



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: December 16, 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 setback tree removal request:

1. 619 E. Ortega St. – *Stenocarpus sinuatus*, Firewheel Tree – April Montoya

The Committee noted that the existing tree was in a less than desirable location, and due to its placement had caused significant damage to the applicant's driveway. Given the limited space that exists in the planter between the driveway and the steps, the Committee noted that there was no need to condition any replacement trees to offset the setback tree proposed for removal.

The Committee recommends (3/0) that the Commission approve removal.

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

B. Conditionally approve the following setback tree removal request:

1. 1786 Las Canoas Rd. – (2) *Corymbia citriodora*, Lemon Scented Gum – Matt Kay

The Committee noted that the existing trees were in good health, but are continually subject to pruning by Southern California Edison due to their proximity to overhead power lines. The Committee made additional comments about the existing trees having poor structure due to the frequent utility pruning. The Committee reviewed the applicant's proposal to offset the removal of the 2 existing trees with multiple fruit and shade tree replacements. After review, the Committee noted that the proposal to plant several new trees was adequate to offset the loss of the existing trees.

The Committee recommends (3/0) that the Commission approve removal of both trees on the condition the applicant replace trees as proposed on his application.

The Committee determined that pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090 A, principles of good forest management will be best served by the proposed removals.

C. Deny the following setback tree removal request:

1. 737 E. Alamar Ave. – *Araucaria columnaris*, Cook Pine – Amy Taylor

The Committee noted that the existing tree was in good health and well maintained. During discussion, the Committee noted that, while the property was located within the City's high fire hazard area, the tree itself was not necessarily a fire hazard. Additionally, the Committee commented that the tree was isolated on the property and not in close proximity to other large fuel sources. Discussion continued about the need to offset the potential removal and the Committee remarked that it would be advantageous for the applicant to evaluate planting a new tree somewhere on the property, allowing for it to develop, and returning at some point in the future to review removal of the subject tree. After review, the Committee determined that at this time none of the findings pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090 fit the circumstances of this request.

The Committee recommends (2/1) that the Commission deny the removal. Member DeMola opposed.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 619 E. Ortega St.
2. 1786 Las Canoas Rd.
3. 737 E. Alamar Ave.

PREPARED BY: Nathan Slack, Urban Forest Superintendent

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