



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: July 27, 2016
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. 1405 Harbor View Dr. – (1) *Pinus radiata*, Monterey Pine and (1) *Yucca elephantipes*, Giant Yucca – City of Santa Barbara Public Works Engineering

The Public Works Department is proposing to install sidewalks along the north side of Old Coast Highway and a crosswalk at the intersection of Park Place adjacent to the Municipal Tennis Center. The Committee (5/0) recommends that the Commission approve the removals on the condition Public Works Engineering Division works with Parks Division staff to develop larger tree wells for street trees. The road right of way extends seven feet from the built roadway. The project proposes to provide a five foot wide sidewalk with a two foot wide parkway. The Committee determined that a two-foot wide parkway is insufficient space to plant suitable street trees. The parkway could be widened at locations where trees could be planted while still adhering to the requirements of the Americans with Disability Act.

B. Deny the following Street Tree removal request:

1. 2203 Chapala St. – *Liquidambar styraciflua*, American Sweetgum – Ernestine Maidwell

The Committee (4/1) recommends that the Commission deny the removal. The Committee determined the tree debris could be reasonably cleaned up. The Committee determined reasons supplied by the applicant are insufficient to justify removal.

C. Conditionally approve the following Setback Tree removal request:

1. 302 Alston Rd. – *Araucaria columnaris*, Cook Pine – Evan Collins

The Committee (5/0) recommends that the Commission approve the removal on the condition that, within one year of removal, the applicant replace with a tree that can achieve a height of 25 feet.

- D. Partially approve the following Setback Tree removal request:

1. 916 E. Ortega St. – (1) *Syagrus romanzoffianum*, Queen Palm and (1) *Howea spp.*, Howea Palm – Juana Garcia

The Committee (5/0) recommends that the Commission approve the removal of the Queen Palm on the condition one street tree be planted in the parkway to the west and recommends denying removal of the Howea Palm. Due to the two driveways for the subject property there is no room for street trees in front of 916 E. Ortega St.

Staff supports the Committee's recommendations regarding the setback trees, however does not support planting a replacement street tree. Staff does not support planting the replacement tree since the City does not typically accept street trees as mitigation for private property tree removals. In addition, under the Drought Action Plan the Department has temporarily suspended planting of street trees. Lastly, the parkways to the west are adjacent to a vacant lot more readily subject to vandalism.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. 1405 Harbor View Dr.
 2. 2203 Chapala St.
 3. 302 Alston Rd.
 4. 916 E. Ortega St.

PREPARED BY: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

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