



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: February 26, 2020
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. Intersection of Olive Mill Rd., Coast Village Rd., N. Jameson Ln., and US 101 – (1) *Corymbia citriodora*, Lemon Scented Gum, and (4) *Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican Fan Palm – Laura Yanez, Public Works Engineering

The Committee recommends (4/0) that the Commission approve the proposed removals, on the condition that trees be replaced on a 1:1 ratio, that the replacement trees be one of the currently designated species, and that they be planted along the 1200 block of Coast Village Road where appropriate. Currently, Tuscarora Crape Myrtle, Samuel Sommer Magnolia, Saint Mary Magnolia, White Ironbark, Mindanao Gum, and Monterrey Cypress are the designated species for use on the 1200 block of Coast Village Road.

The Committee noted that while the existing trees were in fair condition, the proposed capital improvements represented a reasonable and practical development of the property, and that the removals were justified. Additionally, the Committee members felt the proposed mitigation strategy of a 1:1 replacement for each City tree removed was adequate.

Staff will determine the proposed planting locations and species, and work with project engineers to incorporate the new planting locations into the project design. The project will be responsible for installation of the new trees and a 5-year establishment period, which will provide for watering.

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

1. Olive Mill Rd. – consider *Olea europaea*, Olive, as an alternate designation – Laura Yanez, Public Works Engineering

The Committee recommends (4/0) that the Commission approve *Olea europaea*, (varieties and cultivars), Olive, as an alternate co-designation for Olive Mill Rd.

C. Partially and conditionally approve the following street tree removal request:

1. 1308 E. Cota St. – (2) *Albizia julibrissin*, Silk Tree – Karen Christman, Arbor Services, Inc.

The Committee recommends (3/2) that the Commission approve removal of the eastern tree, and deny removal of the western tree on the condition the applicant plant a 15-gallon Coast Live Oak street tree on the eastern side, which is the designated species for E. Cota Street.

After review of this item, staff performed a follow up inspection of the tree approved for removal. During evaluation, staff determined that the tree exhibited significant decay throughout the tree's primary root system, which satisfies City requirements for removal. City staff, at no cost to the applicant, will perform removal of the subject tree. The conditioned replacement tree will also not be required since City staff will be performing the removal. Once removal of the existing tree is completed, staff will replant the location with a new street tree.

The other Silk Tree to the west did not satisfy City requirements for removal, and the Committee's recommendation still holds.

D. Deny the following street tree removal requests:

1. 216 Santa Rosa Pl. – *Brachychiton populneus*, Kurrajong – Ann Tozier

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission deny the removal.

The Committee noted that the existing street tree was in fair health and did not warrant removal pursuant to SBMC 15.20.110.

2. 436 Foxen Dr. – *Brahea edulis*, Guadalupe Palm – Timothy Reinauer

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission deny the removal.

The Committee noted that the existing tree, a rare specimen of this particular palm species, was in excellent health, and did not warrant removal pursuant to SBMC 15.20.110.

E. Approve the following setback tree removal request:

1. 1171 Crestline Dr. – (2) *Maytenus boaria*, Mayten Tree – Anthony R. Perez

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission approve removal of both trees.

During the January 2019, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting, another tree located within the setback at 1171 Crestline Dr. (weeping fig) was approved for removal on the condition that a replacement tree be planted within the front setback that could achieve a mature height of 25 feet. During the January 2019, Street Tree Advisory Committee meeting, the applicant expressed an interest in planting the replacement tree in the location where the declining Mayten trees are currently located. The Committee felt that this was appropriate and no additional conditional replacements were required for the proposed removals of the Mayten trees.

The Committee noted that the existing Mayten Trees were exhibiting significant decline in health as evidenced by the trees' pronounced dieback, and that no cultural improvements would improve the trees' health.

The Committee determined that pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090 A and C, the Commission could make the findings that principles of good forest management will be best served by the proposed removals, and that the character of the immediate neighborhood with respect to forestation will not be materially affected by the proposed removals.

F. Conditionally approve the following setback tree removal request:

1. 3445-3449 Richland Dr. – (1) *Juniperus chinensis 'Torulosa,'* Hollywood Juniper, and (3) *Juniper sp.,* Juniper sp. – Richard Mason, Kitson Landscape Management

The Committee recommends (4/0) that the Commission approve removal of all proposed trees on the condition the applicant remove the concrete in the parkway and plant two Weeping Bottlebrush street trees, which is the current designated species for Richland Drive.

The Committee noted that the trees were very close to the buildings and foundation, posing continual challenges between the trees and the buildings. The Committee also noted various levels of decline amongst the four proposed trees for removal. While it was unclear if there was actual damage to the foundation, the Committee determined the removal of the four trees made sense in the long term given their location and potential for continued decline. On the application, the applicant proposed no replacement trees, and the Committee determined that the addition of two new street trees would offset the loss of the existing trees, while respecting the request of the applicant. The applicant will install the conditioned replacement trees and staff will be responsible for watering and future maintenance.

The Committee determined that pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090 C, the character of the immediate neighborhood with respect to forestation will not be materially affected by the proposed removals.

G. Partially and conditionally approve the following setback tree removal requests:

1. 1212 Punta Gorda St. – (1) *Aesculus hippocastanum*, Common Horsechestnut, (1) *Ficus benjamina*, Weeping Fig, and (1) *Ceiba speciosa*, Floss Silk Tree – Ricardo Frustockl

The Committee recommends (4/1) that the Commission approve removal of (1) *Aesculus hippocastanum*, Common Horsechestnut, and (1) *Ficus benjamina*, Weeping Fig, and deny removal of (1) *Ceiba speciosa*, Floss Silk Tree, on the condition the applicant plant a replacement 15 gallon Coast Live Oak, which is the designated species for the 1200 block of Punta Gorda Street.

The Committee reviewed each setback tree, noting that the common horsechestnut had an extensive amount of internal decay and evidence that several large primary structural roots had been cut at some point several years ago. The Committee noted that while the common horsechestnut was a very rare and interesting tree, the exhibited decay was enough evidence to warrant removal. The weeping fig is in good health, but was planted in a very tight location, and the tree is now causing disruption to both the applicant's fence and the adjacent public sidewalk. The Committee considered that the continued growth of the existing weeping fig tree would only lead to further disruption of property. The floss silk tree was noted to be in good health, causing no disruptions to public or private infrastructure, and was found to not satisfy any findings for removal.

The Committee determined that pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090 A and B, the Commission could make the findings that principles of good forest management will be best served by the proposed removals and that a reasonable and practical development of the property on which the trees are located requires removal of the trees.

2. 3069 Calle Mariposa – (1) *Pyrus kawakamii*, Evergreen Pear, and (1) *Citrus sinensis*, Orange – Greg Mohr and Wendy Wittl

The Committee recommends (4/1) that the Commission approve removal of (1) *Citrus sinensis*, Orange, and deny the removal of (1) *Pyrus kawakamii*, Evergreen Pear, on the condition the applicant plant a replacement fruit tree as proposed on the application.

The Committee noted that the Orange tree was in a significant state of decline and a pro-active removal and replacement made sense. During review of the

Evergreen Pear, the Committee noted the tree was in good health and at this time did not satisfy any findings for removal.

The Committee determined that pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090 A, the Commission could make the findings that principles of good forest management will be best served by the proposed removal.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. Olive Mill Rd., Coast Village Rd., N. Jameson Ln., and US 101
 2. Olive Mill Rd.
 3. 1308 E. Cota St.
 4. 216 Santa Rosa Pl.
 5. 436 Foxen Dr.
 6. 1171 Crestline Dr.
 7. 3445-3449 Richland Dr.
 8. 1212 Punta Gorda St
 9. 3069 Calle Mariposa

PREPARED BY: Nathan Slack, Urban Forest Superintendent

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