



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: January 26, 2022
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. 25 W. Ortega St. – *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, Jacaranda – Mary Meaney Reichel

The Committee reviewed the request for the removal of the Jacaranda, noting it was in good health and one of the better trees on the street. They discussed the project and heard from the applicant regarding the need to remove the tree to create a larger driveway for ingress and egress to the proposed development on the property. To mitigate the proposed tree removal, the applicant proposed the installation of three new Jacaranda street trees in front of the project just to the west of the existing tree proposed for removal. Members discussed the proposed mitigation, including the proposed size of the new trees and tree wells. After review, the Committee determined the project to be a reasonable development of property and commented that the three new street trees will adequately offset the loss of the existing jacaranda.

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission approve removal as proposed.

B. Conditionally approve the following street tree removal request:

1. 1224 W. Micheltorena St. – *Ilex cornuta*, Chinese Holly – Elizabeth Hughes

The Committee commented that the Chinese Holly proposed for removal was in fair health, but not a particularly nice specimen. They reviewed the request for tree removal, which pertained primarily to making landscape improvements in conjunction with the redevelopment of the property. Members discussed the value of the existing tree and whether it made practical sense to plant a new tree that would provide more canopy to the street, noting the street was particularly devoid of canopy trees. There was continued discussion about new street tree planting and during this discussion, members inquired about the designated street tree. Staff advised that this block of W. Micheltorena did not have a street tree

designation. After review, the Committee determined that a new street tree would provide more benefits to the property and the street. The Committee requested staff to expedite review of a new street tree designation for the street to allow for the planting of a new street tree if the Commission concurs with the Committee's recommendation.

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission approve the removal on the condition the applicant replace with a designated street tree.

C. Deny the following street tree removal request:

1. 2409 State St. – *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak – Peter and Deborah Bertling

The Committee discussed the Coast Live Oak proposed for removal, noting the tree was in good health. They reviewed the reasons listed on the application for removal, including hardscape disruption, continual problems with oak worms, and previous limb failures. The Committee commented that the referenced hardscape disruptions were repairable without requiring tree removal. During discussions pertaining to the California oak worm, members noted that the pest is native and rarely causes detrimental damage to trees. Additionally during discussion, the Committee determined that the tree could benefit from some maintenance. Committee members asked staff when the next pruning of the tree was scheduled. Staff explained that there were internal discussions about pruning all of the oak trees on State Street, but that this would not likely happen until next fiscal year. As part of this conversation, staff also provided information regarding the permitting process, explaining that a property owner can request a permit to perform maintenance on a City tree.

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission deny the removal.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. 25 W. Ortega St.
2. 1224 W. Micheltorena St.
3. 2409 State St.

PREPARED BY: Nathan Slack, Urban Forest Superintendent

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