



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT**

**AGENDA DATE:** June 26, 2019  
**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission  
**FROM:** Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department  
**SUBJECT:** Setback Tree Removal Requests

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission:

- A. Hear a presentation and recommendations from Staff regarding three setback tree removal applications since the Street Tree Advisory Committee was unable to meet and provide recommendations due to a lack of a quorum; and
- B. Conditionally approve the following Setback Tree removal requests:
  - 1. 1844 – 1850 E. Las Tunas Rd. – *Corymbia ficifolia*, Red Flowering Gum – Jan Everote and Martha Gabbert

Staff reviewed the application and conducted a site visit. Staff determined that due to pruning practices conducted while the tree was developing, the canopy will not develop to its full potential, and that the proposed replacement tree has greater canopy potential than the existing tree.

Staff recommends that pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090, the Commission make the finding that the character of the neighborhood with respect to forestation would not be materially affected by the proposed tree removal, and approve the removal on the condition the proposed 48 inch box olive tree is planted.

- 2. 640 W. Ortega St. – *Pinus spp.*, Pine – James Nichols

Staff reviewed the application and conducted a site visit. Staff determined the location of the Pine tree is directly adjacent to a storm drain. The tree is close enough to have a high likelihood of damaging the storm drain which could result in catastrophic slope failure during a rain event. Staff further determined there is room for a replacement tree within the minimum front setback that is farther away from the storm drain.

Staff recommends that pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090, the Commission make the finding that the safety of persons or property dictates removal, and approve the

removal on the condition the tree is replaced within the minimum front setback, with a tree that has the potential to achieve 25 feet in height.

3. 1206 Plaza Del Monte – *Platanus racemosa*, Western Sycamore – Karen Christman, Arbor Services, Inc.

Staff reviewed the application and conducted a site visit. Staff determined one of the two trees is dead, and that the second tree is in severe decline with little chance of recovery.

Staff recommends that pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090, the Commission make the finding that the removals would adhere to the principles of good forestry management, and approve the removals on the condition the trees are replaced with at least one tree that has the potential to achieve 35 feet in height.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. 1844 – 1850 Las Tunas Rd.
  2. 640 W. Ortega St.
  3. 1206 Plaza Del Monte

**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