



**CITY OF SANTA BARBARA**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT**

**AGENDA DATE:** May 25, 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 request:

1. 1334 Punta Gorda St. – *Eucalyptus polyanthemos*, Silver Dollar Gum – John Coudray

The Committee evaluated the Silver Dollar Gum proposed for removal, noting the tree was in good health and well maintained. They reviewed the reasons listed on the application for removal, including damage to the surrounding hardscape and concerns regarding potential impacts to the building's water line, fire sprinkler line, and gas line. The Committee discussed each of the issues presented, noting that the hardscape could likely be repaired without cause for tree removal. Additionally, they determined that, while potential for trees to cause damage to infrastructure does exist, the possibility is not cause for removal of healthy trees. They discussed the previous waterline disruption, which occurred immediately adjacent to the tree in 2015. There was consensus amongst the members that the repairs had been successful and it was relatively unlikely to occur again.

The Committee recommends (4/0) that the Commission deny the removal.

B. Approve the following setback tree removal request:

1. 2541 Modoc Rd. – *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*, River Red Gum – Action Tree Care

The Committee recommends (4/0) that the Commission approve the removal.

The Committee reviewed the River Red Gum proposed for removal, remarking that the tree was in good health and reasonably maintained. They discussed the applicant's concern for damage to the building due to the tree's placement and growth. Members commented that visible stress fractures were present in the façade of the building, and based upon the tree's size and growth habit, continued damage was likely. After review, there was agreement that this was a classic

example of the wrong tree in the wrong place and that no mitigation tactics existed that would allow for tree retention and eliminate any additional damage to the structure.

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 removal.

C. Conditionally approve the following setback tree removal requests:

1. 229 Mohawk Rd. – *Schinus molle*, Pepper Tree – Kalley Liehr

The Committee evaluated the Pepper Tree proposed for removal, commenting that the tree was in good health and well maintained. They reviewed the reasons listed on the application for removal, consisting of a need to remove the tree to allow for driveway changes as part of comprehensive property improvements. In the application, the applicant proposed to plant a new tree to offset the loss of the existing tree. The Committee determined that the request was a reasonable development of property and that the proposed species of tree to mitigate the existing Pepper Tree was of adequate size to offset the loss in biomass over time.

The Committee recommends (4/0) that the Commission approve removal on the condition that the applicant install the proposed replacement tree.

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.

2. 1325 Mountain Ave. – *Tipuana tipu*, Tipu Tree – Michael Fedyk

The Committee evaluated the Tipu Tree proposed for removal located within the front setback of the property, noting the tree was in good health and well maintained. They reviewed the reasons listed on the application for removal, which included damage to the driveway and surrounding pathway towards the home. During review of the tree, the applicant, who was present at the meeting, also explained that they had consulted with a private arborist to evaluate the feasibility of performing root pruning and repairing the surrounding hardscape. The applicant told the Committee of the arborist's long-term safety concerns with pruning roots, and a concern with the continuing need to repair the surrounding hardscape as the tree grew. The Committee commented that there was a high likelihood of the need for continual root pruning and repair of the hardscape due to tree growth. During this review, the members remarked that the loss of canopy to the property and the street would be a material loss to the neighborhood, and if approved, a new tree should be required. After evaluating the property, they determined the only feasible

location for a new tree to offset the existing tree was to plant a street tree in the unimproved right of way in front of the property.

The Committee recommends (4/0) that the Commission approve removal on the condition the applicant replace with a street tree of 15-gallon minimum container size.

The Committee determined that pursuant to SBMC 15.24.090 E, the Commission could make the finding that regard for safety of persons or property dictates removal.

3. 650 Rockwood Dr. – (6) *Acacia baileyana*, Bailey Acacia – Adam Sharkey

The Committee reviewed the Bailey Acacia trees proposed for removal, noting they were in good health and likely the result of volunteer trees from other nearby Bailey Acacias. They reviewed the reasons listed on the application for removal, consisting of comprehensive property improvements to the currently undeveloped parcel and with specific improvements in the area where the Bailey Acacias are located. During review of the tree, the members remarked that the proposed improvements were a reasonable development of property, but the trees proposed for removal required some form of mitigation. After review, there was consensus that three new trees that could achieve a height of 30 feet at maturity would be satisfactory mitigation for the removal of the six Bailey Acacias.

The Committee recommends (3/0/1) that the Commission approve removal of the Acacias on the condition the applicant replace with three additional replacement trees to be planted on the property. Additional replacement trees are to be at least 15-gallon containers and achieve 30 feet in height at maturity.

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 trees are located requires removal of the trees.

D. Deny the following setback tree removal request:

1. 760 Calabria Dr. – *Pinus canariensis*, Canary Island Pine – Michelle Morris

The Committee reviewed the Canary Island Pine proposed for removal, noting the tree was in good health and well maintained. They evaluated the reasons for removal listed on the application, consisting of issues pertaining to debris dropping from the tree, specifically needles and cones. The members discussed the request, noting that debris is typically not a valid concern for the removal of an otherwise healthy tree. After review, there was consensus that a finding could not be identified to support removal.

The Committee recommends (4/0) that the Commission deny the removal.

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

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. 1334 Punta Gorda St.
  2. 2541 Modoc Rd.
  3. 229 Mohawk Rd.
  4. 1325 Mountain Ave.
  5. 650 Rockwood Dr.
  6. 760 Calabria Dr.

**PREPARED BY:** Nathan Slack, Urban Forest Superintendent

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