



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: April 25, 2018
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission:

A. Approve the following Street Tree removal requests:

1. 1601 State St. – (2) *Syagrus romanzoffianum*, Queen Palm – Robert Richards Landscape Architect

The applicant is proposing a project to reorient the El Prado Hotel lobby to face the State Street side of the property. The Committee determined both trees can be relocated to available nearby spots. The Committee recommends that the Commission approve relocation of both trees to nearby locations to be determined by staff.

2. Chase Palm Park Transition Area, Waterfront Hotel – (54) various trees – Suzanne Elledge, for American Tradition LLC

As part of a proposed project to build a hotel adjacent to Chase Palm Park, the applicant is proposing to remove 54 trees. Thirty-seven of the trees are within the transition area of Chase Palm Park, adjacent to hotel property. The remaining seventeen are located along Calle Cesar Chavez. Twenty-three of the trees proposed for removal will be boxed and relocated within Chase Palm Park transition area. The Department has identified that the nine olive trees should be relocated to another City park. The applicant proposes to relocate 6 trees into Chase Palm Park, outside the transition area. The exact locations remain to be determined and approved by the Department. The project also proposes to plant fifty-one new trees. The transition zone area would have a net gain of twenty-two trees. Calle Cesar Chavez would have a net decrease of three trees due to sight visibility issues for a proposed crosswalk and the existing railroad crossing.

A last minute change regarding sight visibility issues along Calle Cesar Chavez reflects six trees to be removed that were not part of the posted Committee agenda. The Committee commented that they would have supported the six

other trees for removal had they been part of the application. Additionally, they commented that the applicant should continue to work with staff on the trees proposed to be planted outside the transition area and species selection for the trees around the Compass Rose area. The Committee recommends that the Commission approve removals and replacements as proposed. Below is a table representing the proposed trees.

Transition Area (TA)	
Trees to remain in place	11
Trees to be removed	37
Relocated within TA	23
New Planted in TA	36
Net trees in TA	Increase by 22

Outside Transition Area	
Trees relocated to within CPP	6
Trees relocated to other park per staff	9
New trees planted within CPP	1
Net trees OTA	Increase by 16

Calle Cesar Chavez Right of Way	
Trees to remain in place	10
Removed	17
Planted	14
Net	Decrease by 3

Staff recommends the Commission approve all proposed removals including the six that were not on the Street Tree Advisory Committee agenda with the below conditions.

- The 9 olives around the Compass Rose Area be boxed and transported to another park to be determined.
- Any trees not approved by the Department to be planted in Chase Palm Park outside the transition area be boxed and transported to another City park to be determined.
- All tree removals to be contingent on hotel construction and transition area development.
- Department approval of all tree species to be planted within the transition area and Chase Palm Park.
- Staff also recommends the Commission provide comments on the conceptual plan for the transition area and Calle Cesar Chavez.

B. Partially approve the following Setback Tree removal requests:

1. 2015 Santa Barbara St. – (5) *Tipuana tipu*, Tipu – Kenneth Boxer

To address a “Significant Alteration” (over-pruning) violation of the municipal code, the applicant is proposing to remove five *Tipuana tipu* trees and replace with five slow growing trees that can achieve 10 – 15 feet in height. The Committee determined larger canopy would be important in the area. The Committee recommends that the Commission approve removal of 3 of the 5 Tipu Trees, retaining one tree on each side of the entrance walkway. To further address the violation, the canopies of these remaining trees would need to be restored to the natural character for this species.

2. 1506 Shoreline Dr. – (2) *Schinus terebinthifolius*, Brazilian Pepper and (1) *Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican Fan Palm – Leland Walmsley, ASLA Evergreen Architects, Inc.

The Committee determined the Brazilian Pepper Tree in the center of the lot is healthy, provides important tree canopy in the area and determined the sprouts from the Mexican Fan Palm and Brazilian Pepper can be removed easily without harm to the trees. Additionally, they determined the Brazilian Pepper Tree at the east edge of the property is in declining health. The Committee recommends that the Commission approve removal of the Brazilian Pepper Tree farthest east and deny removal of the western Brazilian Pepper Tree (tree in the middle) and the Mexican Fan Palm adjacent to the driveway.

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

1. 1300 block of State St. – designate species – Staff

The 1300 block of State Street does not currently have a designation. There are four existing King Palms and seven Queen Palms in the 1300 block. The Committee determined that palms are suitable trees for the 1300 block.

The Committee recommends that the Commission designate *Syagrus romanzofianum*, Queen Palm.

2. 3400-3700 Modoc Rd. – consider additional species – Bob Cunningham

At the February 28, 2018 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, the Commission voted to approve a change to the designation to *Quercus tomentilla*, Island Oak, and remove Jacaranda as the designated tree. The Committee had recommended the change to the Island Oak and staff

recommended the removal of Jacaranda as designated because the semi-tropical feel of this tree doesn't seem to fit with the 3400 – 3700 blocks of Modoc Road.

Upon receipt of an appeal of the Parks and Recreation Commission's decision to remove Jacaranda from designation, Chair Longstreet recommended that the Street Tree Advisory Committee consider whether an additional species could be appropriate. The appeal was subsequently withdrawn.

Bob Cunningham, Committee Member, prepared a request that included 14 tree species for consideration, and Chair Bruce Reed added an additional species. During the Street Tree Advisory Committee Meeting, staff reviewed key concerns and considerations regarding the species being considered. After discussion and a site visit, the Committee recommends that the Commission approve the addition of *Aesculus californica*, California Buckeye, *Lyonothamnus floribundus asplenifolius*, Santa Cruz Ironwood, and *Pistacia chinensis*, Chinese Pistache as co-designated street trees for the 3400-3700 blocks of Modoc Rd. These species were identified for designation due to unique characteristics such as texture, bark color and flowers.

Staff supports the co-designation of *Lyonothamnus floribundus asplenifolius*, Santa Cruz Ironwood, but not the other two species recommended by the Committee. The intent of having a second designated species for this block is to provide a break in the Island Oak monoculture and provide contrast at the intersections.

Staff determined the California Buckeye would not be suitable for the parkways, since it is not readily commercially available and drops a baseball sized fruit that would create issues on the bike path. In addition, the Chinese Pistache forms a round canopy that would require training to avoid the vehicular traffic along the roadway and bicycling on the pathway. Both the currently designated Island Oak and the proposed Santa Cruz Ironwood have initial upright growth habits, conducive to similar maintenance needs. Having four different species with differing maintenance needs creates scheduling issues and higher maintenance costs. The Santa Cruz Ironwood has a white flower, is drought tolerant, finer texture and has similar growth structure to the Island Oak. Staff believes there are some locations within the right of way, but not in the parkway that would be appropriate for California Buckeye. Parks staff will work with Public Works staff to identify locations within the Las Positas Multi-purpose Pathway Project that would be suitable for the California Buckeye.

Staff recommends the Commission co-designate *Lyonothamnus floribundus asplenifolius*, Santa Cruz Ironwood, for the 3400 – 3700 blocks of Modoc Road.

3. 100 block of Calle Cesar Chavez – consider change – Suzanne Elledge on behalf of American Tradition LLC

This block is adjacent to the Waterfront hotel project. The currently designated tree is *Magnolia grandiflora*. The Commission designated *Magnolia* on December 15, 2010 for a housing project in the 200 block of Calle Cesar Chavez. There was no designation for any of Calle Cesar Chavez prior to 2010.

The Committee determined the trees proposed by the applicant are suitable for the 100 block of Calle Cesar Chavez. The Committee recommends that the Commission approve *Brahea armata*, Mexican Blue Palm, in the median and *Metrosideros excelsus*, New Zealand Christmas Tree, in the parkway as co-designated species for the 100 block of Calle Cesar Chavez.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 1601 State St.
2. Chase Palm Park, Waterfront Hotel
3. 2015 Santa Barbara St.
4. 1506 Shoreline Dr.
5. 1300 block of State St.
6. 3400-3700 Modoc Rd.
7. 100 block of Calle Cesar Chavez

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