

**FRONT YARD SET BACK TREE REMOVAL  
REQUEST**

July 2016

*Date:* 6/7/16

*Requested by:* Juana Garcia

*Address:* 916 E. Ortega St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103

*Location of Tree:* 916 E. Ortega St., Santa Barbara, CA 93103

*Tree Species:* (1) *Syagrus romanzoffianum*      *Common Name:* Queen Palm  
(1) *Howea spp.*      Howea Palm

*Zoning/Setback:* R – 2 20' Setback

*Reason for Removal:* Palm is too close to garage, in a raised planter. It was planted too close to the planter wall, its cracking and breaking. The walls are compromised and fear the tree will fall onto our house or people.

*Proposed Replacement:* Yes  w/ a fruit tree once the planter is removed.      No

*Advisory Committee Recommendation:* Partially Approve Removal:       Deny Removal:

*Staff Recommendation:* Partially Approve Removal:       Deny Removal:

*Date Posted:* 7/13/16

*Comments:* 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.

**PHOTO INVENTORY**





City of Santa Barbara  
Parks and Recreation Department  
SETBACK TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

JUN 07 2016

PARK & RECREATION  
PARKS DIVISION

Mailing Address:  
PO Box 1990  
Santa Barbara, CA 93102  
(805) 564-5433

Physical Address:  
402 E. Ortega St.  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
FAX (805) 897-2524

Application Fee: \$50 (effective July 1, 2010)

*PAID*

DATE OF REQUEST:	3/23/16
APPLICANT:	Juana Garcia
OWNER NAME (IF DIFFERENT THAN APPLICANT):	
MAILING/EMAIL ADDRESS:	916 E Ortega St Santa Barbara, Ca 93103
DAYTIME PHONE:	805.451.6245
LOCATION OF TREE (ADDRESS):	916 E Ortega St
TREE SPECIES (IF KNOWN):	Palm tree (2)
REASON(S) FOR REMOVAL:	Palm is to close to garage, in a raised planter. It was planted to close to the planter wall is cracking and breaking. The walls are compromised and fear the tree will fall onto our house or people.
TREES WILL BE REPLACED?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES WITH: a fruit tree once the planter is removed. <input type="checkbox"/> NO

PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

- Property owner letter, indicating reasons for removal. Also include whether:
  - The removal application is associated with new development or redevelopment of property;
  - Status of development application, including whether the project is scheduled for review by the Single Family Design Board, Architectural Board of Review, or Historic Landmarks Commission;
  - The tree is a designated Specimen or Historic Tree or located on a property with a designated Historic Landmark;
- Photo of tree(s) proposed for removal
- Development plan/Landscape plan

RE: 916 E ORTEGA ST

My name is Juana Garcia and I purchased my home in October 2013. Three weeks later my brother, whom I was caring for, passed away. Shortly there after I had my own medical issues. Within months of purchasing our home we noticed that the raised planter for our front palm trees was beginning to crack. These cracks have grown in size since November 2013 and I fear that the wall will give way to the palms. Depending on which way it falls it can seriously hurt someone walking by (foot traffic is very heavy being by two schools and popular restaurants), damage my home or my neighbor's house/property. Because of financial issues I was unable to address the tree issue until now.

I contacted a local tree company thinking that we can lower the planters and replant the palms into level ground. Unfortunately they said because it's a well-established palm the chance of survival from a planter into the ground are not good and it will likely die. Our next thought was remove the palm, lower the planter and replace with a fruit tree. Which is when I originally completed my request paperwork.

Just weeks ago I had my house fumigated for termites (which were also found in the dirt of the planter) and the gas company needed to restore the gas. While he was doing his restoring process he pointed out that the palms run right above our gas line out to the street. He said if the roots have not already compromised the line, it will. I now realize this is a bigger issue than originally thought and I have more of an urgent need to remove the palms. If our gas lines are leaking gas we need to get this corrected immediately but until we remove the palms we don't know the extent of any damage. This puts my family danger.

Our new plan is to remove the palms and planters to a ground level surface. Use various size, decorative pots for perennial plants and possibly a dwarf citrus tree in a large pot so as not to grown into the ground.





