

## Attachment D

### Tree Justification Removal Letter

The proposed improvements by applicant will require removal of 9 specimen or rare trees.

Although applicant's preference had been to use an already-cleared portion of the property for the **septic field**, Orange County discovered that the hoped-for area did not perc. The second area tested (consisting of Applying soil) was successful. This area contains one tree that qualifies as specimen or rare tree:

- **American Sweetgum Tree with diameter 20.3"** measured at breast height (DBA) 4'5" above the ground

The removal of this tree is necessary to install the the private septic system at the site.

In the **vehicle accommodation area**, the following specimen or rare trees require removal for placement of the driveway and parking areas. Planning for the VAA was thoughtful and applicant considered a variety of designs, choosing the final design because it limited the number of trees needing to be removed while still complying with the requirements of the LUO, mainly the emergency vehicle requirements for road width.

- **Four Eastern Red Cedars** which meet the 12" or more DBH will need to be removed to accommodate safe entry and exit to the property. These cedars are 12.7", 13", 14" and 23" in diameter (DBH).
- Near the second parking area, **one additional Eastern Red Cedar** will require removal. It is 17.1" diameter.
- Near the ADA-compliant parking area, **one 14.6" diameter Eastern Red Cedar** will require removal to accommodate the driveway, as will **two 14" ERC's** situated near the approach to the exit.

In the **building area** of the site plan, all trees are pine and significantly less than 36" in diameter (most are between 4-6" diameter).

Applicant's goal is to reduce even this number of trees; however, removal will ultimately depend on NCDOT approval of the driveway permit. If NCDOT allows, we will retain any of the above trees whose removal is not required for safety purposes.