



# NEWPORT BEACH

## PB&R Commission Staff Report

Agenda Item: **VI-A**  
May 5, 2026

**TO:** Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Municipal Operations Department  
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**PREPARED BY:** Kevin Pekar, Parks and Trees Superintendent  
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**TITLE:** Reforestation Request – 2701 Harbor View Drive – Front 1, Side 1,2,3,4,5

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that PB&R Commission consider the reforestation request of six Magnolia 'Little Gem' (*Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem') located at 2701 Harbor View Drive.

The applicant, Ms. Jennifer Durham, residing at 2701 Harbor View Dr. has provided the required homeowner association (HOA) board meeting minutes and board signature of approval to remove and replace the trees with Magnolia 'Little Gem' (*Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem') trees. If approved by the Commission, there will be a one-for-one replacement tree for each tree removed with a 24-inch box tree installed at the applicant's cost.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The applicant, Ms. Jennifer Durham, residing at 2701 Harbor View Dr., contacted the City to request the removal of six Magnolia 'Little Gem' (*Magnolia grandiflora* 'Little Gem') trees located at her home at 2701 Harbor View Dr., due to poor aesthetics due to regular pruning to preserve views.

Staff inspected the Magnolia trees and determined that they were in good condition and did not meet the criteria for removal referenced in the G-1 Policy. The applicant was advised of the Reforestation process as an option. Ms. Durham attained the required HOA board meeting minutes and board signature of approval to remove and replace the trees.

Ms. Durham is willing to pay for the tree removals and replacements, according to Policy. However, in an effort to preserve views far into the future, the applicant requests a waiver be granted so that the standard tree replacement size of 36-inch box, be reduced to a 24-inch box. The Council Policy G-6, *Maintenance and Planting of Parkway Trees*, states that the Magnolia 'Little Gem' is Designated Street Tree for the neighborhood of Harbor View Hills.

### **NOTICING:**

Ms. Durham, Council Member Lauren Kleiman, and the Harbor View Hills Community Association have received a copy of this report. The trees were posted with information regarding the Reforestation request and postcard notifications were sent by the City to property owners within

500 feet of the subject trees' locations. 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. Harbor View Hills Community Association Board Meeting Minutes
- C. Tree Removal Report/Review
- D. Info Sheet – Magnolia “Little Gem”
- E. Map highlighting surrounding property owners notified of the Commission Meeting