

## TREE COMMITTEE AGENDA REPORT

**SUBJECT:** REVIEW A TREE REMOVAL APPLICATION TO REMOVE TWO (2) COAST LIVE OAK (QUERCUS AGRIFOLIA) TREES LOCATED AT 2675 JOHNSON AVE (TREE-0497-2024)

**FILE NUMBER:** TREE-0497-2024

**PROJECT ADDRESS:** 2675 Johnson Ave

**FROM:** Walter Gault, City Arborist  
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Email: [wgault@slocity.org](mailto:wgault@slocity.org)

**APPLICANT:** Ron Combs, Bunyon Bros. Tree Service

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### RECOMMENDATION

Review the proposed tree removal application for consistency with the Municipal Code Section 12.24.090(E) and provide a recommendation to the Community Development Director.



**Figure 1: View of the trees from Johnson Ave**

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## 1.0 APPLICATION DESCRIPTION

Ron Combs (Applicant) has requested the removal of two (2) Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) trees in the front yard at 2675 Johnson Ave per Municipal Code Section 12.24.090.E(3) related to property owner convenience. The applicant would like to remove the trees and replace them with thirteen (13) *Lyonothamnus floribundus ssp. aspleniifolius* (Catalina Ironwood) trees.



## 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) [Chapter 12.24](#), specifically 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 \(G\)](#).

## 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.

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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 in italics below and followed by a description of the proposed tree removals as it relates to that criterion.

- *(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.*

The trees proposed for removal are small-medium size and visually prominent in the front yard of the property.

- *(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.*

The trees proposed for removal are located within the front yard and are 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.*

The trees proposed for removal are native.

- *(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.*

The applicant is proposing to replant 13 trees in place of the two tree removals.

**4.0 ACTIONS**

- 4.1** Recommend findings of consistency with the Tree Regulations. An action recommending approval of the application based on consistency will be forwarded to the Community Development Director for final action. This action may include recommendations regarding the 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.

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- 4.3** Continue the project to a hearing date certain, or uncertain. An action continuing the application should include direction to the applicant and staff on pertinent issues.

## **5.0 ATTACHMENTS**

A - Tree Removal Application for 2675 Johnson Ave (TREE-0497-2024)  
B - Replanting Plan