From:	R Gordon Piper
To:	Klein, Heather
Cc:	linda harris; "Donna Karch"
Subject:	Condition 13, Vegetation Management Plan and Compliance Concern
Date:	Monday, June 06, 2011 1:30:47 PM

I am writing as the immediate neighbor of the Bentley School to inquire and to urge a review by CEDA/the City of Oakland about the Condition 13 compliance of the Bentley School relative to having and effectively implementing a Vegetation Management Plan, consistent with the Vegetation Management requirements of the Oakland Fire Code. The inspection form for the Oakland Fire Department calls for 10 foot minimum clearance between tree crowns and structures, and lists as a violation when a property owner does not maintain 10 foot minimum clearance between tree crowns and structures. It also calls for the limbing up of trees. The Bentley School appears to be in violation of the Fire Code at this time as there are numerous structures at the school where trees are basically touching the structures and the required 10 foot minimum clearance between the tree or tree crown and the structure has not been ensured.

I have observed this week apparent violations of this provision of the Fire Code on multiple structures on the Bentley School campus such as the multi-purpose auditorium, the smaller building just south of the multi-purpose building, the main house/office building, the covered walkway area east of the main office, the library, and also some classrooms. I met with Oakland Fire Department Fire Prevention Inspector Dave Davis today and pointed out the apparent violations and the need for corrective measures to be taken for the school to come into compliance with Fire Code Vegetation Management provisions.

I also find on the south side of the Bentley School property adjacent to the Firestorm Memorial Garden that the tall Monterrey pine tree is starting to grow into a coast live oak tree, and it does not appear the "pruning of lower branches of tall trees" in some locations has been done as referenced in the Standard Condition of Approval 63 cited in the Final Bentley School Major Conditional Use Permit Environmental Impact Report.

I would like to know whether the Bentley School ever entered into a maintenance agreement with the City to ensure the landscaping at the school would be maintained consistent with the provisions set forth in the Vegetation Management Plan. I would be interested in reviewing of obtaining a copy of the Bentley School's Vegetation Management Plan to see what it calls for and whether the school is following through on the maintenance called for in this document/plan. I am also interested in learning what review(s) if any are conducted by CEDA and the Fire Department if any in the last year relative to compliance with the Vegetation Management Plan by the Bentley School, and if any report on the results of the review(s) are available. I believe there are reasons for the City/City staff to now review compliance with the Vegetation Management Plan by the Bentley School and compliance or lack of compliance with Condition 13 of the CUP.