



## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** February 22, 2012

**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 Public Tree removal request.

1. 101 W. Montecito St. – (3) Jacaranda mimosifolia, Jacaranda, (2) Phoenix canariensis, Canary Island Date Palms and (11) Syzygium paniculatum, Brush Cherry – Malinda Reese, Project Engineer, City of Santa Barbara Public Works Department

This project consists of installing a bypass box culvert for Mission Creek across Montecito Street and through Moreton Bay Fig Tree Park. The construction necessitates the removal of four street trees along Montecito Street and twelve within the park. Construction design took into consideration minimizing impacts on the Historic Moreton Bay Fig Tree. An independent arborist report was prepared with mitigation measures to protect the tree. The construction plan has adopted all the recommended measures.

Five other trees are proposed for removal within the train station parking lot. The parking lot is under the purview of the Historic Landmark Commission. The Historic Landmark Commission reviewed this item at their February 15, 2012 meeting. The discussion from that meeting will be presented at the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

The Committee recommends that the Commission approve the removals on the condition that the Public Works Department develops a landscape plan that includes tree replacement to be implemented during project construction. This plan will be presented to the Street Tree Advisory Committee, Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Historic Landmark Commission. Once constructed, the culvert will have varying amounts of soil between the top of the culvert and finish grade. The maximum amount of soil will be three feet. Because the depths of soil above the culvert are limited, and concern for the long term integrity of the culvert, it is not recommended to plant any trees on top of the culvert. The plan will identify planting locations for new trees away from the culvert.

B. Deny or conditionally approve the following Front Yard Setback Tree removal request.

1. 2014 El Camino de la Luz – Eucalyptus, Eucalyptus – John D. Seigel Boettner

The Committee recommends that the Commission deny the removal. The Committee determined the reasons provided by the applicant do not justify the removal. Staff recommends the Commission approve the removal on the condition the proposed Fig tree is planted. Staff determined that due to necessary clearances for vehicles and high voltage lines, the tree will not develop much of a canopy. Since the property owner shares vegetables grown in his yard with the neighborhood, replacing this tree with the proposed edible Fig tree will not have a material impact to the community.

C. Consider the following changes to the Street Tree Master Plan.

1. Whiterose Ln. (cross street N. Hope Ave.) – designate a new species – new proposed street

The Committee recommends that the Commission approve Jacaranda mimosifolia 'Alba', White Jacaranda, as designated street tree.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 101 W. Montecito St.
2. 2014 El Camino de la Luz
3. Whiterose Ln. (cross street N. Hope Ave.)

**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