



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: April 25, 2007
TO: Park and Recreation Commission
FROM: Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission:

A. Approve the following Street Tree and Set Back Tree removal requests.

STREET TREES

1. 403 Alameda St. – Tom Condon – *Eucalyptus citridora*

Justification: The Committee and staff determined that this tree would be destabilized due to the removal of existing retaining wall. The Committee recommended that the proposed bauhinia tree not be planted as a replacement due to lack of space and conflicts with existing tree canopies. The applicant is responsible for the costs associated with the removal of this tree.

2. 341 Vista De La Cumbre – Mitch Cokeley – *Caesalpinia spinosa*

Justification: The Committee and staff determined that the removal of this tree would be in the best interest of the applicant as well as the neighborhood. The Committee determined that the tree is planted in a poor location and interferes with the future growth form of more desirable trees in the immediate area. The Committee recommended no replacement for this location. The cost of tree removal and stump grinding are the responsibility of the applicant.

SETBACK TREES

3. 501 E. Victoria St. – Mary Caroline Frost – *Pittosporum undulatum*

Justification: The Committee and staff determined that the tree was damaging the foundation and surrounding hardscape and that root pruning was not an option due to the trees proximity to the house. The option of removing the tree was recommended.

B. Deny the following Street Tree and Setback Tree removal requests.

STREET TREES

1. 610 Flora Vista Dr. – Frank Caplan – *Schinus terebinthifolius*

Justification: The Committee determined that this tree does not exhibit significant signs that it is unhealthy or that it poses a more significant risk to the neighborhood than the other Brazilian pepper trees planted on Flora Vista. The tree has been recently pruned and does not have excessive weight in the canopy so the risk of branch /tree failure is minimal at this time.

2. 924 San Andres St. – Teri Evans – *Magnolia grandiflora*

Justification: The Committee and staff determined that the removal of this tree would not be the best method for reducing the likelihood that this tree continues to lose limbs. The Committee recommended that the dead wood be removed from the tree at the earliest convenience and that the health of the tree be monitored by staff for further decline.

3. 1320 Panchita Pl. – Marny Randall – *Podocarpus gracilior*

Justification: The Committee and staff determined that this tree is a healthy specimen and that damage to the sidewalk and curbing does not constitute a legitimate reason for removing this tree. Public Works has been contacted to schedule sidewalk repairs at this address.

4. 938 W. Mission St. – Ruth Shobe – *Brachychiton acerifolius*

Justification: The Committee and staff determined that there is no justification for removing the City tree at this location and that the Oak tree on private property could be pruned in such a way that canopy conflicts could be avoided. The Committee recommended that the applicant prune the Oak tree so that it has a more vertical orientation which will enable both trees to happily co-exist.

5. 330 E. Figueroa St. – Lyda Clough – *Ficus microcarpa* “Nitida”

Justification: The Committee and staff recognized this tree as an exceptionally good example of *Ficus microcarpa* growing in a parkway strip. Principles of good urban forest management dictate that this tree should be pruned by the City of

Santa Barbara to reduce its canopy coverage over the home and therefore reduce the volume of litter that the tree currently produces.

SETBACK TREES

6. 901 W. Victoria St. – Loretta Berlin – *Ulmus parvifolia*

Justification: The Committee and staff determined that it would be unlikely that this tree would cause damage to the existing foundation because the roots in this area were removed when the current foundation was recently installed. The Committee felt that if a root inspection were performed that revealed roots that could potentially damage the slab foundation that this application would be re-considered with this additional information.

DISCUSSION: See above

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 403 Alameda St.
2. 341 Vista De La Cumbre
3. 501 E. Victoria St.
4. 610 Flora Vista Dr.
5. 924 San Andres St.
6. 1320 Panchita Pl.
7. 938 W. Mission St.
8. 330 E. Figueroa St.
9. 901 W. Victoria St.

SUBMITTED BY: Randy Fritz, Street Tree Inspector

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