



**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**A G E N D A
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M.**

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1424 MISSION STREET, SOUTH PASADENA, CA 91030**

South Pasadena Commission Statement of Civility

As your appointed governing board, we will treat each other, members of the public, and city employees with patience, civility and courtesy as a model of the same behavior we wish to reflect in South Pasadena for the conduct of all city business and community participation. The decisions made today will be for the benefit of the South Pasadena community and not for personal gain.

NOTICE ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & ACCESSIBILITY

The South Pasadena Natural Resources and Environmental Commission Meeting will be conducted in-person from the Council Chambers, Amedee O. "Dick" Richards, Jr., located at 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena.

The meeting will be available:

- In Person – City Council Chambers, 1424 Mission Street
- Via Zoom – **Webinar ID: 880 7206 2700**

To maximize public safety while still maintaining transparency and public access, members of the public can observe the meeting via Zoom in one of the three methods below.

1. Go to the Zoom website, <https://zoom.us/join> and enter the Zoom Meeting information; or
2. Click on the following unique Zoom meeting link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88072062700>; or
3. You may listen to the meeting by calling +1-669-900-6833 and entering the Zoom Meeting ID.

CALL TO ORDER: Vice Chair Emily Ng

ROLL CALL:

Chair	Michael Siegel
Vice Chair	Emily Ng
Commissioner	Rona Bortz
Commissioner	Liam R. de Villa Bourke
Commissioner	Amy Davis Jones
Commissioner	Casey Law
Commissioner	Richard Tom

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Vice Chair Emily Ng

PUBLIC COMMENT GUIDELINES *(Public Comments are limited to 3 minutes)*

The City welcomes public input. Members of the public can comment on a non-agenda subject under the jurisdiction of the City Council or on an agenda item, you may participate **by one of the following options:**

Option 1:

Participate in-person at the City Council Chambers.

Option 2:

Public Comment speakers have three minutes to address the Commission, however, the Chair and Commission can adjust time allotted as needed. Participants will be able to “raise their hand” using the Zoom icon during the meeting, and they will have their microphone un-muted during comment portions of the agenda to speak.

Option 3:

Email public comment(s) to NRECPublicComment@SouthPasadenaCA.gov.

Public Comments received in writing will not be read aloud at the meeting, but will be part of the meeting record. Written public comments will be uploaded online for public viewing under Additional Documents. There is no word limit on emailed Public Comment(s). Please make sure to indicate:

- 1) Name (optional), and
- 2) Agenda item you are submitting public comment on.
- 3) Submit by no later than **12:00 p.m., August 27, 2024**

PLEASE NOTE: The Chair may exercise the Chair's discretion, subject to the approval of the majority of the Commission to adjust public comment(s) to less than three minutes.

NOTE: Pursuant to State law, the Commission may not discuss or take action on issues not on the meeting agenda, except that members of the Commission or staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising public testimony rights (Government Code Section 54954.2). Staff may be asked to follow up on such items.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. GENERAL (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

TREE HEARING

2. TREE HEARING: 1040 Orange Grove Ave.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission review and provide a decision of the removal of two existing palm trees at 1040 Orange Grove Avenue.

ACTION

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2024 NREC MEETING

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission review and approve the June 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

COMMUNICATIONS

4. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

5. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

6. STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

7. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nature Park Volunteer Day – September 21, 2024, 9am-12pm
(weedingwildsuburbia.com/nature-park)
- LA County Smart Gardening Webinars
(<https://www.ladpw.org/epd/sg/webinars.cfm>)
- MWD Turf Removal + CA Native Landscape Webinars
(<https://greengardensgroup.com/turf-transformation/>)

ADJOURNMENT

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

FUTURE NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETINGS

August 27, 2024	Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.
September 24, 2024	Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.
October 22, 2024	Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO AGENDA DOCUMENTS AND BROADCASTING OF MEETINGS

Commission meeting agenda packets, any agenda related documents, and additional documents are available online for public inspection on the City’s website:

<https://www.southpasadenaca.gov/government/boards-commissions>

Meeting recordings will be available for public viewing after the meeting. Recordings will be uploaded to the City’s YouTube Channel no later than the next business day after the meeting.


The City’s YouTube Channel may be accessed at:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnR169ohzi1AlewD_6sfwDA/featured

AGENDA NOTIFICATION SUBSCRIPTION

If you wish to receive an agenda email notification please contact the Sustainability Division via email at NRECPublicComment@SouthPasadenaCA.gov or call (626) 403-7240.

ACCOMMODATIONS

 The City of South Pasadena wishes to make all of its public meetings accessible to the public. If special assistance is needed to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Division at (626) 403-7230 or CityClerk@southpasadenaca.gov. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will assist staff in assuring that reasonable arrangements can be made to provide accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II).

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING

*I declare under penalty of perjury that I posted this notice of agenda for the meeting to be held on **August 27, 2024**, on the bulletin board in the courtyard of City Hall at 1414 Mission Street, South Pasadena, CA 91030, and on the City's, website as required by law, on the date listed below.*

8/21/2024



Date

Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager

ITEM 2

Tree Hearing:
1040 Orange Grove Ave.



Natural Resources & Environmental Commission Agenda Report

ITEM NO. _____

DATE: August 27, 2024

FROM: H. Ted Gerber, Public Works Director
Michael Vartanians, Principal Engineer

SUBJECT: **Proposed Removal of Two Existing Palm Trees at 1040 Orange Grove Avenue**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission review and provide a decision of the removal of two existing palm trees at 1040 Orange Grove Avenue.

Background

On April 25, 2024, the applicant submitted a private property tree removal/replacement permit application (Attachment 1). The applicant identified two palm trees for removal, both of which are considered significant trees per the City's Municipal Code. Per SPMC 34.1, a significant tree is any variety of tree that has a caliper of one foot or more. Initially, staff believed this application was associated with a land development project. After further communication with the applicant, it was determined that the removal is not in association with a land development project. The applicant's intentions are to remove the two palm trees in the front yard and landscape the front and back yard of the property. As a result of the removal of two trees the applicant will be required to replant six twenty-four-inch box trees to satisfy the replacement requirement. A draft landscaping plan has been provided by the architect which shows the proposed planting of seven twenty-four-inch box trees on the property (Attachment 2). A public notice was mailed to owners and tenants within a 100-foot radius of the subject property to receive comments and the City received one objection during the notification period. The applicant's description of the proposed work and reason for the tree removal and the objection letter received during the notification period are both included as Attachment 3.

Discussion/Analysis

Per SPMC 34.9(a), staff was provided with a landscaping plan to identify the replacement trees.

Per SPMC 34.11, the criteria for approving tree removal permit applications have not been met. Therefore, staff recommends denial of the removal application unless the commission determines that "the proposed replacement tree(s) are of greater value or greater benefits than the tree proposed for removal."

Fiscal Impact

The applicant has paid the initial tree removal inspection fee of \$141.00 and will be required to pay any permit fees for the tree removal permit.

1040 Orange Grove Avenue Tree Removal Application

August 27, 2024

Page 2 of 2

Attachments

1. Tree Removal Application
2. Proposed Landscaping Plan
3. Applicant Purpose Letter and Objection Letter

ATTACHMENT 1
Tree Removal Application

10:30

**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING DIVISION
1414 Mission Street - South Pasadena - CA 91030 - 626-403-7240**

PRIVATE PROPERTY TREE REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT PERMIT APPLICATION

Please submit site plan if more than three (3) trees are involved.

Inspection Fee: \$141

PERMIT NO. _____

Permit Fee: \$364; 4 or more \$504

All fees are nonrefundable

Job Site: 1040 Orange Grove Avenue

Property Owner's Name(S): Niel and Ruth Jamron Phone: _____

Address: 1040 Orange Grove Avenue

Contractor's Name: TBD

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City Business License No: _____

**Trees 4" in diameter or greater are Mature Trees - Include all conditions warranting the removal
Please Submit plan if more than three (3) trees are involved**

Tree(s) Diameter	Type of Tree(s)	Location of Tree	Reason for Removal
28	Palm	Front yard	Remove Palmtree and square Root Garden to use front yard
29	Palm	Front yard	Remove Palmtree and square Root Garden to use front yard

Office Use Only:

Application Received: _____ Tree Removal and Replacement Plan: _____ Arborist Report: _____

Project Narrative: _____ Proposed Development Plan: _____ Site Plan: _____ NREC Hearing Date: _____

Comment Period Begins: _____ Comment Period Ends: _____ Permit Ready: _____

PRIVATE PROPERTY TREE REMOVAL/REPLACEMENT PERMIT CONDITIONS:

- (1) Conditions must exist to warrant the removal of any mature tree. Healthy trees which are not causing a hardship on the property owner shall not be approved for removal.
- (2) Tree removals will include complete removal of the stump and backfill of the hole.
- (3) For every tree approved for removal, multiple replacement trees must be planted anywhere on the owner's property or on City's property upon City's approval. For replacement tree(s) planted in the parkway, root barriers will be required to control the root system. The size of the replacement tree(s) is (are) based on the diameter of the trunk and the type of tree(s) for removal. The replacement tree(s) must be a minimum of 24" box size or as specified by the Engineering Division.
- (4) Replacement trees must be planted within 90 days of the **issuance date on the permit**.
- (5) Prior to planting the replacement trees, a final inspection must be conducted by the City inspector to verify conformance with tree replacement requirements. Please call to schedule an appointment at (626) 403-7370, Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- (6) A 100-foot radius map and mailing labels shall be required to provide public notice of the tree removal. Residents within a 100-foot radius of the property shall be given 15-days to comment on the tree removal prior to issuance of the permit.

RICHARD NORA 626-861-1155

APPLICANT SIGNATURE:  DATE: 25 APR 24

<p><i>*PENDING SUBMISSION OF SITE DEVELOPMENT PLANS</i></p> <p>1. Recommended for <u>Approval</u> or Denial</p> <p>Size of Tree: <u>31</u> Replacement Tree Size: _____ Qty: _____ Due by: _____</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>Inspected By: <u>Rebecca Mejia ISWE 2355B</u> Date Inspected: <u>5-22-24</u></p>	<p><i>City use only</i></p> <p><i>PHOENIX CANARIENSIS</i></p> <p>Type/Variety Inspected: _____</p>
<p>2. Recommended for Approval or Denial</p> <p>Size of Tree: <u>29</u> Replacement Tree Size: _____ Qty: _____ Due by: _____</p> <p>Comments: <u>SAME AS ABOVE</u></p> <p>Inspected By: _____ Date Inspected: _____</p>	<p><i>PHOENIX CANARIENSIS</i></p> <p>Type/Variety Inspected: _____</p>
<p>3. Recommended for Approval or Denial</p> <p>Size of Tree: _____ Replacement Tree Size: _____ Qty: _____ Due by: _____</p> <p>Comments: _____</p> <p>Inspected By: _____ Date Inspected: _____</p>	<p>Type/Variety Inspected: _____</p>

ATTACHMENT 2
Proposed Landscaping Plan



LANDSCAPE GRID

Kim Jaron
 CUSTOMER NAME
 1040 Orange Grove Ave
 STREET ADDRESS
 South Pasadena
 CITY
 CA 91030
 CA ZIP
 310.702.3319
 PHONE
 kjaron@armstronggarden.com
 *A43R7 EMAIL PAS 737
 *A43R7 EMAIL PAS 737

Caitlin Girkins
 LANDSCAPE DESIGNER
 626.513.9652
 STORE PHONE
 cgirkins@armstronggarden.com
 EMAIL
 8.9.24
 DATE

FRONT YARD PLAN

Scale 2' x 2'

* Existing Trees to remain

- 1. Cercidium 'Desert Museum' Standard (1) 24" Box
- 2. Lagerströmia 'Izumi' Standard (1) 24" Box

NEW TREES IN FRONT YARD

- 1. CERCIDIUM DESERT MUSEUM
- 2. LAGER ZUNI CRAPE MYRTLE DK PURPLE

[Faint handwritten notes and sketches on the grid, including a small site plan showing the house and driveway area.]



ATTACHMENT 3
Applicant Purpose Letter and Objection Letter

June 26, 2024

Neil Jamron
Ruth Jamron
1040 Orange Grove Ave
South Pasadena, CA 91030

We are the owners of the property located at 1040 Orange Grove Ave. Our daughter, son-in-law, and their daughter (our granddaughter) are currently occupying the home pursuant to a lease that expires in 2035.

We are requesting a permit to remove two large palm trees located in the front yard of our property for the following reasons:

****Improper Planting****: The palm trees were planted too close to our house and power lines, which is not in accordance with the recommended planting guidelines. This improper placement has led to several issues affecting the safety of our daughter's family and property. Specifically:

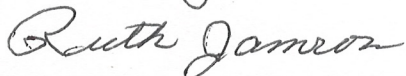
****Safety Risk from Falling Fronds****: The palm trees regularly and frequently shed large fronds from a height of approximately 40 feet. These fronds fall directly into the front yard, which must be traversed to reach the front door from the sidewalk. When guests visit the home, including friends of our six-year-old granddaughter, they must walk under these trees to reach the front door, directly in the path of any falling fronds. So must service workers, people making deliveries, and anyone else visiting the home. The trees thus pose significant safety and liability risks, as the fronds are heavy and would injure anyone they fell on, especially a child.

For reference's sake, we are including a picture taken from the front porch on the morning of June 26 by our son-in-law, which shows a large frond that fell directly across the walkway leading from the sidewalk to the front door. According to my son-in-law, this frond fell sometime between the afternoon of June 25, when their gardener collected all the fronds that fell the previous week, and the morning of the 26th, when he took the picture.

****Proximity to House and Power Lines****: The trees are in close proximity to the house and the nearby power lines. This not only increases the risk of damage to our property during storms, high winds, earthquakes, or other natural disasters, but also poses a fire hazard. Additionally, the trees' proximity to power lines can lead to potential power outages or electrical hazards.

For these reasons, removing the palm trees is necessary to ensure the safety and well-being of our daughter's family, their guests, and our property. We appreciate your consideration of our request and are happy to address any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Neil Jamron and Ruth Jamron



June 8, 2024

Dylan Vogt
1051 Orange Grove Avenue
South Pasadena, CA 91030

To the Director of South Pasadena Public Works,

My letter is in response to a Public Notice that I received from your office regarding the removal of the following trees at 1040 Orange Grove Avenue:

1. 31" Palm - Front Yard for Site Development
2. 29" Palm - Front Yard for Site Development

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to the removal of these trees.

As you know, South Pasadena was the first in the nation to be certified as a **Green Zone City** by the American Green Zone Alliance. As per **Goal IV** of the City of South Pasadena's **Green Action Plan** (A plan established by the South Pasadena City Council), the City is committed to "Mitigate Impacts of the Urban Heat Island Effect". Specifically, "The loss of vegetation causes urban areas to become warmer than their surrounding rural areas creating a heat island. These higher temperatures increase peak energy demand, air pollution, and heat-related illness." **What better time than now to mitigate the impacts of the Urban Heat Island Effect?**

In addition, Goal IV of the **Green Action Plan** emphasizes that the Council plans to "Increase the City's tree canopy and continue supporting tree education." This includes the following:

Move IV.4.1: Review the City's tree ordinance and identify how it can be improved. The tree ordinance ensures that trees in the City are protected.

What better time than now to begin protecting the trees in South Pasadena? How can we demonstrate that the **Green Action Plan** is a true commitment if we cannot protect our trees from non-local house flippers and new residents cutting them down for site development (and not an actual threat to the home's infrastructure)?

I understand that replacement trees must be planted, but nothing can replace the historic trees that currently exist at 1040 Orange Grove Avenue. Both of the existing trees are over two stories tall, they provide shade to the street, and they are filled with red-crowned parrots, hawks, doves, and wood peckers on a daily basis.

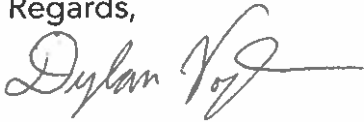
Parrots are already critically endangered in their native land and have become an icon of our South Pasadena and Los Angeles landscape. How can we threaten their habitat, as well as other birds, who could be nesting in the lush and large branches of the 31" and 29" palms?

The home and property at 1040 Orange Grove is already in great condition. Is cutting down two more trees for "site development" necessary? Is the driveway or fence that will replace these trees worth throwing the **Green Action Plan** off course?

I call upon you to please reconsider allowing 1040 Orange Grove Avenue to cut down both of these beautiful trees.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,



Dylan Vogt
1051 Orange Grove Avenue
South Pasadena, CA 91030

dylan@dylanjkgvogt.com | 814-823-4787

ITEM 3

Approval of Minutes – Meeting of June 25, 2024



**CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M.**

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
1424 MISSION STREET, SOUTH PASADENA, CA 91030**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting of the South Pasadena Natural Resources and Environmental Commission was called to order by Chair Michael Siegel on June 25, 2024, at 7:02 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Chair	Michael Siegel
Vice Chair	Emily Ng
Commissioner	Rona Bortz
Commissioner	Casey Law
Commissioner	Richard Tom
Staff Liaison	Councilmember Michael Cacciotti

ABSENT

Commissioner	Liam R. de Villa Bourke
Commissioner	Amy Davis Jones

Management Analyst, Danielle Garcia, announced a quorum.

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Ted Gerber, Public Works Director; Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager; Danielle Garcia, Water Conservation Management Analyst; and Michael Vartanians, Public Works Principal Engineer were present at Roll Call. Other staff members presented reports or responded to questions as indicated in the minutes.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chair Siegel.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. PUBLIC COMMENT - GENERAL (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

None.

TREE HEARING

2. TREE HEARING: 405 HERMOSA PLACE

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission review and provide recommendation to the planning review authority for the decision of the removal of fifteen existing trees at 405 Hermosa Place.

City staff and the applicant presented the proposed tree removal and development plan. Commissioners and applicant discussed considerations and inquiries about the municipal code’s identification of protected and significant trees.

In Person Public Comments:

Larry Abelson raised concerns regarding the impact that the removal of these trees will have. Additionally calling out several protected, native and mature trees located on the property.

Mark Hess shared similar concerns regarding the removal of trees and asked commissioners for their support in retaining the trees on the property.

Zoom Public Comments:

Ian Rhodes spoke to the significance of the trees on the property, specifically how the canopies of the mature and established trees provide protection to homes from heat/sun.

Following further discussion between, the commission requested the applicant to recreate development/landscaping plans to minimize the impact of trees to be removed and protect as many trees as possible (i.e. rethinking parking access). The hearing will be continued to a later date pending new development/landscaping plans.

ACTION

3. RECOMMENDATION OF PROPOSED FY 24-25 WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission recommends City Council approve the proposed Water Conservation Programs for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Danielle Garcia presented the 2023-2024 fiscal year Water Conservation Program highlights and expended budget. Ms. Garcia additionally presented the proposed budget allocations

and new water conservation programs for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The commission spoke in favor of the new proposed program and recommended no changes to the proposal.

In Person Public Comments:

None.

Zoom Public Comments:

Commissioner de Villa Bourke spoke in support of the program.

COMMISSION ACTION AND MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Law, seconded by Commissioner Tom and approved by roll call vote to recommend that City Council approve the proposed Water Conservation Program for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The motion carried 5-0-2, by the following vote:

AYES: Siegel, Ng, Bortz, Law, and Tom

NOES: None.

ABSENT: de Villa Bourke, Jones

ABSTAINED: None.

4. APPROVAL OF NREC FY 23-24 ANNUAL REPORT AND FY 24-25 WORK PLAN

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission approve the NREC Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Annual Report and Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Work Plan.

COMMISSION ACTION AND MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Tom, seconded by Commissioner Bortz and approved by roll call vote to approve the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Annual Report and 2024-2025 Work Plan. The motion carried 5-0-2, by the following vote:

AYES: Siegel, Ng, Bortz, Law, and Tom

NOES: None.

ABSENT: de Villa Bourke, Jones

ABSTAINED: None.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 28, 2024 NREC MEETING

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission review and approve the May 28, 2024, Meeting Minutes.

COMMISSION ACTION AND MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Bortz, seconded by Vice Chair Ng and approved by roll call vote to approve the May 28, 2024, Natural Resources Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes. The motion carried 5-0-2, by the following vote:

AYES: Siegel, Ng, Bortz, Law, and Tom

NOES: None.

ABSENT: de Villa Bourke, Jones

ABSTAINED: None.

COMMUNICATIONS

6. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

City Council Liaison Cacciotti provided updates on the Gold Line, AQMD programs, and appearing on a podcast to share the City's strategy for electrifying leaf blowers. Cacciotti thanked Director Gerber and the Public Works Department for their work on the Police Fleet Electrification Project.

7. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Siegel, Vice Chair Ng, Commissioner Bortz, Commissioner Tom, Commissioner Jones had no comments.

8. STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager, Arpy Kasparian, thanked Chair Siegel and Commissioner Law for attending the Commissioner's Congress.

9. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Household Hazardous Waste Event
June 29 – Pasadena
- LA County Smart Gardening Webinars
(<https://www.ladpw.org/epd/sg/webinars.cfm>)
- MWD Turf Removal + CA Native Landscape Webinars
(<https://greengardensgroup.com/turf-transformation/>)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters, Chair Siegel adjourned the meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission at 8:34 P.M. PT to the next Regular Commission meeting scheduled for July 23rd, 2024.

Respectfully submitted:

Arpy Kasparian
Staff Liaison, Environmental Services
& Sustainability Manager

APPROVED:

Emily Ng
Vice Chair

Approved at Commission Meeting: August 27, 2024