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NEWPORT BEACH

PB&R Commission Staff Report

Agenda Item **VII-D**
August 4, 2026

TO: Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission

FROM: Municipal Operations Department
Zachary Gentry, Department Director
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PREPARED BY: Kevin Pekar, Parks and Trees Superintendent
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TITLE: Reforestation Request – 1900 Highland Drive – Front 1

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that Parks, Beaches, and Recreation (PB&R) Commission consider the reforestation request of a Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) located at 1900 Highland Drive due to various public and private property damages.

The applicant, Joyce Taur, residing at 1900 Highland Drive, has provided the required petition signatures to place this request onto the PB&R Commission Agenda to remove and replace one Jacaranda tree. If approved by the PB&R Commission, the applicant agrees to fund the removal of the tree and the planting of a replacement 36-inch box Newport Plum (*Prunus cerasifera* 'Newport'). Staff has determined that there is a suitable planting site, however; the applicant requests that the replacement tree be planted elsewhere in the City.

DISCUSSION:

The applicant, Joyce Taur, residing at 1900 Highland Drive, contacted the City to request the removal of a Jacaranda tree located at the front of her residence. Staff inspected the tree and determined that it was in fair condition. However, roots from the Jacaranda tree have caused previous damage to her sewer line, water main, driveway and the sidewalk. Ms. Taur has submitted documentation demonstrating root intrusion into her sewer lateral from 2019, a water main repair invoice from 2020, and an invoice to repair her driveway from 2025. Additionally, the City has repaired the sidewalk near the tree in the last three years. Finally, the applicant notes tree sap damages to her car while parked in her driveway and necessitates repeated cleanings.

In the City Council Policy G-1 – *Retention and Removal of City Trees*, Section IV-B - Findings Required for Removal of a City Tree, states that a tree which, "...has a repeated history of damaging public or private sewers, water mains, roadways, sidewalks, street or sidewalk drainage, curbs, walls, fences, underground utilities, or foundations...that results from City tree roots and causes significant public or private property damage (greater than \$1,000.00) may be sufficient criterion for tree removal." Staff has interpreted this provision to mean a history of damaging the same piece of infrastructure more than once. In this case, documentation was provided for separate items, and all damage was repaired without causing significant harm to the City tree. Because Ms. Taur is fearful of further costly damage, staff recommended that she move forward using the Reforestation Process.

Ms. Taur provided the required verified petition signatures to place her reforestation request before the PB&R Commission. If approved by the PB&R Commission, the applicant agrees to fund the removal of the tree and the planting of a replacement 36-inch box Newport Plum tree. Although staff has determined that there is a suitable planting site for the tree replacement, the applicant requests that the replacement be planted elsewhere in the City.

NOTICING:

Ms. Joyce Taur, Council Member Erik Weigand, and the Mariners Community Association have received a copy of this report. The tree was posted with information regarding the reforestation request and postcard notifications were sent by the City to property owners within 500 feet of the subject tree's location. The agenda item has also been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which PB&R Commission considers the item).

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Reforestation Application
- B. Tree Removal Report/Review
- C. Info Sheet – Newport Plum (*Prunus cerasifera* 'Newport')
- D. Map highlighting surrounding property owners notified of the Commission Meeting