CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025, AT 7:00 PM

AMENDED ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

Amended Additional Documents to the December 3. 2025 City Council Meetings. The attached documents include submitted written public comments and amendments to the agenda. Submit by no later than 12:00 p.m., on the day of the City Council meeting. Correspondence received after this time will be distributed the following business day.

AMENDED ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS TO THE DECEMBER 3, 2025 CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- General Public Comment_Yvonne LaRose
- General Public Comment_Yvonne LaRose (2)
- General Public Comment_Yael Pardess
- Public Comment_Mendell Thompson_Item No. 9
- Public Comment_Yvonne LaRose_Item No. 10
- Public Comment_John_Item No. 11 (2)
- Public Comment_John_Item No. 11
- Public Comment_Monica Leon_Item No. 15
- Public Comment_Jeff Leon_Item No. 15
- Public Comment_Angelo Gladding_Item No. 15
- Public Comment_Barbara Eisenstein_Item No. 15
- Public Comment_Alex Rajewski_Item No. 15
- Memo for Item No. 15
- Presentation for Item No. 3
- Presentation for Item No. 4
- Presentation for Item No. 13
- Presentation for Item No. 15

From: Yvonne LaRose
To: City Council Public Comment
Subject: General Public Comment for December 3, 2025 Council Meeting - Proposal for On-Demand Transportation Contract
Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 11:24:37 AM

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During a previous Council meeting, Mayor Pro Tem Rossi announced a plan to offer an on-demand transportation service for the City.

Unfortunately, I don't remember if any details were part of that disclosure. What I DO remember is how much this City needs such a service that can fill the gaps of transportation after 4:00 PM, service available on weekends and holidays, and service when unexpected circumstances arrive and one MUST find a reasonably priced means of getting home.

"Reasonably priced" and "on-demand" are critical factors in the creation of this service. Our Dial a Ride service is $0.50 for a one-way trip. But the service isn't available during all hours, nor on weekends, holidays, and after 4:00 PM. Reservations normally require at least 24 hours in advance.

The next affordable mode of transportation is ACCESS which is available 24 hours a day, every day, including weekends and holidays. Although they require at least a 24 hours in advance reservation, once that reservation is made, it cannot be altered - even in a situation where the client becomes ill and needs to be transported to home immediately or if the event being attended either ends early or is cancelled once the client has arrived.

The third alternative is using a shared-ride service such as Uber or Lyft. These services are available on-demand and 24 days a week, **without** prior reservations. They are also the most expensive transportation option, sometimes as much as $20-$35 for a one-way trip of 2.0 miles.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support the concept of implementing an on-demand transportation service if it can meet the safety and cost comparisons to Dial a Ride or ACCESS. Additional important factors in having the service are having call-out protocols to notify the customer when the vehicle has arrived at the pick-up location, and courteous, responsible professionalism on delivery of service.

Viva
Yvonne LaRose, CAC
Organization Development Consultant:
Diversity/Title VII, Harassment, Ethics

From: Yvonne LaRose
To: City Council Public Comment
Subject: General Public Comment: Acknowledging Chief Solinsky"s Service to South Pasadena
Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 12:29:32 PM

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Council Comment Submission: Tribute to Chief Solinsky

Scheduled for: First Week of December 2025 Council Meeting
Timestamped: October 31, 2025, 8:00 PM
Submitted by: Yvonne LaRose, Independent Consultant and Civic Steward

When I returned to South Pasadena in November 2019, Police Department service was poor. Officers refused to respond to trespassing and safety concerns. Sometimes, they didn't show up at all. One's mental stability was mocked.

During a Zoom meeting in 2021, the public was asked what traits we wanted in our next Chief of Police, the loudest outcry was for better response to domestic violence calls.

Under the stewardship of **new** Chief, Brian Solinsky, things began to shift. Trust was built. Mutual respect emerged, even across political differences. Officers learned the private stories behind each dwelling. Their responses became evidence of the Department's Core Values.

There were lapses. Trust was sometimes erased. But in life-or-death moments—and in unflappable responses to stalking, harassment, lost property, and ACCESS failures—the Department responded with speed, accuracy, and integrity. These moments affirmed the human condition, honored safety, and dedication to threatened dangers.

Earlier this year, I publicly acknowledged a 90–95% improvement from 2021. By September, I assessed a regression to 80%, with a desire to see that remedied. Recent community outreach efforts will help restore that upward trajectory.

This is the department Chief Brian Solinsky leaves behind: one shaped not only by his leadership, but by the quiet transmission of change. I thank him for his stewardship, the one who carried community insight into institutional practice.

Viva
Yvonne LaRose, CAC
Organization Development Consultant:
Diversity/Title VII, Harassment, Ethics

From:	Yael Pardess
To:	City Council Public Comment; Omari Ferguson; Janet Braun; Jon Primuth; Sheila Rossi; Michael Cacciotti
Subject:	Comments about New Tree Ordinance
Date:	Wednesday, December 3, 2025 6:33:58 PM

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To: The City Council of South Pasadena

From: Yael Pardess, Mount Washington LA 90065
Date: December 3, 2025
Re: ***Item 15. Consideration of Ordinance No. 2409 Amending Chapter 34 (Trees and Shrubs) of the South Pasadena Municipal Code***

I d like to comment on the updated ordinance. I live in LA but care deeply about our protected trees and the dwindling urban canopy. I have been following up this new ordinance and have several concerns.

***Trees protected list- Should include Elderberries**

***E5-6**- Allowing Insurance company to set the standards for tree removal is a bad policy. We see too many mature healthy trees being removed by owner without an arborist being consulted, because of threats of insurance cancellation. This committee must request an objective arborist review especially in light of Zone 0 that will allow excessive unnecessary tree removal. In many cases trees can be saved with a proper non excessive trim. It has been shown in recent fires that trees and hedges can save your home from fire, not endanger it as ZZ wants us to believe. There are trees that can save your home.
There is no provision at all for tree ecology and what it offers as far as shade cooling and biological diversity around us. The ordinance is favoring development, and allowing easy removal of trees, over creating a sustainably co existance with nature.
Ordinance must also take into account the fact that hillside trees are holding the slopes together.
Isolating trees from each other, exacerbate heat islands, drying effect and fire dangers.
Additionally- Trimming must exempt large branches,(Size to be defined) and cannot be over 25%. We see excessive disfiguring trimming all over Los Angeles, endangering both trees and homes. Ordinance should penalize over trimming of all trees.

***34.7B-1** Why are fruit trees not allowed as replacement trees? Citrus fruits are known for their fire protective qualities.

***34.7B-5 and 34.9 Exemptions**. With ZZ approaching, there may be an issue with replacing trees removed because of defensible space, especially if property is too small. Even with the allowance to replant them elsewhere at 50% of number required, City will lose countess trees. Not requiring a permit for removals in ZZ will allow people to remove trees unnecessarily, especially that could stay in ZZ and be trimmed accordingly. It should not be allowed.

***34.7B-8**- bond should be required, not "may" To make sure a max trees survive and are taken care off. Bond should be high. Developer opt to forfeit their bods and let trees die. It must be prevented

***34.7B-c-1-** Replanted tree number required (not associated with development) is too low. 1:1 for protected trees, significant trees etc. LA does not separate categories and all protected trees removed over a certain size call for a replacement ratio of 1:4 for protected and 1 for significant. For a city that cares for trees- your ratio is simply too low.

***34.7B-c-2**- a Ratio of 2:1 for protected trees removed. Too low, same note as above.
As far as DBH required, if I understand it correctly at 16"- is too high. Most young trees are below this threshold and will be lost.
I read at the beginning of ordinance that the DBH is 4.5". Same as Los Angeles. It should be clarified

Thank you for your time

Yael Pardess
[redacted]

City of Glendora
116 E. Foothill Blvd.
Glendora, CA 91741

December 1, 2025

Re: Reappointment to Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority Board of Directors Item 9, December 3 Council Agenda

Honorable Mayor Braun and City Council,

As we near the end of 2025, I am happy to report that the Foothill Gold Line Construction Authority has now completed more than 34 miles and 23 of the 25 light rail stations entrusted to the agency since its inception more than 25 years ago. The most recent four station extension, from Glendora to Pomona, was completed on time and under budget earlier this year and opened for service this past September. As the Vice Chair of the Construction Authority board of directors, appointed by the City of South Pasadena since March 2021, and Chair of the Finance Committee, I feel great pride in the agency's accomplishments during my tenure, especially as I hear how impactful the new light rail system is to the lives of the Glendora, San Dimas, La Verne, and Pomona communities.

The work of the Construction Authority is not complete however, and I am dedicated to continuing to help lead the agency as we embark on the Pomona to Claremont project in the months and years ahead. The Construction Authority is currently underway with the procurement process to hire the design/engineering team, and separately the construction manager, for the next 3.2-mile project that will complete the final station in Los Angeles County, and I look forward to continuing to support the project and advocate for its future completion to Montclair and hopefully Ontario International Airport.

I believe having consistent leadership during this period in the agency's history is crucial and I hope you will allow me the honor to continue to represent South Pasadena on the Construction Authority board as we move into this important next phase.

Unfortunately, I am currently out of the country and unable to be with you in person as you consider extending my appointment. I would be happy to attend a future meeting to provide a more detailed update on the project if that would be of interest to council. In the meantime, I would truly appreciate your support by allowing me to continue to represent the city on the Construction Authority board for the next term.

Thank you for your consideration and happy holidays,

Mendell Thompson

City of Glendora, City Council Member

From: Yvonne LaRose
To: City Council Public Comment
Subject: Public Comment on Agenda Item 10 - City Council Meeting 12/3/25
Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 2:50:00 AM

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While reading the proposed amendment to SPMC Chapter 2 regarding Commission members and requirements for consideration several things leapt out that raise questions that need to be addressed.

The first was that all of the previous definitions of Term of Office was adjusted to bring clarity to how filling an vacancy before a term ended was further clarified as well as how to calculate service for two terms with a 12-month lapse before being eligible for a new appointment. That was an understandable restatement.

Clarification of how youth commission members is also defined in the amendment. That is also helpful.

However, the terms of the Amendment become murky when we reach matters relating to the Public Safety Commission.

> "2.40 Creation. There is hereby created a public safety commission of the city. At least two of the members should have a background in public safety."

While it is helpful to be specific regarding what constitutes being a baseline member of that commission, the phrase "background in public safety" is quite ambiguous. What constitutes a background in public safety? There are automatic deferrals to law enforcement, medicine, fire and disaster control. But there are other occupations that are also essentials to public safety that don't leapt to mind until deeper thought is given to the subject.

In addition, it appears the Public Safety Commission is the only one that defines the character of its membership, whereas, in previous iterations, the character of the members is stated and defined. Why have those descriptions been deleted? Why is Public Safety the only commission with some limiting descriptions of it constituency?

"Composition of Members" is mentioned three (3) times. At the first instance, it relates to the composition of members on the Public Works Infrastructure Commission. In that instance, the section was renumbered to read " Section 2.47-5" with no other change.

At Section 29, "Composition of Members" is mentioned a second time as it relates to the Finance Commission. There, the item is repealed in its entirety. There are no specific areas of expertise required for inclusion.

The third and final mention of "Composition of Members" is in relation to the Public Arts Commission (at Section 34 of the proposed Amendment) and is simply renumbered to read

"Section 2.79-11." Again, there is no language that limits or expands the level of qualification to serve on that commission.

The sticking point of the proposed Amendments is the specific delineation of membership on the Public Safety Commission while overlooking that matter in relation to the existing Commissions. The proposed ordinance states: “At least two of the members should have a background in public safety.”

I ask for clarification of what the City means by “background in public safety.” If defined narrowly - only law enforcement, fire, or medicine - we risk excluding qualified individuals whose work has directly safeguarded our community in other ways.

This is not about whether I, personally, could serve on the Commission. The definition of “background in public safety” is only the tip of the iceberg. Without clear definitions, residents cannot know whether their experience qualifies them to serve. That uncertainty itself becomes a barrier, discouraging participation and reinforcing inequity.

The deeper concerns are how restrictive language can perpetuate exclusion, even unintentionally, and silence voices that should be part of our civic fabric, as well as providing an understanding of what is considered "public safety" background.

At a recent WISPPA meeting, one community member responded to a rallying call for volunteers with the words: “If you can get acknowledged.” Their comment reflects the frustration of those who feel it is impossible to participate because their demographic is routinely overlooked. Their voice—and others like theirs—needs to be heard. Their absence from civic functions is not apathy; it is evidence of exclusion. Perhaps this needs to be remedied.

Public safety is broader than disaster or emergency response. It is also about prevention, trust, and inclusion.

I urge the Council to at least clarify this definition (or broaden it) so that all qualified community members from all walks of civic life may be considered. In the alternative, include "composition" for each of the commission descriptions.

Outreach must extend to all members of our community, not limited to those who fit a particular image.

Viva
Yvonne LaRose, CAC
Organization Development Consultant:
Diversity/Title VII, Harassment, Ethics

From: John C.
To: City Council Public Comment
Subject: Email Comment for December 3, 2025, South Pasadena City Council Meeting for Item Number 11
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 3:58:30 PM

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To Mayor Janet Braun, Mayor Pro Tem Sheila Ross, Council Member Omari Ferguson, Council Member Jon Primuth, and Council Member Michael A. Cacciotti,

Important for South Pasadena City Council Meeting on December 3, 2025, for Consent Calendar Item Number 11. Please read this article below from GM Authority by George Barta.

From, John

By **George Barta**
December 10, 2024 4:05 am

Southern California Edison Adds 280 Chevy Silverado EV WT Units To Its Fleet



One thing that the burgeoning market of electric pickup trucks and the well-established field of ICE-powered trucks have in common is variety. For

example, an electric full-size pickup can be a well-equipped premium vehicle like the GMC Sierra EV Denali or a no-nonsense workhorse like the Chevy Silverado EV WT.



Utility company Southern California Edison (SCE) realized the potential of electric work trucks and added 280 Chevy Silverado EV WT units to its service fleet. In addition to the obvious environmental benefits, SCE is utilizing electric trucks to lower ownership costs by saving on fuel and maintenance. It’s a step toward SCE’s goal of a 100-percent electric light-duty fleet.

"The deployment represents a pivotal step in SCE’s commitment to electrify our fleet and reduce greenhouse gas emissions," said Todd Carlson, Principal Manager of Fleet for Southern California Edison. "At SCE, we’re committed to leading by example in California’s clean energy transformation. Working with partners like Chevrolet allows us to integrate high-performing electric vehicles while improving SoCal’s air quality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions."



"We are excited to help innovative customers like Southern California Edison to meet their electrification goals with the Chevrolet Silverado EV WT as part of their fleet transformation," said Sandor Piszar, vice president of GM Envolve. "The Silverado EV WT combines the performance and reliability commercial customers expect with the benefits and low cost of ownership of electric propulsion."

The 2025 Chevy Silverado EV WT just recently became available for retail sales in November. Previously, it was limited to fleet and commercial buyers like SCE.

The 2025 Silverado EV WT lineup starts with the 2WT Standard Range model, equipped with a 14-module battery pack and four-wheel drive. This configuration offers an estimated 170 miles of range per charge and a starting price of $57,095 - roughly $10,000 less than the 2024 3WT model when configured with the 1FL Fleet Package.



For customers who need more range, the 5WT Extended Range model features a 20-module battery pack and four-wheel drive, starting at $69,495, and has a range of 422 miles. Meanwhile, the top-tier 8WT Max Range model provides a 24-module battery pack with four-wheel drive, boasting the longest range in the lineup at 492 miles and starting at $77,795.
All Chevy Silverado EV model variants are underpinned by the GM BT1 platform and are built at GM Factory Zero plant in Michigan.

From: John C.
To: City Council Public Comment
Subject: Email Comment for December 3, 2025, South Pasadena City Council Meeting for Item Number 11
Date: Monday, December 1, 2025 3:38:20 PM

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To Mayor Janet Braun, Mayor Pro Tem Sheila Ross, Council Member Omari Ferguson, Council Member Jon Primuth, and Council Member Michael A. Cacciotti,

Important for South Pasadena City Council Meeting on December 3, 2025, for Consent Calendar Item Number 11. Please read below this press release by the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles City Council Member Bob Blumenfield,

From, John

Posted on 11/21/2023

PRESS RELEASE COUNCILMEMBER BOB BLUMENFIELD UNVEILS THE CITY'S CHEVROLET SILVERADO EV FLEET



****PRESS RELEASE****

COUNCILMEMBER BOB BLUMENFIELD UNVEILS THE CITY'S CHEVROLET SILVERADO EV FLEET

First municipality in California with this ½ ton all electric pickup truck

WEST SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, CA – Pushing for innovations to reduce the impact of climate change, Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, General Services Department Assistant General Manager John Trevgoda, and LA Sanitation Chief Operating Officer Traci Minamide unveiled the City's Chevrolet Silverado EV fleet. The first municipality to add the Silverado EV to its fleet in California, these ½ ton all electric trucks are capable of fulfilling endless applications throughout the City.

"Leveraging the purchasing power of the city as a major customer can drive and support electrification and innovation, and it's exciting to be part of this transition to electric vehicles throughout our City fleet," said **Councilmember Bob Blumenfield**. "I'm encouraged by the collaboration with General Motors who have risen to the occasion to develop a pickup to be cleaner and better for our climate goals, and grateful for our departments and city workers who will use these vehicles every day to deliver services."

"The Department of General Services thanks Councilmember Blumenfield and Mayor Bass for their leadership towards improving our environment while reducing our dependence on fossil fuels," said **General Services Department Assistant General Manager John Trevgoda on behalf of General Manager Tony Royster**. "General Services continuously seeks opportunities to replace the City's fleet to EV vehicles and equipment. We appreciate General Motors working with the City to introduce the Chevrolet all electric Silverado for city use as we move towards meeting the City's goal of electrifying all of its fleet."

"LASAN is proud to share in this climate action to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions," said **LASAN Chief Operating Officer Traci J. Minamide**. "Reducing the climate-impact of our services by utilizing electric vehicles like this new Chevrolet Silverado is a critical component of our environmental program."

The 2024 Chevrolet Silverado EV All Wheel Drive has an estimated 450 mile range, 1440 pound payload capacity, approximately 10,000 pound towing capacity, and a 400v architecture, with the ability to charge at 800v/350 kilowatts, allowing the truck to charge 100 miles of range in approximately 10 minutes. In 2022, the Los Angeles City Council voted to transition to 100 percent clean energy by 2035. This plan, known as LA100, demonstrates that the City's goal of reaching 100 percent renewable electricity is achievable 10 years earlier than originally planned. In addition, the Council directed City departments to create an Electric Vehicle Master Plan to transition the over 10,000 vehicles into a green zero carbon fleet. This requires innovation for large scale industrial vehicles in addition to cars and trucks.

Blumenfield added, "these new EV trucks are built for hardcore City work — they go 450 miles on a charge, have crazy torque, carry bigger payloads, require little maintenance, and they're good for the environment."

The Mayor and City Council have directed all City departments to mitigate the effects of climate change in the City. As Chair of the Budget, Finance, and Innovation Committee, Blumenfield is working diligently with all departments, especially the General Services Department and LA Sanitation to electrify the City's fleet.

From: Monica Leon
To: Omari Ferguson; Sheila Rossi; Jon Primuth; Michael Cacciotti; Janet Braun; City Council Public Comment
Subject: Tree Ordinance Urban Forestry Plan Needed
Date: Tuesday, December 2, 2025 10:02:16 PM

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Hi, my name is Monica Leon and I am a resident and teacher at South Pasadena.

On October 1st It was great to witness the involvement of South Pasadena residents of all ages in our city issues. We united to speak up our concerns about the flaws of the new tree ordinance that was about to be passed. Our voices were heard and for that I'm grateful. Thank you for pausing the amendment.

However, the latest revision is more concerning than the previous one. The amendment gives full power to the Public Works Department to "...add to, delete from, or otherwise modify the list [of protected trees] without further action by the City Council". This takes us back to the beginning of the issue and no improvement has been made. Now the decision of tree removal is at the mercy of the Public Works Department which lacks the knowledge and expertise of a certified arborist.

The amendment also mentions the approval of tree removals in Fire Hazard Severity Zones; however, it does not mention anything about the critical hazard of mudslides due to erosion as a consequence of tree removal.

The amendment does not mention anything about developing an urban forest tree management plan, which knowledge and expertise will guide you to make an educated decision about trees.

Consult an urban forestry planner and then revise the ordinance.

Thank you,
-Monica Leon

From:	J L
To:	Omari Ferguson; Sheila Rossi; Jon Primuth; Michael Cacciotti; Janet Braun; City Council Public Comment
Subject:	Tree Ordinance Amendment
Date:	Tuesday, December 2, 2025 8:41:00 PM

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This amendment shows progress but raises critical concerns. If the true goal is expediting removals for hazardous trees or loss of insurance coverage---pass that section immediately. The remainder contains flaws that fall short of South Pasadena's standards.

Critical Issue: Unchecked Public Works Authority

Any attempt to protect trees is erased by Public Works. They can change the tree lists at will and change it back once the damage is done. This is with no input from an Urban Forestry Management Plan or a certified arborist.

Required Changes:

Section 34.1(b) – Approved Replacement Tree List
Strike: ~~"and may add to, delete from, or otherwise modify the list without further action by the City Council"~~
Add: "Any additions, deletions, or modifications shall require City Council/NREC approval."

Sections 34.1(u), (y), (z) – Protected/Restricted/Fire-Hazard Lists
Strike: ~~"and may add to, delete from, or otherwise modify the list without further action by the City Council"~~
Add: "Any additions, deletions, or modifications shall be adopted by resolution of the City Council/NREC."

We need an Urban Forestry Management Plan for guidance, not liability-driven decisions. We asked for transparency. This amendment has too much buried in it.

Neighbors have a say in their community and should be able to appeal. This past year we saw two appeals. This isn't costly with the available solutions. SaveSouthPasadenaTrees.org has a free tool for 100-foot radius notifications. Residents stand ready to create additional tools that streamline permitting while ensuring accountability. This is a Public Works challenge—allow residents to contribute solutions.

South Pasadena deserves an Urban Forestry Management Plan before making irreversible decisions about our trees.

Thank you,
Jeff Leon

Council,

This is an embarrassment.

Tree City USA

> South Pasadena has been a Tree City USA community for over 25 years, demonstrating its commitment to protecting and enhancing the urban forest.

Tree City USA means nothing.

Shrubs

Shrub protection is gone. After Councilmember Omari Ferguson's first council meeting I spoke with him and told him about shrub protections. He so confidently responsed "We're going to get rid of that." Councilmember Omari Ferguson removed a hillside of protected shrubs without a permit.

There is a protected shrubland across the street from my house in his district that the Fire chief has applied for a grant to "manage". The fire chief does not know anything at all about plants or trees, native or otherwise. Omari Ferguson and our fire chief have failed miserably to lead during this transition. The tiny amount of guidance has been in direct conflict with one another.

Our own building code discusses the need for shrubs and vegetation on hillsides for erosion prevention. We keep talking about trees under power lines. You need shrubs grown in standard form under and around power lines. Flame heights are kept low with multi-trunk shrubs. Proudly removing protections for shrubs *now* is a clear indication of a blissfully ignorant urban forestry system.

Species

The species lists provided are a joke. There are blatant spelling errors on the documents furnished by staff. The single pine species called out, Canary Island Pine, is considered one of the most fire safe. It is even included in the recommended species list which is just a copy/paste from LA County's outdated and woefully incomplete list. Where are the native, non-resinous deciduous trees such as California Black Walnut and Blue Elderberry that would be ideal specimens for fire safety and view preservation in the hills?

Obviously these lists don't matter at all because this reading allows public works to change them completely at their will whenever and however they see fit. So the staff that has failed to produce City Arborist Rebecca Mejia to stand at the podium, failed to ask Public Works Operations Manager Catrina Peguero to stand at the podium, failed to present a species list of any quality, should be given full control over all species decisions moving forward. No Urban Forestry Management Plan is mentioned in this round.

Accountability

Public Works has to get the city arborist to write a report to remove a street tree but no longer has to notify the residents?

Public Works will hire their own City Arborist of unknown credentials instead of using one related to a city contractor? This absolutely can and will be a downgrade and a final lockstep towards full scale corruption of our tree authority. The only respectable oversight is ***multiple*** rotating independent consulting arborists. This move towards a single city arborist as the choke point of all tree removals is a broken implementation of our existing code:

> 34.12 (d) The reason for removal. Any trees proposed for removal due to poor health or condition shall have the condition of the tree documented in a written report prepared and signed by a certified arborist;

The application is supposed to come with an arborist report. Nowhere does it say the City is supposed to furnish said report. This is just one of many instances of staff breaking the current implementation to establish a precedent to rewrite the code broken.

Tree of Heaven

This single species needs to be required removal city-wide.

Palms

You're banning all palms city-wide forever. The native Hooded Oriole sews its nests onto palm fronds. It's one of my favorite songbirds because of its bright yellow color, playful nature, beautiful singing and unique attraction to and sharing of the same nectar sources as hummingbirds–namely my year round flowering protected non-native 18' Cape Honeysuckle **shrub**.

Palms are crucial lookouts for Owls and Hawks and their skirts are the only effective bat habitats. These animals keep our city free of vermin at no cost to us. These aren't just cozy ideas. This is delicate infrastructure. This isn't just pie in the sky environmentalism. This is hard reality being ignored for dubious reasons out of greed, ignorance and irrational fear, uncertainty and doubt.

Palms are on postcards of Los Angeles all around the world. If maintained they aren't a fire hazard *at all*. Putting them on a restricted list because you've seen footage of them burning isn't making us safer, it's giving the appearance of making us safer while actually making us worse off.

In twenty years the kids living in the City of Trees will have to learn the majesty of the Canary Island Palm on their phones.

Fire

Trees removed for fire safety MUST BE REPLACED BY SIMILARLY SIGNIFICANT

SPECIES. No significant trees are being put in the ground. Every single replacement tree that goes in the ground is a sub-tree or patio tree that stays or is kept well below the roof line. This is a complete and utter joke. It isn't safer and it isn't canopy forming. It's just the pathetic side effect of a failed urban forestry system run by people who don't care, can't care and won't care.

Shrubs and hillsides need to be discussed with actual facts. Councilmember Omari Ferguson has derailed the conversation for his own personal interests and Councilmember Michael Caccioti has completely excused himself from any kind of actual understanding of or involvement in our urban forestry system while liaison to NREC this entire time. There is no leadership and there has been no leadership throughout this entire process. Nobody on staff has any clue what they're doing and it is resulting in mass removals and mass permanent butchering. The canopy decline is being touted as **THE SYSTEM WORKING AS INTENDED**.

This has left Mayor Braun and Mayor Pro Tem Rossi to literally figure everything out in the eleventh hour with our city attorney and the couple of people from public works that have failed those who care about tree protections all along. The entire process has failed miserably. **THE ENTIRE PROCESS HAS FAILED MISERABLY**.

Replacement

Am I understanding correctly that replacements aren't triggered until DBH is *over* 16 inches? And despite these tree replacement numbers all permits processed this year thus far will be returning deposits for all but a single tree regardless of actual replacement quantities? So if they're required to plant only one and only 50% need to be planted on site–do they have to plant anything at all?

If the numbers to replace are lowered the 50% onsite means something very different. There's been no actual study of any of these numbers. It's just spitballing whatever will be the least burden to tree removers. Again, an oak sapling, the best size to plant for long term health, is 15.0

There's no concept of Urban Forestry anywhere in sight. A significant frontage tree needs to be replaced with a significant frontage tree of higher quality or there'll be absolutely nothing but junk trees being put in the ground in perpetuity.

Comments/Appeals

Councilmember Omari Ferguson should have applied for a permit to remove the shrubs on his hillside and his neighbors deserved to be notified and allowed to provide comment.

Again, here is a tool to get the addresses in the 100' radius instantly: ragt.ag/south-pasadena/trees/radius-map

I've tried to make it abundantly clear the need for an appeal process and the need for accountability and transparency but I've been institutionally gaslit all along the way at a level that beggars belief.

Now I have to write it all down. I've been so patient and given everyone involved such a benefit of the doubt. Now the people of the City of Trees will have a full documentation of what is actually happening inside of our urban forestry system and I promise you it is going to be ugly.

Legacy

You will be named as the council that legitimized the full scale corruption of our urban forestry system and officially oversaw the tipping point toward the end of the City of Trees as we know it. The Very High fire hazard zone of Southwest Monterey Hills will be a treeless and otherwise stubcut concrete ghetto in ten years time.

Where are the KPIs?

Angelo Gladding
[redacted]
Vice President, South Pasadena Beautiful

From: Barbara Eisenstein
To: City Council Public Comment
Subject: Agenda Item 15: Changes to Proposed Tree Ordinance Chapter 34
Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 11:57:47 AM
Attachments: TreeOrdComments_251203.pdf

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I am attaching by comments on the changes to the proposed Tree Ordinance. I respectfully urge the City Council to take the necessary time to refine these provisions before adoption, ensuring the ordinance is both effective and practical for our community.

Thank you for the steps you have already taken to ensure that our city provides the needed protections for our outstanding urban forest.

Yours,
Barbara Eisenstein

--



Check Calendar for Upcoming Volunteer Days

To: The City Council of South Pasadena
From: Barbara Eisenstein, 1852 Monterey Road
Date: December 3, 2025
Re: ***Item 15. Consideration of Ordinance No. 2409 Amending Chapter 34 (Trees and Shrubs) of the South Pasadena Municipal Code***

Thank you for modifying the proposed tree ordinance based on earlier public input. Your willingness to incorporate community feedback demonstrates commendable responsiveness.

While these changes represent progress, I believe several minor but important modifications are still needed. I outline two specific areas of concern and one general recommendation below.

1. **TREE TRIMMING REQUIREMENTS** (pp. 145-158)

Current Language (p. 145, Section 34.4(a)): "A Tree Trimming Permit shall be required for the Trimming of any live foliage, limbs or branches of a Protected Tree."

Concern: Requiring permits for all pruning of Protected Trees is overly restrictive and may discourage residents from performing routine, beneficial maintenance. For example, a resident pruning a low-growing limb that obstructs a sidewalk would need to obtain a permit—an unnecessary bureaucratic hurdle for minor maintenance.

Proposed Solution: Include a de minimis exception allowing unpermitted pruning when less than 10% of the live canopy is involved. This would enable responsible tree maintenance without excessive regulatory burden while still protecting trees from significant harm.

2. **RESTRICTED TREES** (p. 143)

Current Language: "Restricted Trees" are Trees or species of Trees which have been designated by the Public Works Department as Trees that cannot be planted on any public or private property in the City. The Public Works Department shall maintain and periodically review the Restricted Tree list and may add to, delete from, or otherwise modify the list without further action by the City Council.

Concern: The Public Works Department should not have unilateral authority to modify the Restricted Tree list without review by the appropriate commission or council.

Additional Issues with Current Restricted Tree List:

- Inconsistent enforcement: Sweetgum and magnolia trees appear on the restricted list yet continue to be planted throughout the city, representing a major policy shift without clear justification.
- Typographical error: "Brazilian petter" should read "Brazilian pepper."
- Unclear criteria: Only three specific coral tree species are listed. Given that many other coral tree varieties exist, the rationale for restricting only these species should be explained.
- I think this is a typo: Eucalyptus river red gum \American sweetgum. I am not aware of a Eucalyptus River Red Gum/American sweetgum.
- In general the tree lists should be carefully reviewed.

3. **CRITICAL STAFFING NEED: CITY ARBORIST POSITION**

Current Language (p. 146, Section 34.4(d)): "The City Arborist shall evaluate each application for a Tree Trimming Permit..."

Concern: Throughout this ordinance, critical responsibilities are assigned to a "City Arborist." Both tree trimming permits and tree removal applications require evaluation by a qualified City Arborist. However, the city currently lacks this essential position.

Recommendation: The city must establish and fund a City Arborist position to properly implement and enforce this ordinance. Without dedicated professional staff, these well-intentioned regulations cannot be effectively administered.

CONCLUSION

Thank you for your efforts to protect our urban forest through these important changes. I respectfully urge the City Council to take the necessary time to refine these provisions before adoption, ensuring the ordinance is both effective and practical for our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Eisenstein

From: Alex Rajewski
To: City Council Public Comment
Subject: Tree Ordinance
Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2025 5:03:26 PM

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As one of the NREC commissioners I am happy to see the City Council considering a much-needed revision of the Tree Ordinance at tonight's meeting. I commend the council members and city staff for their effort and dedication to solving this, and for the incorporation of the extensive public comments. The revised ordinance is much clearer than the current version, and, I think, would be an improvement overall if adopted as is. That said, I believe a few additional refinements would strengthen it further.

First, the lists of protected or restricted tree species could use more clarity. The current draft does not include unambiguous scientific names, which contributes to confusion in implementation. It would also be helpful to understand the criteria used to select these species so the lists can be thoughtfully maintained as our city's forestry needs and climate conditions evolve. Likewise, updates to these lists should be more transparent, for instance requiring that amendments be reviewed or approved by NREC, the Planning Authority, or the Council, rather than managed solely internally.

Finally, the ordinance mentions but does not define a "fruit tree" clearly. Given that these trees are considered distinct with regards to replacement requirements, I think the definition is important. I do not believe a concrete list of fruit tree species would be beneficial, but rather a more general rubric to define this category. For example: "Fruit tree means any tree intentionally grown or managed primarily for producing edible fruit for human consumption, where such fruit forms a substantial and recurring harvest under normal care. Trees that produce botanically edible fruit but are not ordinarily cultivated, maintained, or harvested as a food crop are not considered fruit trees."

Thank you for considering these recommendations and for your continued work on this ordinance.

Sincerely,

Alex Rajewski, PhD
Natural Resources and Environmental Commissioner

City of South Pasadena
City Manager's Office

Memo

Date: December 3, 2025

To: The Honorable City Council

Via: Todd Hileman, City Manager

From: Roxanne Diaz, City Attorney

Subject: December 3, 2025, City Council Meeting Item No. 15 - Ordinance on Trees

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Attached is a further revised Tree Ordinance (Ordinance No. 2409). Revisions were made to clarify certain text and other nonsubstantive revisions were made. Text that was added is shown in "red." Text that was eliminated is shown in strikethrough and is also in "red."

CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA

ORDINANCE NO. 2409

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, AMENDING CHAPTER 34 (TREES AND SHRUBS) OF THE SOUTH PASADENA MUNICIPAL CODE IN ITS ENTIRETY

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 34 entitled "Trees and Shrubs" of the South Pasadena Municipal Code is hereby amended in its entirety to read as follows:

"CHAPTER 34

TREES

Sections:

34.0 Purpose.
34.1 Definitions.
34.2 Maintenance of Trees on Private Property.
34.3 Maintenance of Trees on Public Property.
34.4 Tree Trimming Permit Requirements.
34.5 Tree Removal Permit Requirements - Not Associated With Development.
34.6 Tree Removal Permit Requirements - Associated With Development.
34.7 Tree Removal Permit Replacement Tree Requirements
34.8 Emergency Trimming of Mature Protected Trees.
34.9 Exemptions.
34.10 Obstruction.
34.11 Violations.
34.12 Penalties.
34.13 Administrative Regulations.
34.14 Conflict with Laws.

34.0 Purpose

The City of South Pasadena is forested with a variety of trees that contribute to the long-term health, welfare and quality of life of the residents of the City. It is the intent of this Chapter to establish conditions and regulations for the protection, removal and replacement of existing trees and the installation of new trees ~~t~~ to further the reasonable enjoyment of private property. Further, it is recognized that trees are an asset to the community and residents are attracted to the urban forest of the City. Trees provide a variety of benefits to the community including enhancing the City's beauty and character, preserving the historical significance of trees to our City, furthering the creation of natural gathering spaces, reduction of noise pollution, enhancement of neighborhood character and aiding in the establishment and maintenance of tree cover on private and public lands

in the City. This is balanced with ensuring that trees are maintained in a healthy and non-hazardous condition.

34.1 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following words and phrases shall have the meaning set forth below:

(a) "Administrative Regulations" means the administrative procedures, regulations and guidelines adopted by the City Manager or his designee pursuant to Section 34.16.

(b) "Approved Replacement Tree List" means a list of species of Trees that are approved as replacement trees as required by this Chapter. Such List shall be maintained by the Director in consultation with a Certified Arborist. The Public Works Department shall maintain and periodically review the Approved Replacement Tree List and may add to, delete from, or otherwise modify the list without further action by the City Council.

(c) "Certified Arborist" means a professional in the tree care industry who has received their arborist certification through the International Society of Arboriculture.

(d) "City Arborist" means a Certified Arborist designated by the Director as the "City Arborist", provided that the City Arborist must be independent from any landscape service provider under contract with the City for the general maintenance of the City's parks and green spaces and trimming of the City's Trees.

(e) "Code" means the South Pasadena Municipal Code.

(f) "Commission" means the City of South Pasadena Natural Resources and Environmental Commission or a successor body to the duties and responsibilities of such Commission.

(g) "Damage" means, as a verb, any act which causes injury or disfigurement to a Tree, including death of a Tree, and as a noun, injury or disfigurement of a Tree, including death of a Tree.

(h) "DBH (diameter at breast height)" means the diameter of a Tree measured 4½ feet above natural grade. For any tree with multiple trunks, the DBH shall be the sum of the diameter of each trunk measured 4 ½ feet above natural grade.

(i) "Deadwood" means limbs, branches or a portion of a Tree void of green leaves during a time of the year when green leaves should be present on a healthy Tree of that type.

(j) "Developer" shall have the meaning set forth in Section 36.700.020 of this Code.

(k) “Development” means any construction, installation, reconstruction, demolition, or moving of a building or structure on property located in the City. Development also includes the grading, excavation or compaction of soil and flatwork.

(l) “Director” means the City’s Public Works Director or his or her designee.

(m) “Drip Line” means an imaginary line defined by the branch spread of a single tree or group of trees.

(n) “Emergency” means a situation where action must be taken to Trim a Protected Tree pursuant to Section 34.8~~10~~ because the Protected Tree is an immediate threat to life, property or public safety.

(o) “Heritage Tree” means a tree of historical value, which has been designated by the City as a South Pasadena historical landmark and includes any tree designated by resolution of the City Council to be of special community value as an aesthetic, ecological or historical resource.

(p) “Intentional Violation” means a violation of this chapter (Trees) that is committed by any Person who has actual or presumed knowledge of, or who has previously violated, its provisions. A Person, including a commercial Certified Arborist/tree trimmer, a general contractor, or anyone who has previously filed an application for a Tree Trimming Permit or a Tree Removal Permit in the City shall be presumed to know the provisions of this chapter.

(q) “ISA” means the International Society of Arboriculture.

(r) “Oak Tree” means species of tree of the genus Quercus.

(s) "Person" means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, trustee, receiver or other entity. A Person also includes a Developer.

(t) “Planning Review Authority” means the City employee or body (Director of Community Development, Cultural Heritage Commission, Planning Commission or City Council) identified by the City zoning code as having responsibility and authority to review and approve or disapprove Development permit applications described in Article 6 (Zoning Code Administration) of the City zoning code.

(u) “Protected Tree” means those species of trees designated by the City as “Protected Trees” in a resolution adopted by the City Council and the following Trees whether or not so designated by the City Council and that have a DBH of 4 inches or more:

(i) Oak Trees, including Coast Live Oak, Holly Oak, Southern Live Oak, Scrub Oak, Canyon Live Oak, Engelmann Oak, California Black Oak, Interior Live Oak.

(ii) California Bay Laurel.

(iii) Desert Willow.

(iv) Catalina Ironwood.

(v) Sycamore Trees, including California Sycamore.

(vi) Toyon.

(vii) So California Black Walnut.

(viii) Hollyleaf Cherry.

(ix) Heritage Trees.

(x) Any tree designated by the Public Works Department as an additional Protected Tree, which shall be maintained as a separate list of Protected Trees and periodically reviewed by the Public Works Department. The Public Works Department may add to, delete from or otherwise modify their list of Protected Trees in consultation with a Certified Arborist without further action by the City Council.

~~The Public Works Department shall maintain and periodically review the Protected Tree list and may add to, delete from, or otherwise modify the list without further action by the City Council.~~

(v) "Protection" means the safeguarding of Trees through proper treatment.

(w) "Public Works Department" means the department of the City that oversees all public works issues in the City

(x) "Radius List" shall have the same meaning as set forth in Section 34.6(b)(5).

(y) "Removed" or "Removal" means uprooting, cutting or severing of the main trunk(s) of a Tree.

(z) "Restricted Trees" are Trees or species of Trees which have been designated by the Public Works Department as Trees that cannot be planted on any public or private property in the City. The Public Works Department shall maintain and periodically review the Restricted Tree list and may add to, delete from, or otherwise modify the list in consultation with a Certified Arborist without further action by the City Council.

(aa) "Restricted Trees in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone(s)" are all Restricted Trees and other Trees designated by the Public Works Department as Trees that cannot be planted in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone or High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The Public Works Department shall maintain and periodically review the Restricted Trees in Fire Hazard Severity Zones list and may add to, delete from, or otherwise modify the list in consultation with a Certified Arborist without further action by the City Council.

(bb) "Significant Tree" means any Tree with a DBH of 12 inches or greater.

(cc) "Sycamore Tree" means species of tree of the genus Platanus.

(dd) "Standard of Care" means compliance with American National Standards Institute ("ANSI") current standards for tree care, irrigation, maintenance, pruning and Trimming.

(ee) "Tree" or "tree" means a woody perennial usually having one or several main stems.

(ff) "Tree Removal Permit" means a permit issued by the City for the Removal of a Protected Tree, a Significant Tree, a Restricted Tree or a Restricted Tree in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone pursuant to Section 34.5 or Section 34.6 herein.

(gg) "Tree Trimming Permit" means a permit issued by the City for the Trimming of a Protected Tree pursuant to Section 34.4 herein.

(hh) "Trim" or "Trimming" means cutting into the live wood of a Tree to remove limbs, branches and/or foliage or otherwise removing a Tree's limbs, branches and/or foliage in a way that will not foreseeably cause the Tree's death or permanent damage to its health. Trimming may include pruning and removal of Deadwood.

34.2 Maintenance of Trees on Private Property.

Private property owners or tenants shall be responsible for the maintenance of trees on their property owned or leased property in accordance with the Standard of Care. As applicable, property owners or tenants shall also comply with the City's Water Efficient Landscape provisions set forth in Article III of Chapter 35 of this Code, as it pertains to the maintenance of Trees.

34.3 Maintenance of Trees on Public Property.

(a) The Public Works Department shall be responsible for the maintenance of all trees on public property including but not limited to public rights-of-way and public parks. The Public Works Department shall prepare and implement an ~~the~~ annual work plan for the maintenance and/or removal of trees on public property. ~~, which may include requests from o~~Owners or tenants of real property ~~requesting the trimming and/or removal of a tree or tree(s) located in the~~ adjacent to a public right-of-way may request trimming or removal of a tree or tree(s) located in such right-of-way ~~adjacent to their respective properties~~. The City may adopt regulations pursuant to Section 34.13~~6~~ addressing such requests, including the determination of the cost sharing for the Trimming and/or Removal.

(b) As set forth in Section 31.48 of this Code, the property owner or tenant shall be responsible for irrigation of ~~parkway~~ trees in any public right of way adjacent to their owned or leased property.

34.4 Tree Trimming Permit Requirements

(a) Tree Trimming Permit Required. A Tree Trimming Permit shall be required for the Trimming of any live foliage, limbs or branches of a Protected Tree.

(b) Tree Trimming Standards. Any Person Trimming a Protected Tree shall comply with the Standard of Care in addition to the following:

(1) Trimming of Protected Trees shall conform to the ANSI A300 Pruning Standards and the ISA Best Management Practices.

(2) Trimming of a Protected Tree that is an Oak Tree~~s~~ shall only be permitted between June 1st and September 30th of each year. Tree Trimming Permit applications requested outside of that time may be approved by the Director if necessary to address hazardous or Emergency conditions as determined by the City Arborist.

(c) Tree Trimming Permit Application. An application for a Tree Trimming Permit shall be filed with the Director in a form provided by the City with the nonrefundable application fee in an amount established by City Council resolution. The application shall contain the following information:

(1) The name and residence or business address of the applicant;

(2) The location and description of the property on which the Protected Tree(s) are located;

(3) A description of the proposed Trimming of the Protected Tree(s), and the reasons therefor. Photographs may be attached as exhibits to the application, if requested~~desired~~;

(4) The name and California contractor's license number of the Person who will perform the Trimming. Tree Trimming Permits shall only be issued to Persons possessing a C-27, C-49 or C-61/D-49 California contracting license and a valid City business license. The City Manager is authorized to update the licensing requirements through the adoption of regulations pursuant to Section 34.136~~6~~;

(5) Any additional information or documentation as the Director may require.

(d) Tree Trimming Application Review. The City Arborist shall evaluate each application for a Tree Trimming Permit considering the criteria set forth in Section 34.4(e) and shall provide a recommendation for approval or denial and the reasons therefor to the Director. The Director shall evaluate such application along with the recommendation from the City Arborist, and after considering the criteria set forth in Section 34.4(e), the Director shall either approve or deny the application. If an application for a Tree Trimming Permit is denied, the Director shall notify the applicant in writing within 10 business days of the date of decision. The written denial notification shall set forth the reasons for the denial and time in which to file an appeal.

(e) Tree Trimming Permit Review Criteria. The Director may approve an application for a Tree Trimming Permit if the Director determines that one of the following conditions is met:

(1) Trimming is necessary to maintain the health of the Protected Tree, which may include structural pruning to reduce tree failure, crown cleaning, thinning or reduction to maintain the health and safety of the Protected Tree or other routine trimming that is essential to the Protected Tree's health.

(2) The live foliage, limbs or branches of the Protected Tree pose a risk of injury or harm to persons or property.

(3) The live foliage, limbs or branches of the Protected Tree are interfering with or damaging the structural integrity or use of an existing improvement or existing structure on the property.

(4) A written determination has been made by the City Arborist, after a visual inspection, that the live foliage, limbs or branches of the Protected Tree are diseased, or otherwise pose a threat to the health of adjacent trees.

(5) A property owner provides documented evidence, such as a letter of cancellation or denial of insurance coverage, that the Protected Tree in its current condition prevents renewal or issuance of homeowner's insurance.

(6) A written determination has been issued by the City Fire Chief, or his or her ~~the Chief's~~ designee, that removal of live foliage, limbs or branches of the Protected Tree is necessary to achieve or maintain the defensible space clearance required under California law or the provisions of this Code.

(f) Appeal - Director's Decision to Deny the Permit.

(1) Filing the Appeal. Only the applicant may appeal to the Commission the decision of the Director denying a Tree Trimming Permit for a Protected Tree. The applicant shall file a written notice of appeal in a form provided by the City with the Public Works Department no later than fifteen (15) days after the date of the notice of denial of the Tree Trimming Permit. The written notice of appeal shall be accompanied by: (i) a nonrefundable appeal fee in the amount established by resolution of the City Council; (ii) the applicant's written Certified Arborist report with respect to the application; and (iii) a statement containing the basis for and written documentation, if any, in support of the appeal.

(2) Scheduling of Hearing. The Public Works Department shall set the time and date for the Commission's hearing of the appeal, which date shall be within 60 days from the date the completed appeal was received by the Public Works Department. Notice of the time and place of the hearing will be sent to the ~~A~~applicant. Failure to receive the notice of the hearing shall not invalidate the proceedings under this section.

(3) Determination. Upon consideration of the reports, evidence and testimony presented at the appeal hearing, the Commission may affirm or reverse the

decision of the Director denying the Tree Trimming Permit for the Protected Tree based on the criteria set forth in Section 34.4(e). Notice of the Commission's decision shall be mailed to the applicant within 10 business days of the date of decision. The written notification shall set forth the reasons for the decision and the time in which to file an appeal of the Commission's decision to the City Council.

(g) Appeal - Decision of the Commission.

(1) Filing the Appeal. Only the applicant may appeal the decision of the Commission to the City Council. The applicant shall file a written notice of appeal in a form provided by the City with the City Clerk no later than fifteen (15) days after the date of the notice of denial of the Tree Trimming Permit. The written notice of appeal shall be accompanied by: (i) a nonrefundable appeal fee in the amount established by resolution of the City Council; (ii) the applicant's written Certified Arborist report with respect to the application; and (iii) a statement containing the basis for and written documentation, if any, in support of the appeal.

(2) Scheduling of Hearing. The City Clerk shall set the time and date for the appeal to be heard by the City Council, which date shall be within 30 days from the date the written notice of appeal was received by the City. Notice of the time and place of the hearing will be sent to the applicant. Failure to receive the notice of the hearing shall not invalidate the proceedings under this section.

(3) Determination. Upon consideration of the reports, evidence and testimony presented at the appeal hearing, the City Council may affirm or reverse the decision of the Commission based on the criteria set forth in Section 34.4(e). Notice of the decision of the City Council shall be mailed to the applicant within 10 business days of the date of decision. The written notification shall set forth the reasons for the decision. The decision of the City Council shall be final.

(h) Expiration of Permit. A Tree Trimming Permit issued under this Section is valid for ~~from~~ one year from the date of issuance.

34.5 Tree Removal Permit Requirements - Not Associated With Development

(a) Tree Removal Permit Required. A Tree Removal Permit issued by the City shall be required to remove any:

(1) Protected Tree,

(2) Significant Tree, or

(3) Restricted Tree with a DBH of 12 inches or more or Restricted Tree in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone with a DBH of 12 inches or more ~~(collectively both referred to in this section as "Restricted Trees")~~,

provided, that the requirements to remove any tree associated with Development shall be governed by the provisions of Section 34.6 of this Chapter.

(b) Tree Removal Permit Application. An application for a Tree Removal Permit not associated with Development shall be filed with the Director in a form provided by the City with the nonrefundable application fee in an amount established by City Council resolution. The application shall contain the following information:

(1) The name and residence or business address of the applicant;

(2) The location or description of the property on which the proposed Protected Tree(s), Significant Tree(s), Restricted Tree(s) or Restricted Tree(s) in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone are to be Removed;

(3) A description of the proposed Removal of the Protected Tree(s), Significant Tree(s), Restricted Tree(s) or Restricted Tree(s) in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone and the reasons therefor. Photographs may be attached as exhibits to the application, if requested~~desired~~;

(4) The name and California contractor's license number of the Person who will perform the Removal. Tree Removal Permits shall only be issued to Persons possessing a C-27, C-49 or C-61/D-49 California contracting license and valid City business license. The City Manager is authorized to update the licensing requirements through the adoption of regulations pursuant to Section 34.136~~6~~;

(5) Any additional information or documentation as the Director may require.

(c) Tree Removal Application Review. The City Arborist shall evaluate each application for a Tree Removal Permit not associated with Development considering the criteria set forth in Section 34.5(d) and shall provide a recommendation for approval or denial and the reasons therefor to the Director. The Director shall evaluate such application along with the recommendation from the City Arborist, and after considering the criteria set forth in Section 34.5(d), the Director shall either approve or deny the application. If an application for a Tree Removal Permit is denied, the Director shall notify the applicant in writing within 10 business days of the date of decision. The written denial notification shall set forth the reasons for the denial and time in which to file an appeal.

(d) Tree Removal Permit Review Criteria. The Director may approve an application for a Tree Removal Permit not associated with Development if the Director determines that one of the following conditions is met:

(1) The City Arborist, after a visual inspection, makes a written determination that the Protected Tree or Significant Tree is: (i) dead, dying, or diseased, (ii) poses a risk of or threat to persons or property, or (iii) poses a risk of or threat to the health of adjacent trees.

(2) The Protected Tree or Significant Tree is interfering with or damaging the structural integrity or use of an existing improvement or existing structure on the property.

(3) A property owner provides documented evidence, such as a letter of cancellation or denial of insurance coverage, that the Protected Tree or Significant Tree in its current condition prevents renewal or issuance of homeowner's insurance.

(4) A written determination has been issued by the City Fire Chief, or his or her ~~the Chief's~~ designee, that Removal of the Protected Tree, Significant Tree, Restricted Tree or Restricted Tree in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone is necessary to achieve or maintain the defensible-space clearance required under California law or provisions of this Code.

(5) The proposed removal is of a Restricted Tree(s) in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone(s).

(6) The proposed removal is of a Restricted Tree.

Applicants shall be required to provide replacement trees for trees that are Removed in compliance with and subject to the provisions of Section 34.7.

(e) Appeal - Director's Decision to Deny the Permit.

(1) Filing the Appeal. Only the applicant may appeal to the Commission the decision of the Director denying the Tree Removal Permit not associated with Development. The applicant shall file a written notice of appeal in the form provided by the City with the Public Works Department no later than fifteen (15) days after the date of the notice of denial of the Tree Removal Permit not associated with Development. The written notice of appeal shall be accompanied by: (i) a nonrefundable appeal fee in the amount established by resolution of the City Council; (ii) the applicant's written Certified Arborist report with respect to the application; and (iii) a statement containing the basis for and written documentation, if any, in support of the appeal.

(2) Scheduling of Hearing. The Public Works Department shall set the time and date for the Commission's hearing of the appeal, which date shall be within 60 days from receipt of the notice of appeal. Notice of the time and place of the hearing will be sent to the Applicant. Failure to receive the notice of the hearing shall not invalidate the proceedings under this section.

(3) Determination. Upon consideration of the reports, evidence and testimony presented at the appeal hearing, the Commission may affirm or reverse the decision of the Director denying the Tree Removal Permit not associated with Development based on the criteria set forth in Section 34.5(d). Notice of the Commission's decision shall be mailed to the applicant within 10 business days of the date of decision. The written notification shall set forth the reasons for the decision and the time in which to file an appeal to the City Council.

(f) Appeal - Decision of the Commission.

(1) Filing and Appeal. Only the applicant may appeal the decision of the Commission to the City Council. The applicant shall file a written notice of appeal in a form provided by the City with the City Clerk no later than fifteen (15) days after the date

of the Commission decision of the Tree Removal Permit not associated with Development. The written notice of appeal shall be accompanied by: (i) a nonrefundable appeal fee in the amount established by resolution of the City Council; (ii) the applicant's and/or appellant's written Certified Arborist report, as applicable, with respect to the application; and (iii) a statement containing the basis for and written documentation, if any, in support of the appeal.

(2) Scheduling of Hearing. The City Clerk shall set the time and date for the appeal to be heard by the City Council, which date shall be within 30 days from the date the completed written notice of appeal was received by the City. Notice of the time and place of the hearing will be sent to the applicant. Failure to receive the notice of the hearing shall not invalidate the proceedings under this section.

(3) Determination. Upon consideration of the reports, evidence and testimony presented at the appeal hearing, the City Council may affirm or reverse the decision of the Commission based on the criteria set forth in Section 34.5(d). Notice of the decision of the City Council shall be mailed to the applicant within 10 business days of the date of such decision. The decision of the City Council shall be final.

(g) Certain Tree Removals Deemed Final. If a Tree Removal Permit not associated with Development is granted for the Removal of a Protected Tree or Significant Tree by the Commission following an appeal of the Director's denial on the basis of the criteria set forth in 34.5(d)(1)(ii), the decision of the Commission is considered final and is not appealable to the City Council.

(h) Conditions if Approved. The approval of a Tree Removal Permit not associated with Development is conditioned upon:

(1) The payment of all fees associated with the Tree Removal as established by City Council resolution, and

(2) The payment of the deposit for the required replacement trees for each Tree Removed in compliance with Section 34.7, in an amount sufficient to cover the cost of all required replacement trees, as determined by the City Arborist or as set forth in regulations adopted pursuant to Section 34.13.

Upon the satisfaction of such conditions, the Public Works Department shall issue the Tree Removal Permit.

(i) Expiration of Permit. A Tree Removal Permit issued under this section 34.5 is valid for ~~from~~ one year from the date of issuance. All replacement trees shall be planted prior to the expiration of the Tree Removal ~~p~~Permit.

(j) Inspection of Removal. When the Removal work designated in the Tree Removal Permit is completed, the applicant shall contact the Public Works Department for an inspection of the Removal. Any Protected Tree, Significant Tree, Restricted Tree or Restricted Tree in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone that is Removed will require complete Removal and grinding of the stump and backfilling of the hole.

34.6 Tree Removal Permit Requirements - Associated With Development.

(a) Tree Removal Permit Required. Any Person that intends to commence, will commence or has commenced any Development on their property, which requires the Removal of a Protected Tree or a Significant Tree, shall obtain a Tree Removal Permit from the City in conjunction with the Development application before the Protected Tree(s) or Significant Tree(s) can be Removed.

(b) Tree Removal Permit Application. An application for a Tree Removal Permit associated with Development shall be filed with the Director in a form provided by the City with the nonrefundable application fee in an amount established by City Council resolution. The application shall contain the following information:

(1) The information set forth in Section 34.5(b);

(2) A written arborist report related to the application prepared by a Certified Arborist retained by the Applicant;

(3) A narrative of the Development project;

(4) A tree removal and replacement plan that complies with the provisions of ~~in accordance with~~ Section 34.7;

(5) A list of the names and addresses of property owners and occupants of properties located within a 100-foot radius of the subject property and ~~along with~~ a corresponding radius map containing the addresses of all properties located within a 100-foot radius of the subject property ("Radius List"); and~~.~~

(6) Any additional information or documentation as the Director may require.

(c) Tree Removal Permit Review Criteria. The Director or Commission may recommend and the Planning Review Authority may approve, a Tree Removal Permit associated with Development if the Director, Commission or Planning Review Authority, whichever is applicable, determines that one of the following conditions is met:

(1) The Protected Tree(s) or Significant Tree(s) is or are so close in proximity to the proposed Development that construction would result in the death of the Protected Tree(s) or Significant Tree(s) and there is no financially feasible design alternative that would permit preservation of the Protected Tree(s) or Significant Tree(s).

(2) The existing location of the Protected Tree(s) or Significant Tree(s) precludes the Development from being constructed such that the Protected Tree(s) or Significant Tree(s) are within the building footprint.

(3) Retention of one or more Protected Trees or Significant Trees would result in reduction of the otherwise permissible buildable area of the property by more than ten percent, and there is no financially feasible design alternative that would allow for preservation of the Protected Tree(s) or Significant Tree(s).

(4) Considering ~~Taking into account~~ the size, shape, topography of the property and the existing Protected Trees or Significant Trees on such property, the denial of the Tree Removal Permit would create an unreasonable hardship or a significant undue impairment of the use and enjoyment of the property.

(d) Tree Removal Permit Application Review and Recommendation. The City Arborist shall evaluate each application for a Tree Removal Permit associated with Development considering the criteria set forth in Section 34.6(c) and shall provide a recommendation for approval or denial and the reasons therefor to the Director. The Director shall evaluate such application along with the recommendation from the City Arborist, and after considering the criteria set forth in Section 34.6(c), the Director shall provide a recommendation to the Planning Review Authority to approve or deny the Tree Removal Permit associated with Development. The Director may include reasonable conditions related to the Removal of the Protected Tree or Significant Tree. The Director's recommendation is advisory to the Planning Review Authority's decision on the Tree Removal Permit associated with the Development.

(1) Denial Recommendation. If an application for a Tree Removal Permit associated with Development is recommended for denial, the Director shall notify the applicant in writing within 10 business days of the date of decision. The written notification shall set forth the reasons for the Director's recommendation to deny the Tree Removal Permit associated with Development. The Director shall also provide the Planning Review Authority with its recommendation to deny such ~~the~~ Tree Removal Permit.

(2) Approval Recommendation. If an application for a Tree Removal Permit associated with Development is recommended for approval, within five business days of such recommendation, the Director shall mail a notice to property owners and occupants on the Radius List. The notice shall state that the property owners and occupants on the Radius List shall have 15 calendar days from the date of mailing to comment on the application and the Director's recommendation to approve the Tree Removal Permit associated with Development ("Comment Period"). All comments shall be made in writing and submitted to the Director. Upon the completion of the Comment Period, the Director shall provide its recommendation on the application for such ~~the~~ Tree Removal Permit and the comments, if any, to the Planning Review Authority.

The Director has discretion to waive the mailing of the Comment Period notices, if a notice associated with the Development is being sent by the Planning Review Authority and such notice specifically identifies the Removal of Protected Trees or Significant Trees as described in the application submitted by the applicant. In such case, the Director shall provide only its recommendation for approval or denial and the reasons therefor to the Planning Review Authority.

(3) Tree Removal Permit Review Referred to Commission. The Director has discretion to refer its review of each application for a Tree Removal Permit associated with Development to the Commission at any time during the application process. In such case, the Commission shall provide the Planning Review Authority with its recommendation in lieu of the Director following the process set forth in this Section

34.6. The Commission may include reasonable conditions related to the Removal of the Protected Tree or Significant Tree. The Commission's recommendation shall be advisory to the Planning Review Authority's decision on the Tree Removal Permit associated with the Development.

(e) Decision by Planning Review Authority. In conjunction with the decision on the Development, the Planning Review Authority shall either approve or deny the Tree Removal Permit associated with Development application considering the criteria set forth in Section 34.6(c) and the recommendation of the Director or the Commission as applicable, in conjunction with the Planning Review Authority's decision on the Development.

(f) Appeal - Planning Review Authority's Decision. An applicant or other appellant, as applicable, may appeal the Planning Review Authority's decision pursuant to the appeal process set forth in the zoning code.

(g) Conditions if Approved. The approval of a Tree Removal Permit associated with Development is conditioned upon the applicant receiving their building permit for the Development, payment of all fees associated with the Removal as established by City Council resolution, and payment of the deposit for the required replacement trees required in connection with the Tree Removal(s) pursuant to the provisions of Section 34.7, in an amount sufficient to cover the cost of all such required replacement trees, as determined by the City Arborist. Upon the satisfaction of such conditions, the Public Works Department shall issue the Tree Removal Permit associated with Development.

(h) Expiration of Permit. A Tree Removal Permit associated with Development is valid until the date when the last and final inspection on the Development occurs. All replacement trees required in connection with the Removal or any Tree or Trees shall be planted prior to the expiration of the permit.

(j) Inspection of Removal. When the Removal work designated in the Tree Removal Permit is completed, the applicant shall contact the Public Works Department for an inspection of the Removal. Any Protected Tree or Significant Tree Removed will require complete Removal and grinding of the stump and backfilling of the hole.

34.7 Tree Removal Permit Replacement Tree Requirements.

(a) Replacement Trees. The planting of replacement trees is required when any Tree Removal Permit is granted for the Removal of Protected Trees, Significant Trees, Restricted Trees or Restricted Trees in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone, as applicable, whether or not associated with Development.

(b) General Requirements for all Replacement Trees.

(1) ~~The~~ A replacement tree shall be the same species as the Removed Tree if the Removed Tree was a Protected Tree. For Removed Significant Trees, Restricted Trees or Restricted Trees in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone ~~(collectively both~~

~~referred to in this paragraph as "Restricted Trees")~~ the replacement tree~~s~~ shall be selected from the City's Protected Tree species list or from the City's Approved Replacement Tree List. If the applicant desires to plant a replacement tree or tree(s) that is or are not included in either list, the applicant's request may be approved ~~considered~~ by the Director, in the Director's sole discretion upon consultation with the City Arborist. Restricted Trees, Restricted Trees in High Fire Severity Zones or fruit trees of any kind cannot be planted ~~used~~ as ~~a~~ replacement tree~~s~~.

(2) The applicant shall select a tree species to ensure diversity and site suitability and avoid monocultures. The size of all ~~R~~required replacement trees shall be no less than ~~minimum~~ 24 inch box trees.

(3) Replacement trees shall be planted in accordance with the ANSI A300 Tree Care Standards and accompanying ISA best management practices companion for tree planting so as to encourage vigorous and healthy growth. Before planting, the replacement tree's growth and spacing characteristics shall be considered to minimize conflicts with, for example, structures, other trees, utilities and the public right of way. The planting of the replacement trees on the applicant's property shall occur during the seasonally optimal periods identified by ISA standards or as otherwise directed by the City Arborist.

(4) If the Tree Removal Permit allows for the transplanting of a Removed Protected Tree or Significant Tree, the Protected Tree or Significant Tree shall be replanted in accordance with the ANSI A300 Tree Care Standards for relocating/transplanting trees.

(5) All replacement trees shall be planted on the property from which ~~where~~ the Protected Tree, Significant Tree, Restricted Tree or Restricted Tree in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone was Removed. The Director may authorize a request to plant the replacement tree offsite in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Administrative Regulations, however, no more than 50% of the required replacement trees may be planted off-site.

(6) When the replacement tree or tree(s) is or are planted, the applicant shall contact the Public Works Department for an inspection of the work. The City will refund the applicant(s) ~~its~~ deposit for each replacement tree planted. If the applicant has not planted the replacement tree prior to the expiration of the Tree Removal Permit, the applicant forfeits his, her or its deposit to the City. The City shall place the forfeited deposit in a separate City fund to be used for the planting of trees or other tree related uses at the discretion of the City.

(7) If a ~~the~~ replacement tree does not survive for a period of two years, the applicant or current owner or lessee of the property where the replacement tree is located, shall be required to replace it with another replacement tree that complies with the provisions of this Section 34.7 or pay the City the full cost of replacing the tree at a location to be determined by the City.

(8) As an alternative to subparagraph (75) above, the Director, Commission or Planning Review Authority, as applicable, may, in their discretion require the applicant to post a bond or surety for a five-year period to guarantee ~~against~~ the survival of the replacement tree(s). The amount of the bond or surety shall be in accordance with the "Guide for Plant Appraisal" (ISA publication, most recent edition).

(c) Number of Replacement Trees Required.

(1) The replacement tree requirement for Tree Removals not associated with Development is one tree for each Protected Tree, Significant Tree, Restricted Tree or Restricted Tree in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone Removed.

(2) The replacement tree requirements for Tree Removal Permits associated with Development is as follows:

(a) Two replacement trees shall be required for each ~~DBH of~~ 16-inch DBH increment of the existing Protected Tree or Significant Tree proposed for Removal. For example:

(i) Two replacement ~~Protected Tree species~~ trees shall be required for each Protected Tree or Significant Tree Removed with a DBH of 0-16 inches.

(ii) Four replacement ~~Protected Tree species~~ trees shall be required for each Protected Tree or Significant Tree Removed with a DBH of more than 16 inches and less than or equal to 32" inches.

(iii) Six replacement ~~Protected Tree species~~ trees shall be required for each Protected Tree or Significant Tree Removed with a DBH of more than 32~~"~~ inches.

(d) Tree Removal and Replacement Plan. A tree removal and replacement plan ("Replacement Plan") is required in conjunction with an application for a Tree Removal Permit associated with Development. The Replacement Plan shall comply with the provisions set forth in the Administrative Regulations.

34.8 Emergency Trimming of Protected Trees.

(a) In the event of an Emergency that occurs during regular City business hours, a Protected Tree may be Trimmed without a Tree Trimming Permit upon written notification to the Director. Within five (5) business days of the Trimming, documentation supporting the Emergency including photographs, shall be submitted to the Director for review.

(b) If the Emergency occurs outside of regular City business hours or when City Hall is otherwise closed or it was not practicable to notify the Director as required above, a Protected Tree may be Trimmed without a Tree Trimming Permit provided that within five (5) business days of the Trimming, written notification and documentation supporting the Emergency including photographs, is submitted to the Director for review.

34.9 Exemptions.

(a) No Tree Trimming Permit or Tree Removal Permit is required for the Trimming or Removal of a Protected Tree, ~~or~~ Significant Tree, Restricted Tree or Restricted Tree in Fire Hazard Severity Zone as applicable, damaged by storm, fire, or other natural disaster which has been determined by the Director, police chief, fire chief, or code enforcement officer to be dangerous to life or property.

(b) No Tree Trimming Permit or Tree Removal Permit is required when the fire department has deemed the Trimming or Removal of any Tree(s) including Protected Trees, ~~or~~ Significant Trees, Restricted Tree or Restricted Tree in Fire Hazard Severity Zone critical to providing an effective firebreak.

(c) If not otherwise provided for under state law or regulation of the California Public Utilities Commission, no Tree Trimming Permit or Tree Removal Permit is required when a public utility company is required to Trim or Remove a Protected Tree(s), ~~or~~ Significant Tree(s), Restricted Tree or Restricted Tree in Fire Hazard Severity Zone on private property as may be necessary to comply with their safety regulations or to maintain the safe operation of their facilities.

(d) The City is ~~are~~ exempt from the provisions of this ~~c~~Chapter, provided that ~~. Notwithstanding,~~ prior to the City's removal of a Protected Tree or Significant Tree, Restricted Tree or Restricted Tree in Fire Hazard Severity Zone, the Public Works Department shall obtain a report from a Certified Arborist affirming the Director's decision to remove the Protected Tree, ~~or~~ Significant Tree, Restricted Tree or Restricted Tree in Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

34.10 Obstruction.

(a) It is unlawful for any Person owning, leasing, occupying, having charge or control of any lot or premises in the City to keep or maintain thereon any tree, shrub or plant, or portion thereof, that interferes with or obstructs the free passage of pedestrians along or upon adjacent public sidewalks or of vehicles along or upon adjacent public rights-of-way or interferes with any public utilities. Such interference or obstruction described herein is declared to be a public nuisance.

(b) Every fence, sign, wall, hedge, tree, shrub or planting located within 75 feet of the point of intersection of the centerlines of streets or within 75 feet of the point of intersection of the centerline of a street and a railroad right-of-way that is more than 36 inches in height measured from the nearest adjacent public street level, or that, in the opinion of the Director, constitutes an obstruction to the clear view of motorists on the streets is declared to be a public nuisance; provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be deemed to apply to a wall, building or structure that has been or that may be constructed under a permit issued by the building department of the City.

(c) A violation of this section does not exempt a property owner from having to otherwise comply with the permit requirements of this chapter.

34.11 Violations.

(a) It is unlawful for any Person to violate any provision or fail to comply with any of the requirements of this ~~c~~Chapter.

(b) It is unlawful for any Person to harm by any means, Damage or cause to be Damaged any Protected Tree or Significant Tree located within the City, or fail to comply with the Standards of Care described in Section 34.1(dd~~cc~~) for any Tree located on their property or in an adjacent public right-of-way~~parkway~~.

(c) It is unlawful for any Person to Remove or transplant any Protected Tree or Significant Tree from any property within the City unless a Tree Removal Permit is first obtained from the City.

(d) It is unlawful for any Person to trim the live foliage, limbs or branches of a Protected Tree located within the City without first obtaining a Tree Trimming Permit from the City.

(e) It is unlawful for any Person to remove any Tree from the public right-of-way without first obtaining the express approval of the Director and subject to any regulations adopted pursuant to Section 34.16.

(f) As of the effective date of Ordinance No. 2409, it is unlawful for any Person to plant on private or public property a Restricted Tree(s) or a Restricted Tree(s) in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

34.12 Penalties.

Any Person violating any of the provisions of this ~~c~~Chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor, except, at the discretion of the City Prosecutor, the violation may be reduced to an infraction.

In addition, Persons violating any of the provisions of this ~~c~~Chapter also shall be subject to the following:

(a) Penalties for any ~~Person who~~ unintentional~~ly~~ violation~~es~~ of the provisions of this ~~c~~Chapter shall be as follows:

(1) Payment of ~~T~~the standard inspection fee that would have been required for any tree Trimming Permit or tree Removal Permit or any other inspection fee; and

(2) Payment of two times ~~Double~~ the required Tree Removal Permit or Tree Trimming Permit fee; and

(3) Planting two times ~~double~~ the number of replacement trees required to be planted for the Removal of any Trees pursuant to Section 34.7 of this Chapter.~~ode~~

(b) Penalties for an Intentional Violation of this ~~c~~Chapter for any Trees Removed not associated with ~~d~~Development shall be as follows:

(1) All ~~T~~the penalties described in Section 34.12(a) ~~subsection (a)~~ of this Chapter~~section~~; and

(2) The payment of a tree replacement fee in an amount up to, but not to exceed two times~~double~~, the value of the destroyed, Removed, or D~~d~~amaged tree. The City Arborist shall determine the value of the destroyed, Removed, or D~~d~~amaged tree by using the most recent edition of the ISA Guide for Plant Appraisal.

(c) Penalties for an Intentional Violation of this Chapter associated with Development or anticipated future Development on the property shall be all ~~the~~ penalties described in Section 34.12~~subsections~~ (a) and (b) ~~of this section~~ and, in addition, the City Manager may, in his or her discretion, refer the violation to the City Prosecutor for criminal charges or to the Planning Commission for a public hearing to consider additional penalties. In the case of a public hearing, ~~T~~the burden of proof shall be on the City to demonstrate that there is ~~clear and convincing~~ sufficient evidence to a reasonable doubt~~certainty~~ that there is an Intentional Violation. The Planning Commission, after considering all of the evidence, may impose the additional penalty of prohibiting the issuance of building or construction-related permits for a period up to five years from the date of the violation for the property upon which the Intentional ~~v~~Violation occurred.

In determining whether a building or constructed-related permit may be issued with regard to the ~~aforementioned~~ prohibition set forth in this Section 34.12(c), the Planning Commission shall consider whether the violation appears to be in furtherance of a Development, as evidenced in the extent of ~~d~~Damage to the Protected Tree(s) or Significant Tree(s), Removal, ~~d~~Damage to the root system, and/or excessive Trimming of Protected Trees or Significant Trees within the buildable area of a property; oral or written admissions; actions taken despite prior warnings; notices of violations; and the number and size of the ~~d~~Damaged and/or Removed Protected Trees or Significant Trees.

Intentional Violations in the context of Development or anticipated Development of property shall require the Planning Commission to determine whether restitution trees are to be planted on the property on which the violation occurred or on public land with costs paid to the City for tree selection, planting and maintenance, or a combination of both. The restitution trees shall be subject to either of the survival guarantees described in Administrative Regulations.

For purposes of this ~~s~~Section 34.12, the violation shall be presumed to have occurred on the date the City has actual knowledge of the violation, and the violator shall have the burden of proving an earlier commencement date, if entitlement to an earlier date is claimed.

Notwithstanding the ~~aforementioned~~ prohibition on issuance of building or construction-related permits set forth in Section 34.12, building or construction-related permits may be

issued if, in the opinion of the Director of Community Development, they are necessary for the preservation of public health, safety or welfare.

(d) Payment of any penalty and planting of replacement trees shall occur within 60 calendar days of the date the violator was directed to take such action by the Director. If the violator does not complete planting of replacement trees within the allotted time, the Director may procure and plant the requisite replacement trees, and the violator shall be responsible for reimbursing the City for such additional costs. Reimbursement is due and payable within 30 calendar days of the City's issuance of a billing statement.

If payment of the penalty or reimbursement costs is not received by the City within 60 calendar days, the City Manager can instruct that the outstanding obligation be collected in any of the following manners: (1) a civil action in the name of the City, in any court of competent jurisdiction; or (2) use of a debt collection agency; or (3) a lien on the subject property.

(e) All penalties and additional costs related to a tree violation must be paid to the City prior to its issuance of building or construction-related permits unless, in the opinion of the Director of Community Development, such permits are necessary for the preservation of public health, safety or welfare.

34.13 Administrative Regulations.

To implement and enforce this ~~c~~Chapter, the City Manager or his or her designee may adopt administrative procedures, regulations and guidelines consistent with the provisions of this ~~c~~Chapter. These administrative procedures, regulations and guidelines shall have the force and effect of law and may be relied upon by the parties to determine their rights and responsibilities under this ~~c~~Chapter. Such administrative procedures, regulations and guidelines shall be posted at City Hall or on the City's website or made available by the City when so adopted.~~"~~

34.14 Conflict with Laws.

The City shall interpret and apply the provisions of this Chapter in a manner not to be in conflict with state or federal law."

Section 2. Permits Applications and Issued Permits Prior to Ordinance Adoption. Permit applications for Tree Trimming Permits and Tree Removal Permits that have been submitted to the Public Works Department prior to the date this Ordinance becomes effective and for which~~where~~ the permit has not yet been issued, shall be subject to this Ordinance. In such case, the Director will process the application under the provisions of this Ordinance. Tree Trimming Permits and Tree Removal Permits that have been approved and issued by the Public Works Department on the date this Ordinance becomes effective shall continue to comply with the provisions of Chapter 34 as it exists on December 1, ~~September 17,~~ 2025.

Section 3. Tree Removal Permits Not Associated With Development Issued on or After January 1, 2025. For any Tree Removal Permit not associated with Development that was issued on or after January 1, 2025, the City Manager has discretion to return any tree replacement deposits currently being held by the City, except that an amount shall be retained to ensure the planting of one replacement tree.

Section 4. Severability. If any section subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, or contravened by reason of any preemptive legislation, the remaining sections and/or provisions of this Ordinance shall remain valid. The City Council hereby declares that it would have adopted this Ordinance, and each section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase hereof, regardless of the fact that any one or more section(s) or provision(s) may be declared invalid or unconstitutional or contravened via legislation.

Section 5. Effective Date. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this Ordinance and shall cause the same to be published in the manner prescribed by law, and this Ordinance shall become effective 30 days following its adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED ON this ____ of December, 2025.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

_____
Janet Braun, Mayor

ATTEST:

_____
Mark Perez, Acting Chief City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
Roxanne Diaz, City Attorney

POLICE CHIEF BRIAN SOLINSKY











32 YEARS OF SERVICE



State of the City

December 3, 2025

Mayor Janet Braun

City of SOUTH PASADENA

2025 Council Goals & Priorities



- Governance
- Operational Efficiencies
- Finance
- Infrastructure
- Housing

City of SOUTH PASADENA

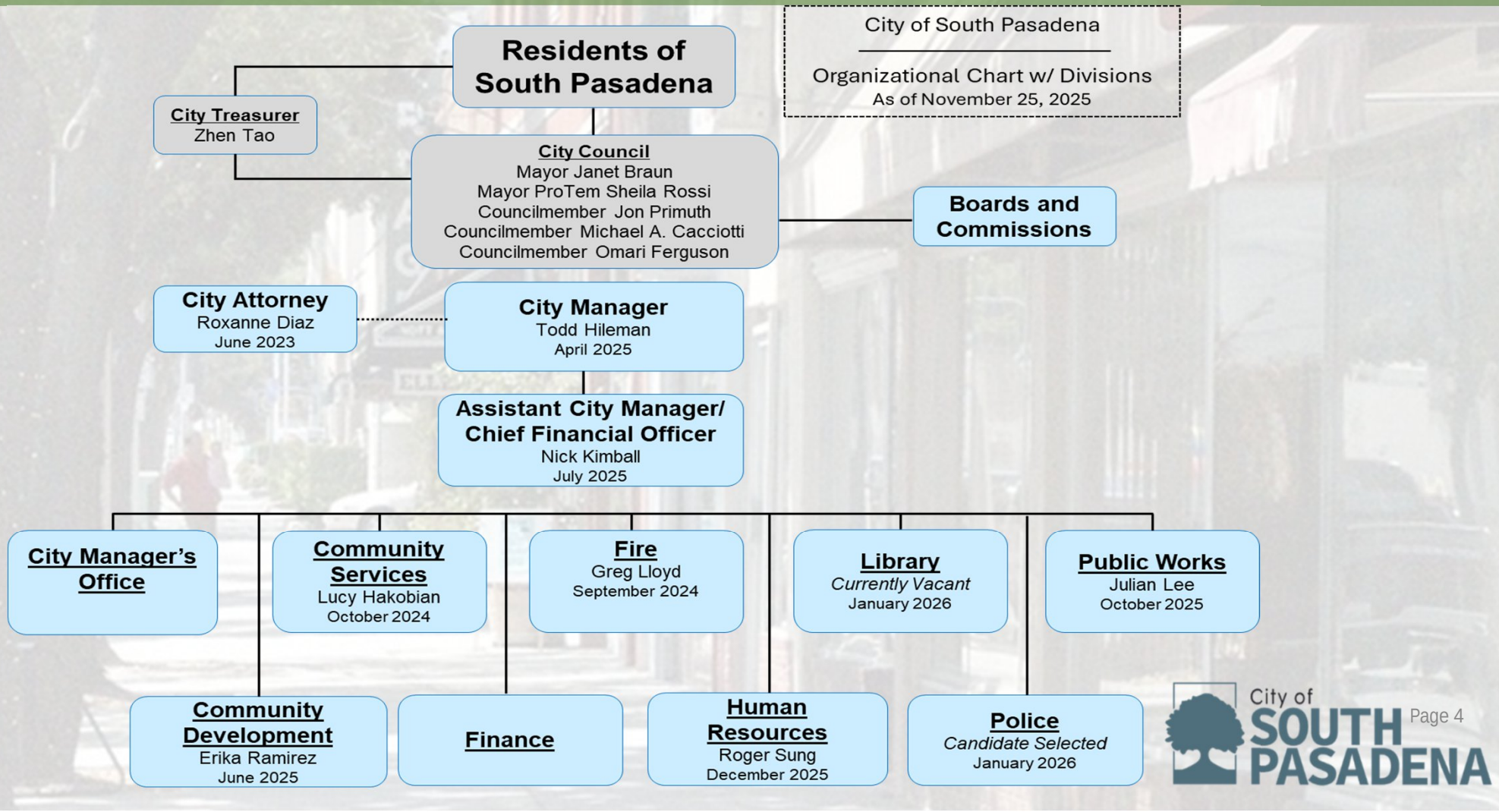
Commissions

- Community Services Commission
- Cultural Heritage Commission
- Finance Commission
- Library Board of Trustees
- Natural Resources and Environmental Commission
- Planning Commission
- Public Art Commission
- Public Safety Commission
- Public Works Infrastructure Commission

Accomplishment Highlights:

- Public Works Commission & Mobility and Transportation Infrastructure Commission were combined into the Public Works Infrastructure Commission
- Design Review Board was dissolved and merged with the Planning Commission
- Updates to the Municipal Code have been made to general provisions
  - Establishing clear commissioner terms
  - Adoption of resolution establishing meeting calendars
  - Commission composition

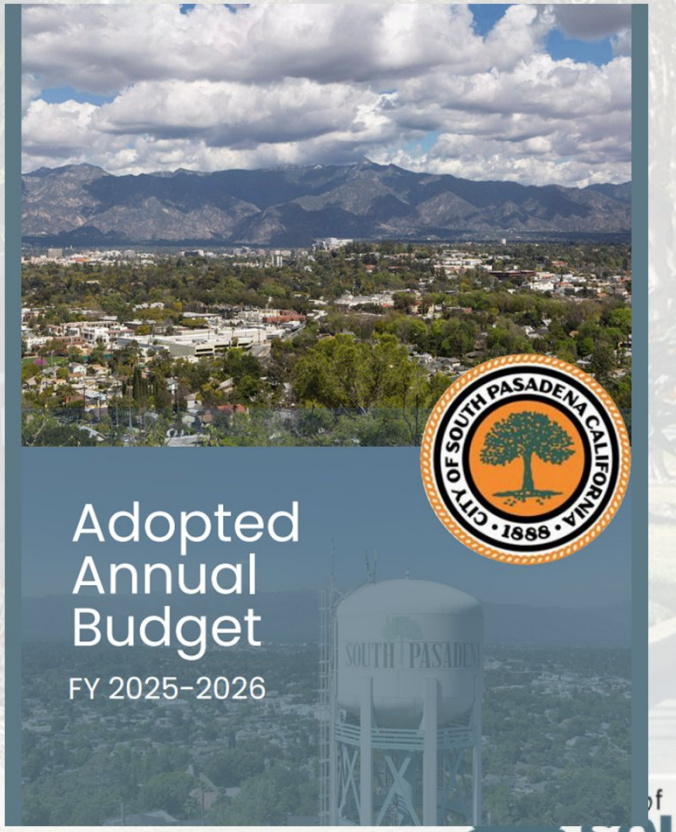
Organizational Chart



Financial Highlights

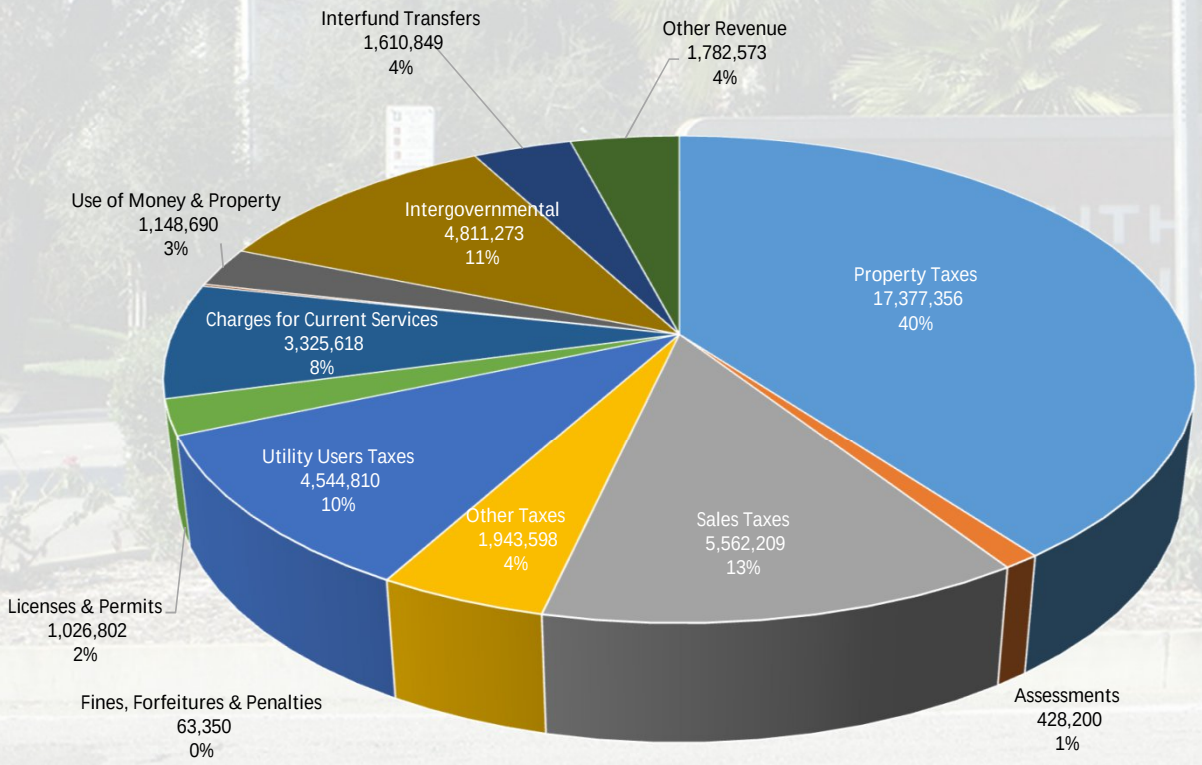
- **Fiscal Year 2023-2024**
  - Independent audit confirmed that the City's financial statements are fairly presented in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.
  - Revenues exceeded expenses for General Fund
    - Vacant positions
    - Capital projects
  - Clean Up Efforts
    - Fund Consolidation
    - Transparent Accounting

- **Fiscal Year 2024-2025**
  - Staff is in the final stages of working with the auditors to finalize the financial statements for presentation to the City Council, and the community, in January.



General Fund Revenue

By Category

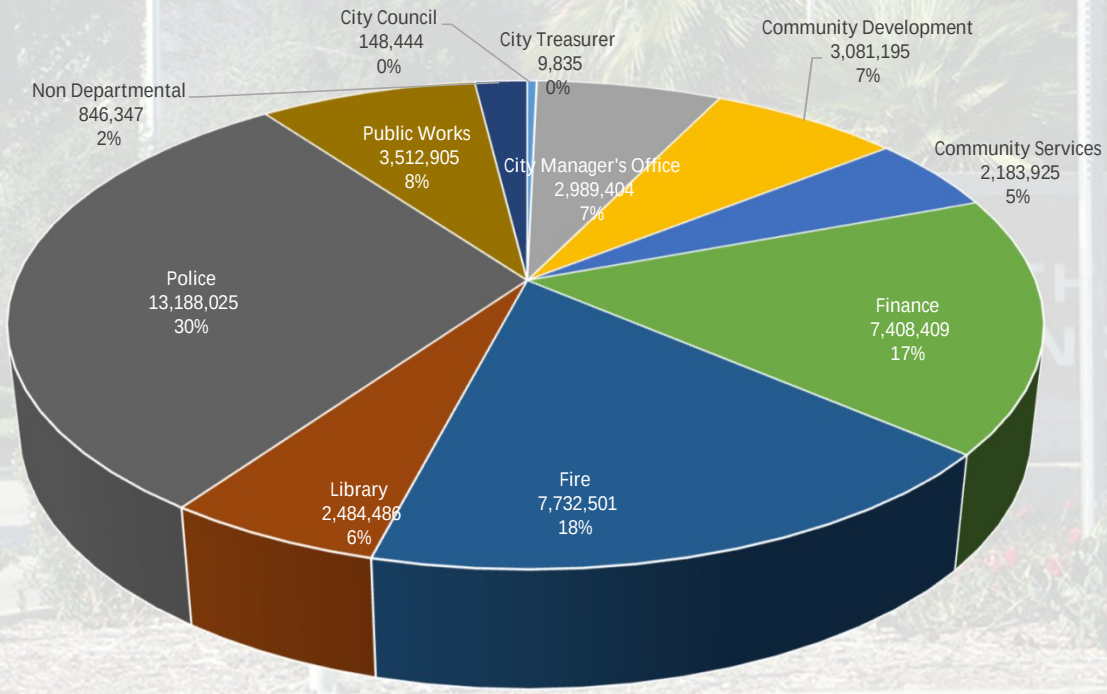


Category	% of Revenue
Property Tax	40%
Sales Tax	13%
Intergovernmental	11%
Utility Users Tax	10%
Charges for Services	8%
Other Taxes	5%
Other Revenue	4%
Interfund Transfers	4%
Use of Money/Property	3%
Licenses & Permits	2%
Assessments	1%
Fines/Penalties	>1%
TOTAL	$43,624,528

City of SOUTH PASADENA

General Fund Expenditures

By Department



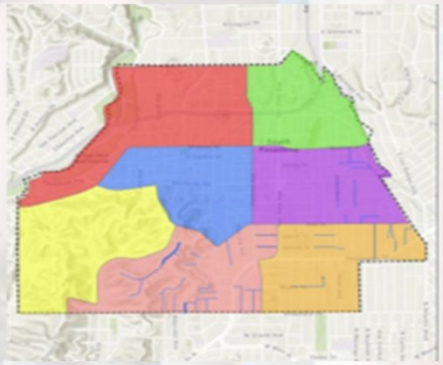
Department	% of Budget
Police	30%
Fire	18%
Finance	17%
City Manager's Office	7%
Public Works	8%
Library	6%
Community Development	7%
Community Services	5%
Non-Departmental	2%
City Council	>1%
City Treasurer	>1%
Total*	$43,585,117

City of SOUTH PASADENA

Infrastructure Highlights

- **Street and Sidewalk Repair Projects in Capital Improvement Program (by phase)**
  - **In Planning Phase:**
    - A. 2025-2026 Street Maintenance
    - B. 2025-2026 Marengo Maintenance & Improvements
    - C. Mission/ Arroyo/ Pasadena Intersection Improvements
    - D. 2024-2025 Sidewalk Replacement & ADA Ramps
    - E. 2025-2026 Sidewalk Replacement & ADA Ramps
  - **In Design Phase:**
    - A. Indiana & Pasadena Reconstruction
    - B. Orange Zone Reconstruction
  - **In Construction:**
    - A. Street Repavement & Repairs
    - B. 2020-2024 Sidewalk Replacements & ADA Ramps
- **Tree Ordinance Updates**
- **West Side Reservoir EIR underway**
- **Waste Removal**
- **Parks Master Plan**
- **Sewers**
- **Grevelia and Berkshire Pocket Park Completion**
- **Golf Master Plan**
- **Library/Community Center Master Plan was complet ncil**







City of SOUTH PASADENA

Housing Highlights

- **Measure SP Height Limits**
  - Density in 4 Overlay Zones established



- **Purchase and Sale of Vacant CalTrans Houses**
  - First Round of Sales completed in late 2024
  - City is currently working on the next round

- **Affordable Housing Project**
  - 626 Prospect Ribbon Cutting Ceremony and Open House held

- **Senior Affordable Housing Project at Mound and El Centro with Related California**
  - City entered into an Exclusive Negotiating Agreement with Related California

- **Mobility Plan and Vision for the "Mission Mile"**
  - Envisioning South Pasadena 2050



Major Developments

Former SPUSD
1020 El Centro St.



Commercial/ Mixed-Use

Subdivision - 2 parcels

Parcel 1- Renovation of historic SPUSD building

*Live music venue

*Brewery

*Coffee shop

*Fast casual restaurant

Parcel 2- mixed-use

*108 condos (19 affordable)

* Retail space

Status

* Approved: Sept. 9, 2022

*Parcel 1: nearing completion

*Parcel 2: Building application pending

The Raymond
601-625 Fair Oaks Ave.



Senior mixed-use

310 units

*215- independent living apartments (165-market rate and 50-affordable);

*72-assisted living units; and

*23-memory care units.

Status

➢*Approved: May 20, 2024

➢*Art Concept Approved: Sept. 29, 2025

➢*Building Application: Pending – anticipated Winter 2025

7 Patios
845-899 El Centro St.



Mixed- Use

60 units

* 57 apartment units

* 3 townhomes

Commercial

* 6,100 SF

Status

Approved: June 11, 2024

* Building Application: Pending

City of SOUTH PASADENA

Major Developments

Carrow's
815 Fremont Ave.



Mixed- Use

56 Condos

*48- market rate

*8-affordable

Commercial

* 2,800 SF

Status

*Approved: Sept. 18, 2025

* Building Application Submitted: Dec. 1,2025

Mission Bell
1101-1115 Mission St.



Mixed- Use

75 Apartment Units

*67- market rate

*8 affordable

Commercial

*2,600 SF

Status

* Approved: Oct.24, 2025

*Building Application Submitted: Nov. 5, 2025

The Giddy Ostrich
915-921 Meridian Ave.



Microbrewery & Restaurant

Microbrewery & Restaurant

* 3,465 SF

Outdoor Dining

* 7,500 SF

Status

* Approved: Oct. 14, 2025

* Building Application Pending

City of SOUTH PASADENA



THANK YOU!

City of SOUTH PASADENA

Block Party Permit Process

Date: December 3, 2025

Prepared By: City Manager's Office

City of SOUTH PASADENA

Overview

Current Block Party Permit Process

- No formal policy
  - Established permit process
- Permit Cost Breakdown
- Councilmember's use of discretionary funds

Challenges

- City does not own the barricade sets needed for the traffic control
- Applicants must provide the traffic control equipment

Next Steps

- Staff seeking direction from Council on next steps in formalizing process

Current Block Party Permit Process

Permit Process

- Permit Application Requirements:
  - 80% petition
  - Submitted 30 days in advance
  - Insurance must be purchased
  - Permit Fee
  - Resident provided traffic control barricades

New Permit Cost

Item	Cost
Insurance Fees	$128
Permit Fees	$314
Resident Provided Traffic Control Equipment	$400*
TOTAL	$842

*This is the cost for the rental of traffic control equipment for the closure of one single block

Renewal Permit Cost

Item	Cost
Insurance Fees	$128
Permit Fees	$118
Resident Provided Traffic Control Equipment	$400*
TOTAL	$646

*This is the cost for the rental of traffic control equipment for the closure of one single block

Challenges with Current Process

- Residents have expressed frustration with the current process, mainly regarding the Resident Provided Traffic Control Equipment
  - High cost of renting the barricade equipment, which can range widely, based on vendor availability
  - City does not currently own barricade sets for rental to residents, so residents must rent from a vendor

- Staff has received a quote for the cost of one barricade set, in the amount of $4,000
  - This would only cover closure of one single block
  - Councilmember Cacciotti has requested for the remainder of his discretionary funds ($1,700) be used to purchase a set of barricades
    - This would help alleviate some of the cost, but there would still be an unfunded amount for Council to budget to fund the purchase

Composition of Set of Barricades

12



8



6



4



4



2



2



2



4



- The cost for one barricade set (as displayed on this slide) has been quoted for $4,000
- One barricade set can only accommodate one single block party

City of SOUTH PASADENA

Next Steps

The following options may be considered by Council for next steps:

1. **Maintain the status quo and formalize the current process into a policy**
   - Residents would still be required to provide their own barricades

2. **Develop a formal policy, update the City's Block Party Permit application process, and purchase 1 set of barricades**
   - This option improves safety and potentially reduces some costs to the applicant, but supports only one event at a time
     - Estimated cost of $4,000 for the one barricade set
       - Funding source needs to be identified
     - Council would need to elect whether to rent or provide the barricades as part of the permit process
     - Requires Council consideration of prioritization of applications to decide how the one barricade set should be deployed

3. **Develop a formal policy, update the City's Block Party Permit application process, and purchase 3 barricade sets**
   - This option supports multiple events, potentially reduces resident cost burden
   - Estimated cost of $12,000 for the three barricades set
     - Funding source needs to be identified
   - Council would need to elect whether to rent or provide the barricades as part of the permit process

4. **Explore a hybrid approach where barricades are only provided for certain City-recognized events or allow residents to rent City-owned equipment for a fee**.
   - Council would need to elect whether to rent or provide the barricades as part of the permit process
     - This rental fee would have to be incorporated into the City's Master Schedule of Fees and a funding source would need to be identified for the purchase



Tree Ordinance

December 3, 2025

Prepared By: Roxanne Diaz, City Attorney

City of SOUTH PASADENA

Overview of Ordinance Revisions

- **Added “Significant Trees” Back into the Ordinance**
- **Eliminated the Use of “Mature”- Size of Tree Part of Definition**
- **Enhanced “Protected Tree” Definition**
- **New Category – “Approved Replacement Tree List”**
- **New Category – “Restricted Trees”**
- **New Category – “Restricted Trees in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone”**

Overview of Ordinance Revisions

- **Revised Definition of "City Arborist"**
- **Tree Removal Not Associated with Development**
- **Tree Removal Not Associated with Development**
  - **Expanded Scope of Trees that Require a Permit**
  - **No Comment Period; Only Applicants May Appeal NREC Decision to City Council**
- **Tree Replacement Requirements Consolidated**
- **If City Removes a Tree, City Required to Have Certified Arborist Review and Confirm**

Significant Trees/Protected Trees

- **Revised Tree Ordinance Now Requires a Tree Removal Permit (w/ or w/out Development) for Significant Trees**
  - **Significant Tree – Any Tree w/ DBH of 12 Inches or Greater**

- **Protected Trees- Require Tree Trimming Permit, Tree Removal Permit Not Associated w/ Development or Associated w/Development**

- **Heritage Trees- Still a "Protected Tree" and Requires Same Permits**
  - **Heritage trees also include Trees Designated by City Council by Resolution (special community value as an aesthetic, ecological or historical resource)**

Significant Trees/Protected Trees

- **Protected Tree Definition- Expanded**
  - **Ordinance contains a list of Protected Trees, including all Oak Trees and Sycamore Trees**
  - **Includes those trees designated by City Council as Protected Trees by Resolution**
  - **Includes those additional trees designated by Public Works Department as Protected Trees in consultation w/ Certified Arborist**

- **City Removal of Significant/Protected/Restricted Trees**
  - **Certified Arborist Report Required to Confirm PW Director's Decision**

New Definitions

- **Approved Replacement Tree List**
  - **List of Trees Approved As Replacement Trees**
  - **Maintained by PW in consultation with Certified Arborist**
  - **PW can add, delete, modify**

- **Restricted Trees**
  - **Trees that Cannot be Planted on Public or Private Property**
  - **Cannot be Used as a Replacement Tree**
  - **Maintained by PW**
  - **PW can add, delete, modify – consultation with Certified Arborist**

New Definitions

- **Restricted Trees in Fire Hazard Severity Zone**
  - **Trees that Cannot be Planted on Public or Private Property in Very High or High Fire Hazard Severity Zones**
  - **Cannot be Used as a Replacement Tree**
  - **Maintained by PW**
  - **PW can add, delete, modify – consultation with Certified Arborist**

- **City Arborist**
  - **Certified Arborist**
  - **Must be Independent from any City Landscape Provider Under Contract for Maintenance of Trees**

Tree Removal-Not Associated w/ Development

- **Removal of Restricted Trees and Restricted Trees in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone Require Tree Removal Permit**

- **City is Not Requiring Removal of Restricted Trees**
  - **Looking Forward Measure - Addressing Issues Related to Such Trees (fire hazard, invasive root systems, etc.)**

Tree Removal-Not Associated w/ Development

Revisions to the Appeal Provisions

- **Appeal of Director's Decision to Commission**
  - **No comment card mailing w/in 100 feet radius**
- **Appeal of Commission's Decision to Council**
  - **Only applicant can appeal**

Consolidated Replacement Requirements

Replacement Trees Required

- **Removal of Protected, Significant, Restricted, Restricted FHSV Trees (whether or not associated with development) Require Replacement Trees**
- **Protected Tree - Replace w/ Protected Tree**
- **Significant Tree - Replace w/ Protected Tree or Approved Replacement Tree List**

Consolidated Replacement Requirements

- **Restricted & Restricted FHSV Tree - Tree-Replace w/ Protected Tree or Approved Replacement Tree List**
- **Can Request to Replace w/ Tree Not Listed Above**
  - **PW Director w/ consultation with City Arborist**
- **Cannot Plant Restricted Tree, Restricted FHSV Tree or Fruit Trees of Any Kind**
- **No Less Than 24 Inch Box Trees**
- **No More Than 50% Can Be Planted Offsite; Inspections for Removal**

Consolidated Replacement Requirements

Number of Replacement Trees

- **Trees Removals Not Associated w/ Development**
  - **One (1) Tree for Each Tree Removed**

- **Tree Removals Associated w/ Development**
  - **Two (2) Trees for each 16 Inch DBH Increment**
  - **0-16 DBH – 2 Trees for Each Tree Removed**
  - **16-32 DBH – 4 Trees for Each Tree Removed**
  - **>32 DBH – 6 Trees for Each Tree Removed**

Consolidated Replacement Requirements

- **Tree Removal and Replacement Plan**
  - **Required for Tree Removals Associated w/ Development**

- **Details of Tree Removal and Replacement Plan, Implementation of Plan, Tree Protection in Connection with Development Moved to Administrative Regulations**