



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: February 25, 2009
TO: Park and Recreation Commission
FROM: Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission:

A. Deny the following Street Tree removal request.

1. 202 La Jolla Dr. – Susan Belloni – *Podocarpus gracilior*, Fern Pine

The Committee and staff recommend that the Commission deny the removal because the tree is healthy. The applicant requested tree removal because of sidewalk uplifting. The reasons for removal are not valid and therefore do not justify its removal. The Committee and staff determined the tree can be reassessed for safety while sidewalk repairs are made.

B. Approve the following Setback Tree removal requests.

1. 517 Alameda Padre Serra – Scott Miners for Catherine Young – *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak

The Committee and staff recommend that the Commission approve removal. The Committee and staff determined there were sound arboricultural reasons to remove this tree. The tree leans out over the public alley, is pushing on a rock retaining wall, and will fall into the alley if not removed. The Committee and staff determined removing the tree will also be beneficial to adjacent trees.

2. 416 - 418 Montgomery St. – Dr. Dan Secord/Earthform Design – *Yucca elephantipes*, Giant Yucca

The Committee and staff recommend that the Commission approve removal. The Committee and staff determined the tree is in a poor location. The Committee and staff determined removing the tree will be beneficial to adjacent trees.

3. 920 Summit Rd. /Old Coast Highway – Randall Mudge – 17 various trees

Agenda Item: _____

This project is a redesign of the existing Montecito Country Club. The project consists of re-alignment of the golf course and is currently being reviewed by several city departments to determine if the development application is complete enough to be reviewed by various Boards and Commissions. Once the application is determined to be complete, an environmental impact report (EIR) will be prepared. After the EIR is completed the project will be reviewed for approval by Planning Commission, Architectural Board of Review, and Historic Landmark Commission.

This property has a 100 foot setback along Old Coast Highway. The trees on this application are the ones that fall within the setback. As part of the overall project, a tree survey was done by an independent Arborist to assess which trees could be retained, or relocated, or needed to be removed for the project. The trees on this application are in areas with proposed significant grading. The grading is necessary to redirect water so that it remains on the golf course. The grading will either undermine some trees or bury them, killing all the trees. The Committee and staff recommend that the Commission approve all 17 removals on the condition the entire project is approved by the other review bodies. The project applicant is proposing to plant 422 new trees as part of the overall project.

4. 1021 San Andres St. – Mrs. Conrad/Action Tree – Podocarpus gracilior, Fern Pine

The Committee and staff recommend that the Commission approve the removal. The Committee and staff determined the tree was placed too close to building and root pruning would make the tree unstable.

- C. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 617 Bradbury Ave. – Fae Perry/Leed Santa Barbara, LLC – Phoenix canariensis, Canary Island Date Palm

The removal request is associated with a development application. Although the property is zoned C-2 with a zero setback, the Planning Division is treating the parcel as residential with a ten foot setback. Action by the Commission is required to move the project forward through the development review process. The Committee and staff recommend that the Commission deny the removal. The Committee and staff determined the tree is a skyline tree and recommend preservation of the tree. They also recommend the applicant to get an aerial inspection of the tree to determine if there are any structural reasons to remove the tree. The Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff determined the tree should be trimmed to keep the fronds from falling.

- D. Consider the following changes to the Master Plan.

The Street Tree Master Plan that was adopted by City Council is amended from time to time to allow for changes of designated species. This is allowed by section 15.020.030 of the Municipal Code. All streets or sections of streets should have a designated species. As time goes by and trees are no longer available or other reasons present themselves, changes to those designations become prudent. The reasons are presented below with each consideration.

1. Species change – 2400 block of Calle Galicia

There is currently no designated species for this section of Calle Galicia. The Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend the adoption of *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, Cajeput Tree and *Melaleuca styphelioides*, Prickly Melaleuca as designated species for the 2400 block of Calle Galicia. These trees were chosen based on the size of the parkway and the existing trees in this block of Calle Galicia.

2. Species change – 200 block Adair Dr.

All the *Prunus cerasifera* 'Atropurpurea', Purple-Leafed Plum trees on Adair Drive have died from a disease common to this species (Fireblight). The adjacent street also has the purple leaf plum trees as the designated species. The Street Tree Advisory Committee and staff recommend changing the species from Purple-Leafed Plum to *Cercis canadensis* 'Forest Pansy', Forest Pansy Redbud due to its similar appearance and resistance to the disease.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. 202 La Jolla Dr.
 2. 517 Alameda Padre Serra
 3. 416-418 Montgomery St.
 4. 920 Summit Rd. /Old Coast Highway
 5. 1021 San Andres St.
 6. 617 Bradbury Ave.
 7. 2400 block of Calle Galicia
 8. 200 block Adair Dr.

PREPARED BY: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

SUBMITTED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director

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