



## CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

### PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** December 21, 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 Street Tree and Park Tree removal requests:

1. 831 San Pascual St. – (2) *Syzygium australe*, Scrub Cherry – Jutta and Peter Aichinger

The Committee (4/0) recommends that the Commission approve the removal of both street trees on the condition the applicant plants two replacement street trees at locations fronting adjacent properties. The two trees proposed for removal flank each side of a narrow driveway. The Committee determined that due to the traffic frequency and the proximity of the trees to the narrow driveway entrance, the trees create additional difficulties seeing to exit the driveway.

2. 800 Cabrillo Blvd. – (5) *Koelreuteria bipinnata*, Chinese Flame Tree; (1) *Eucalyptus cladocalyx*, Sugar Gum; (1) *Pinus eldarica*, Afgan Pine; (1) *Phoenix canariensis*, Canary Island Date Palm; and (1) *Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican Fan Palm – Justin Van Mullem, Associate Planner, City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation

The Parks and Recreation Department proposes a project to improve Cabrillo Ball Park (Project). The goals of the Project are to improve the ball field use, expand recreation opportunities, and improve park safety. The Project includes a walking/jogging loop and outdoor fitness equipment to create a circuit training experience on site. As part of the walking/jogging loop, the existing paving will be widened from five feet in some areas to eight feet. There are two Chinese Flame trees in tree wells along Calle Puerto Vallarta and three in the park directly adjacent to the existing sidewalk. Expansion of the pathway along Calle Puerto Vallarta necessitates the removal of these trees. The Sugar Gum tree is proposed for removal due to its poor health, and proposed grade changes to address flooding issues in the area and to create a play mound. The Afghan Pine is proposed for removal because it is not consistent with other species in the park and to improve site visibility. The Canary Island Palm is proposed for removal to improve site visibility from the intersection of Milpas Street and Cabrillo Boulevard.

The Committee (4/0) recommends that the Commission approve the removal of all proposed trees except the Canary Island Date Palm on the condition that (6) six *Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican Fan Palms be planted along Cabrillo Boulevard and (1) one or (2) two Canary Island Date Palms be planted near the existing Canary Island Date Palm near the corner of Milpas Street and Cabrillo Boulevard. The Committee determined the Canary Island Date Palm helps define the entrance to the park and mirrors the two Canary Island Date Palms across the street along Milpas and the three near the Chromatic Gate.

Staff supports the Committee's recommendation for the removals and evaluated the proposed new Mexican Fan Palms near the Canary Island Date Palm and determined by adjusting the placement, the Canary Island Date Palm could be retained without compromising the goals for this area.

Staff does not support the installation of the *Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican Fan Palms along Cabrillo Boulevard and the Canary Island Date Palms. Staff recommends the Commission limit the condition to planting up to two new *Phoenix dactylifera*, Date Palms. This species of Date Palm looks very similar to Canary Island Date Palm but is much less susceptible to Fusarium Wilt which is a disease that can kill various species of palm thus improving the chances for long term benefit. The Department is not recommending planting the additional six Mexican Fan Palms along the parkway of Cabrillo Boulevard for a number of reasons. The proposed palms would detract from the unique structure of the wind-blown Monterey Cypress and other conifers, and ocean views from the park would be diminished by the proposed palms. In addition to the two new Date Palms, the Project already includes planting 12 trees, which will increase the total number of trees at the park from 37 to 40. Lastly, the additional cost to install and maintain the palms was not part of the project estimate and there are limited funds for project construction.

B. Conditionally approve the following Setback Tree removal request:

1. 308 Argonne Circle – (2) *Olea europaea*, Olive Tree – Arbor Services, Inc.

The Committee (4/0) recommends the Commission approve removal of the olive tree closest to the home and deny removal of the olive tree closest to the street on the condition the applicant replace the removed olive with a tree that has the potential to achieve the same stature as the olives can. The Committee determined the tree closest to the street could be pruned to improve its appearance.

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

1. 600 block of Island View Dr. – plan co-designation – Street Tree Advisory Committee

The Committee (3/1) recommends that the Commission co-designate *Lyonothamnus floribundus*, Santa Cruz Island Ironwood for the 600 block of Island View Drive. On October 26, 2016, the Commission approved the removal of six street trees at 633 Island View Drive on the condition the applicant replace with one designated street tree. The Committee determined the *Melaleuca citrinus*, Lemon Bottlebrush, (the currently designated tree) is a small species, and that the four foot parkways could support trees with larger canopies. After considering 14 species, the Committee determined the Santa Cruz Ironwood would provide more canopy than the Lemon Bottlebrush and would fit well with the neighborhood.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. 831 San Pascual St.
2. 800 Cabrillo Blvd.
3. 308 Argonne Circle
4. 600 block of Island View Dr.

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

**REVIEWED BY:** Rich Hanna, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

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