



## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** August 26, 2015

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission:

A. Conditionally approve the following Street Tree removal request:

1. 136 San Rafael Ave. – *Eucalyptus polyanthemos*, Silver Dollar Gum – Nick and Tara Svensson

The Committee determined that the recent occurrences of limb drop associated with previous utility damage, and the tree's proximity to the driveway, were sufficient justification for tree removal. The Committee (3/2) recommends that the Commission approve the removal on the condition the applicant replace with a 15-gallon designated street tree. Members Treman and McPherson opposed. This action is consistent with sound arboricultural practices.

B. Conditionally approve the following Setback Tree removal request:

1. 3616 San Pablo Ln. – *Fraxinus uhdei*, Shamel Ash – Catherine Carbon

The Committee (5/0) recommends that the Commission approve the removal on the condition a replacement tree is planted that can achieve 30 feet in height. The Committee determined the tree is damaging the home in many places.

C. Partially approve the following Setback Tree removal requests:

1. 419 Calle Alamo – (1) *Pinus halepensis*, Aleppo Pine, (1) *Schinus molle*, California Pepper, and (1) *Araucaria columnaris*, Cook Pine – Las Palmas Landscape

The Committee (5/0) recommends that the Commission approve the removal of the *Araucaria columnaris*, Cook Pine and deny the removal of the *Pinus halepensis*, Aleppo Pine and the *Schinus molle*, California Pepper. The Committee determined that the Aleppo Pine and California Pepper are in need of maintenance. The Committee commented that the Aleppo Pine can be trimmed

thereby significantly reducing the amount of debris that falls on the neighbor's driveway, and that root pruning could occur adjacent to the driveway. The Committee also determined the roots of the California Pepper could be pruned along the applicant's driveway.

2. 1187 Coast Village Rd.– (3) *Pinus canariensis*, Canary Island Pines – Suzanne Elledge Planning & Permitting Services

The Committee (3/0) recommends that the Commission approve the removal of the tree closest to the driveway on the east end, and deny the removal of the pine tree farthest from the driveway on the east end and the west pine tree.

The Committee determined that the tree closest to the driveway would be impacted by the necessary excavation work to decrease the severe slope of the driveway. The Committee commented that the tree farthest from the driveway on the east end could be pruned and cabled to preserve it, and that this tree would provide some balance with the tree on the west end. The Committee determined the tree on the west end could be preserved through design changes to the footings for the proposed staircase.

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the removal of both trees at the east end and deny the removal of the tree on the west end. Staff concurs with the Committee for the tree closest to the driveway on the east end. Staff recommends removal of the tree farthest from the driveway on the east end due to a reasonable development of the property, a defect in the tree, and exposure this tree will experience once the tree closest to the driveway is removed. The removal of the tree closest to the driveway will cause undue safety concerns for the tree farthest from the driveway due to new wind and sun exposure, causing branch breakage and sun scald on the unprotected trunk. Staff concurs with the Committee for the tree on the west end.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. 136 San Rafael Ave.
  2. 3616 San Pablo Ln.
  3. 419 Calle Alamo
  4. 1187 Coast Village Rd.

**PREPARED BY:** Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

**APPROVED BY:** Jill E. Zachary, Acting Parks and Recreation Director