

TREE COMMITTEE AGENDA REPORT

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR THE REMOVAL OF 1 AFRICAN FERN PINE LOCATED AT 1421 BROAD ST (APPLICATION: TREE-0288-2025)

FROM: Walter Gault, Urban Forestry Program Coordinator / City Arborist
Phone Number: (805) 781-7578
Email: wgault@slocity.org

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

Bunyon Bros. Tree Service, the applicant, has requested the removal of one (1) *Afrocarpus falcatus* (African Fern Pine) at 1421 Broad Street located within the R-2 zone. The applicant has indicated in their application that they are requesting the tree removal due to insurance regulations and requested review under “Tree Health and Hazard Mitigation.” The applicant proposes to replant one (1) 15-gallon *Pistacia chinensis* (Chinese Pistache) in the same location.



Figure 1: Subject Property

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](#). The proposed tree removal request does not provide sufficient evidence to meet the criteria under a Health and Hazard application ([12.24.090.E\(1\)](#)) and therefore the request is being reviewed under 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.



Figure 2 – Tree requested for removal

- *(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 tree proposed for removal is 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 in a private yard but also has a high visual impact to the neighborhood.

- *(G)(3). Species of Tree. Native trees shall have a higher preservation priority than non-native trees.*

The tree proposed for removal is 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*

Item 4b

health or survival of remaining trees. Applications that increase biodiversity of native trees and tree age distribution within a given area are preferred.

Not applicable.

- *(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 tree is not a heritage tree.

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.

5.0 ATTACHMENTS

- A - Tree Removal Application Form
- B - Photos of Banded Tree
- C - Site Replanting Plan
- D - Bunyon Arborist Report