



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: July 27, 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. 3700 block of Modoc Road to Santa Barbara County line – 34 various species – Taylor Berryman, Project Engineer, City of Santa Barbara Public Works

The Committee evaluated the 34 trees proposed for removal along an unimproved section of Modoc Road. The proposal to remove the trees is due to a continuation of the recently completed Las Positas and Modoc Road Multiuse Path (MUP). There are now plans to connect the MUP to the County of Santa Barbara's bike path. This new section along Modoc Road will connect the City's bike path to the County's bike path and the trees proposed for removal are directly within the area of construction. The Committee commented that the trees were in fair shape overall but that the project provided significant community benefit and increased safety to both pedestrians and cyclists. During review, they also discussed the proposed replacement trees, noting that a one to one (1:1) replanting ratio in this location made practical sense and would offset the loss in biomass of the trees proposed for removal.

The Committee recommends (3/0) that the Commission approve the removals and replacements as proposed

B. Deny the following street tree removal requests:

1. 1315 Ensenada Street – *Liquidambar styraciflua*, American Sweetgum – Joseph Van Thyne

The Committee evaluated the American Sweetgum, noting it was in good health and reasonably maintained. They discussed the applicant's concerns relating to the potential for the tree to disrupt water service to the property. Despite the applicant advising of a previous disruption to their water service, the Committee

determined that the repairs to the disruption were completed and that at this time the tree did not warrant removal.

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

2. 3657 Sunset Drive – *Pyrus kawakamii*, Evergreen Pear – Helen Birss

The Committee evaluated the Evergreen Pear proposed for removal, noting that the tree was in good health and reasonably maintained. The Committee discussed the reasons listed on the application for removal, which included disease, previous limb failures, the species being a non-native tree, and blocking of views. After review, the Committee determined the tree was a viable street tree and did not satisfy any requirements for removal at this time.

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

C. Deny the following park tree removal request:

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

On March 23, 2022, the Parks and Recreation Commission reviewed this application and made a motion to recommend denial without prejudice of the request to remove the tree. The denial without prejudice was to allow the applicant to return in the future with additional documentation to support the request. The motion made by the Commission was consistent with the Street Tree Advisory Committee's recommendation.

The Committee reviewed the tree, noting it was still in good health and well maintained. They discussed the arborist report that the applicant provided with re-submittal of their application. During their review, the Committee members noted that there was still a lack of substantial evidence illustrating that the tree itself was causing damage to the structure despite the detailed arborist report. Additionally, the Committee commented that the removal of the tree would be a material loss to De La Guerra Plaza and to Storke Placita.

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

D. Approve the following change to the Street Tree Master Plan:

1. All of Gray Avenue – *Lophostemon confertus* (*Tristania conferta*, synonym), Brisbane Box species designation change – Nicole Horn, CJM::LA

There is a planned development located along Gray Avenue that is proposing significant right of way improvements including new street trees. The request came

from the project's landscape architect who determined that the existing designation of Canary Island Pine was not an ideal species for planting in the proposed tree wells along Gray Avenue. The landscape architect proposed the use of Brisbane Box and King Palm to be the new co-designated street tree species. The Committee reviewed the request, commenting that the use of Canary Island Pine did not make practical sense in this area. There was discussion about both the Brisbane Box and the King Palm. Committee members agreed that the Brisbane Box was a functional street tree and would perform well in this area. The King Palm was not determined to be a favorable selection for co-designation due to the lack of canopy the tree produces. The Committee determined there would be more canopy cover and benefit by designating just the broad-leaved canopy tree and not including a palm in the designation change.

The Committee recommends (3/0) that the Commission approve *Lophostemon confertus* (*Tristania conferta*, synonym), Brisbane Box, for all of Gray Avenue.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. 3700 block of Modoc Road to Santa Barbara County line
 2. 1315 Ensenada Street
 3. 3657 Sunset Drive
 4. 624 E. De La Guerra Plaza / 726 State Street
 5. All of Gray Avenue

PREPARED BY: Nathan Slack, Urban Forest Superintendent

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