

TREE COMMITTEE AGENDA REPORT

SUBJECT: REVIEW A TREE REMOVAL CONVENIENCE APPLICATION TO REMOVE ONE (1) LONDON PLANE TREE (*PLATANUS X ACERFOLIA*) (*HISPANICA*) LOCATED AT 4275 POINSETTIA STREET

FILE NUMBER: TREE-1312-2024

PROJECT ADDRESS: 4275 Poinsettia St.

FROM: Walter Gault, Urban Forestry
Program Coordinator / City Arborist
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APPLICANT: Luanne Cheda

RECOMMENDATION

Review the Tree Removal Application, removal based on convenience, and the landscaping/compensatory replanting plan and provide a recommendation to the Community Development Director for final action.

1.0 APPLICATION DESCRIPTION

Luanne Cheda (Applicant) has requested the removal of one (1) *Platanus x acerifolia* (*Platanus x hispanica*) (London Plane) in the front yard at 4275 Poinsettia Street using the Convenience Tree Removal Application. The applicant would like to remove the lawn and tree and replace with more trees and drought tolerant landscaping.

2.0 COMMITTEE PURVIEW

The Tree Committee's role is to review the removal request in accordance with the process set forth in San Luis Obispo Municipal Code (SLOMC) Section 12.24 (Tree Municipal Code Section 12.24.090(E)(3). This code section utilizes the process set forth in subsection F(2), the relevant additional application requirements in subsection (D)(2) and the criteria set forth in subsection (G).



Figure 1: location of tree

3.0 TREE REGULATIONS

The City's Tree Ordinance (Municipal Code Chapter 12.24) was adopted in 2010 and recently updated in 2019 with the purpose of establishing a comprehensive program for installing, maintaining, and preserving trees within the City. This ordinance establishes policies, regulations, and specifications necessary to govern installation, maintenance, removal, and preservation of trees to beautify the city; to purify the air; to provide shade and wind protection; to add environmental and economic value; and to preserve trees with historic or unusual value.

Criteria for Convenience Tree Removal Applications.

SLOMC §12.24.090 subsection (E)(3) requires review by the Tree Committee using the criteria set for in SLOMC §12.24.090(G). Applicable criteria are provided below.

- (G)(1). Size of Tree. The scale of the tree shall be considered, as well as the size of the tree's canopy. Larger, more visually prominent trees may have a higher preservation priority than smaller, less visually prominent trees. Tree is visually prominent, but not a particularly large specimen.
- (G)(2). Location of Tree on Private Property. The location of the tree on private property shall be considered. Trees located in a private rear yard, which are not highly visible from the public right-of-way, may have a lower preservation priority than trees with a high visual impact to the neighborhood. Tree is located in the front yard and is highly visible from the public right-of-way.
- (G)(3). Species of Tree. Native trees shall have a higher preservation priority than non-native trees. Species is non-native and has a lower preservation priority.
- (G)(4). Forestry Best Practice. The number of healthy trees that a given parcel of land will support shall be considered, and whether removal would enhance the health or survival of remaining trees. Applications that increase biodiversity of native trees and tree age distribution within a given area are preferred. Parcel could support more species and better landscaping if tree were removed.
- (G)(5). Public Right-of-Way Obstruction or Displacement. Street trees requested for removal due to obstruction of vision, access, mobility of public traffic or sidewalk infrastructure repair or replacement shall have a lower preservation priority when the tree species is known to have invasive root structure or other characteristics that increase the likelihood that damage is likely to reoccur if not authorized for removal. Trees adjacent to sidewalks with a high volume of pedestrian use with large vertical or slope displacements may have a lower preservation priority. Platanus trees are known to have invasive root structures particularly when are planted in lawns due to the method of irrigation.

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- (G)(6). *Compliance with Subsection J of This Section Regarding Compensatory Plantings*. The approving authority may consider an application proposal to provide compensatory plantings in excess of required minimums in evaluating this criterion. A compensatory replanting plan in excess of required minimums has been provided.
- (G)(7). *Heritage Trees*. A tree which has been designated a heritage tree is prohibited from removal unless the city arborist authorizes a tree removal upon finding that a tree removal would be related to tree health or hazard mitigation as outlined in subsection (E)(1) of this section. Heritage trees have the highest preservation priority. The tree request for removal is not a heritage tree.

4.0 ACTIONS

- 4.1** Recommend findings of consistency with the Tree Regulations. An action recommending approval of the application based on consistency with the Tree Regulations (SLOMC Section 12.24). An approval of the application should include a compensatory replanting plan with size and species of tree.
- 4.2** Recommend findings of inconsistency with the Tree Regulations. An action recommending denial of the application should include findings that cite the basis for denial and should reference inconsistency with the General Plan, Tree Regulations, or other policy documents.
- 4.3** Recommend continuation.

5.0 ATTACHMENTS

A - Tree Removal Application for 4275 Poinsettia (TREE-1312-2024)