

FRANKLIN HILLS, 90027

Hi. Thanks for seeing me yesterday.

Please email confirmation of receipt of this communication so that I know it has reached you.

In my preliminary ground-based observation of your Italian Stone Pine (a Level One assessment) it was observed that one of the 3 primary trunks - the southernmost - was not merely fractured but actually shattered - cracked and splitting on multiple planes. This massive limb is in the process of actively failing and time is of the essence. The existing support - a single Cobra guying line - does not inspire confidence.

As I mentioned, you have no attractive options. Outright removal of that trunk section could destabilize the tree and encourage toppling. Leaving the limb intact will almost certainly lead to its failure, potentially striking your neighbor's dwelling.

As stated, the only safe option is outright removal. Any other step presents an acceptance of a substantial level of hazard.

If you are determined to retain the tree including its splitting trunk then the only option that remains is to lighten the load on this compromised trunk dramatically and guy the trunk with 2 or 3 cables. Bolting at the site of the fracturing is a possibility that should be explored closely at the area where the limb is failing - with its multiple fractures bolting may not help and could further weaken the limb so a close-up examination of the problem is essential.

I am not recommending this as a course - I am uncertain that it would render this trunk safe.

But if you wish to retain the tree and this trunk, this is the only practical mitigation. The other option, installation of a massive crutch under the compromised trunk, would be a very expensive undertaking indeed and you have already ruled that out.

I mentioned an American Society of Consulting Arborists member and accredited Consultant as a potential source if a more informed perspective on the risks presented and the mitigation options is desired. He is based in Simi Valley and his phone # is 805 577 6612.

I wish I had better news for you. It is a majestic tree and its loss is difficult to contemplate. Though you were kind enough to request a proposal from my firm for undertaking the mitigation work I do not feel that I could be confident at the conclusion of such work that the risk posed by the tree was reduced to an acceptable degree.

This email will also serve as a receipt for your payment of \$ 75, rendered at the time of inspection and serving as payment in full for my visit and observations.

Sincerely yours,



Steve Marshall
The Urban Lumberjack LLC
ISA CERTIFIED ARBORIST WE-8830A
TRACE CERTIFIED