



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

**AGENDA DATE:** August 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. Approve the following street tree removal request:

1. 501 Niños Dr. – Dwight Murphy Field – (38) various species – City of SB Parks and Recreation Department

The Committee reviewed the full scope of the Dwight Murphy Field renovation project, including the significant proposed site improvements. Many of these proposed improvements require tree removal. The initial application proposed the removal of 39 trees, but during site review staff made the determination to retain a large Kentia Palm next to the restroom building. The Kentia Palm that was originally proposed for removal will now be retained and relocated on site. The retention of the Kentia palm resulted in the reduction of proposed removals from 39 to 38. The Committee commented they were supportive of the plan to retain the Kentia Palm. The Committee noted that, while the majority of the trees were in fair health, the proposed improvements to the park were a reasonable and practical development of the property, and that the proposed removals were warranted. The Committee additionally commented that the Stone Pine near the restrooms was a nice specimen and that they would like for staff to work with the project landscape architect to determine the feasibility of retaining the tree as part of the project. The Committee was supportive of the removal of the Stone Pine if it could not be reasonably retained as part of the project.

The Committee recommends (4/0/1) that the Commission approve the project as proposed, including the retention of the Kentia Palm, adding that they would be supportive of the retention of the Stone Pine, if feasible. The Committee also commented that they would like staff to incorporate the use of *Quercus suber*, Cork Oak, in the plant palette for use in the new landscape plan.

B. Approve the following setback tree removal requests:

1. 221-225 W. Pueblo St. – *Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican Fan Palm – True Nature, Kimberly True

The Committee noted that the existing Mexican Fan Palm was in good health, but that the proposal to plant three new King Palms in place of the existing Mexican Fan Palm was of benefit to the community. The Committee also commented that the retention of the Mexican Fan Palm would be difficult given the new configuration of the accessible ramp proposed for the redevelopment of the property's entrance.

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission approve the removal on the condition the applicant plant (3) replacement King Palms as proposed on their application.

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 and C, that the character of the immediate neighborhood with respect to forestation will not be materially affected by the proposed removal.

2. 10 E. Quinto St. – *Pyrus kawakamii*, Evergreen Pear – Arbor Services, Inc., Karen Christman

The Committee noted that the existing tree was in good health, but was currently being suppressed by the neighboring Coast Live Oak and the other Evergreen Pear in the front yard. The Committee commented that while the tree was in good health, it would be continually suppressed and that the remaining two trees would benefit from its removal.

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

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

C. Deny the following setback tree removal request:

1. 1114 Cliff Dr. – *Araucaria heterophylla*, Norfolk Island Pine – Shayan Enrico

The Committee noted that the tree was in excellent health and well maintained. The Committee commented that they understood the complaints associated with the tree, but that there was no evidence of damage to the home's foundation or other infrastructure, such as sewer lateral. The Committee also noted that the tree was close to the overhead utility lines, but that if Southern California Edison felt the tree was a threat to the electrical system they would have notified the resident. Additionally, the Committee commented that if the applicant were to plant a new tree within the front setback and allow for its establishment, they could return at some point in future to request removal.

After review, the Committee noted that at this time there were no findings pursuant to SBMC 15.24 that fit the circumstances of this request.

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

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

1. 1000-1900 blocks of Chino St. – request for co-designation – Staff

The request for co-designation on the identified blocks of Chino Street is to add diversity to the existing designation of *Corymbia ficifolia*, Red Flowering Gum. While Red Flowering Gum is a beautiful tree, it is often too large a species to be utilized on Chino Street, can be difficult to find in nurseries, and is a maintenance intensive species. Staff is in the process of reviewing street tree species designations to add more sustainable species designations for use on streets with current designations that require high levels of maintenance.

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission approve *Spathodea campanulata*, African Tulip Tree, and *Chilopsis linearis*, Desert Willow, as co-designations for the 1000-1900 blocks of Chino St.

2. 0-100 blocks of N. Alisos St. – request for co-designation – Staff

The request for co-designation on the identified blocks of N. Alisos Street is to add diversity to the existing designation of *Quercus rubra*, Red Oak. Red Oak is a suitable street tree species for use on the identified blocks of N. Alisos Street, but can be difficult to find in nurseries. Adding alternative species designations allows staff to have some flexibility to locate species for planting on these blocks and also increases species diversity on the street.

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission approve *Quercus douglasii*, Blue Oak, *Quercus suber*, Cork Oak, and *Quercus tomentella*, Island Oak, as co-designations for the 0-100 blocks of N. Alisos St.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. 501 Niños Dr. – Dwight Murphy Field
  2. 221-225 W. Pueblo St.
  3. 10 E. Quinto St.
  4. 1114 Cliff Dr.
  5. 1000-1900 blocks of Chino St.
  6. 0-100 blocks of N. Alisos St.

**PREPARED BY:** Nathan Slack, Urban Forest Superintendent

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