



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: June 22, 2011

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Tree Removal Request Follow-Up – For Action: 507 Brosian Way (1)
Eucalyptus Spp.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission deny the removal request for the third tree at 507 Brosian Way.

DISCUSSION:

At the regular April 27, 2011, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission considered the application to remove three Eucalyptus trees located at 507 Brosian Way. At that meeting, the Commission approved removal of two of the three trees on the condition that the applicant grind the stumps and replace with three trees that can achieve a 30-foot minimum height on private property within 100 yards of the existing trees. The Commission postponed a decision on the third tree pending additional information from the Public Works Transportation Division related to sight safety, which is provided in this report. The tree still under consideration is the tree located at the apex of the corner of Brosian Way and Braemar Drive.

Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendation

The Street Tree Advisory Committee reviewed this and the two other Eucalyptus trees at their April 7, 2011, meeting. The Committee recommended all three trees be approved for removal with conditions. The Committee's recommendation to approve removal of this third tree was based on information provided to the Committee by staff related to traffic visibility.

Transportation Division Recommendation

As outlined in the attached memorandum, the Public Works Transportation Division considers Braemar Drive a low volume residential street. Although the trees limit sight distances, the Division would not make a determination that there is a traffic safety basis for removal of the tree.

Staff Recommendation

Based on the additional information provided in this report, staff has determined that removal of the third tree for traffic safety reasons is not supportable, and therefore recommends the Commission deny the removal of this third tree.

Since the Commission last considered the tree removal application, staff determined that this third tree is the City's maintenance responsibility. The Eucalyptus trees were planted many years ago when the area was farmland. The private driveways eventually became County right-of-ways which then transferred to the City when the area was annexed in 1945. Although this third tree is technically a City tree, it is not identified in the City's tree inventory. The City has no record of ever providing maintenance for this tree. Should the tree remain, future maintenance will involve significant pruning to insure the greatest protection of the tree's life for the future.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. 507 Brosian Way
 2. April 27, 2011 Commission Staff Report
 3. May 25, 2011, Memo from Browning Allen, Transportation Manager, "Braemer Drive at Brosian Way"
 4. June 14, 2011, Letter from Jim Blake regarding this matter

PREPARED BY: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

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APPROVED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director