





The Caltrans mission is to provide a safe and reliable transportation network that serves all people and respects the environment. This mission aligns with the two overarching goals originally set forth by the El Camino Real Task Force.





PROJECT OVERVIEW

Our Goals

PRESERVE EL CAMINO REAL'S UNIQUE CHARACTER





MISSION STATEMENT

EL CAMINO REAL ROADWAY RENEWAL



MAKE EL CAMINO REAL SIDEWALKS **AND ROADWAY SAFER FOR ALL**









PAVEMENT Settlement, Cracking, Heaving, and Potholes



Alligator cracking on the surface of a roadway is an indication of compromised subgrade. Layers must be dug up and recompacted.





EXISTING CONDITIONS

Roadway



For drivers to have a clear view of other vehicles and pedestrians, proper setbacks from corners and driveways must be maintained.

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VISIBILITY Sight Distance and Setbacks

















Insufficient width, excessive cross slope, and uneven vertical steps are some of the conditions that make many El Camino Real sidewalks inaccessible.





EXISTING CONDITIONS

Sidewalks

A total of 16 intersections in the project area need pedestrian crossing improvements, such as highly visible pavement markings indicating yield signs.

EL CAMINO REAL ROADWAY RENEWAL

SAFETY Pedestrian Crossing Upgrades











DRAINAGE Root Incursion, Old Pipes, Bubbling Up, and Flow Line Disruption





EXISTING CONDITIONS

Drainage

A new modern drainage system is needed for El Camino Real. New pipes and better integration of inlets will decrease flooding.

EL CAMINO REAL ROADWAY RENEWAL

CURB RAMPS Drainage at Pedestrian Crossings



Sidewalk settlement that occurs near a curb ramp can disrupt the flow of water to drain inlets resulting in puddling and flooding.











John McLaren photograph used by permission of San Francisco History Center, San Francisco Public Library





EL CAMINO REAL HISTORY

Howard-Ralston Tree Rows

The El Camino Real tree rows, which consist of English elms and eucalyptus, were designed by John McLaren to beautify and promote land development of large estates such as those owned by George H. Howard

EL CAMINO REAL ROADWAY RENEWAL





SOURCES ¹SFMTA.com ²The San Francisco Call (newspaper ³Bay Area Census, 1930







EL CAMINO REAL ROADWAY RENEWAL





SOURCES ⁵Burlingame Voice, 2008

HOWARD-RALSTON EUCALYPTUS TREE ROWS Eligibility and Mitigation



The Howard-Ralston Eucalyptus Tree Rows became listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 2012 because of their influence on the **development of Burlingame**, because of the impact the trees made in forming the areas unique character and early zoning regulations, and because they are the work of a master gardener, John McLaren.









Protecting Historic **Properties**

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires impacts to historic properties to be evaluated when projects involving federal agencies, permits, or funding have the potential to impact the property. Caltrans has determined that the El Camino Real Roadway Renewal project will adversely effect the Howard-Ralston Eucalyptus Tree Rows. Caltrans is working on the following measures to mitigate impacts of the project:



At least 70% of the total trees within the Tree Rows must contribute to the NRHP eligibility of the Tree Rows.



Trees will be tagged and GPS locations noted to track the health and number of trees.



Any replacement trees must not detract from the NRHP eligibility.



The Tree Rows will be documented before, during, and after construction.



A long-term management plan for the Tree Rows will be developed.



A self-guided history walk with plaques, a time capsule, and custom benches constructed of the wood from removed trees.



An El Camino Real Historic Resource Management Plan will be developed to assist the city of Burlingame in management of resources within the corridor.





Examination Criteria

The rows of mature trees are what make this stretch of El Camino Real special. To determine the proper path for this project, Caltrans landscape professionals, engineers, historians, and arborists will carefully examine each tree and will be considering important questions:







Is the tree healthy overall?

Is the tree structurally sound?

Does the tree obscure drivers' visibility







Can the roots be protected from necessary drainage and pavement repairs?

around the tree?





What measures can be taken to protect each tree during construction? Are the tree's roots compatible with construction activities?





REASSESSVENTS







Caltrans Landscape Architect Surveys

Over 600 street trees between Peninsula Avenue and Ray Drive were surveyed, noting tree type, size, and visual indicators of health (e.g., presence of fungus, exudate, canopy die off, leaning). Fewer than half of the trees surveyed were found to be in good condition.





Caltrans Review of Construction Impacts

Excavation is necessary to repair the road, sidewalks, and drainage system and can damage tree roots. Caltrans mapped the impacts and determined which trees will be most affected.





When is Removal Required?

Caltrans assessed both the health and condition of the trees and the severity of expected construction impacts to their root systems. Together, these factors were used to identify trees unlikely to survive these impacts and therefore require removal. Caltrans is committed to identifying trees that can be retained and determining the best methods to protect them throughout the Design and Construction phases.









Anticipating Removals

Based on the Caltrans tree surveys, the expected impacts to tree roots and the preliminary findings of the arborist surveys, it was determined that 300-350 of the trees within the project area are likely to require removal.



Independent **Arborist Surveys**

Independent arborists have assessed 225 trees in the project area and will provide recommendations for preservation, protection, and/or removal.



Detailed Project Design

Caltrans will look for ways to reduce impacts and protect individual trees. This might include meandering sidewalks around trees and working with PG&E to ensure underground utilities avoid roots. Location of replacement trees will be determined at this time

EL CAMINO REAL ROADWAY RENEWAL







2022-23



Detailed Protection Measures

Caltrans will continue its work with independent arborists to develop measures to protect individual trees. These measures will be in keeping with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the **Treatment of Historic Properties.**



Long-Term Management

Caltrans will work with HortScience (Bartlett Consulting) to develop a long-term management plan for the maintenance and monitoring of the Howard-Ralston Eucalyptus Tree Rows, in conjunction with the plant establishment period at the end of construction in 2026.



TREE QUANTITIES & CATEGORIES ••••• •••••

There are approximately 700 trees in the project area. Just over half of these are considered "contributors" to the Howard-Ralston Eucalyptus Tree Rows." Contributors include trees that were original to the Tree Rows planted in the 1870s, as well as some newer trees planted as replacements.



HISTORIC CONTRIBUTORS

* The Tree Rows, officially called the Howard-Ralston Eucalyptus Tree Rows, are on the National Register of Historic Places, and, contrary to the name, they actually include both eucalyptus and elms.





EXISINGIRES

Types and Contributors



Many newer trees have been planted within the *Tree Rows, but are not* contributors to this historic resource.

Trees to the *north or south* of the Tree Rows are not contributors.

•••••••





EL CAMINO REAL ROADWAY RENEWAL



TREE VARIETIES

The Tree Rows were originally planted with elm trees for shade and eucalyptus to shelter the young elms. Today, mostly eucalyptus survive. Caltrans has planted replacement elms in recent years.

HISTORIC CONTRIBUTORS

EUCALYPTUS AND ELMS ARE MOST COMMON, BUT MORE THAN A DOZEN VARIETIES EXIST

- Sycamore (3%) Acacia (2%)
 - Pine (1.4%)
- California buckeye (0.8%) Coast redwood (1.5%)
 - Magnolia (0.7%)
- **Juniper (0.7%)**
- Coast live oak (0.8%)

- Cedar (0.6%)
- Other, or undetermined (11%)





Condition, Removals, and Replacements

In 2020, Caltrans Landscape Architects conducted a visual assessment of the approximately 700 trees in the project corridor. The team found that the majority of the trees contributing to the historic tree rows were in fair or poor condition.



For trees in good condition, preservation opportunities depend on construction impacts and available growing space.

reduction. These trees might be more resilient to some amount of construction impacts.

EXISTINGTREES

ARBORIST FINDINGS ••••••

A team of experienced, independent arborists also assessed 224 trees in the corridor to identify the best candidates for preservation. They focused on large, visually significant, and contributor trees that would not obviously require removal due to construction. The arborists confirmed Caltrans' findings.

and poor tree structure. These trees are unlikely to survive even minor impacts from sidewalk and roadway construction

EL CAMINO REAL ROADWAY RENEWAL

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRESERVATION For every tree removed, Caltrans will plant a replacement tree on El Camino Real. Trees that are candidates for preservation will be in good or fair health with limited construction conflicts and sufficient space to grow. It will be more difficult to preserve trees with extensive excavation near them and/or insufficient growing space to maintain good health.

HISTORIC CONTRIBUTORS

PHYSICAL CONSTRAINTS

Built Infrastructure and Street Trees

VISIBILITY Sufficient Sight Distance

Allows drivers at cross-streets to see oncoming traffic in order to safely enter or cross the highway

Provides drivers with a clear view of other vehicles and pedestrians, allowing time to slow or stop to avoid a collision

Required sight distances are determined by the speed of traffic and the type of vehicle.

A large tree trunk obscures oncoming traffic

SETBACKS

Keeping setbacks from corners and driveways clear of obstructions allows pedestrians and motorists to see oncoming traffic. The size of setback needed varies based on the real-world

conditions at a given location.

Caltrans engineers are studying El Camino Real and will use State and Federal guidelines to determine appropriate sight distances and setbacks to improve safety.

Provides a clear view of approaching vehicles allowing motorists to safely enter El Camino Real from a corner or intersection. Objects, such as trees that obstruct visibility, are not permitted within the corner sight distance areas, shown with the red-shaded triangles here.

STOPPING SIGHT DISTANCE

Provides enough distance for either vehicle to stop when a traveler enters El Camino Real from a side street or driveway before it is safe. Objects within the stopping sight distance area, shown in the yellow-shaded triangles here, must preserve some visibility.

SGHT DISTANCE

Intersections and Driveways

Greater visibility has been shown to reduce crashes. Caltrans has specific safety guidelines that dictate sight distance. Proximity of trees to corners and from the edge of travel lanes can affect visibility and safety.

SIGHT DISTANCE

Sidewalk Design and Tree Placement

SIDEWALK BUFFER

A planted buffer strip with trees between the sidewalk and the roadway can be more pleasant for pedestrians, but these trees can affect visibility if they occur within a sight triangle.

VISIBILITY WITH TREES CLOSER TO CURB

VISIBILITY WITH TREES FURTHER FROM CURB

Trees planted closer to the curb within sight triangles need greater spacing and smaller diameter mature trunks to maintain a clear view of oncoming traffic. Trees located outside the sight triangle can be more closely spaced and have larger-diameter mature trunks without obstructing the view of oncoming traffic.

How Can We Plant Trees Close to Street Corners?

A meandering sidewalk design maintains corner sight distance while still allowing tree planting closer to corners. Trees are set back from the road near corners where visibility is crucial. Beyond the corners, trees can be placed between the sidewalk and the street. Caltrans is looking to implement this hybrid approach where feasible.

SIDEWALK "MEANDERS" AWAY FROM THE CURB, AS

IT MOVES FURTHER FROM THE CORNER

AT CORNERS, TREES ARE LOCATED BEHIND THE SIDEWALK

BEYOND CORNERS, TREES ARE LOCATED BETWEEN SIDEWALK AND ROAD

EQWIRESGROW

Roots in a Natural Setting

guided by the roots and their ability to grow and thrive. In a natural setting, a

CRITICAL ROOT ZONE

The area in which loss,

disturbance, or damage to any roots will adversely affect the tree's LONG-TERM health and stability.

0-2 inches

STRUCTURAL ROOT ZONE

The minimum distance any disruption should occur during construction. There is significant risk of catastrophic tree failure in the SHORT TERM if structural roots are destroyed or severely damaged.

TOPSOIL

Humus soil: fertile, lots of nutrients

SUBSOIL

Contains mineral deposits, which are still nutritious, that roots can penetrate

PARENT MATERIAL

Roots cannot penetrate

BED ROCK

TYPICAL SOIL PROFILE

Nearly all of a tree's roots are found in the top 3 feet of soil, and most of those are in the top 1 foot!

LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT TOOLS

THE KEY

The way to grow a bigger tree is giving it more uncompacted soil.

Invest in the Soil

SUSPENDED PAVEMENT

Suspended pavement is supported by a modular cagelike structure underground. This keeps the pavement from settling, but lets roots move through uncompacted soil.

STRUCTURAL SOIL

Coarse structural soils can be compacted to support pavement, while still retaining the oxygen roots need in the pore spaces between the aggregate.

Zelkovas were planted on Burlingame Avenue in 2014.

Street trees planted in structural soil in Brooklyn, New York in 1997.

3 years after planting

10 years after planting

Right-sizing New Trees

Today their canopy contributes to the street's inviting feel.

15 years after planting

Younger trees often adapt better to their new surroundings when they are planted. You'll often find that within a couple of years, small-container trees have caught up with large-container trees that were planted at the same time.

The longer a nursery cares for a tree, the more expensive it will be to buy.

EL CAMINO REAL ROADWAY RENEWAL

LANDSCAPE IMPROVEMENT TOOLS

Numerous factors are considered in the selection of street trees, from size and character to climate adaptability and compatibility with infrastructure. These tables represent the variety of species under consideration for planting along El Camino Real. Species shown on this board in green are in the Eucalypt family. Species shown on the next board in brown are in the Elm family.

Species	Common Name		Height	coroso		Seasonal Interest		Climate Adaptability	Water Usage	Growth Rate (inches/year)	Branch Strength	CA Native	Habitat Value	Invasive	Salt Tolerance	Fire Resistance	Root Damage Potential	Recommende d Street Tree	Expert Recs	ECR Task Force
		Min	Max	Min	Max	Deciduous/ Evergreen	Fall Color	Bay Area Now & Future Zones (Sunset Zones 15, 17, 20-23)	WUCOLS Region 1 North Central Coast	S(1"-12") S-M(12"-24") M(24") M-F(24"-36") F(36") (source: UFEI)	Weak Med-Weak Medium Med-Strong Strong (source: UFEI)		Low Medium High	Cal-IPC Invasive List	Salinity Tolerance (source: UFEI)	(sources: UFEI, UC Forest Products Lab, <u>firefree.org</u>)	Low Medium High (source: UFEI)	Listed by Bay Area Cities	Expert-Preferred Elm + Eucalypt Varieties	Recommended: 70% 'Contributing'
Acer buergeranum	Trident Maple	20	25	20	25	举	*	Likely	М	M-F	М		L	NotListed	No Data		L			
Acer negundo 'Sensation'	Sensation Box Elder	40	50	35	40	楽	*	Yes	М	F	W		н	NotListed	No Data	Favorable	М			
Acer rubrum 'Armstrong'	Armstrong Red Maple	50	60	15	25	楽	*	Unlikely	М	F	MW		М	NotListed	Moderate	Favorable	М			
Angophora costata	Sydney Red Gum	50	65	30	50	*		Likely	L	М	М		М	NotListed	No Data		М			
Carpinus betulus 'Fastigiata' or 'Frans Fontaine'	European Hornbeam	40	50	40	40	楽	*	Unlikely	М	М	S		М	NotListed	Moderate		L			
Carpinus caroliniana	American Hornbeam	35	40	20	30	举	*	Unlikely	М	S	S		М	NotListed	No Data		L			
Corymbia aparrerinja (Eucalyptus papuana)	Ghost Gum	30	50	20	35			Yes	N/A	F	М		L	NotListed	No Data		М			
Corymbia citriodora (Eucalyptus citriodora)	Lemon-scented Gum	80	160	50	100			Yes	L	F	М		М	NotListed	No Data	Favorable	М			
Corymbia maculata (Eucalyptus maculata)	Spotted Gum	60	100	30	40			Yes	L	F	MS		М	NotListed	No Data		М			
Eucalyptus botryoides	Southern Mahogany	80	120	30	75	*		Yes	Unknown	F	S		М	NotListed	Good		М			
Eucalyptus coolabah (Eucalyptus microtheca)	Coolabah	35	50	25	25			Yes	L	F	М		L	NotListed	Good		М			
Eucalyptus dalrympleana	Mountain Gum	50	100	25	50			Yes	L	F	М		М	NotListed	No Data		М		\checkmark	
Eucalyptus diversicolor	Karri	80	200	20	50	•		Yes	L	F	М		М	NotListed	Moderate		М			
Eucalyptus rudis	Flooded Gum	30	60	25	40			Yes	L	F	М		М	NotListed	Good	Unfavorable	М		\checkmark	
Eucalyptus saligna	Sydney Blue Gum	70	150	20	50			Yes	L	F	М		М	NotListed	No Data		М			
Eucalyptus spathulata	Swamp Mallet	20	40	20	20			Yes	L	M-F	М		М	NotListed	Good		L			
Eucalyptus viminalis	Manna Gum	30	150	25	50			Yes	L	F	М		М	NotListed	No Data	Unfavorable	М			
Fraxinus americana 'Autumn Purple'	White Ash, American Ash	60	80	40	50	*	*	Unlikely	М	F	MS		М	NotListed	No Data	Favorable	М			
Fraxinus dipetala	Foothill Ash	20	25	15	20	*	*	Yes	L	М	MS		н	NotListed	No Data	Favorable	L			
Gymnocladus dioica (G. dioicus)	Kentucky Coffee Tree	60	100	40	50	*		Likely	L	M-F	S	_	М	NotListed	No Data	Favorable	М			
Laurus nobilis	Sweet Bay	30	45	15	30			Yes	L	S-M	М		М	NotListed	Moderate	Favorable	М	\checkmark		
Lyonothamnus floribundus asplenifolius	Catalina Ironwood	20	40	15	25			Yes	L	М	S		н	NotListed	Moderate		М	\checkmark		

TREE MATRIX (1 of 2)

Tree Species Selection Criteria

Species	Common Name		Height	Spread		Seasonal Interest		Climate Adaptability	Water Usage	Growth Rate (inches/year)	Branch Strength	CA Native	Habitat Value	Invasive	Salt Tolerance	Fire Resistance	Root Damage Potential	Recommende d Street Tree	Expert Recs	ECR Task Force
						Deciduous/	Fall	Bay Area Now & Future Zones (Sunset Zones	WUCOLS Region 1 North Central	S(1"-12") S-M(12"-24") M(24") M-F(24"-36") F(36")	Weak Med-Weak Medium Med-Strong Strong		Low Medium	Cal-IPC	Salinity Tolerance	(sources: UFEI, UC Forest Products Lab,	Low Medium High (source:	Listed by ay Area Cities	cpert-Preferred ilm + Eucalypt Varieties	Recommended:)% 'Contributing'
Nyssa sylvatica	Sour Gum, Tupelo	30	50	20	30	*	*	Likely	М	S-M	S		М	NotListed	Moderate		L			
Pistacia chinensis	Chinese Pistache	30	60	25	45	*	*	Yes	L	М	S		М	NotListed	No Data	Conflicting	L	\checkmark		
Platanus acerifolia 'Columbia' or 'Bloodgood'	London Plane Tree 'Columbia'	40	80	30	40	*	*	Yes	М	F	М		М	NotListed	No Data		М	\checkmark		
Platanus racemosa 'Roberts'	California Sycamore 'Roberts'	50	90	30	50	*	*	Yes	М	F	м		н	NotListed	Good	Favorable	М			
Quercus buckleyi (Q. texana, Q. nuttallii)	Texas Red Oak	30	50	30	50	*	*	Unlikely	М	M-F	S	_	н	NotListed	No Data		L			
Quercus canbyi	Chisos Oak, Canby's Oak	40	50	30	50			Yes	Unknown	М	S		н	NotListed	Good		L			
Quercus coccinea	Scarlet Oak	40	70	40	60	*	*	Yes	М	M-F	S		н	NotListed	No Data		М	\checkmark		
Quercus engelmannii	Engelmann Oak, Mesa Oak	50	65	50	100			Likely	L	S-M	S		н	NotListed	No Data	Favorable	М	\checkmark		
Quercus frainetto 'Forest Green' or 'Schmidt'	Hungarian Oak, Italian Oak	30	60	20	40	*		Likely	Unknown	F	MS		н	NotListed	Moderate	Favorable	М	\checkmark		
Quercus hypoleucoides	Silverleaf Oak	30	80	15	40			Yes	Unknown	F	S		н	NotListed	Moderate	Favorable	М			
Quercus macrocarpa	Bur Oak	60	80	20	30	*		Yes	М	M-F	S		н	NotListed	No Data		М	\checkmark		
Quercus rugosa	Netleaf Oak	50	70	15	40			Yes	Unknown	F	S		н	NotListed	No Data	Favorable	М			
Quercus suber	Cork Oak	50	70	50	70			Likely	L	M-F	S		н	NotListed	No Data	Favorable	М	\checkmark		
Rhus lancea (Searsia lancea)	African Sumac	25	30	20	35			Yes	L	М	М		М	NotListed	Moderate		L	\checkmark		
Tilia tomentosa	Silver Linden	40	50	20	30	*	*	Likely	L	S-M	М		н	NotListed	No Data		М	\checkmark		
Tristaniopsis laurina	Water Gum	20	35	15	30			Yes	М	S	MW		L	NotListed	No Data		L	\checkmark		
Ulmus 'Emerald Sunshine' (U. propinqua)	Emerald Sunshine Elm	25	35	15	25	*	*	Yes	L	F	MW		н	NotListed	No Data		No Data	\checkmark		
Ulmus 'Patriot'	Patriot Elm	40	50	30	40	*	*	Likely	М	F	No Data		М	NotListed	No Data		No Data			
Ulmus wilsoniana 'Prospector'	Prospector Elm	30	40	20	30	*	*	Likely	L	M-F	No Data		М	NotListed	No Data		No Data			
Ulmus x 'Frontier'	Frontier Elm	30	40	20	30	*	*	Likely	L	F	No Data		No Data	NotListed	No Data		No Data	\checkmark	\checkmark	
Ulmus x 'Triumph'	Triumph Elm	40	60	25	40	*	*	Likely	L	М	No Data		No Data	NotListed	No Data		No Data	\checkmark		
Zelkova serrata 'Green Vase' or 'Village Green'	Zelkova Cultivars	50	70	45	65	*	*	Likely	М	M-F	MW		L	NotListed	No Data		L		~	
Zelkova serrata 'City Sprite'	Dwarf Zelkova	20	25	15	18	*	*	Likely	М	M-F	М		L	NotListed	No Data		М			

TREE MATRIX (2 of 2)

Tree Species Selection Criteria

Numerous factors are considered in the selection of street trees, from size and character to climate adaptability and compatibility with infrastructure. These tables represent the variety of species under consideration for planting along El Camino Real. Species shown on this board in **brown** are in the Elm family. Species shown on the next board in **green** are in the Eucalypt family.

INPORTANT TREE TYPES

Deciduous Elms and Evergreen Eucalypts

A century ago, El Camino was framed by broad, arching elm trees and fast-growing eucalyptus planted by Master Gardener John McLaren. But as Dutch elm disease spread to California, many elms succumbed, leaving behind the tall, blue gum eucalyptus we recognize today. The El Camino Real Task Force, Burlingame Historical Society, Burlingame city staff, Caltrans architectural historians and landscape architects, and independent arborists have been studying dozens of trees in the elm family (Ulmaceae) and the eucalyptus family (Myrtaceae) for use along the corridor. Pictured here are some key species that we hope will replicate the grandeur of the American elms and Tasmanian blue gums without repeating past problems of damage and disease.

Elm Family

Long loved for their spreading, graceful, vase-shaped form, elms make excellent shade trees in the summer, turn gold or red in the fall, and lose their leaves to let in winter sunshine. Many newer varieties have been developed to be resistant to Dutch elm disease.

EMERALD SUNSHINE ELM Ulmus propingua 'Emerald Sunshine'

JAPANESE ZELKOVA Zelkova serrata

PROSPECTOR ELM Ulmus wilsoniana 'Prospector'

LONG DEFINED BY TREES

FRONTIER ELM Ulmus x 'Frontier'

LEMON-SCENTED GUM Corymbia citriodora

PATRIOT ELM Ulmus 'Patriot

KARRI Eucalyptus diversicolor

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Eucalyptus Family

Newer varieties of eucalyptus are proving useful for their drought resistance and do not have the same problems of shredding bark and oversize trunks common to the Tasmanan blue gum that have contributed to infrastructure damage on El Camino Real.

SPOTTED GUM Corymbia maculata

MOUNTAIN GUM Eucalyptus dalrympleana

GHOST GUM Corymbia aparrerinja

FLOODED GUM Eucalyptus rudis

