

## **Additional Documents**

May 27, 2025 NREC Regular Meeting



**NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA

1414 MISSION STREET, SOUTH PASADENA, CA 91030

TEL: (626) 403-7240 ▪ FAX: (626) 403-7241

WWW.SOUTHPASADENACA.GOV

REGULAR NREC MEETING

MAY 27, 2025 6:30PM

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

**FROM: CASEY DUKES**

**AGENDA ITEM: ITEM 1 GENERAL (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)**

**COMMENT ATTACHED**

Greetings Commissioners,

I would like to request the consideration of a Citywide garage sale both as a community building event and as a way to encourage underconsumption and reuse. While donating items to thrift stores and charities can help keep items out of landfills, these organizations don't accept every item, and many donations end up getting thrown out anyway by volunteers. People often hold onto things they no longer use because it has value but they're not inclined to try to sell their items online for various reasons.

A Citywide garage sale would allow residents to set up sales or giveaway tables in their yards or designated areas that would encourage folks to shop their neighborhood on foot, reduce fuel usage, strengthen community, and foster good practices of and low-waste living. Consideration should be given to apartment dwellers, the disabled, seniors, and others needing accommodations.

South Pasadena has very active Facebook groups (Three Buy Nothing groups, South Pasadena Shares, and South Passifieds) where you can see residents regularly clearing out their homes of unused items. While these groups are wonderful, not everyone is on Facebook or has the capacity to list all their items. It would reduce fuel usage and be more accessible if we did a mass event once or twice a year for our community.

Some cities that conduct similar garage sales are:

Mountain View, CA -

<https://www.mountainview.gov/our-city/departments/public-works/recycling-zero-waste/events/citywide-garage-sale>

Santa Clara, CA -

<https://www.santaclaraca.gov/recreation-community/events/citywide-garage-sale>

Cupertino, CA -

<https://www.cupertino.gov/Your-City/Divisions/Environment-Sustainability/Events-Activities/Garage-Sale>

El Cerrito, CA (biannual) -

<https://www.el-cerrito.org/943/Citywide-Garage-Sale>

San Mateo, Santa Monica, Huntington Park, etc

Thank you for this attention on this matter. I know many residents have expressed a desire to make this happen, and I hope it will.

Casey Dukes



**NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION**

CITY OF SOUTH PASADENA

1414 MISSION STREET, SOUTH PASADENA, CA 91030

TEL: (626) 403-7240 ▪ FAX: (626) 403-7241

WWW.SOUTHPASADENACA.GOV

REGULAR NREC MEETING

MAY 27, 2025 6:30PM

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

**FROM: ANGELO GLADDING**

**AGENDA ITEM: ITEM 4: TREE ORDINANCE REVIEW**

**COMMENT ATTACHED**

Commissioners,

Our current tree ordinance isn't as broken as it's being presented. The primary problems are poor interpretation and lack of enforcement. From conversations with staff the poor interpretations are deliberate. The commission's past rubber stamping of staff's poor interpretations have led to new precedents being set that obviate correctness and make a mockery of our system of urban forestry.

There are errors in the tables. To name a few:

- San Marino requires TRAQ assessment for hazardous removals
- Claremont absolutely requires removal permits: [www.claremontca.gov/files/assets/public/v/1/community-services/documents/trees/tree-policies-and-guidelines/claremont\\_tree-policies-and-guidelines-manual\\_2025\\_final.pdf](http://www.claremontca.gov/files/assets/public/v/1/community-services/documents/trees/tree-policies-and-guidelines/claremont_tree-policies-and-guidelines-manual_2025_final.pdf)

I have seen this document before. I cannot find the original to compare but I don't believe much if anything has changed from a year(s) old version of this document. Did staff wait until the Thursday before the meeting to release an inaccurate document they were in possession of the entire time?

## **Issues to Consider (Incomplete)**

- TRAQ assessment from an arborist other than our city arborist – San Marino and many others require a TRAQ assessment for hazardous removals
- our city arborist is employed by the same contractor that we have a near million dollar a year contract with. there is a conflict of interest. she is incentivized to prioritize the goals of a corrupted tree authority over the long term health and success of our city's tree canopy. our city arborist does not produce reports. our city arborist is not available for communication with the public.
- replacement plans need to be complete and should include landscaping in the immediate vicinity
  - lower replacement numbers, require on-site
- replanting
  - required on site until a property canopy coverage quota is met
  - actually check at 2 years; requirement remains in perpetuity until nullified (e.g. poor choice of placement)
- promote natives; wind and fire safe, drought tolerant – irrigated infrequently and deeply, no non-native landscaping under the dripline
- removal of non-natives should be expedited but must come with replacement – replacing an allelopathic non-native with a native can be challenging if in the same spot

- no permit required for extremely invasive – tree of heaven; brazilian pepper
- hills-specific; topology; erosion control; preserve "natural state" as states in building code
- development issues; plans need to show protection zones and they need to be inspected/enforced
- define "dying" – see "senescence"
- understand the difference between shrubs and trees, shrubs grown as trees, multi-trunk, "standard form"; enables native plantings in tight areas
- lower or completely remove fees

## Require Complete Applications

Every single one of the applications that you've seen has been missing requirements:

### 34.12 Tree removal and replacement plans.

Tree removal and replacement plans shall contain the following information:

- (a) **A drawing of the property which shows the location and species of all existing protected trees;**
- (b) A site plan showing the proposed development, including all existing and proposed structures, including the topography of the site, in accordance with SPMC 34.9(b);
- (c) The tree species and trunk caliper of all trees to be removed;
- (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;***
- (e) **A second drawing of the property after the proposed tree removal which shows remaining trees and all proposed replacement trees. The replacement tree sizes and species must be clearly identified;** and
- (f) A certified arborist review of the tree plan, if required by the director. The certified arborist shall be contracted and managed by the city and all fees incurred shall be the responsibility of the property owner. (Ord. No. 2328, § 1 (part), 2019.)

## Pasadena



## Submittal Checklist for PRIVATE TREE REMOVAL REQUEST

*This checklist should be reviewed together with a Planner at the Permit Center and must be submitted with the application. Incomplete applications cannot be processed and will be returned to the applicant together with a checklist specifying the items that are incomplete.*

- **APPLICATION FORM** (One copy)
  - a) Cover Sheet with Applicant Signature.
- **SUPPLEMENTAL APPLICATION** (One copy)
  - a) Findings for a Private Tree Removal.
  - b) Tree Evaluation Report (optional, must be prepared by an arborist).
- **SITE PLAN** (One copy of site plan, a minimum of 8.5" x 11", no larger than 11" x 17")
  - a) North arrow and drawing scale.
  - b) Project site address.
  - c) Property lines.
  - d) Existing structures with their uses labeled.
  - e) Location of tree requested for removal. Show full tree canopy and setbacks from tree trunk to property line and structures. Number each tree if multiple trees are proposed for removal.
  - f) Location of other trees and landscaped areas on property.
  - g) Topography (when applicable, such as in hillside areas).
- **OWNERSHIP VERIFICATION** (One copy)
  - a) Copy of grant deed, utility bill or other proof of ownership.
  - b) Written consent from property owner to authorize another representative (if applicable).
- **PHOTOS** (One set)
  - a) A minimum of four photos (varied angles) of the tree canopy including one from the public right-of-way. You may also include close-ups of any diseased branches or damaged structures.
- **APPLICATION FEES**

### **ADDITIONAL ITEMS:**

*In addition, the following items may be required by the Planner for submittal:*

- **LANDSCAPE PLAN** (Two sets - should include species, size and location of replacement trees)

- clear photos (with varied angles)
- complete site layout (with full tree canopies)

[www.printfriendly.com/document/pasadena-private-tree-removal-request-checklist/  
editor](http://www.printfriendly.com/document/pasadena-private-tree-removal-request-checklist/editor)

## **Street Trees**

Map current city streets' tree designations. Formalize the methodology to facilitate species selection.

[www.claremontca.gov/files/assets/public/v/1/community-services/documents/trees/  
designated-street-tree-lis.pdf](http://www.claremontca.gov/files/assets/public/v/1/community-services/documents/trees/designated-street-tree-lis.pdf)

- private property street tree planting
  - when parkway is beneath power lines
  - monterey hills with narrow streets and no parkway
- watering/maintenance program

## **Clarification**

What does this mean? (from agenda p. 48)

staff recommends removing subjective criteria allowing staff to apply violations consistently

focusing ordinance on protected trees allowing staff to enforce municipal code without subjective interpretation

**Please do not rubber stamp this and let it move on to the next commission.**

Thank you,  
Angelo Gladding