

Tierra Vista Drive Retaining walls

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Tucker Sittner <tucker@sittnerstructural.com>

Zach,

At your request I met with you and Dave on site to do a visual observation of some existing site retaining walls at Tierra Vista Drive. Although we looked at seven site retaining walls, only one wall appeared to have issues. This wall is located on what appears to be the property line between 20 and 24. The wall was constructed of large concrete blocks and is tipping away from the retained side of the wall. I was unable to measure exactly how much it has leaned but it is noticeable. We had discussed ways to try and measure the amount the wall has leaned and monitor it for roughly a year to see if the wall is continually leaning more. My concerns are that this area could have clay soils which could possibly be expansive and if they are, and the wall was backfilled with native soils then the clay soils could take water and expand then shrink and dry out and then do it all over again causing the wall to continue to lean more. I do not feel there is a life safety issue at this time but if the wall continues to lean it could tip over causing property damage or worse land on someone. The only way to fix the wall would be to remove it, re-shape the retain zone, compact bearing materials at the base and re-install the wall blocks. A French drain could then be installed behind the back base of the wall and the influence zone behind the wall could then be backfilled with crushed rock.

I also took a look at a boulder stacked site wall at 11 Tierra Verde Drive regarding some concerns the owner had but did not see any issues with that wall.

Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the above listed.

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