

Meeting Date: May 17, 2020

TREE COMMITTEE AGENDA REPORT

SUBJECT: Review of the proposed removal of 51 onsite trees and replanting of at least 22 street trees on site, with compensatory tree plantings required as a condition of approval. Compensatory planting will be required at a rate of 1:1 onsite or 2:1 offsite, consistent with Tree Regulations standards. Tree removals are proposed to facilitate a proposed tract map development (TR 3157), a 23-lot subdivision in the Low-Density Residential (R-1) zone.

PROJECT ADDRESS: 468/500 Westmont Ave. **BY:** Kyle Van Leeuwen, Associate Planner

Phone: (805) 781-7091 e-mail: <u>kvanleeu@slocity.org</u>

FILE NUMBER: SBDV-0169-2020 FROM: Anthony Whipple, City Arborist

RECOMMENDATION: Recommend the Planning Commission find the proposed tree removal and Compensatory Planting street tree plan for the Tract Map at 468/500 Westmont Avenue consistent with the City's Tree Regulations, with a recommended condition of approval for compensatory plantings.

SITE DATA

Applicant Andrew G. Meinhold,

Alice Jo Meinhold Survivors Trust

Representative Katie Rollins, Cannon

Zoning Low-Density Residential (R-1)

General Plan Low Density Residential

Site Area 4.98 acres

Environmental Mitigated Negative Declaration has been

Status prepared and available for review online.



1.0 COMMITTEE PURVIEW

The Tree Committee's role is to review the project and provide a recommendation to the Planning Commission regarding consistency with the policies and standards set forth in San Luis Obispo Municipal Code (SLOMC) §12.24 (Tree Regulations).

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is a Tentative Tract Map (VTTM 3157) on a 4.98-acre site located at the terminus of the east and west portions of Westmont Avenue and the northern terminus of Westmont Drive and Stanford Drive (see Attachment 1, Project Plans). The project site is within the Low-Density Residential

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(R-1) zone and would create 23 lots ranging in size from 6,000 to 24,451 square feet and are intended for single-family residential use.

Existing development on the project site includes a residential structure and associated accessory structures, a pool and other site improvements. Vegetation on the property includes a freshwater forested/shrub wetland with an associated riparian habitat that extends through the western portion of the site. The site is generally comprised of developed/ruderal land, riparian habitat, and annual grassland. There are 177 ornamental and native trees throughout the project site. Attachment 2, Tree Removal Exhibit, shows the location of existing trees onsite. To accommodate the onsite improvements, 86 ornamental, native and non-native trees would be removed, 51 of which are subject to tree removal permitting requirements¹.

The applicant is proposing to remove 51 trees on site that are subject to tree removal permitting. Of the 51 trees, 18 are queen palms that border the existing driveway, 11 are silver wattles (acacia) that are within the creek corridor area and would be removed as a wildfire mitigation measure, seven of the trees are live oaks, with the remaining 14 trees a variety non-native tree species (Attachment 3, Tree Inventory Data Table). Additional tree removals on site are not subject to tree removal permitting requirements, as specified in Section 12.24.090 C. of the Municipal Code.

Table 1: Trees Subject to Review						
Tree Type	Quantity	DBH				
Queen Palm	18	12 - 13				
Silver Wattles	11	1 - 10				
Coast Live Oak	7	1 - 16				
Eucalyptus	3	33 - 54				
Coast Redwood	3	38 - 47				
Grey Pine	2	32 - 32				
Grevillea	1	26				
Royal Palm	1	12				
Elm	1	22				
Canary Island Palm	1	12				
Narrow-Leaved Paperbark	1	2 - 5				
Cypress	1	23				
Olive	1	5				
Total	51					

¹ Municipal Code § 12.24.090 Tree Removal (C) Permit Not Required. Removing a tree in R-1 and R-2 zones does not require a permit if all of the following conditions exist: (1) The tree is a designated native species and the trunk is less than ten inches in diameter as measured by diameter standard height..., or when the tree is nonnative and the trunk is less than twenty inches DSH; and (2) The tree is not located within a creek setback area...; and (3) The tree is not a designated street tree, and is not located within ten feet of the back of the sidewalk; and (4) Planting or retention of the tree was not a condition of development; or (5) The tree is a palm and the trunk is less than twelve inches DSH.

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3.0 TREE REGULATIONS

SLOMC Chapter 12.24: Tree Regulations, 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.

3.1 Tree Removal (§12.24.090)

<u>Criteria for Construction Related Tree Removal Recommendations</u>. SLOMC Section 12.24.090 subsection G provides criteria for construction-related tree removal recommendations. The criteria are provided below with a description of how the proposed project meets the criteria.

- <u>Size of Tree</u>. The size of the trees proposed for removal range from 1 inch in diameter at breast height (DBH) to 54 inches DBH.
- Location of Trees on Private Property. All trees proposed for removal are located on private property. A cluster of 14 non-native trees, primarily silver wattles, are located along the northwest edge of the creek corridor. There are four native coast live oaks within the corridor that are also identified to be removed, three of those along the southeastern edge of the corridor. The remainder of trees subject to review are located outside of the creek corridor, including 18 queen palms that border the existing driveway.
- Species of Tree. The species of trees proposed for removal vary and primarily include non-native, ornamental species. The removal includes seven coast live oaks, the only native tree species currently growing onsite. For a complete list of tree species, please see Table 1 above and attachments.
- <u>Forestry Best Practice</u>. While the tree inventory table provided (Attachment 3) identifies that the majority of trees being removed present a level of "high" vigor. Tree removals are necessary to facilitate grading and drainage of the proposed project. The Initial Study² of environmental impacts for the project includes a mitigation measure to ensure no net loss of habitat within the creek corridor, which will require that appropriate replanting within the creek corridor is carried out prior to completion of the project. The trees within the corridor will be replaced at a 1:1 ratio.
- <u>Public Right-of-Way Obstruction or Displacement</u>. No street trees are proposed for removal. The project includes the eventual planting of 22 new street trees, as discussed below.
- Compliance Regarding Compensatory Plantings. The proposed subdivision does not include a
 development plan for the individual lots created. Due to this, the project is not required to provide
 landscaping or planting plans, beyond what is needed to evaluate the subdivision and environmental
 impacts. Therefore, compliance with compensatory planting requirements will be satisfied through
 conditions placed on the approval of the project.

² Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration: https://www.slocity.org/government/department-directory/community-development/documents-online/environmental-review-documents/-folder-2163

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• <u>Heritage Trees</u>. None of the trees proposed for removal have been designated Heritage trees.

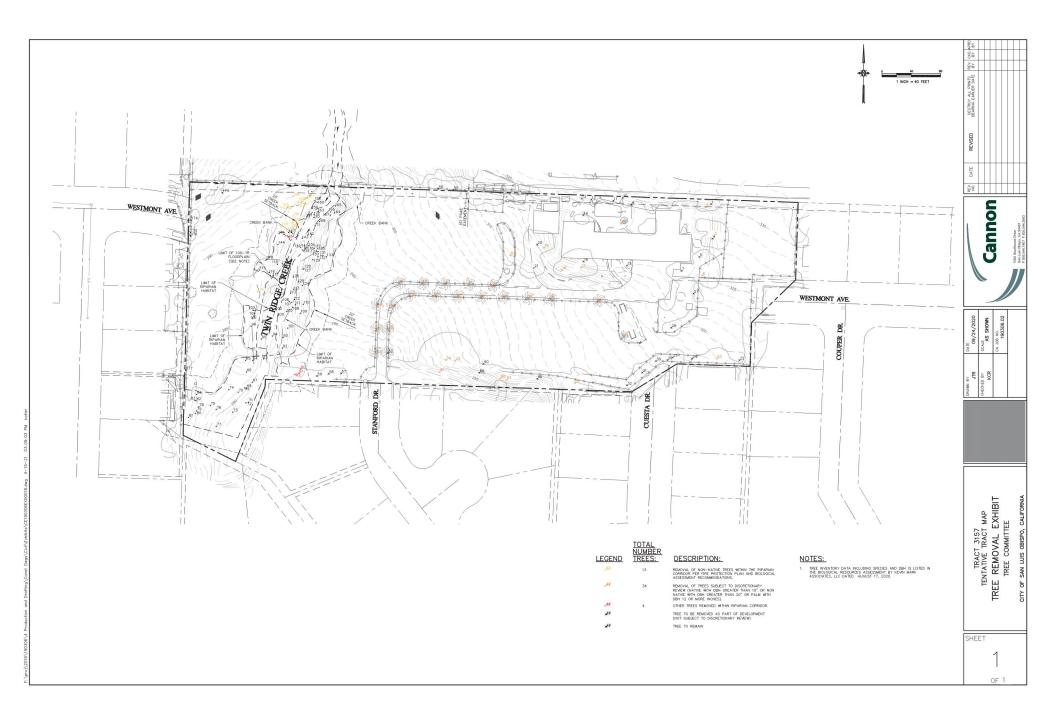
Compensatory Tree Planting. Per the Tree Regulations, tree removal shall be compensated by planting a minimum of one new tree for each tree removed if planted onsite (1:1 replanting ratio), or two new trees for each removed if planted offsite (2:1 replanting ratio). There are 51 trees proposed for removal onsite, which will be removed prior to grading of lots. The project requires, as a mitigation measure, onsite compensatory tree planting at a 1:1 ratio for all trees removed within the creek corridor (17 trees). These will be replaced with a native tree species within the corridor or creek setback area prior to final recording of the map. Additionally, staff will be including a recommended condition of approval for the project, calling for one to one compensatory tree planting for onsite trees removed outside of the creek corridor (34 trees). All compensatory tree planning will be required to be in place before lots are made available for sale. The project plans (Attachment 1) identify the location of street trees adjacent to sidewalk improvements. However, street trees are not required to be planted at the time street improvements are installed or before lots are sold. Street trees are required to be planted only when individual lots are developed. The Tree Committee may provide direction to the Planning Commission and the applicant on specific sizes of compensatory tree plantings for the 34 trees.

<u>Street Tree Species</u>. Street trees are required to be planted when individual lots are created. The Tree Committee may provide direction to the Planning Commission and the applicant on any preferred species for future street tree plantings.

4.0 ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Project Plans
- 2. Tree Removal Exhibit
- 3. Tree Inventory Data Table

Item 2





Appendix D. Tree Inventory Data Table

Tag Number	Scientific Name	Common Name	Vigor	DBH (inches)	Observations
1	Picea sp.	spruce	High	14	Near house at northern fenceline
2	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	9, 11	
3	Hesperocyparis sp.	cypress	High	23	
4	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	3	
5	Olea europaea	olive	High	4, 4	
6	Grevillea sp.	grevillea	High	26	Large specimen near house
7	Olea europaea	olive	High	5, 5, 6, 5, 6	
8	Roystonea regia	royal palm	High	12	
9	Malus domestica	apple	Low	5, 10	Poor health with bark peeling off
10	Quercus suber	cork oak	High	3	
11	Prunus sp.	plum	High	5, 3, 2	
12	Acer palmatum	Japanese maple	High	3, 3, 2, 1, 1	
13	Hura crepitans	monkey no climb/sandbox tree	High	8, 4, 2	
14	Aralia sp.	spikenard	High	6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 2, 2, 1	
15	Prunus sp. (armeniaca)	apricot	Low	14	Topped with new growth emerging
16	Citrus x sinensis	navel orange	High	3, 2, 1	
17	Sequoia sempervirens	coast redwood	High	47	At corner of house
18	Sequoia sempervirens	coast redwood	High	40	At corner of house
19	Ulnus?	dormant possible elm	High	22	
20	Schinus molle	Peruvian pepper tree	Medium	12, 8, 4	
21	Schinus molle	Peruvian pepper tree	Medium	16, 14	
22	Olea europaea	olive	High	3, 3, 1	At property corner
23	Sequoia sempervirens	coast redwood	Medium	38	
24	Sequoia sempervirens	coast redwood	High	10	
25	Pinus radiata	Monterey pine	High	17	
26	Picea sp.	spruce	Medium	6	
27	Pinus sp.	unknown pine	High	6	Slender needles
28	Prunus sp.	deciduous fruit tree	High	12	Just breaking dormancy
29	Phoenix canariensis	Canary Island palm	High	12	
30	Olea europaea	olive	High	3, 2	
31	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	4, 3	
32	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	3	
33	Eucalyptus sp.	eucalyptus	High	33	



Tag Number	Scientific Name	Common Name	Vigor	DBH (inches)	Observations
34	Eucalyptus sp.	eucalyptus	High	54, 41	
35	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Queen palm	High	13	Planted along driveway
36	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Queen palm	High	13	Planted along driveway
37	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Queen palm	High	13	Planted along driveway
38	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Queen palm	High	13	Planted along driveway
39	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Queen palm	High	13	Planted along driveway
40	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Queen palm	High	13	Planted along driveway
41	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Queen palm	High	13	Planted along driveway
42	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Queen palm	High	13	Planted along driveway
43	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Queen palm	High	13	Planted along driveway
44	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Queen palm	High	13	Planted along driveway
45	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Queen palm	High	13	Planted along driveway
46	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Queen palm	High	13	Planted along driveway
47	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Queen palm	High	13	Planted along driveway
48	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Queen palm	High	13	Planted along driveway
49	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Queen palm	High	13	Planted along driveway
50	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Queen palm	High	13	Planted along driveway
51	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Queen palm	High	12	Planted along driveway
52	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Queen palm	High	9	Planted along driveway
53	Syagrus romanzoffiana	Queen palm	High	13	Planted along driveway
54	Melaleuca alternifolia	narrow-leaved paperbark	High	5, 4, 3, 2	Mixed in with other shrubs
55	Populus sp.	cottonwood	High	5, 5, 5, 4, 3, 3, 3, 3, 2	Growing through fenceline
56	Populus sp.	cottonwood	High	6, 4, 3, 2, 2	Growing through fenceline
57	Schinus molle	Peruvian pepper tree	High	7	
58	Schinus molle	Peruvian pepper tree	High	6, 4, 3, 2, 2	
59	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	5, 4, 3	
60	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	4	
61	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	4, 1	
62	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	7	
63	Salix laevigata	red willow	High	18, 12, 12	Covered in English ivy
64	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	3	
65	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	10	
66	Sequoia sempervirens	coast redwood	High	35	Within riparian zone
67	Sequoia sempervirens	coast redwood	High	28	Within riparian zone



Tag Number	Scientific Name	Common Name	Vigor	DBH (inches)	Observations
68	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	6	Dense English ivy in this area
69	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	6	Dense English ivy in this area
70	Salix lasiolepis	arroyo willow	High	3, 3, 2	Dense English ivy in this area
71	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	4	Dense English ivy in this area
72	Pinus sp.	pine	High	14	Dense English ivy in this area
73	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	14	Dense English ivy in this area
74	Salix lasiolepis	arroyo willow	High	5, 5, 5, 4, 3, 3, 2	Dense English ivy in this area
75	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	8	Poison oak present
76	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	8	Poison oak present
77	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	14, 3	Dense English ivy in this area
78	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	12, 6	Dense English ivy in this area
79	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	14	Dense English ivy in this area
80	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	12, 10	Dense English ivy in this area
81	Pittosporum sp.	cheesewood	High	5, 4, 3, 3	at fence in southeast corner
82	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	9	Included in riparian zone
83	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	4	Included in riparian zone
84	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	4	Included in riparian zone
85	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	14, 8, 4	On southern property line
86	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	6, 4, 4	On southern property line
87	Pinus sabiniana	gray pine	Medium	32	On southern property line
88	Pinus sabiniana	gray pine	Medium	32	On southern property line (no tag)
89	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	6	On southern property line
90	Myoporum laetum	myoporum	Medium	6	On southern property line (ivy)
91	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	16, 8	On southern property line
92	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	12	At dirt road crossing creek
93	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	10	In riparian zone
94	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	5, 2	In riparian zone
95	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	13	In riparian zone
96	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	8	In riparian zone
97	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	3	In riparian zone
98	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	3	In riparian zone
99	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	14	In riparian zone
100	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	7	In riparian zone
101	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	34	In riparian zone



Tag Number	Scientific Name	Common Name	Vigor	DBH (inches)	Observations
102	Salix laevigata	red willow	High	4, 4, 3, 3, 3, 2, 2	In riparian zone
103	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	3, 2	In riparian zone
104	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	3, 1	In riparian zone
105	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	10	In riparian zone
106	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	8	In riparian zone
107	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	3	In riparian zone
108	Salix lasiolepis	arroyo willow	Medium	6, 4	Dying branches present
109	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	4	In riparian zone
110	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	12	In riparian zone
111	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	14	In riparian zone
112	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	4	In riparian zone
113	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	Medium	3, 3	In riparian zone
114	Eucalyptus sp.	eucalyptus	High	42	Rooted just beyond top of bank
115	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	6	In riparian zone
116	Quercus sp.	interior live oak hybrid?	High	4	Possible hybrid oak
117	Quercus sp.	interior live oak hybrid?	High	4, 3	Possible hybrid oak
118	Quercus sp.	interior live oak hybrid?	High	5, 3, 2	Possible hybrid oak
119	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	7, 4	In riparian zone
120	Umbellularia californica	California bay	High	5	In riparian zone
121	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	5, 1	In riparian zone
122	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	6	In riparian zone at channel
123	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	7	At dirt road crossing
124	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	4	At dirt road crossing
125	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	Low	4	Fungus attack
126	Pinus sabiniana	gray pine	High	12	
127	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	5, 2, 1	
128	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	8, 6, 4	
129	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	Medium	6, 6	Dense English ivy
130	Quercus sp.	interior live oak hybrid?	High	12	Dense English ivy
131	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	12	
132	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	7	
133	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	12	Poison oak - no tag
134	Quercus sp.	interior live oak hybrid?	Medium	10	Poison oak - no tag
135	Quercus sp.	interior live oak hybrid?	Medium	8	Possible hybrid



Tag Number	Scientific Name	Common Name	Vigor	DBH (inches)	Observations
136	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	Medium	8	Dense English ivy
137	Quercus sp.	interior live oak hybrid?	Medium	4	Possible hybrid
138	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	Medium	6	Dense English ivy
139	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	6	-
140	Salix lasiolepis	arroyo willow	Low	4	Dense English ivy
141	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	Medium	12	Dense English ivy
142	Juglans californica	southern California black walnut	Low	6	Ivy and poison oak at fork in creek
143	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	14	Dense English ivy
144	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	6	
145	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	14	
146	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	6	
147	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	4	
148	Acacia dealbata	silver wattle	High	6, 4, 4, 2	Acacia grove is dense/overgrown
149	Acacia dealbata	silver wattle	High	3, 2, 1	
150	Acacia dealbata	silver wattle	High	3, 1	
151	Acacia dealbata	silver wattle	High	5, 4	
152	Acacia dealbata	silver wattle	High	10, 5, 2	
153	Acacia dealbata	silver wattle	High	8	
154	Acacia dealbata	silver wattle	High	4, 4, 3, 3, 2	
155	Acacia dealbata	silver wattle	High	5, 1	
156	Acacia dealbata	silver wattle	High	5, 4, 3	
157	Acacia dealbata	silver wattle	High	6, 2, 2	Clusters of stems
158	Acacia dealbata	silver wattle	High	4,3,2	
159	Acacia dealbata	silver wattle	High	3, 3, 2	
160	Acacia dealbata	silver wattle	High	5, 2	
161	Acacia dealbata	silver wattle	High	3	
162	Acacia dealbata	silver wattle	High	3	
163	Myoporum laetum	myoporum	Low	6, 5 3, 3, 2, 2, 2, 2, 1	
164	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	8	
165	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	4	
166	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	6	
167	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	6, 4	
168	Juglans californica	southern California black walnut	High	5, 4, 3	Along channel
169	Olea europaea	olive	High	5	



Tag Number	Scientific Name	Common Name	Vigor	DBH (inches)	Observations
170	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	6	
171	Heteromeles arbutifolia	toyon	High	6, 3, 2, 2	
172	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	6	
173	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	4, 3	
174	Calocedrus decurrens	incense cedar	High	14, 12	
175	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	6,5,4,3	
176	Quercus agrifolia	coast live oak	High	8	
177	Juglans californica	southern California black walnut	High	4, 3, 3	Planted or seeded along fence

Monday, May 17, 2021 Special Meeting of the Tree Committee

CALL TO ORDER

A Special Meeting of the San Luis Obispo Tree Committee was called to order on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via teleconference by Chair Alan Bate.

ROLL CALL

Present: Committee Members Daniel Canella, Elizabeth Lucas, Allen Root, Emily Rosten,

Vice Chair Jake Minnick and Chair Alan Bate

Absent: Committee Member Rodney Thurman

Staff: Anthony Whipple, Urban Forester and Megan Wilbanks, Deputy City Clerk

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

None

--End of Public Comment--

TREE REMOVAL APPLICATIONS

1. 468 & 500 Westmont Ave. Review of the proposed removal of 51 onsite trees and replanting of at least 20 street trees on site, with the remainder of compensatory tree plantings required as a condition of approval. Compensatory planting will be required at a rate of 1:1 onsite or 2:1 offsite, consistent with Tree Regulations standards. Tree removals are proposed to facilitate a proposed tract map development (TR 3157), a 23-lot subdivision in the Low-Density Residential (R-1) zone (SBDV-0169-2020).

Associate Planner, Kyle Van Leeuwen, provided a presentation and responded to Committee inquiries.

Public Comment:

Becky

Genevieve Czech

--End of Public Comment—

The applicant's representative, Katie Rollins with Cannon, responded to comments and questions from Tree Committee Members.

ACTION: UPON MOTION OF VICE CHAIR MINNICK, SECONDED BY COMMITTEE MEMBER ROSTEN, CARRIED 5-1-1 (Member Root dissenting and Member Thurman absent), to recommend that the Planning Commission approve the project with the following recommendations:

- All regulated trees shall be replaced at a 1:1 ratio, on the site, with 15-gallon or 24-inch box trees
- Require 50% of the replacement trees to be native species
- Require the developer or the property owner to irrigate and maintain replanted trees until they are established
- Retain tree #33, #34, #91, and #114

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m. The next Special Meeting of the Tree Committee is scheduled for Monday, June 28, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via teleconference.

APPROVED BY THE TREE COMMITTEE: XX/XX/2021