



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

**AGENDA DATE:** October 28, 2020  
**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission  
**FROM:** Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department  
**SUBJECT:** Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Commission:

A. Partially approve the following setback tree removal request:

1. 116 Santa Cruz Blvd. – (1) *Ficus benjamina*, Weeping Fig, (1) *Ulmus parvifolia*, Chinese Elm, and (1) *Schinus molle*, Pepper Tree – Raymond Ochs

The Committee evaluated all 3 trees proposed for removal, noting that the Weeping Fig was in good health and well maintained, but was very close to the home and foundation. The Committee commented that the Weeping Fig would continue to grow in size and would likely continue to cause damage to the private property if retained. Additionally, the Committee noted that the Chinese Elm was in poor to fair health, not well maintained, and its location was less than desirable being located between 2 driveways, posing continual maintenance related challenges. Further, the Committee also noted that the Pepper Tree was in good health and well maintained. While cognizant of the applicant's request to remove this tree due to limbs being close to the home, the Committee commented that pruning of the Pepper Tree could mitigate the issues brought forth by the applicant.

The Committee recommends (4/0) that the Commission approve removal of (1) *Ficus benjamina*, Weeping Fig, and (1) *Ulmus parvifolia*, Chinese Elm on the condition the applicant replace with (2) two broadleaf evergreen trees that can achieve 25 feet in height, and deny removal of (1) *Schinus molle*, Pepper Tree.

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

B. Deny the following setback tree removal request:

1. 514 E. Alamar Ave. – *Erythrina caffra*, Southern African Coral Tree – Elvia Rivero

The Committee noted that the Southern African Coral Tree was in good health, was well maintained, and a nice specimen for this species of tree. The Committee commented that repair of the hardscape would not require tree removal. The Committee advised that the applicant could remove a portion of the concrete near the tree to alleviate the existing hardscape disruption, which would eliminate the existing issue and allow for additional space for root system development.

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

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

**ATTACHMENTS:** 1. 116 Santa Cruz Blvd.  
2. 514 E. Alamar Ave.

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

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