

April 2016

Date: 2/4/16

Requested by: Bryan Van Derhyden

Address: 110 Carl Street, San Francisco, CA 94117

Location of Tree: 48 Chase Dr., Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Tree Species: (2) *Pyrus kawakamii*

Common Name: Evergreen Pear

Requested Reason for Removal: To be replaced with drought tolerant native CA trees.

Current designated Street Tree: *Pyrus kawakamii*, Evergreen Pear (1977 Master Plan)

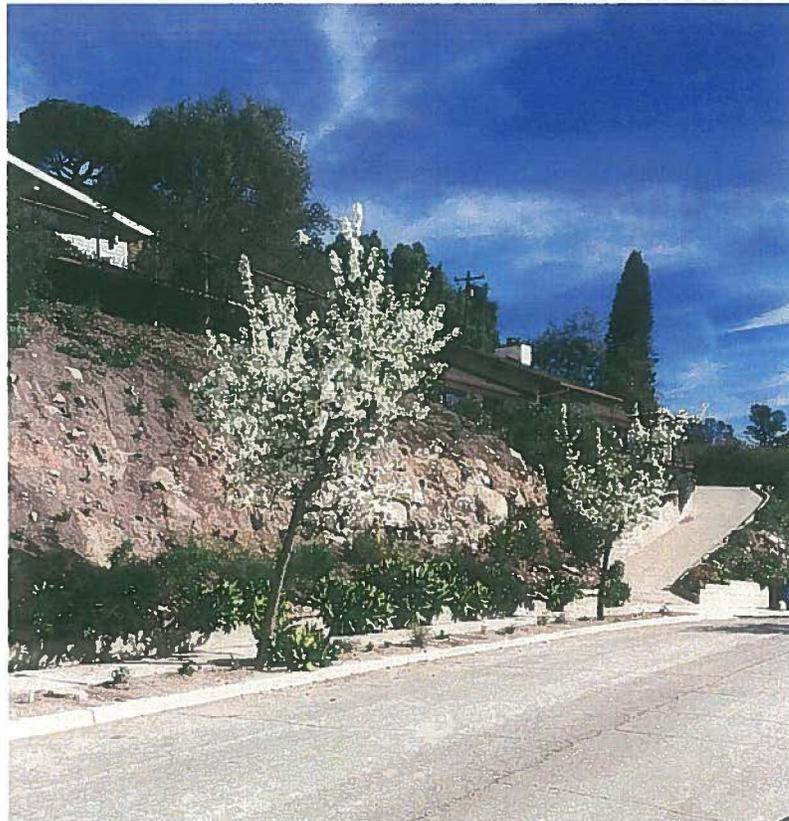
Advisory Committee Recommendation: Approve Removal: Deny Removal:

Staff Recommendation: Approve Removal: Deny Removal:

Date Posted: 4/15/16

Comments: The Committee recommends that the Commission deny the removals. The Committee determined the applicant did not provide valid reasons to remove these trees.

PHOTO INVENTORY





paid \$50 cash
 City of Santa Barbara
 Parks and Recreation Department
STREET TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

FEB 01 2015
 PARK & RECREATION
 PARKS DIVISION

Mailing Address:
 PO Box 1990
 Santa Barbara, CA 93102
 (805) 564-5433 FAX (805) 897-2524

Office Address:
 402 E. Ortega St.
 Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Application Fee: \$50 (effective July 1, 2010)

DATE OF REQUEST:	12-3-2015
APPLICANT:	Bryan Van Derhyden
ADJACENT OWNER NAME: (IF DIFFERENT THAN APPLICANT)	Jill Martin
MAILING/EMAIL ADDRESS:	110 Carl Street San Francisco CA. 94117
DAYTIME PHONE:	(805)698-1526
TREE LOCATION (ADDRESS):	48 Chase Drive Santa Barbara
TREE SPECIES (IF KNOWN):	Pyrus calleryana
REASON(S) FOR REMOVAL:	To be replaced with drought tollerant native CA trees, Prunus ilicifolia and Lynothamnus

PAID

PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

1. Property owner letter, indicating reasons for removal. Also include whether:
 - a. The removal application is associated with new development or redevelopment of property
 - b. Status of development application, including whether the project is scheduled for review by the Single Family Design Board, Architectural Board of Review or Historic Landmarks Commission
 - c. The tree is a designated Specimen or Historic Tree
2. Photo of tree(s) proposed for removal
3. Development plan/Landscape plan

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

FEB 29 2016

PARK & RECREATION
PARKS DIVISION

2-24-16

To whom it may concern,

This letter is in regard to an application for removal of two trees in the city of Santa Barbara's Parkway Strip located at 48 Chase Drive in Santa Barbara, California.

The removal request is based on three related ideas. The two existing trees in the Parkway Strip are *Pyrus kawakamii*, common name, Evergreen Pear. It is a tree that is native to mainland China and Taiwan. The subdivision where the Parkway Strip is located, being built in the late 1950's, it can be estimated that the trees are roughly 50 years old. Although well along in age the two trees of this species planted in the Parkway Strip are both of rather small stature and are of stunted habit and form.

Pyrus kawakamii is considered to be a 'Medium Water Needs' tree according to San Marcos Growers, on their website it reads; "These plants require a regular irrigation regime to persist and be presentable in the garden. These plants are not necessarily considered "thirsty" and include most of the plants in the typical urban landscape. In our cool coastal climate these plants, once established in the landscape, would require irrigation once a week to once every other week. In hotter and drier times of the year, some of these plants may require more frequent irrigation and may also not require any supplemental irrigation during winter or when spring rains are abundant." (http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant_id=1333)

The San Francisco community group Friends of the Urban Forest, who work with the city of San Francisco to increase and maintain the city's trees recommend this regiment for watering of the *Pyrus kawakamii*, "In general, 15-20 gallons per week for the first 2 years; 15-20 gallons twice a month for the 3rd year; as needed after 3 years (varies by soil, sun, and wind conditions)." (<http://www.fuf.net/tree/evergreen-pear/>).

The reason for the small habit and stunted form of the trees located in the Parkway Strip at 48 Chase Drive is that they are trees that require water and the climate in Santa Barbara is not conducive to healthy growth of this species without significant supplemental water. In rainy times in Southern California these trees can do fine, but when the inevitable droughts arrive, as they have through the life of these trees, the trees have suffered and although alive have failed to reach their full potential due to the fact they are not on any type of water regime. The fact

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that we are experiencing a very significant drought now, is a very appropriate time to reconsider what is an appropriate tree to be planted in certain areas of the city.

The water requirement and resulting poor growth habit that has occurred with these trees is due to the selected species not blending with the climate of the greater region without supplemental water and leads to the second related reason for the proposed removal and replacement.

The inclusion of native California trees that are regionally specific and have adapted and evolved through thousands of years to match the climate of the area are fine selections for any region of the city. In the Santa Barbara Municipal Code Chapter 15.20, Tree Planting and Maintenance, in the section 'Title' (15.20.010), the opening statement reads; "Recognizing that the urban forest is a valuable asset to the City of Santa Barbara...." This statement alone could not be more fitting and true of how important the city's trees are to the feel and character of the city of Santa Barbara. This being said, there is always room for improvement and the inclusion of native species should be paramount in the landscape of the urban forest of Santa Barbara.

One reason is the fact that once established native California trees require very little to no water. A few gallons a month will keep them looking good in the driest of years and the amount of water required to establish them is far less than what is required of the Evergreen Pear and other trees in their establishment and throughout their lives. The two tree species that are of interest for replacement, are regionally specific native California trees, *Lyonothamnus floribundus ssp. aspleniifolius*, the Santa Cruz Island Ironwood and *Prunus ilicifolia ssp. lyonii*, the Catalina Cherry. These trees also provide another crucial ecological aspect that many native trees and plants possess, providing habitat for native insect pollinators. Such is the case for the *Prunus ilicifolia*, the caterpillars of the pale swallowtail butterfly (*Papilio eurymedon*) forage on this plant in their larval stage.

These two ecological based reasons alone, the saving of water and habitat for native insects hold tremendous value that is in keeping with the title statement of the city's code in regard to the value of its urban forest.

The third reason for removal and the proposed subsequent replacement of the specific species mentioned above is that the front of the property at 48 Chase Drive was recently re-

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landscaped with California native plants. The native plant selections are the most responsible and appropriate plants for the site considering the drought plaguing the South Coast region at the time. California native plants are, as is well know by now, to be the go-to alternative for drought tolerant and eco-friendly landscapes. The plant selection of this landscape is in keeping with the reasons mentioned above for the selection of the new trees. To provide habitat for native pollinators, such as bees and butterflies, and establish a garden with extremely minimal to no water needs once established.

From an aesthetic point of view the stunted *Pyrus* trees backed by a hill of native California plants, it creates of rather disjointed appearance. The plant palette required to blend to the aesthetic of the *Pyrus* trees would require such a substantial amount of water as to render it unsustainable, and once again is another example of why the tree species is out of place from an ecological standpoint. The inclusion of the native tree species on the other hand would blend to the native plants selected for the adjoining property as well as, besides the aforementioned ecological reasons provide a pleasing aesthetic that would set a tone of, as well as assimilate to, the sense of place of the greater Santa Barbara region.

Thank you,

Bryan Van Derhyden Garden Designer

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