



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

**AGENDA DATE:** September 23, 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. 3121 Calle Fresno – (2) *Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican Fan Palm (*street trees*) and (1) *Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican Fan Palm (*setback tree*) – Elizabeth Murphy

The Committee noted that the 3 existing Mexican Fan Palms were in good health, but the species is becoming increasingly problematic due to seeds naturally germinating on their own. In addition to the comments regarding germination, the Committee also noted that the trees were out of scale for the front yard of the property. The Committee commented that planting 2 new Guadalupe Fan Palms, a species proposed for possible replanting by the applicant, would offset the removal of the 3 existing Mexican Fan Palms.

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission approve the removals on the condition the applicant plant 2 new *Brahea edulis*, Guadalupe Fan Palms, in a location determined by the applicant.

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

B. Approve the following setback tree removal request:

1. 1033 Laguna St. – (4) *Pinus canariensis*, Canary Island Pine – Bill Mellett

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission approve the removals as requested by the applicant.

The Committee noted that the 6 Canary Island Pine trees are densely planted around the perimeter of the home. In addition to the dense plantings, the Committee also noted subtle hardscape disruption near the trees. The Committee also reviewed the supplemental arborist report submitted by the property owner,

and concurred with their assessment and recommendation to remove 4 of the Canary Island Pines around the property. The Committee commented that the proposed removals made practical sense and that the 2 trees proposed for retention contributed the most to the 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.

C. Deny the following setback tree removal request:

1. 2934 Lomita Rd. – *Cedrus deodara*, Deodar Cedar – Marilyn Goldman

The Committee noted that the existing tree was in good health. The Committee acknowledged the issues the applicant brought forward such as narrow driveway problems, uneven ground causing difficulty in navigating the front yard, and maintenance related issues. While cognizant of the issues, the Committee commented that, based upon site inspection, it appeared that the issues could be resolved with construction around the tree to allow for a safe walking path, which would not require removal of the tree. In addition to the comments provided about providing walking space around the tree, the Committee also commented that widening the driveway could partially help the situation, but the majority of the driveway was too close to the home to allow for widening.

After review, the Committee noted 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 to allow the applicant to explore options for creating access improvements on the property that would increase ease of travel, while allowing retention of the tree.

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

1. 200 block of W. Pueblo St. – request for co-designation – Staff

The request for co-designation on the 200 block of W. Pueblo is to add diversity to the existing designation of *Cryptocarya rubra*, Red Laurel. Red Laurel is a very functional street tree, but it has nearly disappeared from the nursery industry, making its availability for planting difficult. Co-designating another species will provide staff with the necessary flexibility to find alternative options.

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission approve *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak as co-designation for the 200 block of W. Pueblo St.

2. All of Kowalski Ave. – request for co-designation – Staff

The request for co-designation on Kowalski Avenue is a continuation of staff's efforts to develop co-designations for streets where current designations for *Magnolia grandiflora*, Southern Magnolia, or its cultivars, exist. By co-designating additional species, it will allow for staff to plant species of trees that are not susceptible to Tulip Tree Scale, a pest that is currently affecting Magnolia trees in town.

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission approve *Arbutus 'Marina'*, Marina Madrone, and *Cedrela fissilis*, Brazilian Cedarwood, as co-designations for all of Kowalski Ave.

3. All of San Miguel Ave. – request for co-designation – STAC

The request for co-designation on San Miguel Avenue is to add diversity to the existing designation of *Pyrus kawakamii*, Evergreen Pear. Evergreen Pear occurs extensively throughout the community and co-designating additional species of trees will allow for species diversity, and allow staff to take advantage of the larger parkway size that occurs in the 1200 – 1300 blocks of San Miguel Avenue. Utilization of larger canopy trees where feasible is an objective of the Urban Forest Management Plan.

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission approve *Angophora costata*, Sydney Red Gum, and *Albizia julibrissin*, Silk Tree, as co-designations for the 1200-1300 blocks of San Miguel Ave. and *Aesculus californica*, California Buckeye, and *Spathodea campanulata*, African Tulip Tree, as co-designations for the 1400-1500 blocks of San Miguel Ave.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. 3121 Calle Fresno
  2. 1033 Laguna St.
  3. 2934 Lomita Rd.
  4. 200 block of W. Pueblo St.
  5. All of Kowalski Ave.
  6. All of San Miguel Ave.

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

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