

**Don Rodgers**

7513 Woodside Dr.  
Stockton, CA 95207



Date: January 28, 2026

**Removal of one (1) Valley Oak Tree: 7517 Park Woods Dr. Stockton, ca**

Community Development Director  
City of Stockton – Permit Center  
345 North El Dorado Street  
Stockton, CA 95202

Dear Director,

I am writing in response to the Notice of Pending Director's Action regarding the proposed removal of a Heritage Valley Oak tree at 7517 Park Woods Drive, Stockton, California, submitted by Mr. Enrique Molina. I respectfully request that a public hearing be held prior to any approval of this application.

The stated justification for removal is alleged property damage to a recently purchased residence. However, the Heritage Oak tree predates the current ownership of the property, and it is unclear whether appropriate due diligence was conducted prior to purchase. At this time, the claim of property damage appears unsupported by substantial evidence or documentation. Specifically, no technical reports, arborist evaluations, geotechnical assessments, or structural analyses have been provided to demonstrate causation, severity, or the specific location of the alleged damage. Additionally, it is unclear which portion of the structure is reportedly impacted, whether the damage is ongoing, and whether alternative mitigation measures short of tree removal have been evaluated. These gaps in documentation raise concerns regarding the adequacy of the record to support removal of a protected Heritage Oak.

Heritage Oak trees are explicitly protected under Stockton Municipal Code Chapter 16.130, which governs the removal of Heritage trees regardless of location or condition. Further, San Joaquin County Development Title Section 9-1505.2 and associated County guidance require regulated mitigation for the removal of native or heritage oak trees, including replacement with healthy nursery stock and maintenance for a minimum of three years. The subject property has already experienced removal of existing trees and vegetation, and further loss of mature canopy would adversely affect neighborhood character, environmental quality, and property values.

As recognized by the City of Stockton, tree-lined streets provide shade during extreme heat, improve air quality, and contribute significantly to community livability and property value.

Mr./Ms./The Honorable FirstName LastName  
Month date, year  
Page 2

Removal of this Heritage Oak without a clear, documented necessity would be inconsistent with these stated public benefits and with the intent of the Heritage Tree Ordinance.

Given the above, I respectfully request:

1. A public hearing to allow for transparent review and public input.
2. Submission of documented evidence substantiating the claimed property damage, including professional evaluations.
3. Clarification of whether reasonable alternatives to removal have been fully considered.
4. Detailed mitigation measures consistent with Stockton Municipal Code Section 16.130.060, should removal ultimately be considered.

If replacement planting is deemed necessary, I would also be willing to volunteer space on my property for at least one replacement oak, consistent with City direction.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and for your continued stewardship of Stockton's protected tree resources. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Don Rodgers



1/28/26