



## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** February 24, 2016

**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 tree removal requests:

1. 126 St. Francis Way – Street Tree - *Liquidambar styraciflua*, American Sweet Gum – Gary Gleason

The Committee (3/0) recommends that the Commission approve the removal on the condition the applicant provides the City Arborist with supporting evidence of the tree roots causing damage to the concrete gutter, the concrete driveway apron and concrete curbs. This can be done by digging down to expose the tree roots.

2. 1300 block of E. Montecito St. and 0 blocks of N & S Salinas St. – 23 Various street and setback trees – Andrew Grubb, City of Santa Barbara Public Works Engineering

The Public Works Department is planning to replace a structurally deficient bridge in the 1300 block of East Montecito Street and provide pedestrian access that currently does not exist. Additionally, the project will provide pedestrian access along the 0 blocks of North and South Salinas Streets. The pedestrian access would provide safer routes to nearby public schools. This construction would necessitate the removal of the trees proposed in the application and provide opportunities to plant additional City trees.

The Committee (3/0) recommends that the Commission approve the removals as proposed on the application on the condition that as many new street trees as feasible be planted in the new parkways, and that the planting may, at the discretion of the applicant, be postponed until the drought declaration is lifted. It is anticipated that there will be room for seven new street trees along Salinas Street.

3. 400 block of S. Milpas St. – Street & Setback trees – (1) *Melaleuca quinquenervia*, Cajeput Tree, (3) *Yucca elephantipes*, Giant Yucca, (1) *Strelitzia nicolai* and (2) *Cordyline australis*, – Eric Goodall, City of Santa Barbara Public Works Engineering

The Public Works Department is planning to provide pedestrian access that currently does not exist between Cabrillo Boulevard and the 101 freeway onramp along South Milpas Street. The pedestrian access would provide for safer routes to nearby public schools. This construction would necessitate the removal of seven trees, and provide opportunities to plant additional City trees.

When the Committee visited the site during their February 4, 2016 meeting, it became apparent that four trees not part of the original application would be impacted by the project. The Committee did not comment on these trees since they were not on their agenda. On February 8, 2016, the Public Works Department submitted a memo to staff requesting the Commission consider the additional trees in their decision. Staff determined these additional tree removals are consistent with the Committee's recommendation.

The Committee (3/0) recommends that the Commission approve the removal of the three trees on the application on the condition that as many designated street trees as feasible be planted at staff's direction. Staff recommends the Commission also approve the four additional trees. It is anticipated that there will be room to plant four or five new street trees.

B. Deny the following Setback Tree removal request:

1. 307 N. Alisos St. – *Araucaria heterophylla*, Norfolk Island Pine – Hilario Aguilar

The Committee (3/0) recommends that the Commission deny the removal. The Committee determined there was insufficient justification provided to support tree removal.

C. Approve the designation change to the Street Tree Master Plan:

1. All of Puesta Del Sol – Request to replace designated street tree, *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, Jacaranda with *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak along the proposed street improvement for the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History at 2559 Puesta Del Sol

The Committee (3/0) recommends that the Commission approve the designation of *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak for all of Puesta Del Sol. The Committee

determined this species is consistent with the rural nature of this street and adjacent private trees.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. 126 St. Francis Way
  2. 1300 block of E. Montecito St. and 0 blocks of N & S Salinas St.
  3. 400 block of S. Milpas St.
  4. 307 N. Alisos St.
  5. All of Puesta Del Sol

**PREPARED BY:** Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

**APPROVED BY:** Jill E. Zachary, Parks and Recreation Director