



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: July 22, 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 requests:

1. 1700 block of E. Cabrillo Blvd. – (9) *Syagrus romanzoffiana*, Queen Palm, and (11) *Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican Fan Palm – Eric Goodall, Public Works Engineering

The Committee noted the existing trees proposed for removal were in fair health, but acknowledged that the proposed public improvements would have a positive impact to this area of Cabrillo Boulevard. Additionally, the Committee commented that the proposal to plant new trees with a replacement ratio of 1:1, was satisfactory mitigation for the project.

The Committee recommends (4/0/1) that the Commission conditionally approve the project as proposed with a replacement ratio of 1:1.

2. 200 block of State St. – (24) *Cassia leptophylla*, Gold Medallion Tree – Eric Goodall, Public Works Engineering

The Committee noted that several of the trees within this section of State Street were either in fair or poor condition. Some members did comment that some of the proposed removals could be retained, and that with the proposed cultural improvements their condition could improve. The Committee supported the goals of the project and noted that both soil and irrigation improvements would help to improve both the new and existing tree's overall health. Due to differing opinions regarding some of the trees proposed for removal, the Committee felt it prudent to condition the applicant to allow for the removal of up to the proposed 24 trees, but requested that a second review by the project landscape architect take place to assess the possibility of retaining a few additional existing trees.

The Committee recommends (4/0/1) that the Commission approve up to 24 removals on the condition the applicant's landscape architect reassess the existing

trees, to see if there are additional trees that could be retained as part of this project.

B. Deny the following street tree removal request:

1. 2514 Castillo St. – *Eucalyptus nicholii*, Nichol's Willowleafed Peppermint Gum – Blanca Benedict

The Committee noted the existing tree was in good health and well maintained. Additionally, the Committee commented that while the tree was close to the driveway apron, parked vehicles presented far more of a sight line issue than the street tree.

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

C. Approve the following setback tree removal requests:

1. 2403 Bath St. – *Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican Fan Palm – Bob Cunningham, Arcadia Studio, Inc.

The Committee noted the existing tree was in good health, but the reasonable development of the property necessitated removal of the tree. As part of extensive site improvements several new street and setback trees will be planted, and the Committee commented that there was no need to provide additional conditions for the removal of the existing setback tree.

The Committee recommends (4/0/1) that the Commission approve the removal.

The Committee determined that pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090 B, the Commission could make the findings that a reasonable and practical development of the property on which the tree is located requires removal of the tree.

2. 1435 Crestline Dr. – *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak – Mary Thompson

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

The Committee noted the existing tree was in fair health, but germinated on its own and had developed in a less than desirable location. The Committee commented that if allowed to continue to develop it would lead to extensive damage to the private property wall. Additionally, the Committee did comment that they would be supportive of the applicant planting a new tree to offset the loss of the existing tree, but that it did not warrant a conditional replant.

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.

D. Conditionally approve the following setback tree removal request:

1. 1522 San Pascual St. – (1) *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak, and (1) *Fraxinus uhdei*, Evergreen Ash – KK Holland and David Atkins

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission approve both removals on the condition a replacement tree that can achieve a mature height of 25 feet be planted within the front setback, and that the applicant work with the City Arborist to determine the location of the new tree to avoid future private property conflicts.

The Committee noted that both of the existing trees were in good health, but that both had been allowed to grow in less than desirable locations. The Committee commented that if allowed to continue to develop both trees would eventually cause considerable damage to the property. Additionally, the Committee determined that conditioning a new setback tree for the property served as suitable mitigation for the loss of 2 trees.

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.

E. Partially approve the following setback tree removal request:

1. 3240 Campanil Dr. – (1) *Taxodium mucronatum*, Montezuma Cypress, and (2) *Sequoia sempervirens*, Coast Redwood – Steve Welton, Sepps, Inc.

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission approve the removal of the two (2) Coast Redwoods and deny removal of the Montezuma Cypress.

The Committee noted that the existing trees proposed for removal were in good health. The Committee commented that the two redwoods proposed for removal had been poorly maintained and that the expansion of the driveway was a reasonable development of the property. The Committee additionally commented that the existing Montezuma Cypress was of value given its rarity and determined that it could be retained without causing long term developmental issues to the adjacent oak tree that is being retained on site.

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, and B, that a reasonable and practical

development of the property on which the trees are located requires removal of the trees.

F. Deny the following setback tree removal request:

1. 1411 San Miguel Ave. – *Schinus terebinthifolia*, Brazilian Pepper Tree – Mary O’Flynn

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

The Committee noted that the existing tree was in good health and was well maintained. Additionally, the Committee commented that its removal would be a material loss to the neighborhood.

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

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. 1700 block of E. Cabrillo Blvd.
 2. 200 block of State St.
 3. 2514 Castillo St.
 4. 2403 Bath St.
 5. 1435 Crestline Dr.
 6. 1522 San Pascual St.
 7. 3240 Campanil Dr.
 8. 1411 San Miguel Ave.

PREPARED BY: Nathan Slack, Urban Forest Superintendent

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