



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: April 28, 2010
TO: Parks 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 removal request.

1. 1300 block of Chapala St. – Bob Cunningham, Arcadia Studio – (3) *Platanus acerifolia*, London Plane

The Committee and staff recommend that the Commission approve the removals. The trees have poor structure and are not performing well in this location. Planned construction will allow for new trees to receive irrigation to improve the chances that these trees will thrive.

B. Approve or deny the following Street Tree removal request.

1. 2325 Santa Barbara St. – Denise Leaser – *Chorisia speciosa*, Silk-Floss Tree

The Committee recommends that the Commission deny the removal. The Committee determined that the tree is reasonably healthy and the reasons provided by the applicant are not sufficient to justify removal. Staff recommends that the Commission approve the removal. Staff determined due to the 40% decline of the tree; coupled with the damage to the sidewalk, street, driveway apron, and sewer lateral; the reasons are sufficient justification to approve the removal.

C. Approve the following Setback Tree removal requests.

1. 2416 Selrose Ln. – Paul Muhl – (1) *Pinus halepensis*, Aleppo Pine, (1) *Eucalyptus ficifolia*, Red Flowering Gum

The Committee and staff recommend that the Commission approve the removals. The Committee and staff determined space in the yard is small, and the removal of these

trees would benefit two street trees and one other tree in the setback by providing room for them to grow.

2. 817 Orange Ave. – Larry Satterfield, Satterfield Property Management – *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, Cajeput Tree

The Committee and staff recommend that the Commission approve the removal. The Committee and staff determined the tree was planted too close to the building and will cause damage as the trunk gets larger.

3. 3433 State St. – Richard Investments – *Phoenix canariensis*, Canary Island Date Palm

The Committee and staff recommend that the Commission approve the removal. The Committee and staff determined the tree is located directly under high voltage lines and due to the growth habit of this tree, it can only grow into the lines and eventually will cause the death of the tree. The Committee and staff also determined that planting a variety of tree with a smaller trunk will allow for additional visibility for those exiting the parking lot. The Committee commented that the applicant should consider replacing with a Weeping Bottlebrush tree to match the existing street trees.

D. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 1 Oak St. – Anita Balboa Sanchez – *Liquidambar styraciflua*, American Sweetgum

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

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

1. 1300 block of Crestline Dr. – Street Tree Advisory Committee

The Committee and staff recommend that the Commission approve *Eucalyptus torquata*, Coral Gum as additional species. Most of the 11 species planted in this block are unauthorized plantings. The Committee determined that the Coral Gum would fit well in the neighborhood and provide a more open canopy than the Weeping Bottlebrush does, thus preserving views. There are 12 vacant spots available for trees in the 1300 block of Crestline Drive, and the Parks and Recreation Commission recently approved the removal of the existing king palms at 1327 Crestline Drive allowing another opportunity to plant new trees.

2. 100 block of E. De La Guerra – Karen Christman, Arbor Services

The Committee and staff recommend that the Commission approve *Rhaphiolepis 'Majestic Beauty'*, Indian Hawthorn and *Parkinsonia aculeata*, Jerusalem Thorn as designated tree species. This designation would no longer allow the planting of *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*, Chinese Hibiscus in this block. The Hibiscus has proven difficult to manage due to Giant Whitefly, a pest that creates health issues for these trees and nuisances for the public. The pest is not easily controlled without using pesticides. It is important to point out, however, that the Hibiscus is the official City Flower, and these trees are the oldest contiguous planting of Hibiscus as street trees in Santa Barbara. There are four potential planting locations for new trees in this block.

3. 100 block of W. Victoria St. – Bob Cunningham, Arcadia Studio

The Committee and staff recommend that the Commission approve *Senna spectabilis*, Spectacular Cassia (A.K.A. *Cassia spectabilis*), and *Eucalyptus salmonophloia*, Salmon Gum as replacement designated tree species for the *Arecastrum romanzoffianum*, Queen Palm. There is one open planting spot for a new tree. There is also a pending project that will provide additional space for new trees.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. 1300 Chapala St.
 2. 2325 Santa Barbara St.
 3. 2416 Selrose Ln.
 4. 817 Orange Ave.
 5. 3433 State St.
 6. 1 Oak St.
 7. 1300 block of Crestline Dr.
 8. 100 E. De La Guerra St.
 9. 100 block of W. Victoria St.

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