



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

**A G E N D A  
REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2025, AT 6:30 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 Manager Conference Room, 1414 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:**

**ROLL CALL:**

Chair	Emily Ng
Vice Chair	Michael Siegel
Commissioner	Liam R. de Villa Bourke
Commissioner	Casey Law
Commissioner	Michael Noe
Commissioner	Alex Rajewski
Commissioner	Margaret Yi

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** 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](mailto: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., March 25, 2025**

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)**

**PRESENTATION**

**2. LIBRARY/COMMUNITY CENTER SITE PLAN – PROJECT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW**

**TREE HEARING**

**3. TREE HEARING: 1459 INDIANA AVE.**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission (NREC) review and provide a decision of the removal of two trees at 1459 Indiana Avenue.

**ACTION**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2025 NREC MEETING**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission review and approve the February 25, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**5. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS**

**6. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS**

**7. STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS**

**8. UPCOMING EVENTS**

- *Sustainability Fair + Plant Swap + Garden Tour*  
March 29, 2025, 1pm – 4pm, South Pasadena Nature Park
- *Landscape Academy: Beautiful Gardens on Minimal Water*  
April 23, 2025 6pm – 7pm, Library Community Room  
([www.SouthPasadenaCA.gov/EnvironmentalPrograms](http://www.SouthPasadenaCA.gov/EnvironmentalPrograms) )
- LA County Smart Gardening Webinars  
(<https://www.ladpw.org/epd/sq/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**

May 27, 2025	Regular Meeting	6:30 p.m.
July 22, 2025	Regular Meeting	6:30 p.m.
September 23, 2025	Regular Meeting	6:30 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](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](mailto: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](mailto: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 **March 25, 2025**, 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.*

3/20/2025

*Arpy Kasparian*

Date

Arpy Kasparian, Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager

**ITEM 2**

Presentation: Library/Community Center Site Plan  
Project And Community Engagement Overview



# South Pas Forward: Reimagine our Library Park Campus

Library/Community Center Site Plan Project

City of  
**SOUTH PASADENA**

# SOUTH PASADENA LIBRARY & COMMUNITY CENTER COMPREHENSIVE SITE PLAN

*"Reimagine our Library Park  
Campus"*

PROJECT + COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

City of South Pasadena | March 2025



# WHY IS THE CITY DOING THIS PROJECT?



Community needs are driving the City to reimagine the Library, Senior Center, and Library Park:

## LIBRARY

- 1980s portion of Library building has a complicated two-story layout that does not work well for patrons or staff.
- Not enough space for:
  - Quiet activities (remote work, studying, reading)
  - Active uses (gathering, group study, tutoring, collaboration, programs, teens)
  - Collections - they are limited by available space
- Library building is outdated, in poor condition, has little natural light and outdated safety and electrical systems.
- Building(s) do not meet current accessibility, energy or building codes.





# WHY IS THE CITY DOING THIS PROJECT?



Community needs are driving the City to reimagine the Library, Senior Center, and Library Park:

## SENIOR CENTER

- Building's size and layout do not support the variety of programs provided today.
- Multipurpose Room:
  - Programs are held at the same time in the Multipurpose Room with just curtain partitions.
  - The space is not large enough to meet demand for Senior Luncheons, some are moved off-site to accommodate attendees, and there is typically a waiting list.
- There is no designated lounge space for seniors to gather and socialize.



# PROJECT OVERVIEW



## Scope of the project:

- Assess the city's requirements for the library, senior center, community center, shared spaces, and park upgrades.
- Explore potential options for integrating the library, senior and community center, and shared spaces into the existing site.
- Create site improvement alternatives for "Library Park" as part of the comprehensive planning process.
- Finalize the preferred comprehensive plan, encompassing the building(s), site design, and a budget estimate.



# PROJECT GOALS

## ❑ Inspiring, impactful site plan:

- Maximizes value to the community, integrates historic elements and outdoor space with aspirational new library and senior center.

## ❑ Vital and modern facility for the long-term:

- Heart of the community and resource and recreation hub that is multi-generational, inclusive, and transformational.

## ❑ Respect the site's built and natural historic features:

- Understand and plan sensitively to maintain the site's historic elements, including the Moreton Bay Fig tree.

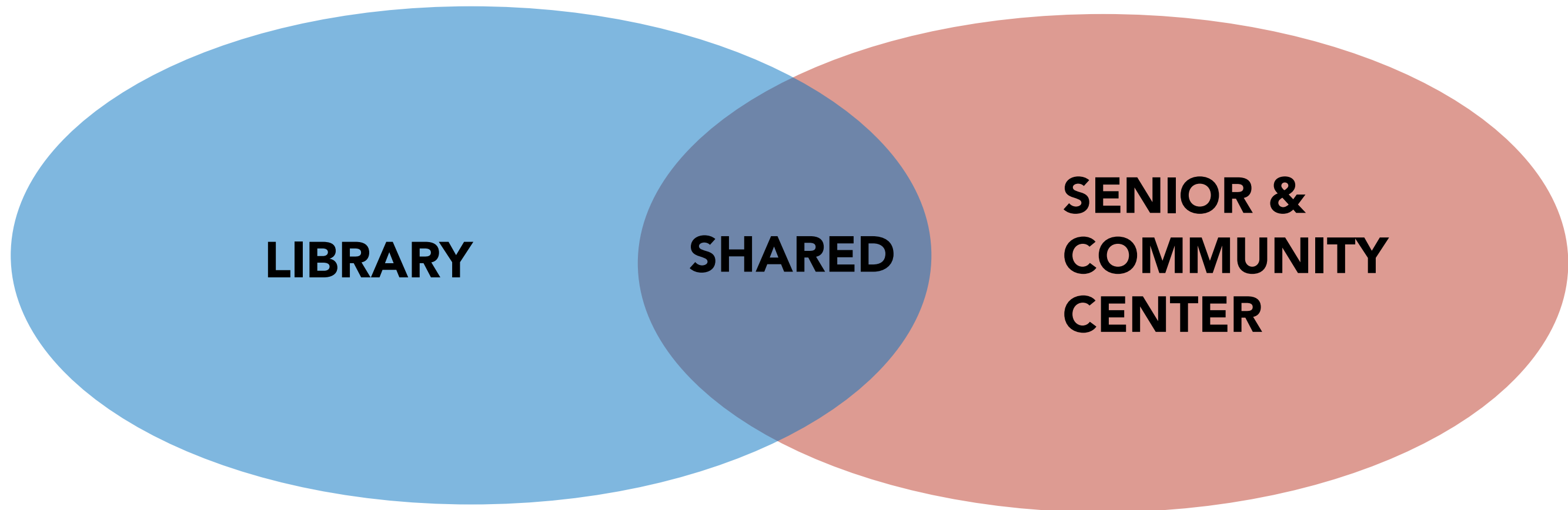
## ❑ Accessible:

- ADA accessible, incorporates parking and easy access by walking and other transportation modes.

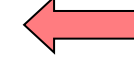
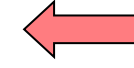
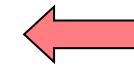
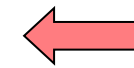
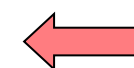
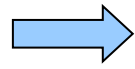


# SHARING SPACES

INTEGRATING FACILITIES FOR BEST VALUE



- Lobby
- Marketplace
- Adult Seating & Collection
- Children's Seating & Collection
- Teen Seating & Collection
- Friends of the Library
- Technology Lab
- Community Meeting & Study Rooms
- Create & Make Spaces
- Staff and Support



- Lobby
- Lounge
- Fitness/Active Spaces
- Meeting Rooms & Classrooms
- Conference Space
- Large Multipurpose Room
- Technology Lab
- Staff and Support
- Kitchen

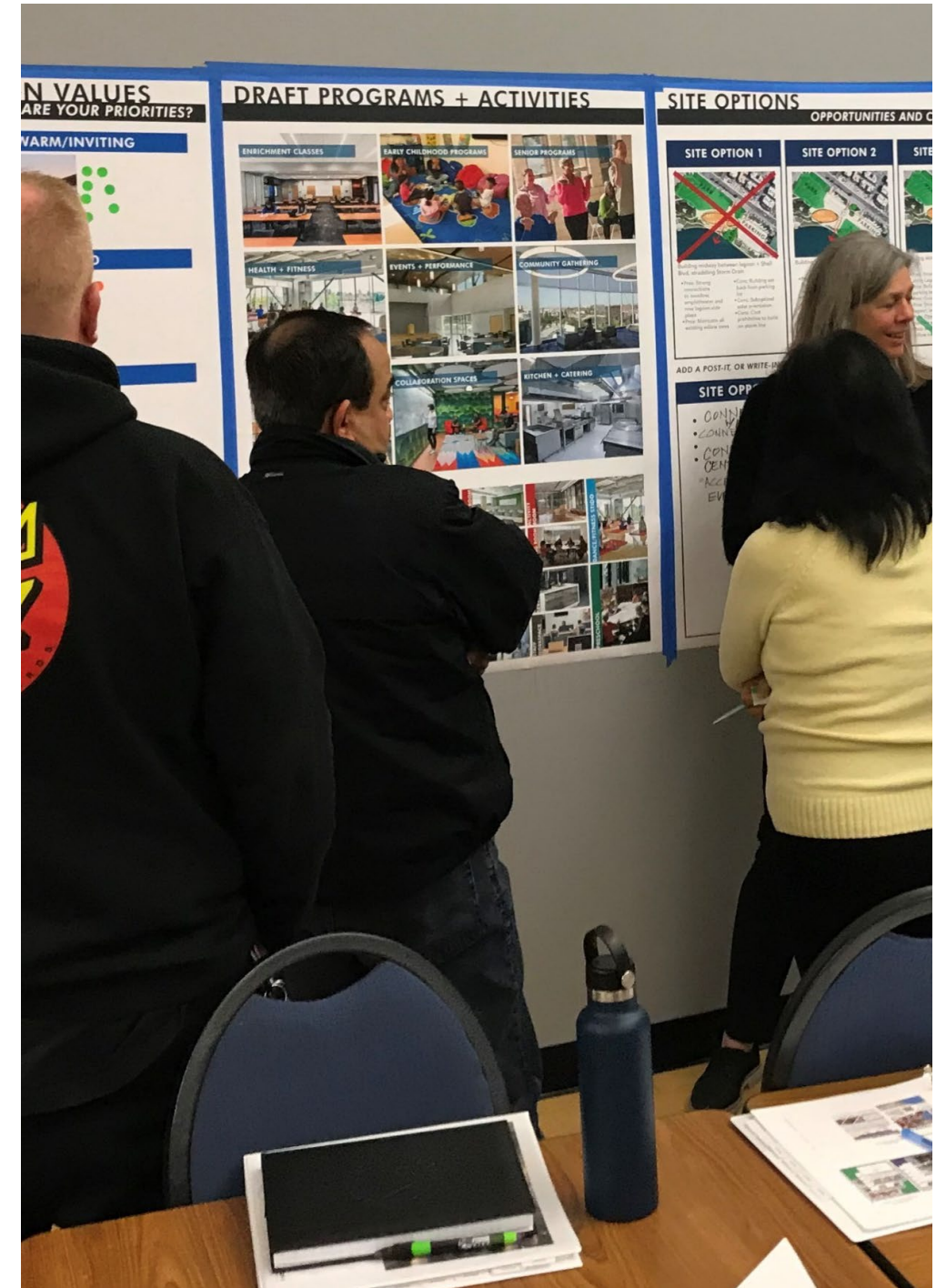
# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



**COMMUNITY POP-UPS**



**COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS**



**AD HOC COMMITTEE**

- **PLUS ONLINE + PAPER SURVEY**

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – TWO ROUNDS

- **ROUND 1 ENGAGEMENT: Mid-March through June 1**
  - Topics:
    - ✓ Library/Senior Center Site Assessments
    - ✓ Library, Senior + Community Recreation Programs and Services
    - ✓ Site Needs
- **ROUND 2 ENGAGEMENT: Summer through Mid-September (Tentative)**
  - Topics:
    - ✓ Site
    - ✓ New Facility Spaces + Concept
    - ✓ Design Values for the New Facility

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – ACTIVITIES + EVENTS

- **ROUND 1:**



QR Code for Survey

- **Survey: Mid-March through June 1**

- Survey link: [www.southpasadenaca.gov/LPC-survey](http://www.southpasadenaca.gov/LPC-survey)

- **Community Meetings:**

- 4/9 (Weds.): Open House 4-6 PM, Community Workshop 6:30-8:00 PM
- 4/10 (Thurs.): Open House 9-10 AM, Community Workshop 10:00-11:30 AM

- **April + May Pop-Up Events:**

- 4/3: Farmers Market
- 4/12: Spring Eggstravaganza at Garfield Park (12-2 PM)
- 4/26: Eclectic Music Festival
- 5/8: Farmers Market

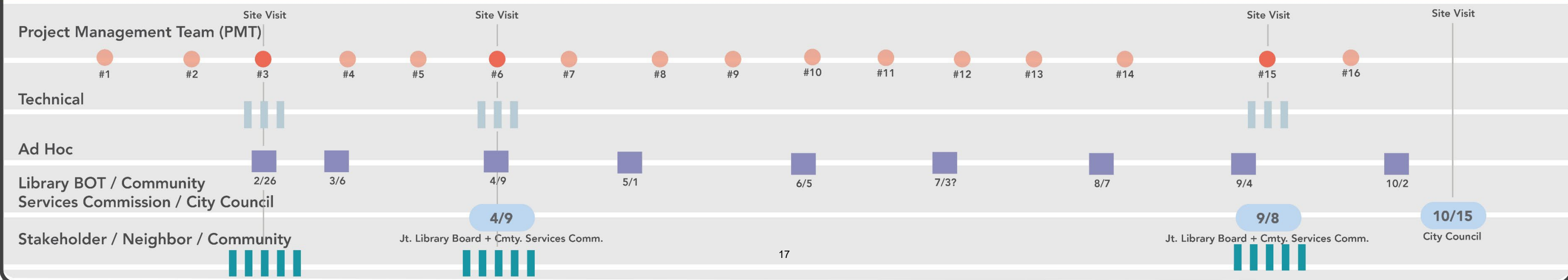
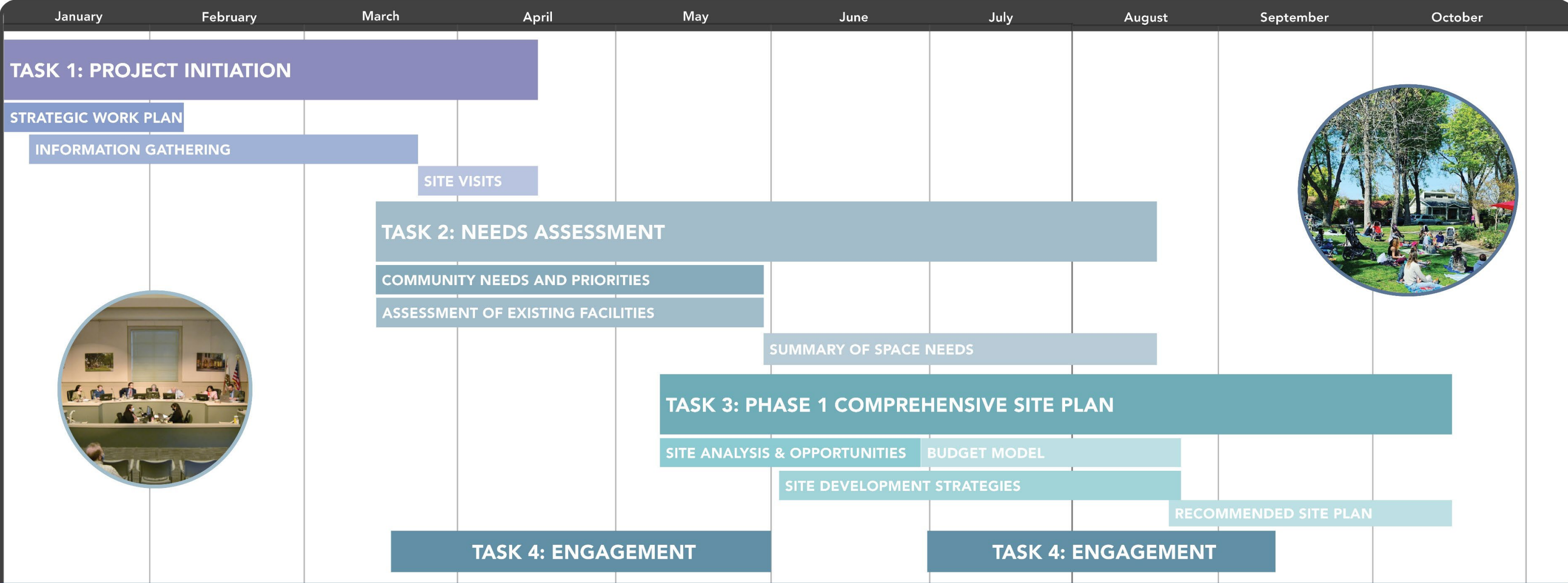
# SOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Project Website + Frequently Asked Questions:** [www.southpasadenaca.gov/LPC](http://www.southpasadenaca.gov/LPC)

**Project Email:** [LibraryParkCampus@southpasadenaca.gov](mailto:LibraryParkCampus@southpasadenaca.gov)

**Telephone:** (626) 403-7330







THANK YOU!

**GROUP 4**  
ARCHITECTURE

# South Pas Forward: Reimagine our Library Park Campus

**WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN A REIMAGINED  
LIBRARY AND SENIOR CENTER FACILITY?**

**TAKE OUR  
SURVEY**



**LEARN  
MORE**



[www.southpasadenaca.gov/LPC](http://www.southpasadenaca.gov/LPC)

**IN-PERSON**  
LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM

**APRIL 9**

Open House 4-6PM  
Workshop 6:30-8PM

**APRIL 10**

Open House 9-10AM  
Workshop 10-11:30AM

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**APRIL 3** Farmers Market

**APRIL 12** Eggstravaganza

**APRIL 26** The Eclectic

**MAY 8** Farmers Market

**ITEM 3**

Tree Hearing: 1459 Indiana Ave.



# Natural Resources & Environmental Commission Agenda Report

ITEM NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** March 25, 2025

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

**SUBJECT:** **Proposed Removal of Two Trees at 1459 Indiana Avenue**

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## Recommendation

It is recommended that the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission (NREC) review and provide a decision of the removal of two trees at 1459 Indiana Avenue.

## Background

On January 13, 2025, the applicant applied for a private property tree removal permit (Attachment 1). The application identified two trees for removal: a 19-inch diameter Eucalyptus tree, which is classified as a significant tree under the South Pasadena Municipal Code (SPMC), and a 9-inch diameter Cedar tree, which is not considered significant because its diameter is less than 12 inches.

The applicant reason for removal of both trees is due to concerns regarding danger to property or persons as a result of both trees lean and poor soil condition and erosion about the base of the tree as shown in the photos (Attachment 2).

On January 22, 2025, the City Arborist inspected the trees and approved the removal of both. The approved tree removal permit application (Attachment 3) was based on the lean of the trees, the poor soil conditions, and the possibility that the trees could uproot due to soil instability. Staff recommends approval of the removal permit, as it meets the criteria outlined in SPMC Section 34.11(a)(1), which states that a tree may be removed if it poses a reasonable risk of harm to persons or property or substantially interferes with the structural integrity or use of existing structures, and if there is no feasible alternative to mitigate the issue.

A public notice was sent on February 26, 2025, to property owners and tenants within a 100-foot radius of the subject property. During the notification period, the City received one objection letter (Attachment 4). The letter raised concerns about one of the trees being on the property line. However, as shown in the Removal and Replacement Plan (Attachment 5), both trees are located at the rear of the property and do not encroach on a shared property line.

The objection letter also referenced a prior illegal tree removal on the property, which occurred in December 2021. Two trees were removed at that time, one of which City staff believe was not

a significant tree, and the other was an approximately 20-24 inch diameter Pine tree. Past City staff contacted the property owners, who had recently purchased the home, to address the unpermitted removal. The owners were unaware of the tree ordinances in South Pasadena.

As per SPMC Section 34.17(a), penalties for unintentional tree removal include:

1. A standard inspection fee;
2. Double the required tree removal or trimming permit fee; and
3. Planting double the number of replacement trees required under SPMC 34.12-5.

In January 2022, the property owner paid the \$125 inspection fee and the \$322 tree removal permit fee, totaling \$447. The replacement requirement for the unintentional violation was six 24-inch box trees, with each tree priced at \$335. However, the property owner has not yet replanted any trees, though a deposit for one tree was received in April 2022.

### **Discussion/Analysis**

As part of the permit approval, the applicant will be required to replant two 24-inch box trees to fulfill the tree replacement requirement. A removal and replacement plan (Attachment 5) has been submitted, detailing the removal of the two trees and the planting of the replacement trees.

In accordance with SPMC 34.9(a), staff has reviewed the removal and replacement plan, which identifies the replacement trees. Additionally, per SPMC 34.11, the criteria for approving the tree removal permit application have been met.

*“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 applicant has already paid the initial tree removal inspection fee of \$141. Should the commission approve the tree removal permit, the applicant will be required to pay \$364 for the tree removal permit, as well as a deposit of \$848. This deposit will be refunded once the replacement trees have been planted and the replacement requirement has been fulfilled.

### **Attachments**

1. Tree Removal Application
2. Existing Tree Photos
3. City Arborist Approved Tree Removal Application
4. Objection Letter
5. Removal and Replacement Plan

**ATTACHMENT 1**  
Tree Removal Application

**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: 1459 Indiana Ave

Property Owner's Name(S): Lawrence Wong / Adam Frank Phone: 626-616-0780

Address: 1459 Indiana Ave

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
18 in	Eucalyptus	Southern part of property	Soil erosion, tree leaning, danger to property and people
9 in	Pine	Southern part of property	Soil erosion, danger to property and people

**Office Use Only:**

Application Received: \_\_\_\_\_ Tree Removal and Replacement Plan: \_\_\_\_\_ Arborist Report: \_\_\_\_\_

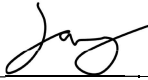
Project Narrative: \_\_\_\_\_ Proposed Development Plan: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Plan: \_\_\_\_\_ NREC Hearing Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: 1/11/2025

*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: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTACHMENT 2**  
Existing Tree Photos









## **ATTACHMENT 3**

### City Arborist Approved Tree Removal Application

**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: 1459 Indiana Ave

Property Owner's Name(S): Lawrence Wong / Adam Frank Phone: 626-616-0780

Address: 1459 Indiana Ave

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
18 in	Eucalyptus	Southern part of property	Soil erosion, tree leaning, danger to property and people
9 in	Pine	Southern part of property	Soil erosion, danger to property and people

**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.
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- (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: \_\_\_\_\_ Jay \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: 1/11/2025

<i>City use only</i>	
1. Recommended for <u>Approval</u> or Denial	Type/Variety Inspected: <u>SILVER DOUGLASS</u> <u>GRUM</u>
Size of Tree: <u>18.5"</u> Replacement Tree Size: _____ Qty: _____ Due by: _____	
Comments: <u>SLIGHT LN OVER SLOPE. SOFT SOIL WITH SLIPAGE VISIBLE.</u> <u>UNDERTMINED BY GROUND SQUIRRELS. POSSIBILITY OF UPRUPTING DUE</u> <u>TO SOIL INSTABILITY.</u>	
Inspected By: <u>Rebecca Mejia ISA WE 2355B</u>	Date Inspected: <u>JAN 22, 2025</u>
2. Recommended for <u>Approval</u> or Denial	Type/Variety Inspected: <u>DEODAR</u> <u>CEDAR</u>
Size of Tree: <u>9"</u> Replacement Tree Size: _____ Qty: _____ Due by: _____	
Comments: <u>SLIGHT LEAN WITH SOFT SOIL &amp; VISIBLE SLIPAGE</u> <u>OF TIERED SLOPE. POSSIBILITY OF UPRUPTING.</u>	
Inspected By: <u>Rebecca Mejia ISA WE 2355B</u>	Date Inspected: <u>JAN 22, 2025</u>
3. Recommended for Approval or Denial	Type/Variety Inspected: _____
Size of Tree: _____ Replacement Tree Size: _____ Qty: _____ Due by: _____	
Comments: _____	
Inspected By: _____	Date Inspected: _____

**ATTACHMENT 4**  
Objection Letter

Debra Echard  
1465 Indiana Ave. South Pasadena CA 91030  
P: 323.478-2737 C: 323.309-6575  
[debdecor@mac.com](mailto:debdecor@mac.com)

DATE: 3.1.2025

TO: DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

FROM: Debra Echard Home owner 1465 Indiana Ave South Pasadena

RE: 1459 INDIANA AVE TREE REMOVAL

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To Whom it may concern;

I received notice of tree removal at 1459 Indiana Ave.

I am extremely opposed to cutting down any more trees on this property. I have lived in South Pasadena for 25 years. I am an advocate for the preservation of our community.

The City of South Pasadena has an preservation society to advocate and facilitate preservation on our community. My home was one of many placed on Mid century modern historical landmark list.

These new home owners have cut down several 12-75 ft trees in the past few years.

When they cut the trees down I contacted the city about the tree removal and the city rep had told me the owners did not have a permit to cut those trees. I was never notified as how they rectified this.

Shortly after they installed solar panels. This was totally an unjust manner in which they were able to obtain solar power.

I have tried to get solar panels for years and cannot do so because I am protecting the oak trees on my property.

**These home owners now want to completely strip the property of all trees. This is a tragedy!**

South Pasadena has regulations to protect mature trees. The Trees they now want to cut are perfectly healthy trees. They are not risk for failure. They have been there for over 75 years


I would like an arborist to review the trees they would like to cut down.

One of the trees is on our property line. Can you please check the property line markings.

The city is supposed to have strict guidelines to preserve its history.

The South Pasadena City Council amended the Municipal Code to further regulate removal of trees on any property within the City.


In addition, regulations have been added to protect mature heritage, native species and oak trees (4 inches in diameter or larger) on any property within the City.



**South Pasadena Resident's Guide to the  
City's Tree Ordinance**

**Help Keep South Pasadena Green & Beautiful**

South Pasadena's charm is closely related to its lush canopy of trees. Trees provide shade for buildings – saving energy for air conditioning—hold soil in place, and protect our watershed. They provide habitat for birds and other animals. Indeed, South Pasadena's efforts to maintain its urban forest have won the community acclaim as a "Tree City USA", a designation made by the National Arbor Day Foundation, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Associate of State Foresters.



**Trees are a uniquely valuable natural resource. They provide protection from sun and wind, help replenish the oxygen supply, and enhance the scenery around our homes and neighborhoods. Trees, especially mature healthy trees, foster an image of beauty, tranquility, and stability throughout our community. These many benefits should be preserved for future generations.**

**I strongly believe the city needs to reevaluate this public works submission.**

**The city should not allow removal of the last remaining trees at 1459 Indiana Ave.**

See photos of the property before the current home owners moved in and after. They have stripped the property bare of all mature trees. These trees take decades to grow.

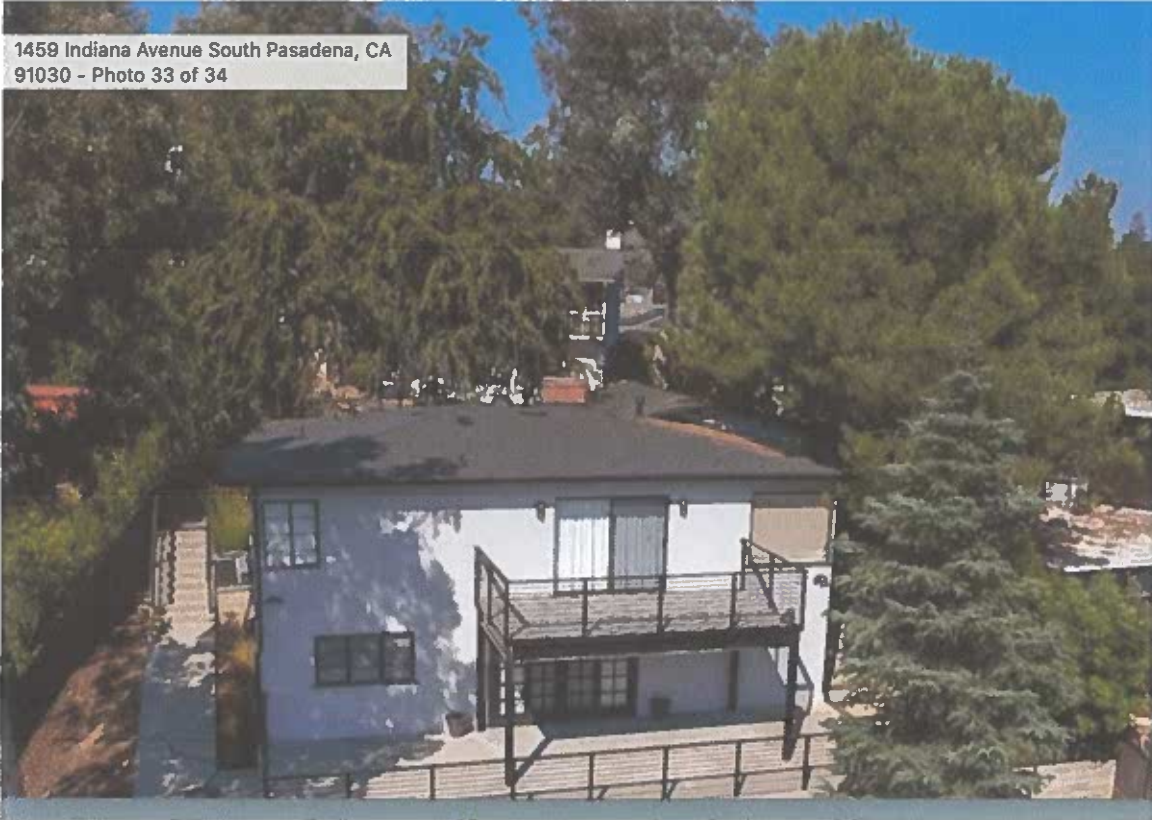
I am devastated to have to see the property in this state.

Sincerely,

Debra Echard

PHOTOS OF 1459 INDIANA AVE SOUTH PASADENA BEFORE THE  
CURRENT HOME OWNERS CUT THEM DOWN WITHOUT A PERMIT.

1459 Indiana Avenue South Pasadena, CA  
91030 - Photo 33 of 34



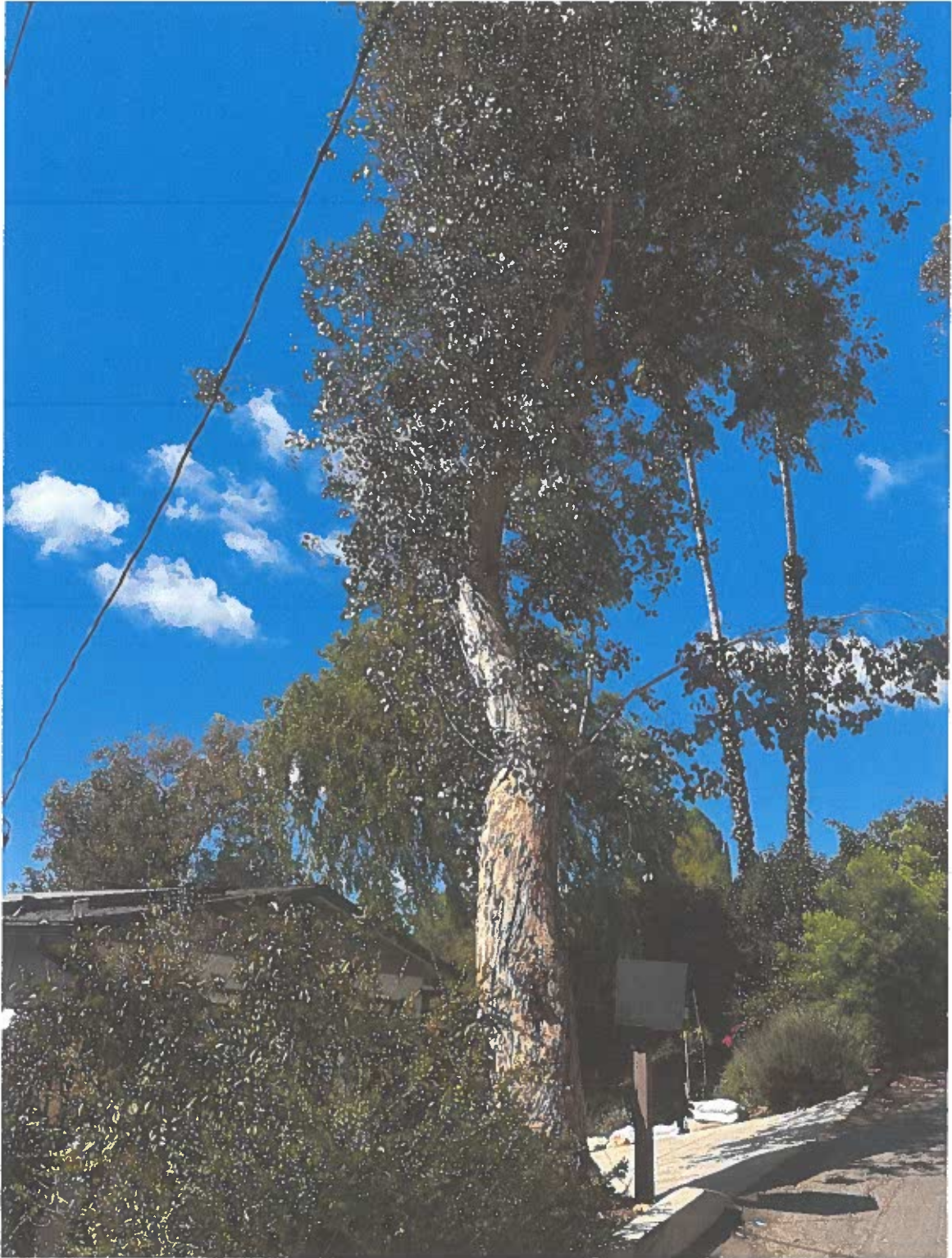
BEFORE THE LAST TREE REMOVAL



**CURRENT VIEW OF HOME AFTER TREE REMOVAL & NOW THEY WANT TO REMOVE THE ONLY TWO MATURE TREES LEFT ON THE PROPERTY. THERE WILL BE NOTHING LEFT! THIS IS WRONG! THEY HAVE ALREADY STRIPPED THE PROPERTY OF SEVERAL HEALTHY MATURE TREES.**



**THIS TREE THEY WANT TO REMOVE IS ON OUR PROPERTY LINE. I DO NOT WANT THIS TREE REMOVED. CAN YOU PLEASE CHECK INTO THE PROPERTY LINE.**





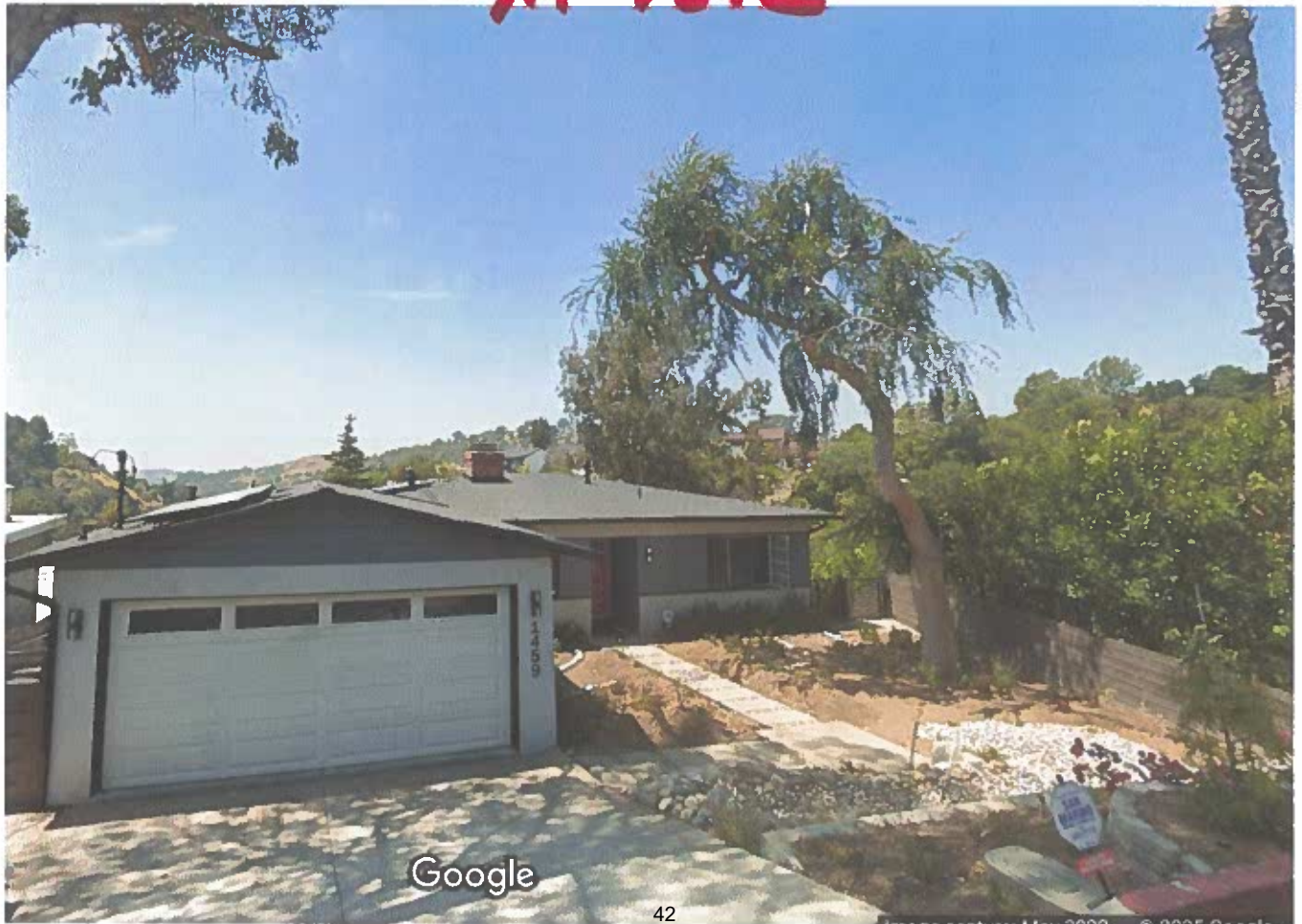


**BUFFYKAT**



our customer gave us, we sent a paper check by U.S. mail, which • Athens Services - (888) 336-6100

**AP707L**



Google

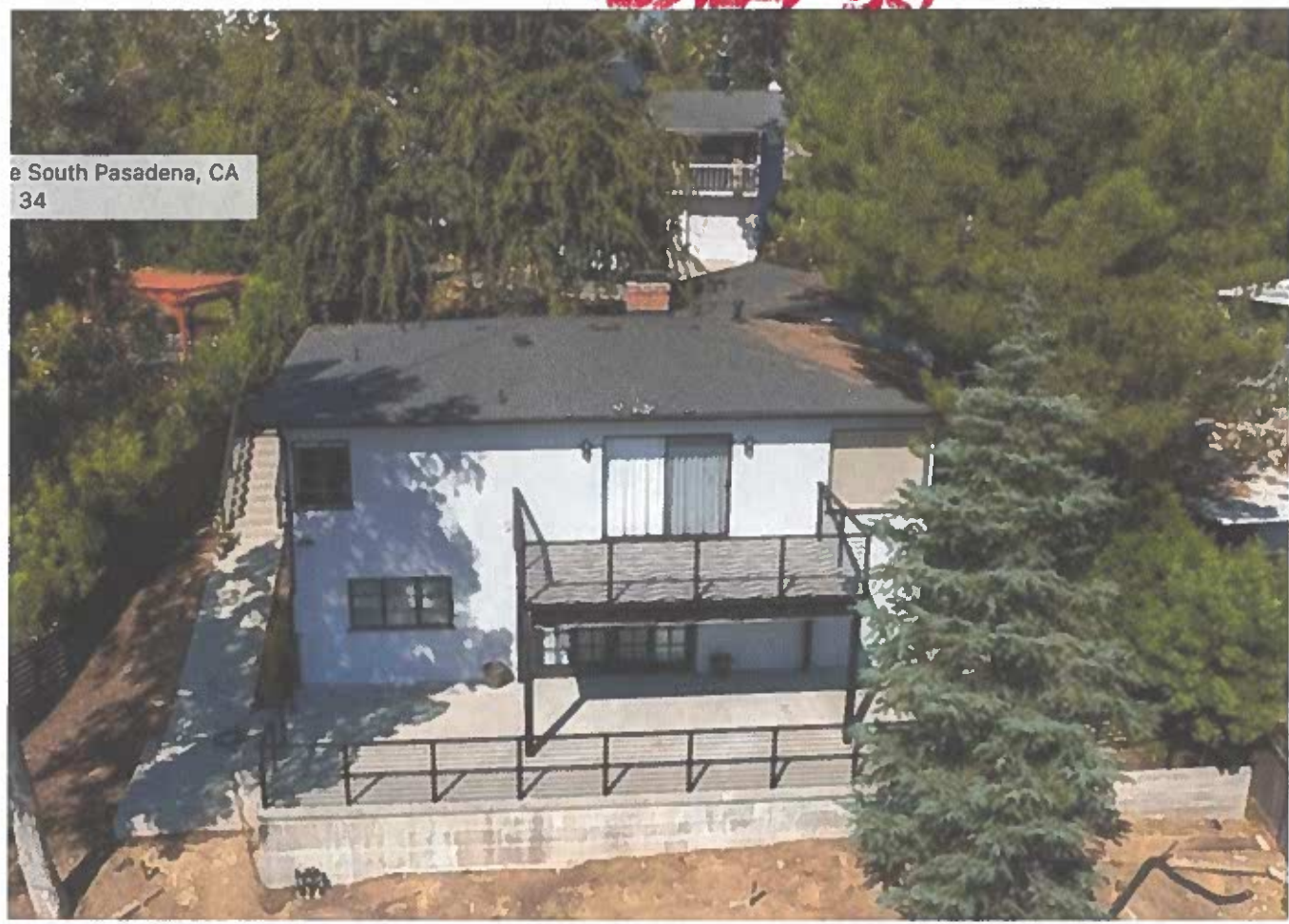
**BE FORUS**



**BE FORUS**



BEFORE



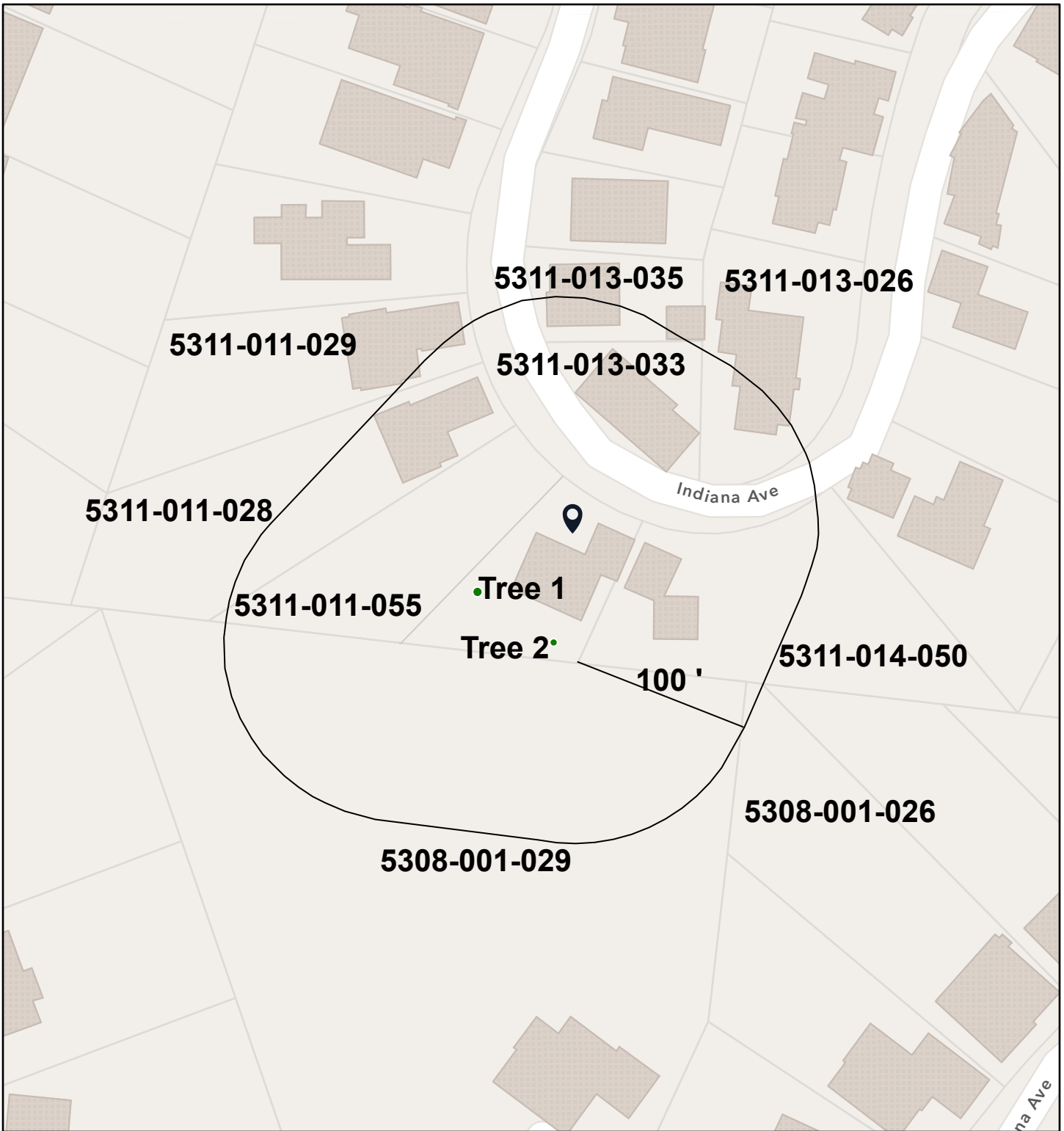
South Pasadena, CA  
34

AFTER

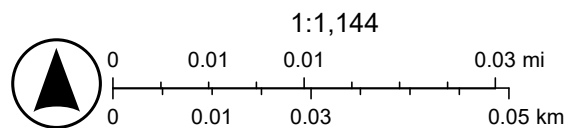
## **ATTACHMENT 5**

### Removal and Replacement Plan

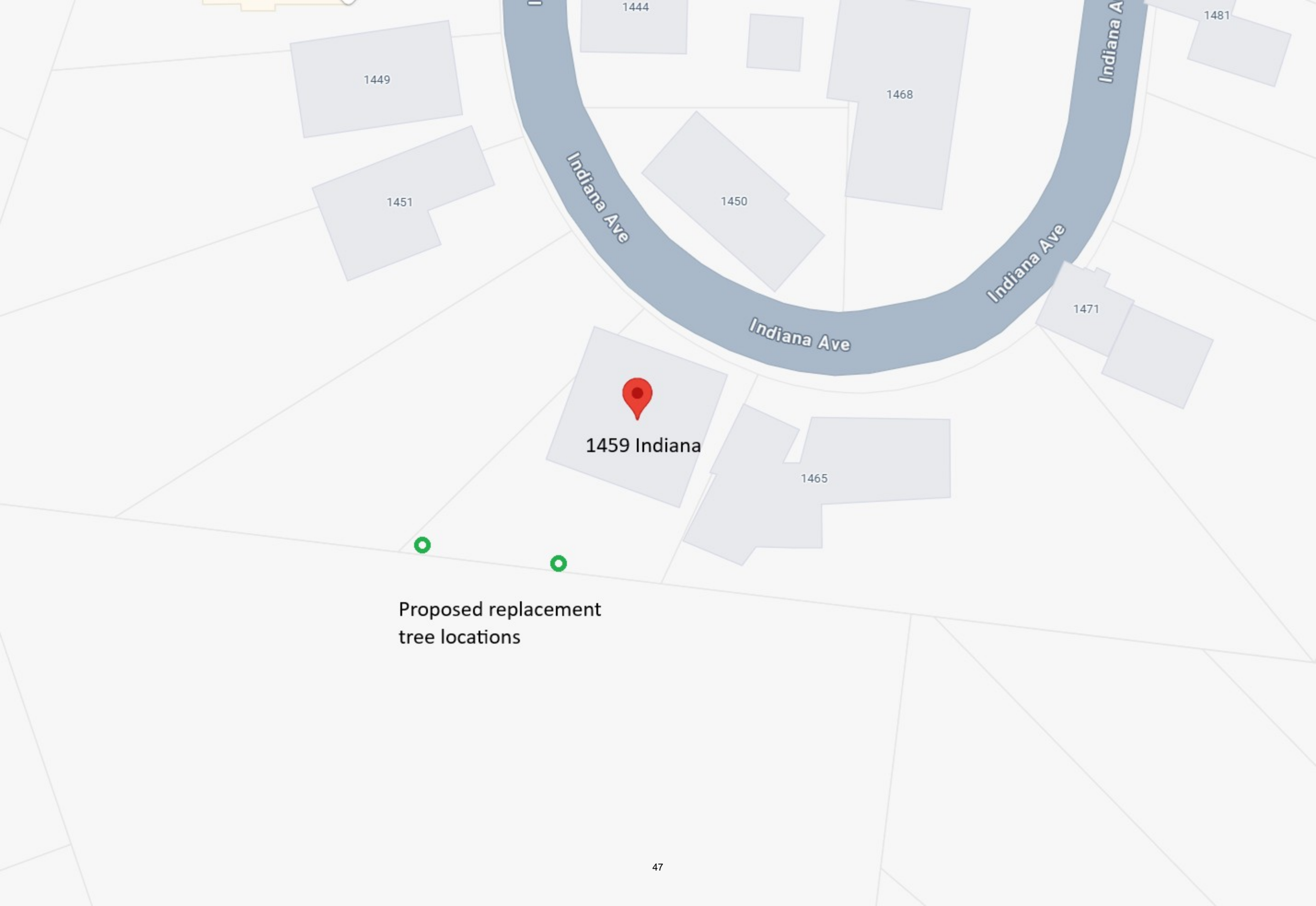
# 1459 Indiana Ave 100 ft Radius Map



2/4/2025



Esri Community Maps Contributors, County of Los Angeles, California State Parks, © OpenStreetMap, Microsoft, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA, USFWS



1459 Indiana

Proposed replacement  
tree locations

**ITEM 4**

Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting of February 25, 2025





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

**MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025, AT 6:30 P.M.**

**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM  
1414 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 February 25, 2025, at 6:34 P.M. in the Emergency Operations Center Conference Room, 1414 Mission Street, South Pasadena, California.

**ROLL CALL:**

**PRESENT**

Chair	Michael Siegel
Vice Chair	Emily Ng
Commissioner	Liam R. de Villa Bourke
Commissioner	Casey Law
Commissioner	Alex Rajewski
Commissioner	Margaret Yi

**ABSENT**

Commissioner	Michael Noe
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**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Chair	Michael Siegel
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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**1. GENERAL (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)**

In Person Public Comments:

*Gary and Mara Coyne* expressed concerns about the City’s current watering day restrictions and suggested the Commission consider modifying regulations to better address individual circumstances.

Zoom Public Comments:

None.

**PRESENTATION**

**2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS**

Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager Arpy Kasparian introduced Michael Noe, Alex Rajewski and Margaret Yi as new commissioners serving their first term on the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission.

## TREE HEARING

### 3. TREE HEARING: 1813 MARENGO AVENUE

#### Recommendation

It is recommended that the Natural Resources and Environmental Commission review and provide a decision on the removal of a mature oak tree at 1813 Marengo Avenue.

Michael Vartanians, Principal Engineer, presented the details of the application and staff's recommendation to approve the removal of one mature oak tree that is currently exhibiting signs of poor health and instability. The applicant and their certified arborist additionally contributed to the case, specifically highlighting how the tree's current placement endangers the security of the property.

#### In Person Public Comments:

*Angelo Gladding* expressed concern for the significant tree damage already incurred, specifically noting the impacts of improper pruning and pavers/mulch may have on the tree's health.

#### Zoom Public Comments:

David Butler commented on the city arborist's classification of significant trees and their inclusion on the arborist reports.

#### COMMISSION ACTION AND MOTION

A motion was made by Commissioner Law, seconded by Chair Siegel and approved by roll call vote for the approval of the tree removal application at 1813 Marengo Ave. The motion carried 6-0-0, by the following vote:

AYES: Siegel, Ng, De Villa Bourke, Law, Rajewski, Yi

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Noe

ABSTAINED: None.

## ACTION

### 4. SELECTION OF OFFICERS

Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager Arpy Kasparian explained the new year election for a new chair and vice chair. Noting that nominations for these positions are open for discussion ahead of a final vote.

#### COMMISSION ACTION AND MOTION

A motion was made by Chair Siegel, seconded by Commissioner Yi and approved by roll call vote for Commissioner Ng to serve as Chair and Commissioner Siegel to serve as Vice Chair on the 2025 Natural Resources and Environmental Commission. The motion carried 6-0-0, by the following vote:

AYES: Siegel, Ng, De Villa Bourke, Law, Rajewski, Yi  
NOES: None.  
ABSENT: Noe  
ABSTAINED: None.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 28, 2025 NREC MEETING**

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Commission review and approve the January 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

**COMMISSION ACTION AND MOTION**

A motion was made by Vice Chair Ng, seconded by Commissioner De Villa Bourke and approved by roll call vote to approve the January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting minutes. The motion carried 6-0-0, by the following vote:

AYES: Siegel, Ng, De Villa Bourke, Law, Rajewski, Yi  
NOES: None.  
ABSENT: Noe  
ABSTAINED: None.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**6. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**7. COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner De Villa Bourke shared that he is working on a project that involves the South Pasadena tree canopy coverage.

Commissioner Yi expressed interest in Commissioner De Villa Bourke’s tree canopy project, in addition to general exposure to the rules/regulations surrounding trees in the city.

**8. STAFF LIAISON COMMUNICATIONS**

Environmental Services & Sustainability Manager Arpy Kasparian announced the upcoming Sustainability Fair on March 29th, which will take place at the City’s Nature Park from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

Ted Gerber, Public Works Director, acknowledged the staff’s efforts in handling tree-related issues, emphasizing their dedication to community input and recognizing their work despite the contentious nature of these matters.

Water Conservation Management Analyst Danielle Garcia shared two upcoming events: Compost and Mulch Giveaway at the Arroyo Secco Golf Course parking lot on March 1st, and the City’s Landscape Academy training on outdoor leak detection, held at the Library Community Room on March 19th in honor of Fix a Leak Week.

**9. UPCOMING EVENTS**

- *Compost & Mulch Giveaway*  
March 1, 2025, Arroyo Secco Golf Course Parking Lot
- *Landscape Academy Training: Outdoor Leak Detection*  
March 19, 2025, Library Community Room
- *Sustainability Fair + Plant Swap + Garden Tour*  
March 29, 2025, South Pasadena Nature Park
- LA County Smart Gardening Webinars  
(<https://www.ladpw.org/epd/sq/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 7:40P.M. PT to the next Regular Commission meeting scheduled for March 25<sup>th</sup> 2025.

Respectfully submitted:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Arpy Kasparian  
 Staff Liaison, Environmental Services  
 & Sustainability Manager

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Emily Ng  
 Chair

Approved at Commission Meeting:

## **ITEM 8**

### Upcoming Events

# Sustainability Fair

## Plant Swap & Garden Tour



**Saturday | March 29 | 1-4 PM**  
**Arroyo Seco Woodland & Wildlife Park**  
**“Nature Park”**

**A FREE event for the whole family!**



**Plant Swap** – Bring a plant, take a plant! Thanks to Bellefontaine Nursery, Artemisia Nursery, and Bartlett Tree Experts, we’ll have a variety of native and low-water plants available. Please bring a potted, labeled plant (no excess cuttings).

**Garden Tour** – Explore South Pasadena’s superbloom! Kids can follow the Story Path or join the Nature Scavenger Hunt. Tour times: 1:45pm & 3:15pm.

**Growing Native Plants Workshop** – Learn from horticulturist Antonio Sanchez on rooting native plant cuttings and growing them from seeds. Sessions at 1:30pm & 3:00pm.

**Bike Valet** – Ride your bike and park with ease! Environmental Programs – Learn about water conservation rebates, the leaf blower ban, organics recycling, and more!

**Connect with Environmental Organizations** – Discover sustainable living tips!

**And Much More!**

 [www.southpasbeautiful.org](http://www.southpasbeautiful.org)

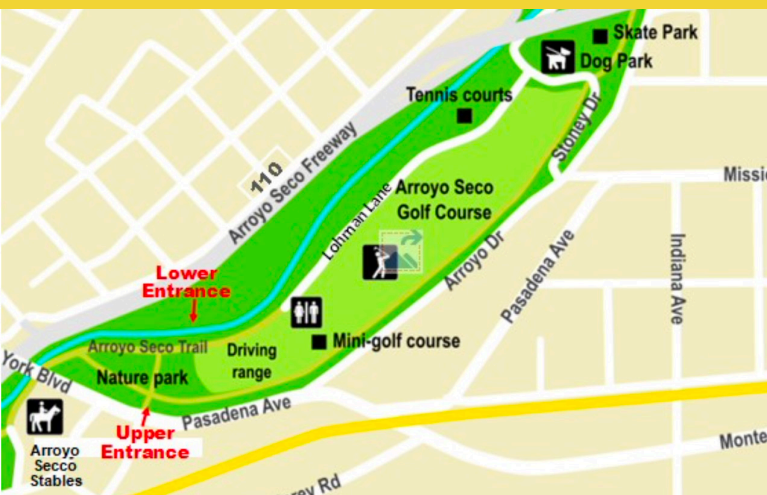
 [www.SouthPasadenaCA.gov/EnvironmentalPrograms](http://www.SouthPasadenaCA.gov/EnvironmentalPrograms)

**The Upper Entrance** is on the 100 block of Pasadena Avenue, east of the York Blvd. Bridge.

- Street parking is available

**The Lower Entrance** is just past the Arroyo Seco Golf Course driving range. Take the paved shared-use path located at the west end of Lohman Lane. Parking is available on Lohman Lane.

- South Pas Active will host a free Bike Valet at the lower entrance.





# Landscape Academy

PRESENTED BY THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA  
SUSTAINABILITY DIVISION

# FREE

## LANDSCAPE TRAINING SERIES

Learn. Create. Grow.



### BEAUTIFUL GARDENS ON MINIMAL WATER



**Wednesday**  
**April 23, 2025**  
**6:00PM**  
**Library**

You don't have to sacrifice beauty for water and energy conservation. In this course, participants will learn to maintain a stunning, drought-resilient yard using sustainable, water-efficient practices.

### LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMATIONS ON A BUDGET



**Saturday**  
**May 17, 2025**  
**10:00AM**  
**City Chambers**

For many, replacing turf with a Watershed Wise landscape can feel overwhelming and expensive. This workshop guides residents on managing costs, prioritizing choices, and minimizing expenses.

**Visit link below for more information and to SIGN UP NOW!**  
**WWW.SOUTHPASADENACA.GOV/ENVIRONMENTALPROGRAMS**



# COMING UP



**APRIL 23RD**

**WEDNESDAY 6:00PM**

**LIBRARY COMMUNITY ROOM - 1115 EL CENTRO ST**

**BEAUTIFUL GARDENS**

**ON MINIMAL WATER**