



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

**A G E N D A
SPECIAL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2024, AT 6:00 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: Chair Michael Siegel

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: Chair Michael Siegel

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., December 2, 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 Ave.

3. TREE HEARING: 1108 DIAMOND AVE.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission review and provide a decision of the removal of two existing oak trees at 1108 Diamond Ave.

ACTION

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 22, 2024 NREC MEETING

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission review and approve the October 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes.

COMMUNICATIONS

5. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

6. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

7. STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

8. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Landscape Academy: California Friendly and Native Plants Landscape Training
December 7, 11:00am, *South Pasadena Senior Center*
(<https://www.greengardensgroup.com/g3-events/lawn-care-maintenance-city-of-south-pasadena-241207/>)
- 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

December 24, 2024	CANCELLED	7:00 p.m.
January 28, 2025	Regular Meeting	7:00 p.m.
February 25, 2025	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 **December 2, 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.*

11/26/2024

Date

Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager

ITEM 2

Tree Hearing:
1040 Orange Grove Ave.



Natural Resources & Environmental Commission Agenda Report

ITEM NO. _____

DATE: December 2, 2024

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

SUBJECT: **Proposed Removal of 2 Existing Palm Trees at 1040 Orange Grove Avenue – Reevaluation by Commission**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission (NREC) 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 would be considered significant trees per the City's Municipal Code. Initially, staff believed this application was associated with a land development project. After further communication with the applicant, however, 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 install landscaping in the front and back yard of the property. Staff recommends approval of the removal application, as the criteria for approving tree removal permits have been met, as described in the arborist report (Attachment 2). The applicant provided the arborist report to the City, as requested by the NREC, and the report indicates the hazardous condition of the two palm trees and the benefits of the proposed landscaping plan. As a result of the removal of two trees, the applicant will be required to replant six (6) twenty-four-inch box trees to satisfy the replacement requirement. A draft landscaping plan (Attachment 3) has been provided by the architect which shows the proposed planting of seven (7) twenty-four-inch box trees on the property. 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 objections during the notification period. The applicant's description of the proposed work, including the reason for the tree removal, and the received objection letter, are both included as Attachment 4.

Discussion/Analysis

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

Per SPMC 34.11, the criteria for approving tree removal permit applications have been met, by the arborist report provided by the applicant as recommended by the NREC.

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

1040 Orange Grove Avenue Tree Removal Application

December 2, 2024

Page 2 of 2

Attachments

1. Tree Removal Application
2. Arborist Report
3. Draft Landscaping Plan
4. Applicant Purpose Letter and Objection Letter

ATTACHMENT 1
Tree Removal Application
1040 Orange Grove Ave.

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 align="center"><i>City use only</i></p> <p align="center">PHOENIX CANARIENSIS</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 align="center">PHOENIX CANARIENSIS</p> <p>Type/Variety Inspected: <u>CANARIENSIS</u></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
Arborist Report
1040 Orange Grove Ave.



Purpose:

City Of South Pasadena
Tree Removal Request

Project Site:

1040 Orange Grove Ave
South Pasadena, Ca 91030

Prepared For:

Arvin Tseng

Prepared By:

Leonardo Moran

Registered Consulting Arborist (RCA) # 660
Certified Arborist: WE-11356A
Qualified Applicator License (QAL) # 136278
Tree Risk Assessment Qualified
TPAQ (Appraisal Qualified)

Oct 21st

2024





10/21/2024

Arvin Tseng
1040 Orange Grove Ave.
South Pasadena, Ca 91030

Subject: Diseased and Defective Canary Island Palm Removal Request

Arvin,

You expressed concerns regarding 2 mature Canary Island Date Palms in your front yard. You described a situation in which these tall heavy trees are located over the roof of your house on top of the bedroom that your child sleeps in. I visited the site on October 8th and collected data and made observations. This brief report describes my observations and concludes with my recommendations. This report is required because of the City of South Pasadena's Tree Ordinance requires permit for any tree removal.

Summary:

The 2 Palm trees are planted too close together. The crowding has created a lean in their growth. Although the lean is slight, the two trunks are leaning away from each other. This species of Palm is very top heavy and not well adapted to resist leaning.

The two palms have built up planters around their base. The planters are full of soil and mulch. Trees do not do well when their natural grades are disturbed. The addition of soil above the original grade is a formula for decay and rot. Upon doing some manual digging at the base of the tree, I discovered areas that has apparently rotten roots and sunken trunk tissue with white fungal mycelia growing on it. This is generally an indicator that a fungal disease has begun digesting the structural tissue of the tree and weakening the trunk.

The crown of the trees appear to have Fusarium dieback, a widespread fungal disease that attacks this species. The fungus is a vascular disease meaning that once it has made its way into the vascular bundles of the tree, it will spread throughout all parts. The prognosis for this disease unfortunately is a slow and certain decline. You can see how the tree on the right side has a pocket where the fronds are noticeably discolored (dark) and are falling off the tree prematurely. This disease has no effective cure.

The last concerning condition that I noticed is that while the base of the Palm trees have a diameter of 30" and 36", over-pruning of these trees in the past have led to dangerous and irreversible taper in the trunks to about 18" (approx.) near the middle. From this narrow point upwards, the palm trunks widen again. Allowing these trees to continue getting taller and heavier above this 'pinch' point is unsafe.

These trees are also poised to impact the utility lines as they continue to grow taller. It is the general consensus of Utility companies to remove Palm trees adjacent to high voltage power line due to the hazard posed by falling fronds.

Based on my experience, the 2 Canary Island Palms in your front yard pose a potential hazard due to some unusual and worrying root and trunk characteristics as well as showing symptoms of a fatal fungal disease evident in the bud. These trees are a non-native species that are declining throughout the region. The risk of tree retention is too great to ignore. The potentially severe consequences of these trees failing makes tree removal the only prudent mitigation option.

You have a landscape plan in which you are planting 7 different types of trees to offset the removal of these Palms. The species you selected are more appropriate for a smaller yard. They will add diversity, attract pollinators, provide aesthetic value while being more appropriately sized for the space.

Observations:

The subject property is located on a flat lot in a suburban neighborhood of South Pasadena. The property is 7,052sqft lot and the home is a craftsman style 2 story building with yellow siding. There is a large Chinese Elm growing in the parkway that partially shield the home from view of the street. In the small front yard, there are 2 large Canary Island Palm trees. The Palms have a wood picket-fence style square planters built around them which show up in google street view photos in 2022. The subject property was purchased in September of 2024.

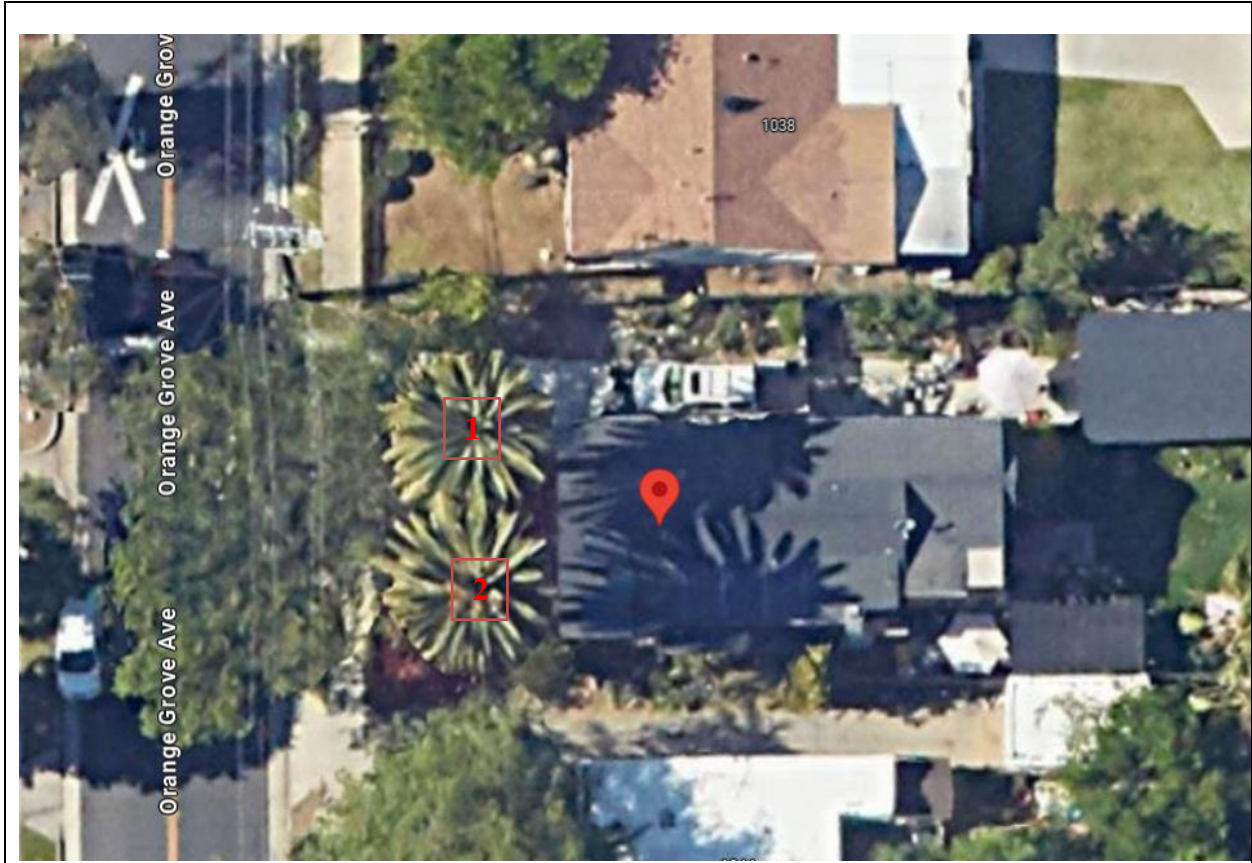
The driveway is on the left side and there is a small metal fence enclosing the front yard area. There is a citrus tree on a planter strip adjacent to the driveway and a small crape myrtle on the right side of the front yard.

I did not enter the back yard since the subject trees are in the front yard and there was no need to inspect the rear yard.

Tree Descriptions/Conditions:

Tree #	Tree Species	Common Name	DBH	Height	Spread	Grade	Comments
1	<i>Phoenix Canariensis</i>	Canary Island Palm	36" (stump)	50' est.	25' est	D	Grade raised, Poor Trunk Taper, Lean (Removal)
2	<i>Pheonix Canariensis</i>	Canary Island Palm	30"	50' est.	25' est.	D-	Grade raised, Poor Trunk Taper, Lean, Fusarium (Removal)

Photos:



Google Satellite View with trees marked



Street view from Dec 2020 (Notice lean on the trunk of the Palm on the right (Tree #2) (Notice the original grade of the trees seen here)



Street View Dec 2020 (Notice trunk taper) (Palms appear to be trimmed and healthy) (Notice the proximity to the high voltage power lines)



Site Photo Taken Oct 8th



Palm Tree #1 (Notice the significant taper creating a weak point about 20ft up the trunk)



Palm Tree #2 (Background) (Notice the significant taper in the trunk about 20ft up. There is also a 'crook' in the tree where the angle of the trunk changes).



Palm Tree#2 (Notice the diseased canopy showing signs of 'Fusarium dieback')



Palm Tree #1 Canopy (Notice the decaying bud and weeds growing out of the bud)



Palm Tree #2 (Notice the soil grade has been raised around the base of the tree)



Palm Tree #1 (notice proximity to power lines/service lines)

Discussion:

Firstly it is important to discuss the characteristics of the subject tree species. Phoenix *canariensis* are very massive Palm trees that boast significant trunk diameters and huge fronds with wide spreading fronds. These trees can be seen in Beverly Hills for example, reaching over 70ft tall. The fronds have large thorns along the petiole. These trees are largely farm grown in areas like Indio and other desert regions with lots of sun and low humidity. The soil types are sandy and well drained.

The conditions in South Pasadena are quite different from the inland areas where these trees are grown and in the urban forest. In the urban environment these trees are exposed to all types of

different airborne pathogens, varying soil types, confined planting spaces, poor pruning practices, climbing spikes, and marine influence + coastal rains. With our back to back rainy years and the gloomy early summer we experienced in 2024, the prevalence of Fusarium wilt has increased significantly. Once a Canary Island Date Palm becomes infected, removal of the tree is recommended to prevent the spread to other nearby healthy trees. The pathogen can lay dormant in the soil and therefore replanting of the same species tree is not recommended as re-infection is likely.

These Palms also develop their trunk size at an early age and maintain a uniform trunk girth as they grow. These trees are not supposed to have fronds removed past the horizontal plane as this creates an unnatural taper that predisposes the tree to poor form. The subject trees are displaying a very significant reduction in taper. This is a serious defect that only become more important as the trees grow taller.

These trees are not known to withstand leans. While some species like the Mexican fan palm can withstand leans, these slender flexible palms are much different than the stout Phoenix canariensis. These trees have huge buds with enormous weight which needs to be centered over the base of the tree. I'm concerned about the uncorrected lean of these trees. I think that it was caused because the trees are planted too close together and their fronds are overlapping and competing.

Palm trees have fibrous root systems that grow from a root initiation zone. Palms like these are not adapted to disturbed soil grades or erosion. These trees do not need mulch or rich compost and actually become more susceptible to disease when they are exposed to grade changes and thick compost/mulch layers.

The South Pasadena Tree Ordinance states that reasons for tree removal include:

(1) Where the tree poses a reasonable risk of injury or harm to persons or property or is substantially interfering with the structural integrity or the use of an existing structure (including, but not limited to, a fence or wall), swimming pool, or building and there is no feasible and reasonable alternative to mitigate the interference.

The trees are flawed and could cause significant injury to persons as the decayed portions of the bud can suddenly drop large clusters of diseased fronds. These trees are located directly over the front entrance and parking area in the driveway. The 'pinched' trunks are a weak point that are not capable of safely supporting the huge weight of the massive tree canopy especially since the trees are leaning and the weight is off-center.

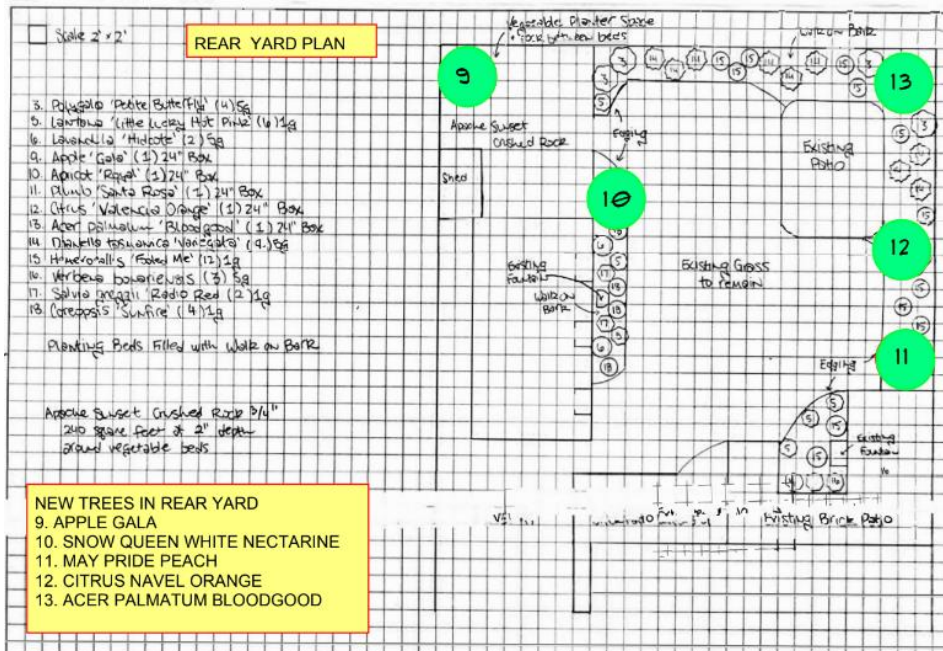
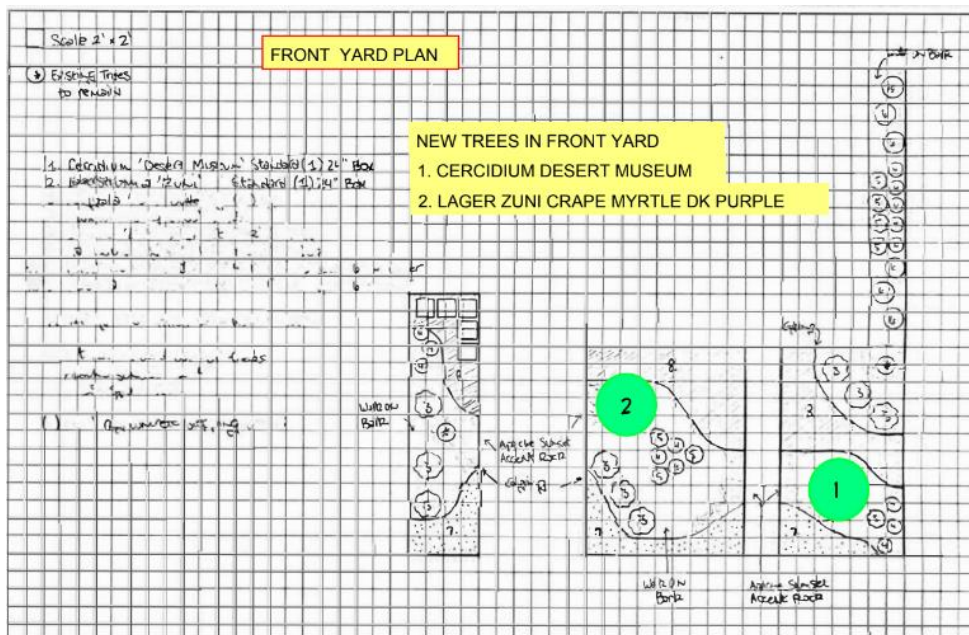
(3) Where a written determination has been made by a certified arborist, after a visual inspection or scientific evaluation, that the tree is so diseased or damaged that it is no longer viable or is a threat to persons or property, including to other trees. The director or commission may waive the requirement for a certified arborist's written statement when the tree can reasonably be determined to be dead by a layperson's visual inspection or when, after conducting an inspection of the tree, the director determines that the tree poses an obvious and imminent threat to life or property.

There is evidence that the trees have both fungal issues at the base of the tree from grade disturbance as well as Fusarium dieback clearly evident in the canopy. Fusarium dieback is considered to be untreatable and fatal. Retention of these trees can also spread airborne spores and threaten nearby healthy trees.

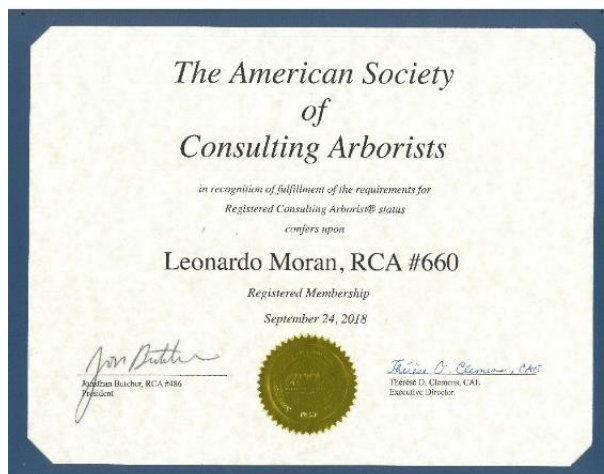
Recommendations:

The current recommendation is to remove and stump grind the subject trees and demolish the above ground planters in order to remove the trees completely. Remove as much of the ground up stump shavings and soil in order to remove as much of the diseased soil as possible. Import fill soil to cover the stump locations.

Mitigation:



Credentials



Assumptions & Limiting Conditions

1. Care has been taken to obtain all information from reliable sources. All data had been verified insofar as possible; however, the consultant can neither guarantee nor be responsible for the accuracy of the information provided by others
2. The consultant shall not be required to give testimony or to attend court by reason of this report unless subsequent contractual arrangements are made, including payment of an additional fee for such services as described in the fee schedule.
3. Loss or alteration of any part of this report invalidates the entire report.
4. Possession of this report or a copy thereof does not imply right of publication or use for any purpose by any other than the person to whom it is addressed, without the prior expressed written or verbal consent of the consultant.
5. This report represents the opinion of the consultant, and the consultant's fee is in no way contingent upon the reporting of a specified value, a stipulated result, the occurrence of a subsequent event, nor upon any findings to be reported.
6. Sketches, diagrams, graphs, and photographs in this report, being intended as visual aids, are not necessarily to scale and should not be so construed as engineering or architectural reports or surveys.
7. Unless expressed otherwise, information contained in this report covers only those items that were examined and reflects the condition of those items at the time of inspection. There is no warranty or guarantee, expressed or implied, that problems or deficiencies of the plants or property in question may not arise in the future.

Certification of Performance

I, Leonardo Moran, certify that:

1. I have personally inspected the tree and property referred to in this report and have stated my findings accurately.
 2. I have no current or prospective interest in the tree or the property that is the subject of this report and have no personal interest or bias with respect to the parties involved.
 3. The analysis, opinions and conclusions stated herein are my own and are based on current scientific procedures and facts.
 4. My analysis, opinions and conclusions were developed and this report has been prepared according to commonly accepted arboricultural practices.
 5. No one provided significant professional assistance to me, except as indicated within the report.
 6. My compensation is not contingent upon the reporting of a predetermined conclusion that favors the cause of the client or any other party nor upon the results of the assessment, the attainment of stipulated results, or the occurrence of any subsequent events.
- I further certify that I am a member in good standing of the American Society of Consulting Arborists and the International Society of Arboriculture. I have been involved in the field of Arboriculture in a full-time capacity for a period of twelve years.

Signed:

Dated: 10/21/2024

Leonardo Moran, Registered Consulting Arborist #660

RCA # 660 / Certified Arborist WE-11356A/QAL #136278/Tree Risk Assessment Qualified

Tel: (818) 390-5017 / ArborEnhancement@gmail.com

ATTACHMENT 3
Draft Landscaping Plan
1040 Orange Grove Ave.



LANDSCAPE GRID

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

Caitlin Girkins
 LANDSCAPE DESIGNER
 626.513.9652
 STORE PHONE
 cgirkins@armstronggardens.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 'Zuni' 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 diagram of a house and driveway area.]





LANDSCAPE GRID

Kim JAMON
CUSTOMER NAME
1040 Orange Grove Ave
STREET ADDRESS
South Pasadena
CITY
CA 91030
CA ZIP
310. 702. 3319
PHONE
Rojamon@gmail.com
* A4327 EMAIL PAS 737
William GIBKINS
LANDSCAPE DESIGNER
626. 513. 9652
STORE PHONE
wgibkins@armstronggarden.com
EMAIL
8.9.24
DATE

REAR YARD PLAN

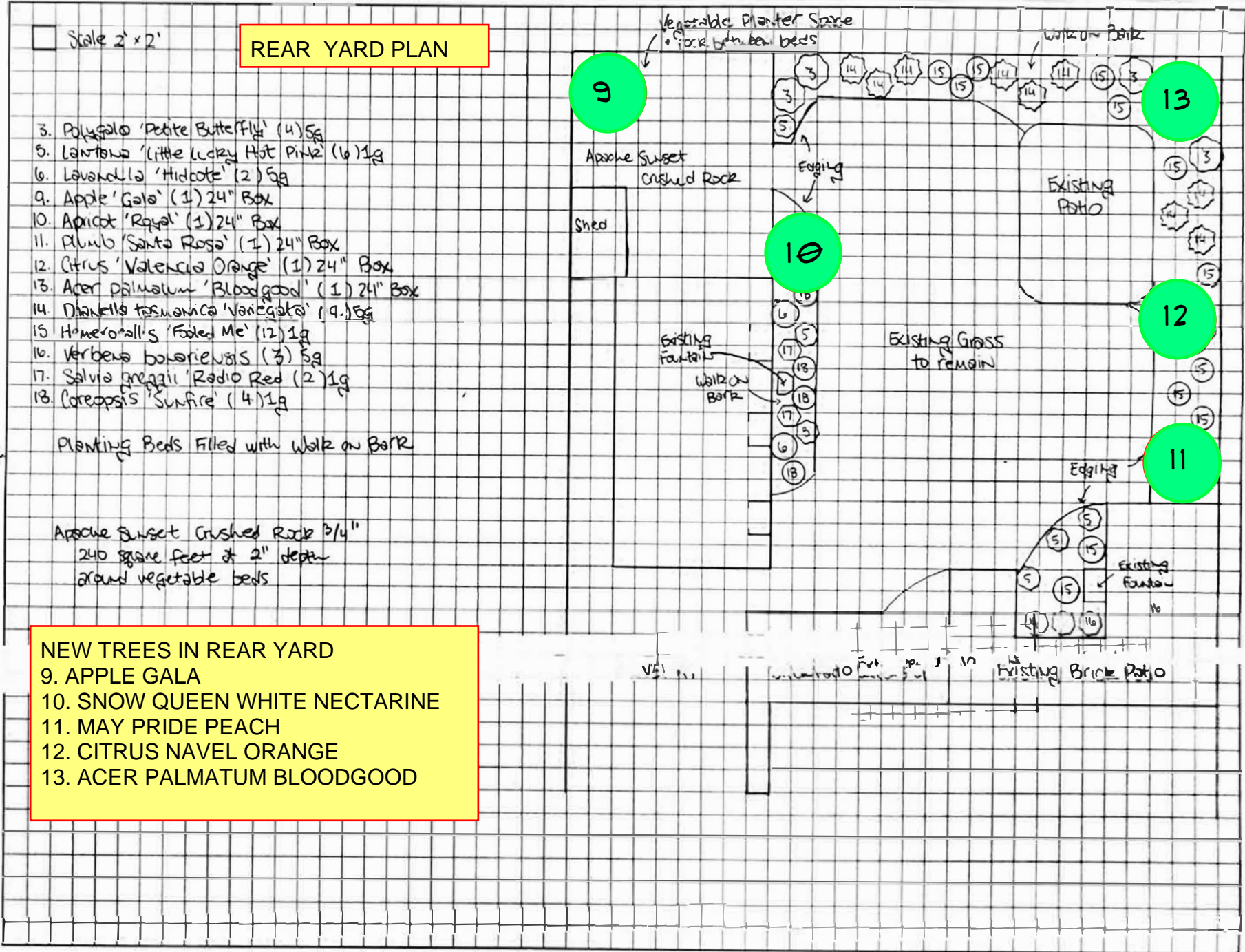
- Scale 2' x 2'
- 3. Polygala 'Petite Butterfly' (4) 5g
 - 5. Lantana 'Little Lucky Hot Pink' (6) 1g
 - 6. Lavandula 'Hidcote' (2) 5g
 - 9. Apple 'Gala' (1) 24" Box
 - 10. Apricot 'Royal' (1) 24" Box
 - 11. Plum 'Santa Rosa' (1) 24" Box
 - 12. Citrus 'Valencia Orange' (1) 24" Box
 - 13. Acer palmatum 'Bloodgood' (1) 24" Box
 - 14. Dianella tasmanica 'Vanegata' (4) 1g
 - 15. Hemerocallis 'Fool Me' (12) 1g
 - 16. Verbena bonariensis (3) 5g
 - 17. Salvia greggii 'Radio Red' (2) 1g
 - 18. Coreopsis 'Sunfire' (4) 1g

Planting Beds Filled with Walk on Bark

Apache Sunset Crushed Rock 3/4"
240 square feet at 2" depth
around vegetable beds

- NEW TREES IN REAR YARD**
- 9. APPLE GALA
 - 10. SNOW QUEEN WHITE NECTARINE
 - 11. MAY PRIDE PEACH
 - 12. CITRUS NAVEL ORANGE
 - 13. ACER PALMATUM BLOODGOOD

- NOTES**
- Contractor Scope
 - * Plant removal
 - * Soil prep
 - * Edging



ATTACHMENT 4

Applicant Purpose Letter and Objection Letter
1040 Orange Grove Ave.

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:

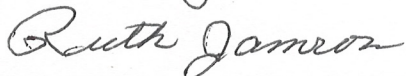
****Safety Risk from Falling Fronds****: The palm trees regularly and frequently shed large fronds from a height of approximately 40 feet. These fronds fall directly into the front yard, which must be traversed to reach the front door from the sidewalk. When guests visit the home, including friends of 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.

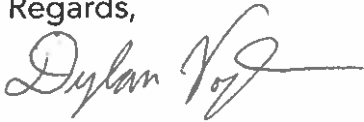
Parrots are already critically endangered in their native land and have become an icon of our South Pasadena and Los Angeles landscape. How can we threaten their habitat, as well as other birds, who could be nesting in the lush and large branches of the 31" and 29" palms?

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

Tree Hearing:
1108 Diamond Ave.



Natural Resources & Environmental Commission Agenda Report

ITEM NO. _____

DATE: December 2, 2024

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

SUBJECT: **Proposed Removal of 2 Existing Oak Trees at 1108 Diamond Avenue**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission (NREC) review and provide a decision regarding the removal of two existing oak trees at 1108 Diamond Avenue.

Background

On April 23, 2024, the applicant submitted a private property tree removal/replacement permit application. (Attachment 1). The applicant identified two oak trees for removal, both of which are considered mature oak trees per the City's Municipal Code. Initially, staff believed this application met the criteria that would allow the Public Works Department to approve the application and proceed with the tree removal application process. However, after inspection was conducted by the City Arborist, additional information was required in order to confirm the basis for removal provided by the applicant, and therefore approve the tree removal permit. The applicant was asked to prepare an arborist report (Attachment 2) for the City Arborist to review and allow for the tree removal permit process to continue to the notification stage.

The arborist report confirmed the reasons for removal described by the applicant on the application. Staff recommends approval of the removal application as the criteria for approving tree removal permits have been met, as described in the arborist report (Attachment 2). The applicant provided arborist report details the hazardous condition of the two oak trees. As a result of the removal of the two trees, the applicant will be required to replant twelve (12) twenty-four-inch native box trees to satisfy the replacement requirement.

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 three objections letters (Attachment 3) during the notification period.

Discussion/Analysis

Per SPMC 34.9(a), staff will require the applicant to provide a removal and replacement plan in order to proceed with the tree removal process.

Per SPMC 34.11, the criteria for approving tree removal permit applications have been met by the arborist report.

1108 Diamond Avenue Tree Removal Application

December 2, 2024

Page 2 of 2

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

Attachments

1. Tree Removal Application
2. Arborist Report
3. Three Objection Letter

ATTACHMENT 1
Tree Removal Application
1108 Diamond Ave.

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: 1108 Diamond Ave South Pasadena CA 91030

Property Owner's Name(S): Mike Chen Phone: 626862-5400

Address: 1108 Diamond Ave South Pasadena CA 91030

Contractor's Name: Currently deciding

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
22 inches	Oak Tree	Side of house	Tree overhangs from roof very closely, grows sideways, causes algae/mildew which is causing a cancellation in our house insurance
22 inches	Oak Tree	backyard close to house	same as above

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.**

APPLICANT SIGNATURE: Michael DATE: 4/22/24

* DENIED PENDING ADDITIONAL ACTION BY HOMEOWNER. City use only

1. Recommended for Approval or Denial Type/Variety Inspected: QUERCUS AERIFOLIA

Size of Tree: _____ Replacement Tree Size: _____ Qty: _____ Due by: _____

Comments: ROOF MAINTENANCE & PRUNING WILL MITIGATE THE "ALGAE, MILDEW, MOSS" STIPULATION OF THE NON-RENEWAL NOTICE.

Inspected By: Rebecca Mejia ISA WE 2355 B Date Inspected: 5-22-24

2. Recommended for Approval or Denial Type/Variety Inspected: QUERCUS AERIFOLIA

Size of Tree: _____ Replacement Tree Size: _____ Qty: _____ Due by: _____

Comments: SAME AS NOTED ABOVE.

Inspected By: Rebecca Mejia ISA WE 2355 B Date Inspected: 5-22-24

3. Recommended for Approval or Denial Type/Variety Inspected: _____

Size of Tree: _____ Replacement Tree Size: _____ Qty: _____ Due by: _____

Comments: _____

Inspected By: _____ Date Inspected: _____

GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA
P O BOX 704000, SALT LAKE CITY, UT 84170

ACT INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.
9660 FLAIR DR STE 250
EL MONTE CA 91731

MARCH 13, 2024

AGENT TELEPHONE: (626) 307-0628

001642



MARCY CHIA JUI CHEN
MIKE YUH HSIANG CHEN
1108 DIAMOND AVE
SOUTH PASADENA CA 91030-3114

Re: Notice of Nonrenewal — Homeowners Policy OA5167160

Dear Policyholder,

After careful consideration, we have concluded that we will not be able to renew your Homeowners insurance policy. Coverage will end at 12:01 a.m. standard time on June 12, 2024.

While we regret this decision, we feel it necessary for the following reason:

This non-renewal is the result of an underwriting review. The reason for non-renewal is: - Condition of property: Trees - Branch overhang touching Roof - Algae / mildew / mold / moss

OFFER MITIGATION TO PRUNE PERFORM & ROOF MAINTENANCE.

As you can see from the date and time shown above, your coverage does not end immediately. This should allow you ample time to arrange for other insurance before your policy expires.

If you have any questions, please contact Safeco customer service at 1-800-332-3226. If you cannot reach resolution by contacting us, please contact the California Department of Insurance at 1-800-927-4357.

GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA
Personal Lines Underwriting

1844

400000010002000001001642943



IMPORTANT NOTICE: Please see reverse side for information we are required to provide you.

ATTACHMENT 2
Arborist Report
1108 Diamond Ave.

**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: 1108 Diamond Ave South Pasadena CA 91030

Property Owner's Name(S): Mike Chen Phone: 6268625400

Address: 1108 Diamond Ave South Pasadena CA 91030

Contractor's Name: Elias Najjar

Address: _____ Phone: 6266887682

City Business License No: WE-10133-AT

**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
25	Coast Live Oak	Backyard close to house	Very dangerous lean. Please see arborist report attached.
23	Coast Live Oak	Side of house, close	Very dangerous lean. Please see arborist report attached.

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.**

APPLICANT SIGNATURE: Mike DATE: 9/7/2024

City use only

1. Recommended for Approval or Denial	Type/Variety Inspected: _____
Size of Tree: _____ Replacement Tree Size: _____ Qty: _____ Due by: _____	
Comments: _____	
Inspected By: _____	Date Inspected: _____
2. Recommended for Approval or Denial	Type/Variety Inspected: _____
Size of Tree: _____ Replacement Tree Size: _____ Qty: _____ Due by: _____	
Comments: _____	
Inspected By: _____	Date Inspected: _____
3. Recommended for Approval or Denial	Type/Variety Inspected: _____
Size of Tree: _____ Replacement Tree Size: _____ Qty: _____ Due by: _____	
Comments: _____	
Inspected By: _____	Date Inspected: _____

Tree Risk Assessment and Arborist Report

Basic Information

Client: Marcy Liu and Mike Chen
Address/ Tree Location: 1108 Diamond Ave. South Pasadena
Date of Inspection: 08/10/2024
Assessor(s): Elias Najjar WE-10133AT najjararborcare@gmail.com
Report forward to: mikeyuhchen@gmail.com

Site Information

History of failures: N/A
Topography: Flat Slope Planter
Soil Condition: Limited volume Shallow Compacted
Common weather: Strong winds Ice/ Snow Heavy Rain Dry

Tree Profile

Tree Species: #1 Coast live Oak (Quercus agrifolia)
DBH: 25"
Height: 30'-40'
Crown Spread Diameter: 30'-40'
Crown Density: Sparse Normal Dense N/A
Relative Crown Size: Small Medium Large N/A
Vigor: Low Normal High N/A
Failure Profile: Branches Trunk Roots N/A

Tree Defects and Condition Affecting the Likelihood of Failure

Unbalanced Crown Crack
Lightning damage Dead Twigs/fronds 20 % overall
Broken/ Hangers Weak attachment
Pruning history: Crown clean Thinned Topped Flush cut N/A
Main concern: Whole tree leaning.
Likelihood of failure: Improbable Possible Probable Imminent N/A

Note/ description/ explanation:

Above named client requested a tree risk assessment and arborist report for the Oak tree that is located in the backyard. The tree is about 6 feet away from the East side of the house. The Oak tree canopy leaning over the roof of the back side of the house. It has a strong lean that begins at the base. Signs of stress observed at the base on the tension side of the tree. The base of the tree and surrounding soil were probed, soil is loose and is no longer giving anchor to support the tree from falling. This confirmed that the tree lean has been causing instability issues at the base and the root system. Significant amount of damage to targets (people, properties) within the target zone will occur if the tree splits or breaks down further. Given the weak base of the Oak tree and the sign of roots uplifting the soil area, and for safety reasons, the Oak tree is recommended to be removed to eliminate further failures and damages.

Overall Tree Risk Rating: Low Moderate High Extreme N/A

Tree Risk Assessment and Arborist Report



Tree Risk Assessment and Arborist Report



Tree Risk Assessment and Arborist Report



Tree Risk Assessment and Arborist Report



Tree Risk Assessment and Arborist Report



Tree Risk Assessment and Arborist Report

Basic Information

Client: Marcy Liu and Mike Chen
Address/ Tree Location: 1108 Diamond Ave. South Pasadena
Date of Inspection: 08/10/2024
Assessor(s): Elias Najjar WE-10133AT najjararborcare@gmail.com
Report forward to: mikeyuhchen@gmail.com

Site Information

History of failures: N/A
Topography: Flat Slope Planter
Soil Condition: Limited volume Shallow Compacted
Common weather: Strong winds Ice/ Snow Heavy Rain Dry

Tree Profile

Tree Species: #2 Coast live Oak (Quercus agrifolia)
DBH: 23"
Height: 30'-40'
Crown Spread Diameter: 30'-40'
Crown Density: Sparse Normal Dense N/A
Relative Crown Size: Small Medium Large N/A
Vigor: Low Normal High N/A
Failure Profile: Branches Trunk Roots N/A

Tree Defects and Condition Affecting the Likelihood of Failure

Unbalanced Crown Crack
Lightning damage Dead Twigs/fronds 20 % overall
Broken/ Hangers Weak attachment
Pruning history: Crown clean Thinned Topped Flush cut N/A
Main concern: Whole tree leaning.
Likelihood of failure: Improbable Possible Probable Imminent N/A

Note/ description/ explanation:

Above named client requested a tree risk assessment and arborist report for the Oak tree that is located in the backyard. The tree is about 4 feet away from the south side of the house.

The Oak tree canopy leaning over the roof of the side of the house. It has a strong lean that begins at the base. Signs of stress observed at the base on the tension side of the tree. The base of the tree and surrounding soil were probed, soil is loose and is no longer giving anchor to support the tree from falling. This confirmed that the tree lean has been causing instability issues at the base and the root system. Leaves show signs of aphids that also reduce photosynthesis, that increase the chance of the tree to decline.

Significant amount of damage to targets (people, properties) within the target zone will occur if the tree splits or breaks down further. Given the weak base of the Oak tree and the sign of roots uplifting the soil area, and for safety reasons, the Oak tree is recommended to be removed to eliminate further failures and damages.

Tree Risk Assessment and Arborist Report

Overall Tree Risk Rating: Low Moderate High Extreme N/A



Tree Risk Assessment and Arborist Report



Tree Risk Assessment and Arborist Report



Tree Risk Assessment and Arborist Report



Tree Risk Assessment and Arborist Report



ATTACHMENT 3
Three Objection Letter
1108 Diamond Ave.

Mary Guevara
1021I Diamond Avenue
South Pasadena, CA 91030

Director of Public Works
1414 Mission Street
South Pasadena, CA 91030

October 17, 2024

Dear Director,

I'm responding to the Public Works Department notice regarding the removal of the 25" Coast Live Oak tree and 23" Coast Live Oak tree at 1108 Diamond Avenue.

My family and I would be very disappointed with the city if this removal is allowed, for it has long been our understanding that Live Oaks are protected in South Pasadena.

We have lived on Diamond for approximately 60 years. We love the trees on our street, and we would hate to lose any, especially the traditional Coast Live Oaks. Mature trees are often at risk of failure from loss of some limbs, but this does not result in their removal.

It's bad enough to look at the barren mess at the old El Centro School—and now this?

We appreciate this opportunity to comment. Our request is that another arborist be sent to evaluate how one or both trees can be saved.

Thank you in advance for your response regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Guevara



OCT 22 2024 AM 11:39

CITY CLERK'S DIVISION

Public Works Department
City of South Pasadena
Mission Street,
South Pasadena, CA 91030

Re: Objection - Tree Removal Application - 1108 Diamond Avenue, South Pasadena

Dear Public Works,

This is an OBJECTION to the Tree Removal Application submitted by the owner of 1108 Diamond Street, South Pasadena.

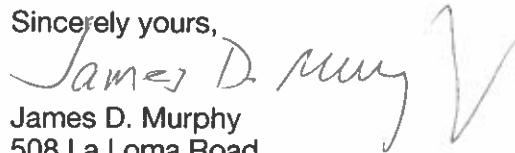
I am the owner of 1104 -1106 Diamond Avenue, South Pasadena, which is next door.

This Objection only applies to the removal of the LIVE OAK in the FRONT YARD ("Subject Live Oak") and is based on the following grounds:

1. The SUBJECT LIVE OAK is growing on 1104 -1106 Diamond Avenue and NOT on 1108 Diamond Avenue. In other words, the SUBJECT LIVE OAK purportedly on 1108 Diamond Avenue is on 1104 -1106 Diamond Avenue. I object to it being removed from my residential property.
2. The SUBJECT LIVE OAK located on 1104 - 1106 Diamond Avenue, South Pasadena, is not in distress and there are no dead limbs. It is a HEALTHY SPECIMEN. It may need pruning, but it does not in any way impede the public sidewalk, lift any pavement or otherwise require removal for any reason whatsoever.

I express no opinion on any other tree included in the Tree Removal Application of 1108 Diamond Avenue. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



James D. Murphy
508 La Loma Road
Pasadena, CA 91105

Gail Blesi MacCarthy
1025 Diamond Avenue
South Pasadena, CA 91030

Director of Public Works
1414 Mission Street
South Pasadena, CA 91030

October 16, 2024

COMMENT RE: Property address: 1108 Diamond Ave
 25" Coast Live Oak
 23" Coast Live Oak

Dear Director,

I have lived on Diamond Avenue for over 32 years. This beautiful, tree-lined street has provided decades of respite for me, my family, countless animals, and any community member needing relief from the sun-scorched streets that surround us. Diamond Avenue truly provides an outdoor sanctuary. Visitors are drawn to this area, in large part, because of our gorgeous trees.

The Coast Live Oaks noted above were planted long ago. For decades, they have been prominent members of the Diamond Avenue canopy. The current owners of the property on which they stand bought that house with full knowledge about the existence of these trees.

Perhaps the residents were not aware that South Pasadena was a "Tree City USA" [e.g., city logo, below]. While there are always some risks associated with trees, surely the benefits of such grand Coast Live Oaks far outweigh any natural risks. Given the vital protections *mature* trees offer against climate change, I am quite dubious of the rationale suggested for removing both these well-established, majestic Oaks.

- Are we really to believe that now there is a serious "risk of failure" regarding *both* trees?

I hope that the Director ensures that the data and report of alleged "risk of failure" are thoroughly reviewed by an expert.

I also hereby request (1) a second opinion by a non-partial, certified arborist and (2) that the results of her/his subsequent study be made available for neighborhood review.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this important community matter.

Sincerely,


Gail Blesi MacCarthy

Resident - 

ITEM 4

Approval of Minutes – Meeting of October 22, 2024



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

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 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 Siegel on October 22, 2024, at 7:05 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 1424 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Vice Chair	Emily Ng
Commissioner	Casey Law
Commissioner	Richard Tom
Commissioner	Amy Davis Jones
Staff Liaison	Councilmember Michael Cacciotti

ABSENT

Chair	Michael Siegel
Commissioner	Liam R. de Villa Bourke
Commissioner	Rona Bortz

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 Vice Chair Ng.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

In Person Public Comments:

None.

Zoom Public Comments:

None.

PRESENTATIONS

2. SUSTAINABILITY DIVISION PRESENTS LANDSCAPE ACADEMY

Danielle Garcia, Water Conservation Management Analyst, presented to the Commission on the City’s first ever Landscape Academy training series. This academy will serve as a dedicated learning resource for South Pasadena residents to be empowered and equipped residents with the skills needed to establish and maintain water conscious and drought tolerant landscapes.

The commission praised staff for launching the trainings and recommended offering bilingual options, creating CII-focused marketing for cost-saving residents, and including container gardening tips for apartment/condo residents.

DISCUSSION

3. MUNICIPAL CODE REGULATION REGARDING HAZARDOUS OR DEAD TREES

Recommendation

Ted Gerber, Public Works Director, and Michael Vartanians, Principal Engineer, requested feedback from the commission regarding the City’s practice in responding to tree removal requests for hazardous trees.

The commission and city staff discussed the current limitations in the tree ordinance, specifically its lack of direction on issues such as the replacement of dead or hazardous trees, the appraisal of different tree species, and the overall loss/ replacement of the city’s tree canopy. In revising the ordinance, the commissioners supported incorporating caps on the number of replacement trees. Additionally, suggested assigning higher values for replacement of specific trees (e.g., heritage, native, or significant trees), alleviating the financial burden of tree replacement, establishing a pathway for replanting along major corridors instead of private properties, and adding more language to address the various factors that come into play with each application or tree removal case.

In Person Public Comments:

None.

Zoom Public Comments:

None.

ACTION

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2024 NREC MEETING

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission review and approve the September 24,2024 meeting minutes.

COMMISSION ACTION AND MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Tom and approved by roll call vote to approve the September 24, 2024 Natural Resources and Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes. The motion carried 4-0-0, by the following vote:

AYES: Ng, Jones, Law, and Tom

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Siegel, Bortz, de Villa Bourke

ABSTAINED: None.

COMMUNICATIONS

5. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

Council Member Cacciotti provided updates on Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, Mobile Home Parks in Santa Clarita, Foothill Gold Line, Mt.Wilson Express-Transit to Trails and AQMD program.

6. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Law shared that there is a lot of misinformation about the Arroyo Secco water reclamation project in South Pasadena, adding clarity that it won't involve tree removal and is more representative of a beneficial environmental initiative.

7. STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS

Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager Arpy Kasparian recapped the success of the recent Dumpster Day event and provided updates on upcoming events and programs in the City, including the introduction of new trash barrels and AQMD's new residential electric leaf blower program.

8. UPCOMING EVENTS

- Garden Talk by Barbara Eisenstein – October 24, 7:30pm
Eaton Canyon Nature Center, Pasadena (<https://cnps-sgm.org/>)
- Landscape Academy: California Friendly and Native Plants Landscape Training November 13, 6:00pm, South Pasadena Library Community Room

[\(https://www.greengardensgroup.com/g3-events/ca-friendly-native-plant-landscape-training-in-person-city-of-south-pasadena-241113/ \)](https://www.greengardensgroup.com/g3-events/ca-friendly-native-plant-landscape-training-in-person-city-of-south-pasadena-241113/)

- Nature Park Volunteer Day – November 16, 2024, 9am-12pm
South Pasadena Nature Park (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 /](https://greengardensgroup.com/turf-transformation/))

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further matters, Chair Siegel adjourned the meeting of the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission at 8:35 P.M. PT to the next Regular Commission meeting scheduled for November 26th, 2024.

Respectfully submitted:

Arpy Kasparian
Staff Liaison, Environmental Services
& Sustainability Manager

APPROVED:

Emily Ng
Vice Chair

Approved at Commission Meeting:

ITEM 8

Upcoming Events

LEAF BLOWER BAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

Stay informed about the City's leaf blower ban! Join us for a virtual community meeting where we will discuss important updates on enforcement, available resources, and how to improve violation reporting. Your feedback and participation are essential for helping us achieve our sustainability goals.



- Receive an update on enforcement efforts
- Help Improve violation reporting
- Learn about electric leaf blower incentive programs

VIRTUAL MEETING

5th December, 2024
4:00pm



Zoom Meeting ID
817 3609 6995



<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81736096996>





Landscape Academy



FREE | **LANDSCAPE
TRAINING SERIES**

SPOTS ARE LIMITED!

**REGISTER FOR THE SECOND TRAINING TODAY:
WWW.SOUTHPASADENACA.GOV/ENVIRONMENTALPROGRAMS**

OPEN TO ALL SOUTH PASADENA RESIDENTS


LAWN CARE AND MAINTENANCE

DATE: SATURDAY DECEMBER 7TH, 2024

TIME: 11:00AM - 12:00PM

LOCATION: SENIOR CENTER - 1102 OXLEY ST.

A training for residents interested in maintaining their lawns with water-efficient and organic practices. Explore topics like building healthy soil, proper irrigation, and boosting drought resilience in plants.



For more information, contact:

WaterConservation@SouthPasadenaCA.gov

626.403.7289



**LANDSCAPE
ACADEMY**

SCHEDULE

UPCOMING

2024- 2025

DECEMBER 7

SATURDAY
11:00AM

LAWN CARE AND MAINTENANCE

JANUARY 14

TUESDAY
6:00PM

BEAUTIFUL GARDENS ON MINIMAL WATER

FEBRUARY 8

SATURDAY
11:00AM

**TURF REMOVAL, REPLACE OR MAINTAIN
IT**

MARCH 19

WEDNESDAY
6:00PM

OUTDOOR LEAK DETECTION

MAY 17

SATURDAY
10:00AM

**LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMATIONS
ON A BUDGET**