



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: January 25, 2017
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 removal request:

1. The Las Positas/Modoc Road Multiuse Path Project – 114 various trees – Ashleigh Shue, Public Works Engineering

The Public Works Department is designing the Las Positas/Modoc Road Multi-use Path Project, (Project). The Project is proposed for the south side of Modoc Road from Calle De Los Amigos to Las Positas Road, and the West side of Las Positas Road from Modoc Road to Cliff Drive. The Project will create separation from vehicular traffic and safer travel for pedestrians and bicyclists. As part of the Project, an independent Arborist assessed the impacts on existing trees. The Arborist Report indicates the pathway design necessitates the removal of up to 114 trees, including 47 Coast Live Oaks and 67 other trees. Staff reviewed this report and concurs with the assessment.

The Project requests permission to remove all 114 trees, however, every attempt will be made to preserve as many trees as possible. The Project will replace removed Coast Live Oak trees at a 5:1 ratio and all others at a 2:1 ratio for a potential 369 trees. As many trees as feasible will be planted within the Project boundaries, estimated to be approximately 50 trees. The remainder of the trees are proposed to be planted within the Upper Arroyo Burro Creek Restoration Project at Barger Canyon managed by the Parks and Recreation Department, Creeks Division. All trees proposed to be planted are native trees and most are in five gallon containers.

The Committee (5/0) recommends that all trees be approved for removal on condition the replacement trees have diversity of size up to and including 60" box within the limits of the project, and that the replacement trees focus on native species. The Committee commented that, due to the proximity of the project to Arroyo Burro Creek, they would support removal of all Eucalyptus and Palm species within the project boundaries whether or not they can be preserved.

B. Conditionally approve the following Setback Tree removal request:

2. 379 Canon Dr. – *Pinus pinea*, Italian Stone Pine – Peterson’s Tree Care Inc.

The applicant is requesting removal of this Italian Stone Pine due to its future potential to be a fire hazard to her home and to benefit adjacent native oaks. This property is just outside the boundary of the City’s High Fire Hazard Area, however the Fire Department supports removal of this tree due to the potential fire hazard the tree poses in its current location. The Committee determined there would be less impact to the community with respect to forestation if the tree were removed and replaced now, than when it grows and becomes a fire hazard. Additionally, a small Coast Live Oak just to the south of the Pine would receive more sunlight if the Pine is removed.

The Committee (4/1) recommends that the Commission approve removal on the condition the applicant plant a replacement tree with the potential to reach a minimum height of 25 feet in stature.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. The Las Positas/Modoc Rd. Multiuse Path Project
2. 379 Canon 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