Arborist Report

Tree Risk Assessment

20 Oak Ridge Dr.

Redway, CA 95560

3/23/2026

Prepared by:

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ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification (TRAQ)

Assignment

Provide a risk assessment to one large mature Coastal Redwood (Sequoia sempervirens) growing at 20 Oak Ridge Rd in Redway, California. The assessment will include species, size, condition (health and structure of tree), and suitability for preservation.

Assignment Limits

My site investigation is based solely on my visual inspection of the tree and photographs that I took. A complete evaluation of the tree's potential for failure would require a root collar excavation and an aerial assessment to inspect branch attachment and angles, and to look for defects that are not readily observable from the ground.

The information contained in this report covers only those items that were examined and reflects the condition of those items at the time of inspection on 3/23/2026. The inspection is limited to visual examination of accessible items without climbing, dissection, excavation, probing, or coring. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the trees in question may not arise in the future.

Background

One very large Coastal Redwood (Sequoia sempervirens) stands in the southeast corner of a residential parcel located on the corner of Oakridge Dr and Eel River Ln in Redway. The tree measures 118" in diameter at breast height and stands at over 250'. Directly north of the tree by approximately 20 feet is the house, and to the east, there is a neighboring property with a house that sits within striking distance of the tree. To the south, there are high voltage powerlines within 30 feet of the trunk and Briceland Rd lies just beyond the power lines.

Observations

Due to the home being built in such close proximity, the tree has likely experienced damage from the home's construction in the form of soil compaction and damaged roots. At the time of the site visit, there was some severe damage inflicted to the tree trunk. There was a very large cut made along the base of the tree just above the root flare and into the trunk. This cut was likely done to remove a smaller stem protruding from the side of the tree. However, this cut leaves a very large wound on the trunk which will almost certainly facilitate the presence of rot and decay within the trunk at a faster rate. In addition, almost all of the lower canopy has been removed resulting in an unnaturally raised crown. The tree has been known to shed large limbs over the years, striking and damaging the house on numerous occasions. The tree stands quite a bit taller than any others in the immediate vicinity and appears to be in a spot where it would be directly exposed to heavy winds during any wind events.

Analysis and Recommendation

Due to the sheer size of this tree, it poses a high risk to multiple homes and their occupants, the powerlines and other infrastructure within striking distance. Even a perfectly healthy redwood tree with none of the structural defects and flaws mentioned earlier can still shed large limbs without showing any outward signs of stress. Some of the branches remaining

in this tree are quite large and can weigh hundreds of pounds. A branch that heavy falling and picking up speed for 200' can easily cause severe property damage, injury or death.

A tree this size and age has likely been growing in that spot since before any human development in the area and has adapted to certain wind conditions in that specific area. Due to the changing of the landscape that occurs with the construction of houses and roads in the neighborhood, the tree is now experiencing much different wind forces than it had originally adapted to while growing. In addition to this relatively new force acting on the tree, the tree's artificially high canopy will now act as a large sail at the tip of an extremely long lever leading to a lot more movement along the tree during a wind event. The winds the tree experiences will now be much more likely to result in a whole tree failure with catastrophic consequences.

Trees that have had their soil compacted are known to increase the probability of whole tree failure from the roots. The combination of the soil compaction, the new presence of extreme trunk damage by the root flare and the structure of the crown compounds the level of risk presented by an already hazardous tree.

Conclusion

It is my professional opinion that this tree poses a threat to multiple residential structures and the people who reside there as well as the power lines and roads that are in the vicinity. Mitigation options such as pruning would be unfeasible without retaining a high level of risk due to the lack of remaining canopy and the severe trunk damage the tree has suffered. It would be unreasonable to expect the residents of this house to continue to live at this address without addressing the risk posed by this tree.Therefore, I would recommend the immediate removal of this tree due to the potential of severe consequences that would result in the case of this tree's failure.