

TREE COMMITTEE AGENDA REPORT

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR THE REMOVAL OF 5 PALM TREES LOCATED AT 2777 FLORA ST (APPLICATION NO. TREE-0179-2025)

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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.

1.0 APPLICATION DESCRIPTION

Joshua Davis, the applicant, has requested the removal of five (5) *Washingtonia robusta* (Mexican Fan Palm) at 2777 Flora Street located within the R-1 zone. The applicant has indicated in their application that the trunks and roots of the palms are impacting an existing solar thermal system, have outgrown their planter boxes and that the fronds have become dangerous.

The applicant would like to remove the palm trees and replace them with five (5) compensatory trees onsite including one (1) Dogwood in the front yard, two (2) *Jacaranda mimosifolia* (Purple Trumpet) in the parkway along El Paseo Ct, and two (2) non-fruiting Olive trees in the backyard.

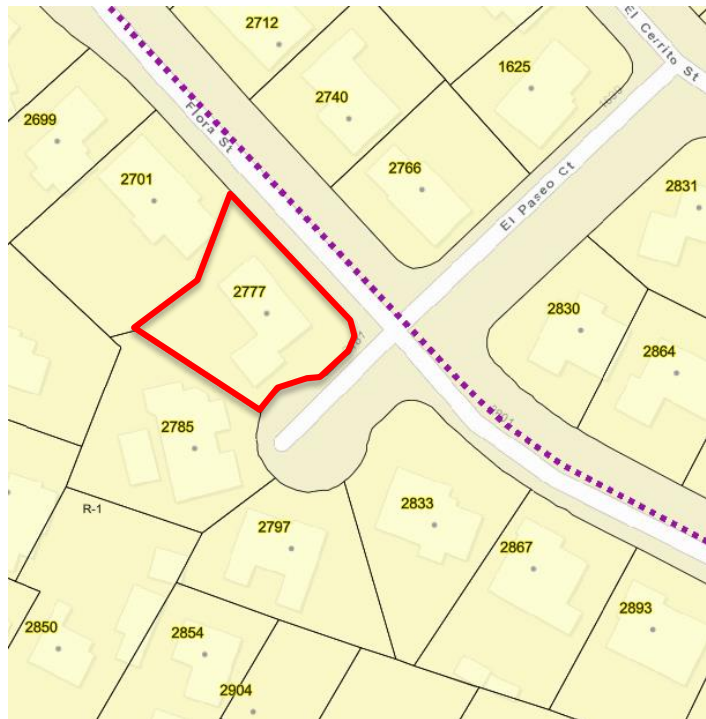


Figure 1 – Site of proposed tree removals

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2.0 COMMITTEE PURVIEW

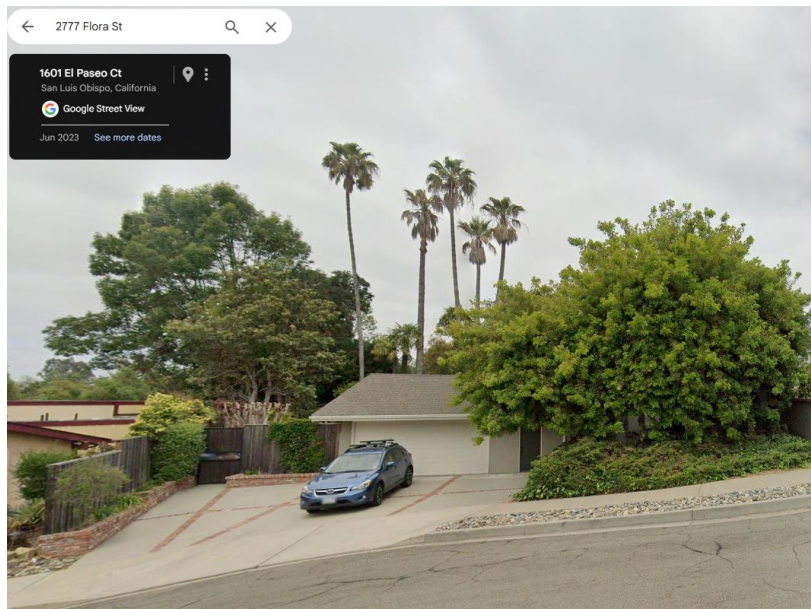


Figure 2 – View of palm trees (on left) from El Paseo Ct.

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\(E\)\(3\)](#) - tree removals related to property owner convenience. 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 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 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 large and visually prominent in the neighborhood.

- *(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 tree proposed for removal is located in the backyard but it is also 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 non-native.

- (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.

The removal and replanting would increase the biodiversity of the urban forest and tree age distribution.

- (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 meet the minimum required replanting rate of 1:1.

- (G)(7). *Heritage Trees*. Heritage trees have the highest preservation priority.

The trees are not heritage trees.

4.0 ACTIONS

- 4.1 Recommend findings of consistency with the Tree Regulations. An action recommending approval of the proposed tree removals 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 proposed tree removals 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 Continue the project to a hearing date certain, or uncertain. An action continuing the review of the proposed tree removals should include direction to the applicant and staff on pertinent issues.

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5.0 ATTACHMENTS

A - Tree Removal Application Form

B - Site Plan

C - Photo Catalogue & Replanting Plan

D - Arborist Report