



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: November 18, 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. 7 S. Milpas St. – *Metrosideros excelsa*, New Zealand Christmas Tree – Martha Degasis

The Committee noted that the existing tree was in good health and well maintained. During discussion, the Committee referenced that during the regular meeting of December 6, 2018, the Committee recommended the removal of 8 New Zealand Christmas Trees to the south of the subject tree as part of comprehensive site improvements occurring at the shopping center. As a condition of approval, the applicant planted 8 new Queen Palms. After review, the Committee determined that removal of the last New Zealand Christmas Tree made practical sense, permitting it be replaced with a matching Queen Palm as proposed by the applicant on their application.

The Committee recommends (2/1) that the Commission approve the removal as proposed by the applicant on the application. Member Cunningham recused himself.

B. Conditionally approve the following street tree removal request:

1. 1440 Pacific Ave. – *Phoenix canariensis*, Canary Island Date Palm – Michael Finucan

The Committee remarked that the existing tree was in good health and well maintained. During discussion, the Committee noted that the tree, although in good health, prevented the applicant from a reasonable development of the property. The Committee commented that the installation of the new driveway to accompany the accessory dwelling unit represented a practical development of the property. The Committee additionally commented that it was prudent to offset the loss of the existing street tree, and conditioned the applicant to plant 2 new designated street trees within the vicinity of the project.

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission approve removal of the street tree as proposed with the condition that the applicant replace with two designated street trees.

C. Partially approve the following setback tree removal request:

1. 115 Coronada Circle – (3) *Liquidambar styraciflua*, American Sweetgum – Karen McElwain

The Committee noted that of the 3 existing American Sweetgum trees, one of them was in a significant state of stress, while the other 2 trees appeared to be in very good health overall. The Committee commented that the observed stress was likely due to a reduction in available water. Members also noted there was likely the presence of secondary problems such as fungal pathogens in the stressed tree. After review, the Committee determined that the stressed tree was not likely to recover, even if the applicant made significant cultural improvements. The Committee acknowledged that the removal of the stressed tree made practical sense, and to offset the loss in biomass conditioned the applicant to plant a new street tree in the open parkway adjacent to their home.

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission approve removal of (1), the stressed tree, on the condition the applicant install one designated street tree in the parkway adjacent to their home, and deny removal of the remaining (2) trees.

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

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 7 S. Milpas St.
2. 1440 Pacific Ave.
3. 115 Coronada Circle

PREPARED BY: Nathan Slack, Urban Forest Superintendent

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