From:	R Gordon Piper
To:	Griffin, Leroy; Klein, Heather
Cc:	chuck bowes; Doug Wong; linda harris; dinah benson
Subject:	Bentley School Vegetation Management, Inspection and Compliance
Date:	Wednesday, June 08, 2011 8:48:46 AM

Can you advise me who the Inspector was this past year for review of the Bentley School Maintenance Agreement and review of compliance with the Fire Code and Bentley's Vegetation Management Plan compliance? I have found there are multiple trees that touch, overhang or are within the 10-foot horizontal distance from tree crown to the structure. I believe there may also be failure to limb up some of the trees to 6 feet from the ground as promised in the Vegetation Management Plan, and a failure to removing dying vegetation and all leaves from the roof and gutter of school structures. I was informed by Planner Heather Klein that the Vegetation Management Plan and Maintenance Agreement for Bentley were sent this year to the Fire Prevention staff for review, but I can't tell who reviewed the school's vegetation and why action wasn't taken to ensure compliance on limbing up and separation as outlined in the Vegetation Management Plan.

The Bentley School at One Hiller Drive is my immediate neighbor, and I'm concerned about the apparent lack of compliance with CUP requirements, Fire Code Vegetation Management Requirements, and requirements of the Bentley School Vegetation Management Plan and Bentley School Maintenance Agreement with the City of Oakland.

Compliance with the provisions of the School's Vegetation Management Plan and Maintenance Agreement are a condition of the Bentley School's Conditional Use Permit with the City of Oakland, adopted by the City Planning Commission approximately a year and one-half ago. It doesn't appear to me that the City, CEDA or the Fire Department or Fire Prevention staff have effectively monitored compliance with the Plan or the Fire Code Vegetation Management requirements or Conditional Use Permit condition #13 in the last year, and I would like to request in the immediate future as the annual inspections are being done that a thorough inspection be done at the school and that you ensure that there is defensible space and compliance with other requirements around the multiple structures that now have trees and tall shrubs (such as the bouganvilla that grows over the roof of the walkway next to the office building) too close such as: the multi-purpose building, the smaller building immediately south of the multi-purpose building, the main office building, the library, and some classrooms at the school. Bentley also has tall Monterrey pine trees at the southern edge of its property next to the Firestorm Memorial Garden where the pine tree limbs are growing into neighboring Coast live oak trees in the public garden. There is a dying large Coast live oak tree on the east side of the school property next to the front curb at the school that the Bentley Gardener and maintenance staff person have taken no action to remove per the provision of the Vegetation Management Plan, after the tree's problems were pointed out.

I could send pictures of the vegetation or your inspector can view the vegetation in person as Fire Inspector Dave Davis did when I met with him earlier this week. I don't believe we have identified all of the compliance problems, and that there will be more found when you do this year's enhanced inspection. Your attention to this matter will help in reducing fire risks at this school and in our community.

Gordon Piper