



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

**AGENDA DATE:** July 24, 2019  
**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 setback tree removal request with conditions:

1. 1502 Chapala St. – *Persea americana*, Avocado – Robert F. Adams

The Committee determined the tree is in severe decline and will not recover. The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission approve the removal on the condition the tree is replaced along the Chapala frontage with a tree that has the potential to achieve twenty-five (25) feet in height.

The Committee determined that pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090, the Commission could make the finding that the principles of good forestry management will best be served by the proposed removal and replacement.

B. Partially approve the following setback tree removal request with conditions:

1. 1429 Crestline Dr. – (1) *Harpephyllum caffrum*, Kaffir Plum, and (1) *Chamaerops humulis*, Mediterranean Fan Palm – K.C. and Michelle Mauk

The Committee determined the *Harpephyllum caffrum* is in decline and the proposal to replace the tree would provide longer term benefit to the community. The Committee further determined the concerns for the proximity of the *Chamaerops humulis* to the home could be mitigated through pruning of one or more of the trunks without removal.

The Committee recommends (4/1) that the Commission approve the removal of the *Harpephyllum caffrum*, Kaffir Plum, on the condition it is replaced by a tree that has the potential to achieve a minimum twenty-five (25) feet in height; and deny the removal of the *Chamaerops humulis*, Mediterranean Fan Palm.

The Committee determined that pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090, the Commission could make the findings that the principles of good forestry management will best be served, and that the neighborhood would not be materially affected by the removal and replacement of the *Harpephyllum caffrum*, Kaffir Plum.

C. Approve the following setback tree removal request without conditions:

1. 431 Old Coast Highway – (2) *Syagrus romanzoffianum*, Queen Palms, and (1) *Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican Fan Palm – Eric Goodall

The Commission reviewed the Old Coast Highway Pedestrian Improvement Project (Project) twice before, once for Phase One and once for Phase Two. The tree removal request before the Commission today is a second request for Phase Two.

The Project is installing sidewalk in locations where none existed as part of Measure A Safe Routes to School. The property at this location has a higher grade than the roadway, therefore grading and retaining walls will be required to make space for the new sidewalks.

The Committee determined the trees would be destabilized by the necessary grading and retaining wall. The Committee recommends (4/0) that the Commission approve the removals. Member Cunningham recused himself.

The Committee determined that pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090, the Commission could make the finding that a reasonable and practical development of the property requires removal of the trees.

D. Deny the following setback tree removal request without prejudice:

1. 3360 Braemar Dr. – *Sequoia sempervirens*, Coast Redwood – Alex and Kristin Brodie

The Committee determined the health of the tree is not ideal; however, it could be improved through additional irrigation. The Committee also would like to reconsider this request if the applicant obtains an Arborist Report on the condition of the tree and the impacts of the adjacent trench on the future stability and health of the tree.

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission deny the tree removal without prejudice.

E. Deny the following setback tree removal requests:

1. 2920 Hermosa Rd. – *Syagrus romanzoffianum*, Queen Palm – Larry Niday

The Committee determined that the relocation of the wall is not reasonable since there is plenty of room on the other side of the driveway, and that none of the other findings pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090 fit the circumstances of this request. The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission deny the removal.

2. 115 Coronada Circle – (3) *Liquidambar styraciflua*, American Sweetgum – Karen McElwain

The trees are exhibiting signs of wet wood disease. American Sweetgum commonly show signs of this disease. It is not a disease that will kill trees unless left unchecked. The best practice to improve the health of trees in this condition is to increase available water in the root zone. The Committee commented that the health of the trees could be improved with additional watering.

The Committee determined the trees are reasonably healthy and the removal of these trees would be a material loss to the neighborhood. The Committee further determined that none of the findings pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090 fit the circumstances of this request. The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission deny the removals.

F. Deny the following street tree removal request without prejudice:

1. 820 Lowena Dr. – *Dracaena draco*, Dragon Tree – Matthew Firestone

The property owner adjacent to the location of the tree is undertaking public sidewalk improvements along Lowena Drive. The plans for these improvements neglected to take into account the Dragon Tree. During construction, the Public Works Department brought the tree to the attention of the Parks Division.

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission deny the removal without prejudice. The Committee would like to re-consider the request if other options for ADA access cannot be achieved to preserve the tree.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. 1502 Chapala St.
  2. 1429 Crestline Dr.
  3. 431 Old Coast Highway
  4. 3360 Braemar Dr.
  5. 2920 Hermosa Rd
  6. 115 Coronada Cir.
  7. 820 Lowena 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