



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: March 23, 2022
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission:

A. Deny the following street tree removal requests:

1. 624 E. De La Guerra Plaza / 726 State St. – *Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican Fan Palm – John Chaffee

The Committee reviewed the Mexican Fan Palm proposed for removal, noting the tree was in good health. They evaluated reasons listed on the application for removal, which included concerns regarding the palm's root system growing against the building. It is the opinion of the applicant and their construction consultant that the roots are trapping water against the building's brick masonry, which is leading to damage to the structure. The Committee discussed the concerns, including comments from the applicant. Consensus amongst the members was that there was not enough evidence of damage to the building demonstrated. Members of the Committee discussed how palm tree roots grow and that there is typically little to no damage from palm roots, since they do not increase in diameter over time like roots from woody trees. After extensive review and discussion, both amongst the Committee and with the applicant, the Committee determined that at this time the tree did not warrant removal.

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission deny without prejudice to allow the applicant a chance to return in the future with additional information illustrating damage to the structure.

2. 398 Wyola Rd. – *Jacaranda mimosifolia*, Jacaranda – Sandy Lipowski

The Committee reviewed the Jacaranda proposed for removal, noting the tree was in good health and well maintained. The applicant listed concerns relating to possible damage to the home's plumbing (water service) and potential damage to the home's slab foundation. The Committee discussed the issues raised by the applicant and expressed interest in seeing any evidence of damage caused by the street tree. The applicant referenced a plumbing bill, but at the time of application

submittal, there was no additional information provided. During discussion, members commented that while roots from the street tree are visible in the front yard, the tree is quite a distance from the home and the likelihood of damage to the slab foundation is low. Additionally, the Committee commented that in most situations involving water lines, mitigation measures allow for repair without requiring removal of the tree.

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission deny without prejudice to allow the applicant to come back with additional information illustrating damage to the home's plumbing and/or foundation.

B. Conditionally approve the following setback tree removal request:

1. 1704 La Coronilla Dr. – (2) *Callistemon citrinus*, Lemon Bottlebrush, and (2) *Schinus terebinthifolia*, Brazilian Pepper – Celia Lennon

The Committee reviewed the two Brazilian Pepper Trees and the two Lemon Bottlebrush proposed for removal. The Committee evaluated the reasons for removal listed on the application, which included damage to the driveway and sight line issues exiting the property. The Committee discussed the trees, noting they were all in fair shape and reasonably maintained. They discussed the possibility of retention of the Brazilian Pepper trees, noting that extensive root pruning would be required if repairs were made to the driveway, which could adversely affect the trees. The Committee also discussed the value and benefits the existing trees provided and potential options if it was determined there was a finding to support the removal of the trees. After discussion, they concluded the removals could be supported on the condition two new trees were planted. Additionally, the Committee noted they would support either one or both of the new trees being street trees.

The Committee recommends (5/0) that the Commission conditionally approve the removals on the condition that the applicant plant two canopy trees with a minimum at maturity height of 25 feet.

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

C. Deny the following setback tree removal request:

1. 2537 Crescent Ave. – *Tipuana tipu*, Tipu – Joseph Cooper

The Committee reviewed the Tipu Tree proposed for removal, noting the tree was in good health and well maintained. They reviewed the issues listed on the application, which included frequent treatment for the control of pests, size of the

tree, and issues with the walkway and foundation of the property. The applicant made additional reference to plans to re-landscape the property, including highlighting the jacaranda tree that is currently growing underneath the canopy of the Tipu Tree proposed for removal. During discussion, members noted that they were unable to locate any damage that could not be reasonably repaired without requiring removal of the tree. There was consensus that the tree had ample space to continue to thrive and its removal would be a material loss to the neighborhood.

After review, the Committee determined that at this time no findings pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090 satisfied this request.

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

ATTACHMENTS: 1. 624 E. De La Guerra Plaza / 726 State St.
2. 398 Wyola Rd.
3. 1704 La Coronilla Dr.
4. 2537 Crescent Ave.

PREPARED BY: Nathan Slack, Urban Forest Superintendent

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