



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: July 24, 2024
TO: Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM: Parks Division, Parks and Recreation Department
SUBJECT: Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: That the Commission:

A. Conditionally approve the following street tree removal request:

1. 504 E. Valerio Street – *Schinus molle*, Pepper Tree – Amy Blakemore

The Committee reviewed the Pepper Tree proposed for removal, noting it was in fair health. They evaluated the reasons listed on the application for removal, which included a new driveway on the East Valerio side of the property. The Committee noted that the proposed location of the driveway was in direct conflict with the tree and that the excavation and installation of the new driveway apron would be detrimental. The applicant expressed a desire to plant a new street tree to offset the loss of the existing tree. The Committee took this under advisement, commenting that a new street tree was appropriate mitigation for the loss of the existing tree.

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

B. Deny the following setback tree removal request:

1. 101 Santa Cruz Boulevard – *Araucaria columnaris*, Cook Pine – Viktoria Pankiv

The Committee evaluated the Cook Pine proposed for removal, noting the tree was in great health and a nice specimen of the species. The applicant is requesting removal of the tree due to development of the property. Originally the applicant tried to preserve the tree in place but as construction on their new home began, they noticed that the proposed outside seating area was very close to the existing tree. They called in a private arborist to provide guidance on the tree and the proposed construction. At the request of the arborist, the construction contractor excavated all the large diameter roots towards the proposed seating area. After excavation occurred the arborist returned to the site to evaluate the roots. There were discussions about modified construction methods that would allow for tree

retention, but the team ultimately decided that it made practical sense to pursue removal of the tree, rather than perform root pruning and change the proposed construction of the seating area. The applicant provided a copy of the arborist report with their application. The Committee discussed the tree and proposed construction on site and evaluated the exposed roots. There was consensus amongst the members that if the applicant utilized a pier and grade beam construction it would likely allow for retention of the tree. While the Committee viewed this as a feasible option, they were not completely sure that it would work but there was agreement that the tree was of considerable value to the property and the streetscape to warrant further evaluation of strategies that would allow for retention.

The Committee recommends (3/0/1) that the Commission deny the removal without prejudice to allow time to determine if the pier and grade beam approach could still be explorable.

ATTACHMENTS: 1. 504 E. Valerio Street
2. 101 Santa Cruz Boulevard

PREPARED BY: Nathan Slack, Urban Forest Superintendent

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