



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: December 15, 2010
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. 300 block of W. Ortega St. – (2) *Eucalyptus ficifolia*, Red Flowering Gum, (1) *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak – Lisa Arroyo, Public Works Engineering

The Public Works Department (applicant) is replacing the Ortega Street bridge that crosses Mission Creek. The new bridge will be wider than the existing bridge. In addition to tree removal and replanting, the applicant will be landscaping the parkway and installing riparian vegetation adjacent to the creek.

The Commission first reviewed this project and a request to remove three trees on March 26, 2008. At that time, the applicant requested, and the Commission approved the removal the trees shown as 1 and 3 on the attached landscape plan. The Commission also approved the removal of tree shown as #2, if during construction it was determined that it could not be saved. The final construction plans require that this tree be removed. The Commission does not need to take action on these trees since they were approved for removal on March 26, 2008.

The purpose of the new tree removal application is to request approval to remove three additional trees: (2) *Eucalyptus ficifolia*, Red Flowering Gum, (1) *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak. The two *Eucalyptus ficifolia*, Red Flowering Gum (shown as trees #4 and #5) were planted within the proposed construction area as part of the West Downtown Pedestrian Project. The Coast Live Oak (shown as #6) is located at 306 W. Ortega. The City is purchasing this property as part of the bridge replacement project, and the oak tree on the property will need to be removed for project construction. The tree will be heavily impacted by the bridge walls.

Although the applicant proposed to box and re-install the two Red Flowering Gum trees, the Committee determined the trees would not likely survive boxing and re-installation. The Committee recommends that the Commission concur with the additional requests on the condition that rather than boxing and relocating trees numbered #4 and #5, new minimum 15-gallon Red Flowering Gum trees of 1.5" caliper be planted at the locations proposed by the applicant. The applicant will also replace trees numbered #1 and #2 with new minimum 15-gallon Red Flowering Gum trees of 1.5" caliper.

B. Approve the following Set Back Tree removal request.

1. 1637 Loma St. – *Pinus halepensis*, Aleppo Pine – Arbor Services

The Committee recommends that the Commission approve the removal. The Committee and staff determined this tree is too large for this location, other trees in the area provide ample shade, and the tree will get much larger than it is now causing significant damage.

C. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 1704 Mission Ridge Rd. – *Phoenix canariensis*, Canary Island Date Palm – Michael Cooper

The Committee recommends that the Commission deny the removal. The Committee and staff determined that the reasons provided by the applicant are not sufficient to justify removal.

D. Approve the requests to designate the following species to the Street Tree Master Plan

1. Loma St. (all 3 blocks) – add an alternate species

The Committee recommends that the Commission co-designate *Tabebuia chryso-tricha*, Golden Trumpet Tree as an additional species.

2. 300 W. Calle Cesar Chavez – change the designated species

The Office of Katie O'Reilly Rogers submitted some suggestions to replace the designated species which are attached. The Committee recommends that the Commission change the designated species from *Magnolia 'Little Gem'*, Little Gem Magnolia, to *Magnolia grandiflora 'Samuel Sommers'*, Samuel Sommers Magnolia as designated species.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. 300 block of W. Ortega St.
 2. 1637 Loma St.
 3. 1704 Mission Ridge Rd.
 4. Loma St. – (all)
 5. 300 W. Calle Cesar Chavez

PREPARED BY: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

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

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