



**City of Santa Barbara**  
Parks and Recreation Department

**Memorandum**

**DATE:** 7.24.20  
**TO:** Justin Van Mullem, Project Planner  
**FROM:** Nathan Slack, Urban Forest Superintendent *NRS*  
**SUBJECT:** Ortega Park Trees – DART Application Supplemental Info

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This memo is to acknowledge that the following items have been reviewed and approved by the City's Urban Forest Superintendent for proposed removals at Ortega Park.

Ortega Park Biomass Response: As shown on sheet L-9, the project includes the planting of 108 new trees. Sheet L-9 provides proposed tree species, locations, quantities, and container sizes as listed (24", 36", 48" box). Proposed tree replacement ratios exceed a 2:1 ratio. Once complete, the project site will have 126 trees versus 58.

The City's Urban Forest Superintendent, and certified arborist, determined the proposed 2:1 mitigation is more than satisfactory when analyzing comparative biomass loss. The proposed species used for planting and their mature size mitigates the loss of the trees removed and exceeds the existing biomass on site. While the rate of tree growth and maturity as it relates to biomass cannot be easily calculated due to variation in environmental conditions, it is expected that the same biomass will be achieved within a 10-year period or less. Additionally, the 4 largest trees on site, initially proposed for removal are now being retained, further reducing the loss of overall biomass on site. The retention of trees on site, combined with the proposed plantings results in a net positive gain in habitat and biomass on site.

I have reviewed this project, specifically the proposed removals, the replacement species, and replacement ratio. After extensive review, I have determined that the proposed replacement ratio far exceeds minimum requirements for long-term preservation of biomass on site.

As defined in the City's Municipal Code 15.20, a Specimen Tree is defined as a tree which has been found by the Parks and Recreation Commission to be of high value because of its type and/or age and which has been designated by resolution of the City Council as a "specimen tree"

No trees located within the Ortega Park site are considered to be specimen trees as defined in SBMC 15.20.