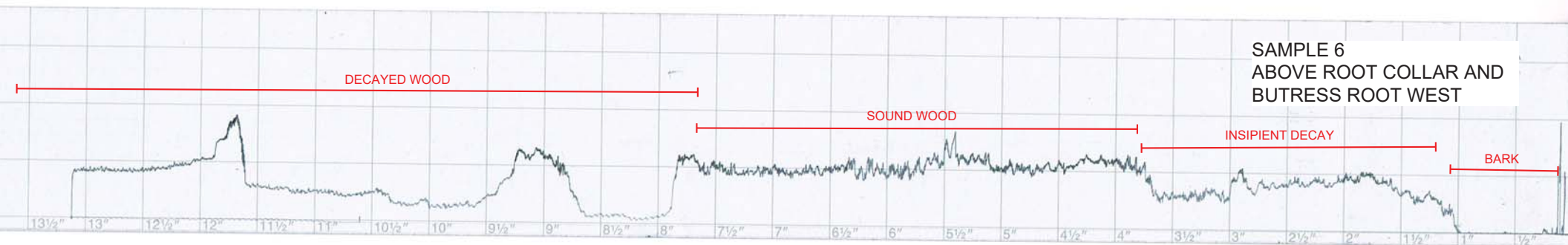
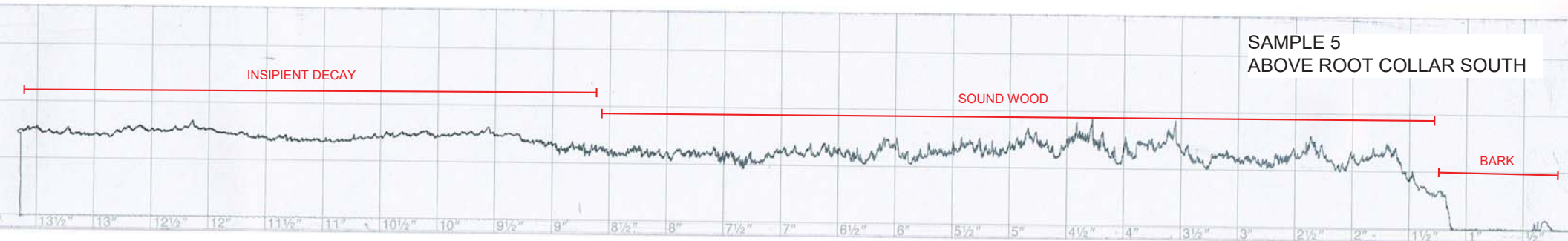


Appendix 3.1.2
Tree 29 - RRD Charts
Lower Laurel School
Atherton, California

DATE OF SAMPLES: MAY 4, 2017
CHARTS 4, 5 AND 6



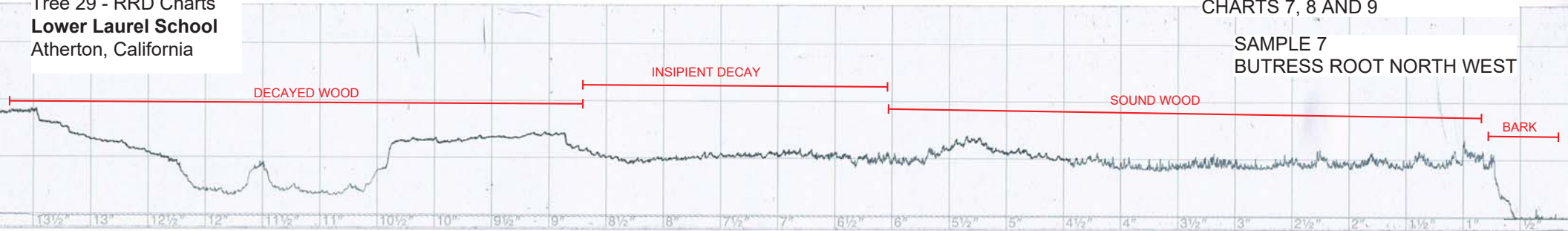
CHARTS ARE NOT SCALED



Appendix 3.1.3
Tree 29 - RRD Charts
Lower Laurel School
Atherton, California

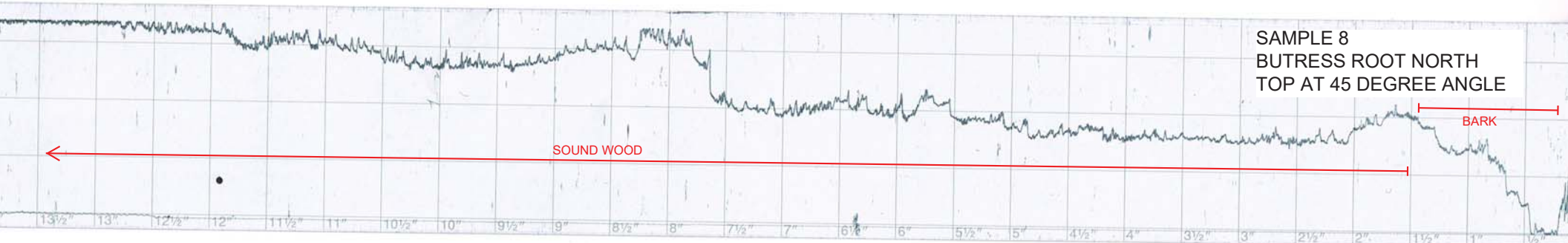
DATE OF SAMPLES: MAY 4, 2017
CHARTS 7, 8 AND 9

SAMPLE 7
BUTRESS ROOT NORTH WEST



CHARTS ARE NOT SCALED

SAMPLE 8
BUTRESS ROOT NORTH
TOP AT 45 DEGREE ANGLE



SAMPLE 9
BUTRESS ROOT NORTH
TOP AT 45 DEGREE ANGLE



Certification of Performance

That I have personally inspected the tree(s) and /or property referred to in this report and have stated my findings accurately. The extent of the evaluation and appraisal is stated in the attached report and the Terms and Conditions;

That I have no current or prospective interest in the vegetation or the property that is the subject of this report and I have no personal interest or bias with respect to the parties involved;

That the analysis opinions and conclusions stated herein are my own and are based on current scientific procedures and facts;

That my compensation is not contingent upon the reporting of a predetermined conclusion that favors the cause of the client or any other party nor upon the results of the assessment the attainment of stipulated results or the occurrence of any subsequent events;

That my analysis opinions and conclusion were developed and this report has been prepared according to commonly accepted Arboricultural practices;

I further certify that I am a Registered Consulting Arborist® by the American Society of Consulting Arborists (ASCA) and a Certified Arborist by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).

Disclosure Statement

Arborists are tree specialists who use their education, knowledge, training and experience to examine trees and recommend measures to enhance the beauty and health of trees and attempt to reduce the risk of living near trees. Clients may choose to accept or disregard the recommendations of the arborist or to seek additional advice.

Arborists cannot detect every condition that could possibly lead to the structural failure of a tree. Trees are living organisms that fail in ways we do not fully understand. Certain conditions are often hidden within trees or below the ground. Arborists cannot guarantee that a tree will be healthy or safe under all circumstances or for a specific period of time. Likewise remedial treatments cannot be guaranteed.

Trees can be managed but they cannot be controlled. To live near trees is to accept some degree of risk.

FUJIITREES CONSULTING, LLC

By: Walter Fujii
Walter Fujii, RCA®
Manager and Consulting Arborist

Date: May 22, 2017



Fujiitrees Consulting, LLC TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The following terms and conditions apply to all oral and written reports and correspondence pertaining to the consultations, inspections and activities of Fujiitrees Consulting hereinafter referred to as "Consultant".

1. Any legal description provided to the Consultant is assumed to be correct. No responsibility is assumed for matters legal in character nor is any opinion rendered as to the quality of any title.
2. It is assumed that any property referred to in any report or in conjunction with any services performed by the Consultant, is not in violation of any applicable codes, ordinances, statutes, or other governmental regulations, and that any titles and ownership to any property are assumed to be good and marketable. Any existing liens and encumbrances have been disregarded.
3. Possession of this report or a copy thereof does not imply any right of publication or use for any purpose, without the express permission of the Consultant and the Client to whom the report was issued. Loss, removal or alteration of any part of a report invalidates the entire appraisal/evaluation.
4. The scope of any report or other correspondence is limited to the trees and conditions specifically mentioned in those reports and correspondence. The Consultant assumes no liability for the failure of trees or parts of trees, either inspected or otherwise. The Consultant assumes no responsibility to report on the condition of any tree or landscape feature not specifically requested by the named client.
5. No tree described in this report was climbed, unless otherwise stated. The Consultant cannot take responsibility for any defects, which could only have been discovered by climbing. A full root crown examination (RCX), consisting of excavating the soil around the tree to uncover the root crown and major buttress roots was not performed unless otherwise stated. We cannot take responsibility for any root defects, which could only have been discovered by such an inspection.
6. The Consultant shall not be required to provide further documentation, give testimony, be deposed, or attend court by reason of this appraisal/report unless subsequent contractual arrangements are made, including payment of additional fees for such services as described by the consultant or in the fee schedules or contract.
7. The Consultant offers no guarantees or warranties, either expressed or implied, as to the suitability of the information contained in the reports for any purpose. It remains the responsibility of the client to determine applicability to his/her particular case.
8. Any report and the values, observations, and recommendations expressed therein represent the professional opinion of the Consultant, and the fee for services is in no manner contingent upon the reporting of a specified value nor upon any particular finding to be reported.
9. Any photographs, diagrams, graphs, sketches, or other graphic material included in any report, being intended solely as visual aids, are not necessarily to scale and should not be construed as engineering reports or surveys, unless otherwise noted in the report. Any reproductions of graphs material or the work produce of any other persons is intended solely for the purpose of clarification and ease of reference. Inclusion of said information does not constitute a representation by the Consultant as to the sufficiency or accuracy of that information.
10. Trees can be managed, but they cannot be controlled. To live near trees is to accept some degree of risk. The only way to eliminate all risk associated with trees is to eliminate all trees.
11. Payment terms are net payable upon receipt of invoice unless other arrangements have been mutually agreed upon. All balances due beyond 30 days of invoice date will be charged a service fee of 1.5 percent per month (18.0% APR). All checks returned for insufficient funds or any other reason will be subject to a \$25.00 service fee. Advance payment of fees may be required in some cases.

