

STAFF REPORT

DATE: April 28, 2021

RE: 900 Flagler Avenue (permit application # T2021-0099)

FROM: Karen DeMaria, City of Key West Urban Forestry Manager

An application was received requesting the removal of (1) Sea Grape tree. A site inspection was done and documented the following:

Tree Species: Sea Grape (*Coccoloba uvifera*)



Photo of entire tree showing its location on the property.



Photo of
trunks and
base of tree,
view 1.



Photo of trunks
and base of tree,
view 2.



Photo showing tree trunks including the remaining stump from trunk removed, and base of tree in relation to house, view 1.



Photo showing base of tree and roots in relation to structure. Note tile damage inside room.



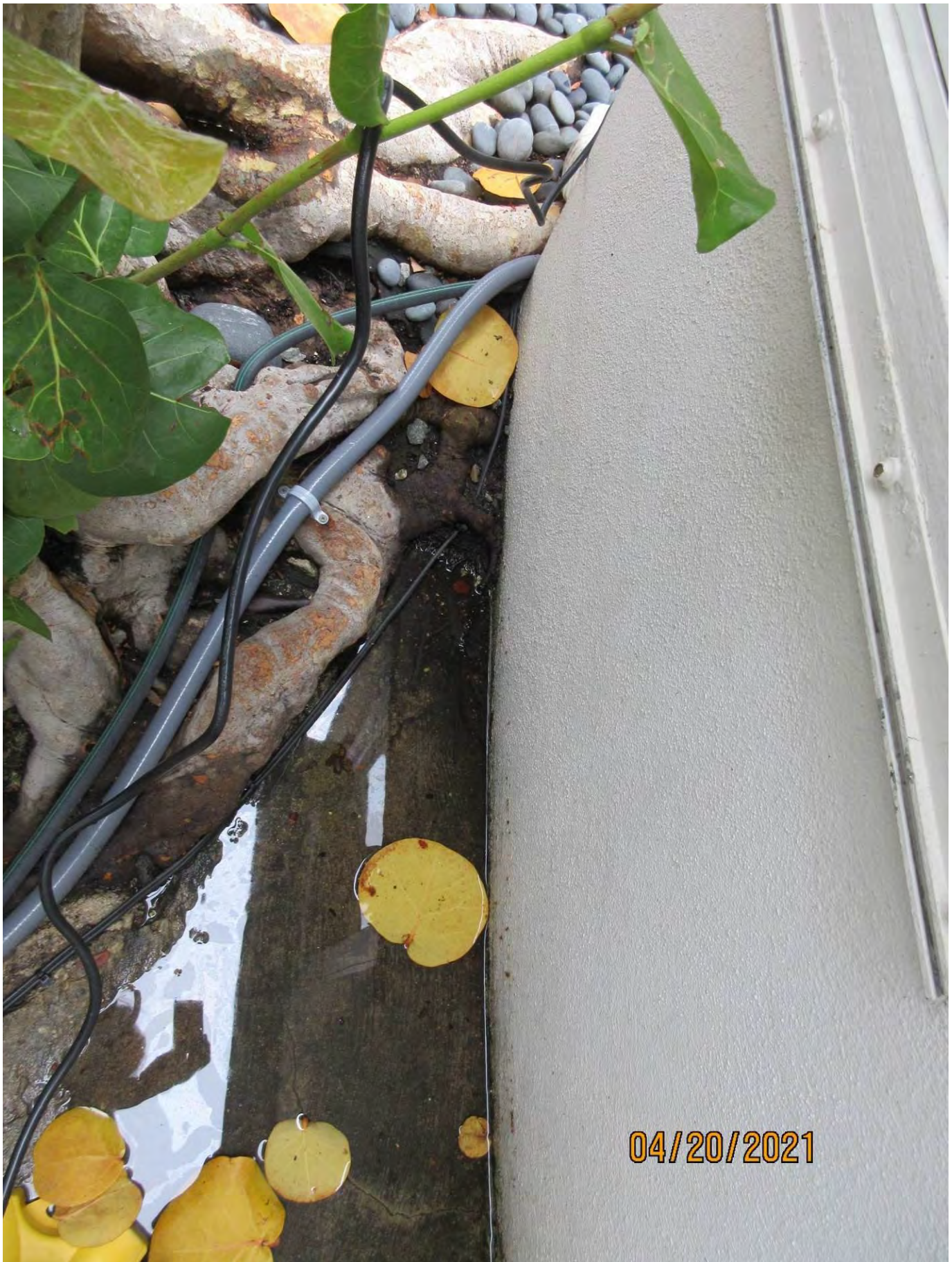
Damaged tiles in room next to tree.



Photo showing tree trunks including the remaining stump from trunk removed, and base of tree in relation to house, view 2.



Area where water does not drain due to tree roots (yellow object is a pump used to remove the water).



Overhead view of tree roots, corner of structure and standing water area, view 1.



Overhead view of tree roots, corner of structure and standing water area, view 2. Yellow object is a pump being used to remove standing water.

Diameter: 33.4"

Location: 30% (very visible tree, growing close to house-roots impacting foundation and drainage)

Species: 100% (on protected tree list)

Condition: 70% (overall condition is good)

Total Average Value = 66%

Value x Diameter = 22 replacement caliper inches

Additional Information

Karen DeMaria

From: Karen DeMaria
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 9:43 AM
To: Karen DeMaria
Subject: FW: Fwd: 900 Flagler Sea grape removal

From: John Cole <shadetreeservices@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 6:42 AM
To: Karen DeMaria <kdemaria@cityofkeywest-fl.gov>
Subject: Fw: Fwd: 900 Flagler Sea grape removal

On Thursday, April 29, 2021, 6:39 AM, Harvey John Cole <shadetreeserviceskw@gmail.com> wrote:

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lynn Kaufelt <lynnkaufelt@gmail.com>
Date: April 21, 2021 at 1:12:24 PM EDT
To: Harvey John Cole <shadetreeserviceskw@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: 900 Flagler Sea grape removal

Dear Tree Commission:

I have a beautiful Sea Grape tree that I've enjoyed for years. It was planted not by me, very close to my house many years ago. I've had it trimmed every year but most recently, despite my efforts to keep the tree, it has grown very close to my house. Rather than take down the tree which I was told was an option, I had one huge limb removed because it was leaning against my roof. The roots have grown so high that an area between the tree roots and my house causes up to 5" of water to sit against my house. Not a good thing. I have purchased 3 different sump pumps to take out the water. but that only works if I am home and careful to make sure the pump is functioning. I've taken photos of my bathroom floor which is adjacent to this pooling water area. You can see that water has gotten under my house. I've consulted contractors and they tell me the water can cause cracks in my foundation. In addition large roots running away from my house is causing my driveway to lift and is causing extremely hazardous conditions.

Therefore, I respectfully request permission to remove the tree.

Lynn Kaufelt
Broker-Assoc., Co-Owner
Truman & Co., Real Estate Services, Inc.
1205 Truman Ave., Key West, FL 33040
Cell: 304-923-4276
www.TeamKaufelt.com
Member, Leading Reading Estate Companies of the World

On Apr 20, 2021, at 5:05 PM, Harvey John Cole
<shadetreeserviceskw@gmail.com> wrote:

Perfect thank you

If you can also write up a letter with a little summary of what you have done to save the tree over the past couple years, ie: pruning and having pumps put in Ect and the problem it's become now with the roots and water damage

John Cole.

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 20, 2021, at 10:57 AM, TEAM KAUFELT
<lynnkaufelt@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi John,

Karen De Maria was by this am to measure tree, etc. she asked that I send you these photos of the floor with water stains and also the puddling next to my house. After last nights rain I had to get a new sump pump to get rid of 3" of water pooled next to my house.

Let me know if you need anything else.

Lynn

<IMG_0055.jpg>

<IMG_0057.jpg>

Sent from my iPhone

Application

RECEIVED
MAR 29 2021



May
TC

T2021-0099 ✓

Tree Permit Application

Please Clearly Print All Information unless indicated otherwise. Date: 3/21/21

Tree Address 900 Flagler Ave
Cross/Corner Street Reynolds
List Tree Name(s) and Quantity 1 Sengrape Tree
Species Type(s) check all that apply ☐ Palm ☐ Flowering ☐ Fruit ☐ Shade ☐ Unsure
Reason(s) for Application:
☒ Remove ☐ Tree Health ☐ Safety ☒ Other/Explain below
☐ Transplant ☐ New Location ☐ Same Property ☐ Other/Explain below
☐ Heavy Maintenance Trim ☐ Branch Removal ☐ Crown Cleaning/Thinning ☐ Crown Reduction

Additional Information and Explanation Tree Roots are causing
flooding in home preventing
water into house foundation

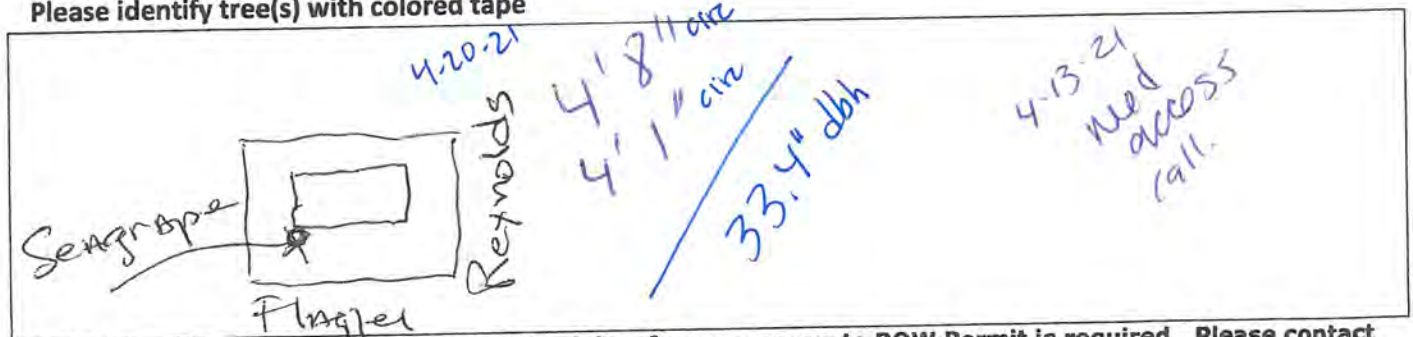
Property Owner Name Lynn Kaufelt ✓
Property Owner email Address lynnkaufelt@gmail.com
Property Owner Mailing Address 900 Flagler Avenue, Key West, FL 33040
Property Owner Phone Number (305) 923-4276
Property Owner Signature Lynn Kaufelt

Representative Name Shade Tree Inc
Representative email Address shadetreeservices@yahoo.com
Representative Mailing Address PO Box 1341 Key West FL
Representative Phone Number 305-340-8094

NOTE: A Tree Representation Authorization form must accompany this application if someone other than the owner will be representing the owner at a Tree Commission meeting or picking up an issued Tree Permit. Tree Representation Authorization form attached ☐

Sketch location of tree in this area including cross/corner Street

Please identify tree(s) with colored tape



If this process requires blocking of a City right-of-way, a separate ROW Permit is required. Please contact 305-809-3740.

3/26/2021

Dear Tree Commissioners,

I've lived at 900 Flagler Ave. for 23 years and have enjoyed the two big trees on my property. The Sea grape however, the past few years has grown so close to my house that instead of removing the entire tree last year, I opted to remove a very large limb that was growing towards and against my roof. In the meantime, the roots have grown so large that water collects between the roots and my house sometimes up to 6". There used to be drainage before the tree roots grew to be so large and tall. The tree now needs to be removed because there's evidence that the water is seeping into my house and could crack the foundation if it hasn't already.

The roots are also lifting my driveway and causing many cracks and irregular and hazardous lifting. I therefore respectfully request that the tree be removed.

Sincerely,



Lynn Kaufelt
900 Flagler Ave.
[Key West, FL 33040](#)
305-923-4276