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To whom it may concern,

I was recently asked to examine the trees on a lot just south of 176 Flamingo Ln, Sneads Ferry, NC 28460 (between 176 and the small cemetery). On 2/27/2026 I visited the site and found the following nine trees:





Overview: The seven live oaks are all large, mature trees in relatively good health and stable condition. The two hickories are not as healthy, but they are stable at this time, and #1 is providing wind-protection for #2 & #3.



Tree #1: pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*) 22" DBH ("Diameter at Breast Height"), directly behind Trees #2 & #3.

The hickory appears to have sustained significant storm damage in the past, but by taking the brunt of the storm, it probably protected the adjacent live oaks from taking the damage. I would not recommend removing the hickory unless necessary, as it is still providing some protection to Trees #2 & #3.

Tree #2: southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) 36" DBH.

Tree #3: southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) 32" DBH.



Tree #4: southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) 45" DBH.



Tree #5: southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) 66" DBH.

The largest and oldest tree on this site, it has a significant cavity near ground level. Some of this is due to erosion, and it has been exacerbated by fires. The tree is stable at this time.



Tree #6: southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) 40" DBH.



Tree #7: southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) 34" DBH.
This tree has a co-dominant structure, two trunks that diverge at approximately 6 feet above grade.



Tree #8: southern live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) 40" DBH.

This tree used to have a co-dominant structure, with two trunks diverging at approximately 6 feet above grade. One trunk was lost long ago, and an appropriate pruning cut was made, leaving this tree with the best possible chance of survival.



Tree #9: pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*) 26" DBH.

This hickory has a co-dominant structure, with two trunks diverging at approximately 6 feet above grade. The trunks are very close together, with included bark indicating a weak connection between them. There is also a deep cavity running at least 6 feet up the northern trunk. This tree is vulnerable to splitting, or breaking and falling, in a storm of even moderate magnitude. However, since there are no nearby targets of concern, it does not qualify as hazardous at this time.

General notes: The live oaks, in particular, are spectacular specimens, individually and considered as a group. Trees #1 through #6 all stand at the edge of a steep drop down to the water's edge. This is noteworthy because it means that all of their anchoring and feeding roots are either parallel to the shore or reach inland. A good rule of thumb when considering any effort to protect the Critical Root Zone from construction impacts (such as trenching, or compaction due to vehicles and the storage of building materials) is to avoid access within 1 foot of the trunk for every inch of trunk diameter (66 feet away from the trunk for Tree #5). While 20% of the total area all the way around a tree can generally be sacrificed without causing lasting damage, I would not recommend that for Trees #1 through #6, as they are already missing 50% of their ideal root area since they are located on a cliff.

Respectfully,
Dennis Baum
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ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification