



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION REPORT

AGENDA DATE: October 22, 2008

TO: Park 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 relocations.

1. West Beach Pedestrian Improvement Project - Cabrillo Blvd. – Earthform Design, Jeannette Candau – (4) *Washingtonia robusta*, Mexican Fan Palms

Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendation: Committee recommends that the Commission approve relocations. The Committee approves relocation on the condition new trees at the Ambassador crossing be certified to be free of disease and are a minimum 20' trunk height measured to the bottom of the lowest green frond.

Staff Recommendation: Staff agrees with the relocation of the palms with the following changes. Staff recommends the trees at Ambassador crosswalk remain (2) *Washingtonia robusta*. If the *Washingtonia robustas* are to remain, they would be slightly relocated. Staff disagrees with the placement of *Phoenix canariensis* on Cabrillo Boulevard. The basis for this recommendation includes:

- The designated species for Cabrillo Boulevard is *Washingtonia robusta*.
- The fronds of the *Phoenix canariensis* have sharp spines that would present a danger to pedestrians.
- The trunks of the *Phoenix canariensis* are much thicker than the *Washingtonia* and would present a larger visual barrier to pedestrians trying to cross the street.
- The fronds and fruit of *Phoenix canariensis* drop more readily than *Washingtonia* requiring a higher level of service to keep the area safe.

Staff recommends that two *Washingtonias* be relocated to the Sea Landing area and two be slightly relocated at Ambassador Park crossing.

B. Approve the following Street Tree removal request.

1. West Downtown Pedestrian Improvement Project – Earthform Design, Josh Monroy – various street trees on Anapamu and Ortega Streets

The City of Santa Barbara Redevelopment Agency was tasked with providing improved pedestrian access from the pedestrian bridges that cross over the 101 Freeway at Anapamu Street and Ortega Street into the downtown area. The project involves repairs to sidewalks, enhanced pedestrian lighting, improved safe crossing at intersections, new Jacaranda trees at the intersections for accent, and additional trees along the two streets.

Earthform Design was selected to develop the landscape plans. Forestry staff walked the project with Earthform to discuss the proposal. After completing the walkthrough, it was determined that 17 trees and 10 shrubs would be recommended for removal, and 87 trees recommended for planting. Most of these were the designated species.

Most of the removals are proposed because they are either dead, dying, or the sidewalk repairs would require substantial root pruning causing them to be subject to dying or becoming unstable. Five of the proposed removals are on Ortega Street under high voltage lines. These trees have been repeatedly topped and are dwarfed by the un-topped Tipuanas on the other side of the street. Staff determined it might be best to remove these trees and replace them with a smaller species that could be better maintained under the power lines.

Street Tree Advisory Committee Recommendations: The item was presented to the Street Tree Advisory Committee on October 2, 2008. After reviewing the plans, and a field visit, the Committee made the following recommendations:

- Recommend all removals be approved except three of the five *Tipuana tipu* trees in the 200 block of W Ortega Street.
- Recommend the replacement tree for any approved Tipuana removals be *Pistacia chinensis*, Chinese Pistache (species change).
- Recommend trees in the 200 block of W Anapamu Street be planted with *Magnolia grandiflora* 'St. Mary', St. Mary Magnolia (species change) as opposed to the designated *Pyrus kawakamii*, Evergreen Pear.
- Recommend the replacement trees in the 400 block of Anapamu Street be alternated between *Cinnimomum camphora* (designated in the 300 block), Camphor Tree and *Calodendrum capense*, Cape Chestnut (designated in the 400 block).

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends all the removals be approved and concurs with the Street Tree Advisory Committee recommendations for replacement trees.

C. Deny the following Street Tree removal requests.

1. 9 La Cadena St. – Ernesto Santillan – *Persea americana*, Avocado

Recommendation: The Committee and staff recommend that the Commission deny removal at this time. The Committee and staff recommend the applicant be allowed to re-submit an application, before one year, when the tree is in fruit so that the Committee and staff can consider the size of the fruit.

2. 322 W. Pedregosa St. – Cynthia Ellestad – *Eucalyptus ficifolia*, Red Flowering Gum

Recommendation: The Committee and staff recommend that the Commission deny removal at this time. The Committee and staff determined the tree was healthy and the reasons for removal do not justify the removal.

D. Approve the following Setback Tree removal request.

1. 1233 Alta Vista Rd. – Action Tree for Satterfield Property Management – (2) *Quercus agrifolia*, Coast Live Oak

Recommendation: The Committee and staff recommend that the Commission approve the removals on the condition the applicant plant (2) designated street trees, (*Callistemon viminalis*, Weeping Bottlebrush) in the parkway in front of the property. The Committee would also like to see the parkway mulched with organic mulch. The Committee and staff determined the removals would benefit adjacent street trees.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. West Beach Pedestrian Improvement Project - Cabrillo Blvd.
 2. West Downtown Pedestrian Improvement Project – Anapamu and Ortega Streets
 3. 9 La Cadena Street
 4. 322 W. Pedregosa Street
 5. 1233 Alta Vista Road

PREPARED BY: Tim Downey, Urban Forest Superintendent

SUBMITTED BY: Jill E. Zachary, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks & Recreation Director