



## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** February 27, 2013

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

**SUBJECT:** Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission:

A. Partially approve the following Setback Tree removal request with conditions.

1. 1111 Luneta Plaza – (9) *Cupressus macrocarpa*, Monterey Cypress – Arbor Services, Inc. for Median Group

The Committee recommends (3-0) that the Commission approve the removal of eight of the nine trees. The Committee recommends that the Commission deny the tree west of the driveway apron without prejudice. The Committee requests the applicant remove the ivy from the ninth tree to give staff the opportunity to assess the condition of the tree. The Committee recommends approval on the condition the applicant replace the trees with three 15-gallon designated street trees at locations to be determined by City staff, and one 24" box tree that can achieve a minimum height of up to 25' to be installed in the front yard. Additionally, the Committee recommends approval on the condition the applicant attains a permit from Public Works to repair the public sidewalk. The Committee determined that principles of good forest management will be best served by the proposed removals and that a reasonable and practical development of the property on which the trees are located requires removal of the trees.

B. Conditionally approve the following Street Tree removal request.

1. 901 E. Cabrillo Blvd. – (2) *Phoenix canariensis*, (1) *Brachychiton discolor*, (2) *Cordyline australis* and (4) *Ficus benjamina* – Philip Suding Agent for Richard V. Gunner and Margaret S. Gunner

The Commission reviewed trees at this location during the September 26, 2012, meeting. At that meeting, the Commission approved the removal of two Mexican Fan Palms, and the relocation of two *Phoenix canariensis* palms and one King Palm due to the installation of a new public sidewalk. Since that meeting, the owner has investigated the cost associated with relocating the trees and has determined the cost to relocate the *Phoenix* palms is too onerous. The owner is

seeking funding support to offset the cost of this relocation but is uncertain if that funding can be secured. Due to the cost to relocate the two Phoenix palms, and the uncertainty of alternate funding, the owner has resubmitted a request to remove these two palms rather than relocate them.

Additionally, another part of the hotel renovation is being reviewed that involves the back of the property along Orilla Del Mar. The owner will be required to install new public sidewalk along this section as part of the review process. The trees involved with the Orilla Del Mar improvements are also part of this application.

The Committee recommends (4-0) that the Commission approve removal of the two Phoenix canariensis on the condition the applicant plant four 24" box Melaleuca trees to be installed in the parkway across the street at locations to be determined by City staff. Regarding the trees along Orilla Del Mar, the Committee recommends that the Commission approve removal of four Ficus benamina, one (the smaller) Cordyline australis, one Brachychiton discolor and relocation of the larger Cordyline australis, to a location to be determined by applicant and City staff. The Committee determined that principles of good forest management will be best served by the proposed removals and that a reasonable and practical development of the property on which the tree is located requires removal of the trees.

Staff recommends that the Commission allow the two Phoenix palms to be relocated as previously approved. Staff recommends the Commission concur with the Committee on the remaining removal requests.

C. Consider the following change of designation

1. 2100-2500 blocks of Chapala St.

The designated street tree for the 2100–2500 blocks of Chapala Street is Ginkgo biloba, Maidenhair Tree. The side of the street with even addresses, along these blocks, has high voltage wires above the parkways. The Committee, (3-0) recommends that the Commission change the designation for the 2100-2500 blocks of Chapala St. to Chinese Pistache for the even side of the street. These trees will allow for a larger canopy to develop under the high voltage lines. Additionally the Committee recommends the Commission add Liquidambar and Chinese Pistache on the side with odd addresses.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 1111 Luneta Plaza
2. 901 E. Cabrillo Blvd.
3. 2100-2500 blocks of Chapala 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