



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: June 24, 2020
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. Mission St. and Micheltorena St. – (18) various trees – The Westside Bike Boulevard Gap Closure Project – Public Works Engineering, Alexis Flores

The Committee recommends (4/0/1-Cunningham) that the Commission approve the project as proposed.

The Committee noted that the existing trees proposed for removal were in good health, but acknowledged the proposed public improvements would have a positive impact on cycling between the westside and downtown. The Committee additionally commented that the loss of the proposed trees was going to be significantly offset due to the more than 2:1 replacement ratio mitigation strategy.

2. 700-800 blocks of Chapala St. – (7) *Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*, King Palm, and (1) *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, Jacaranda – Paseo Nuevo Owner, LLC

The Committee recommends (4/0) that the Commission approve the updated landscape plan as proposed. The Committee commented that if the King Palms proposed to be transplanted were not successful, they should be replaced with new King Palms with a minimum brown trunk height of 15 feet.

The Committee noted that the existing trees proposed for removal were in good health, but the proposed private and public improvements would have a positive impact on the 700-800 block of Chapala Street. The Committee commented that the incorporation of large canopy trees in this project would provide for more shade and environmental benefit to this block of Chapala Street.

B. Conditionally approve the following street tree removal request:

1. 1258 San Miguel Ave. – *Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican Fan Palm – Ray Ames

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission approve removal on the condition the applicant work with the City Arborist to find a location for a replacement street tree within the vicinity of the project.

The Committee noted that the existing Mexican Fan Palm in the parkway was in fair health, but not the currently designated street tree. After review, the Committee determined that the proposed removal of the Mexican Fan Palm was reasonable due to the proposed private property improvements. The Committee determined that a 1:1 replacement strategy was appropriate and conditioned the applicant to install a new street tree within the project vicinity, in a location to be determined by the City Arborist. The applicant will be responsible for all costs associated with the installation of the new street tree. After installation the City will be responsible for all associated maintenance of the new street tree.

C. Conditionally approve the following setback tree removal requests:

1. 711 Spring St. – (2) *Syzygium australe*, Brush Cherry – Matthew Miller

The Committee recommends (4/0) that the Commission approve the removal on the condition the applicant plant a replacement tree that can achieve 25 feet in height.

The Committee noted the trees were in fair health, but did acknowledge that the existing trees were likely maintained as a hedge many years ago and were allowed to grow into their current less than ideal form for this species of tree. After review, the Committee determined that there would be gained mutual benefit from the removal of the existing trees and the replanting of a new tree within the front setback that could be allowed to mature properly.

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 removals.

2. 3979 La Colina Rd. – *Schinus terebinthifolia*, Brazilian Pepper – Patricia Butler

The Committee recommends (4/0) that the Commission approve the removal on the condition that a replacement (preferably an evergreen) tree that can achieve a minimum height of 35 feet at maturity be planted within the front setback.

The Committee noted the tree was in good health, but was planted in a less than desirable location adjacent to the neighbor's driveway, posing a sight line issue for

vehicles entering and exiting the driveway. The Committee commented that the tree had numerous root suckers that were allowed to develop into small stems and long term maintenance and proper pruning of the subject tree would prove to be extremely difficult. After review, the Committee determined that removal of the existing tree and conditioning a new tree to be planted within the front setback would provide for gained mutual benefit to the property owner and the community.

The Committee determined that pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090 A and E, the Commission could make the findings that principles of good forest management will be best served by the proposed removal, and that regard for safety of persons or property dictates removal.

D. Deny the following setback tree removal requests:

1. 1616 Hillcrest Rd. – *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak – Robert and Alyce Parsons

The Committee recommends (4/0) that the Commission deny the removal without prejudice to allow applicant to come back at a later date with an arborist report that supports the removal.

The Committee noted the tree was in fair health, but was currently exhibiting good growth response throughout the canopy, indicating the tree was not in a state of continued decline that would warrant removal at this time. The Committee commented that it would be helpful for the applicant to return with an arborist report that went into detail regarding the health and long term potential for the tree to recover. Based upon the current condition of the tree, the Committee felt the tree was still viable, and with proper cultural improvements could be retained and its condition improved over time.

After review the Committee determined that none of the findings pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090 fit the circumstances of this request.

2. 536 Bath St. – *Pinus pinea*, Italian Stone Pine – Rhonda Wheatley

The Committee recommends (3/0/1 DeMola) that the Commission deny the removal.

The Committee commented that the Italian Stone Pine was in excellent health, but did observe some structural cracks in the applicant's wall. While acknowledging the wall damage, the Committee noted that it could likely have been caused by the Weeping Fig located closer to the wall than the Italian Stone Pine.

After review, the Committee determined that the removal of the tree would be a material loss to the neighborhood and that none of the findings pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090 fit the circumstances of this request.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. Mission St. and Micheltoarena St.
 2. 700-800 blocks of Chapala St.
 3. 1258 San Miguel Ave.
 4. 711 Spring St.
 5. 3979 La Colina Rd.
 6. 1616 Hillcrest Rd.
 7. 536 Bath St.

PREPARED BY: Nathan Slack, Urban Forest Superintendent

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