Council District No. 2

Honorable Board of Public Works
The City of Los Angeles

Commissioners:

12327 THROUGH 12347 ADDISON STREET—REQUEST BOARD APPROVAL FOR A FEE PERMIT TO REMOVE SEVEN TREES WHICH INCLUDE FIVE PECAN (CARYA ILLINOENSIS), ONE AUSTRALIAN WILLOW (GEIJERA PARVIFLORA), AND ONE INDIAN LAUREL FIG (FICUS MICROCARPA) TREE DUE TO REQUIRED ROADWAY CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS AS PART OF TENTATIVE TRACT 60421. TREE REPLACEMENTS ARE REQUIRED.

RECOMMENDATION:

That your Board of Public Works (Board):

1. FIND under the California Public Resources Code, Section 21166 and the State’s Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15162, on the basis of substantial evidence contained in the whole record, that since the City’s prior certification of Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) Case No. ENV-2004-910-MND there have been no changes to the Project, changes with respect to the circumstances under which the Project is being undertaken, or new information of substantial importance concerning the Project, which cause new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects, and therefore no subsequent MND, supplemental MND, or other analysis is required for the Project.

2. Specify that the Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA), Urban Forestry Division (UFD) located at 1149 South Broadway, is custodian of the documents or other material that constitute the record of proceedings upon which the Board's decision is based.

3. Approve the request for a fee tree removal permit for to remove 7 trees which include 5 Pecan (Carya illinoensis), 1 Australian Willow (Geijera parviflora), and 1 Indian Laurel Fig (Ficus microcarpa) trees. Tree replacements are required.

4. Concur with StreetsLA determination that the site cannot feasibly accommodate all the required replacement trees and pursuant to LAMC 62.177(c), authorize the Tree Replacement Guarantee Fee to satisfy the Board’s tree planting requirement.
TRANSMITTALS:

1. Tree removal request notification sheet
2. Application for a tree removal permit
3. Service Request No. 1-1449407461
4. Class B Permit / Application No. BR205209
5. Correspondence from Adrienne Asadoorian, Council District 2
8. Letter of Determination, dated on May 24, 2006
9. Tree Report from Kay J. Greeley, Registered Landscape Architect
10. Photos of trees
11. Plot plans

CONDITION:

The applicant shall plant six, 36-inch box size Brisbane Box (Lophostemon confertus) trees to replace the removed street trees. Eight additional trees needed to meet the Boards 2:1 street tree replacement policy cannot be feasibly planted on site. Therefore, pursuant to LAMC Sec. 62.177, applicant shall pay tree replacement guarantee fee of $15,560.00. All replacement trees on site shall be watered for a minimum three-year period after planting.

The applicant shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City, its agents, officers, or employees from any claim, action, or proceeding against the City or its agents, officers, or employees relating to or to attack, set aside, void or annul this approval.

ALTERNATIVE METHODS AND OPTIONS EXPLORED:

There is one Coast Live Oak (Quercus agrifolia) tree and one California Sycamore (Platanus racemosa) tree growing on the property and six trees growing in the public right of way. The StreetsLA has communicated and collaborated with the applicant and other City Departments to discuss alternatives to construction and design of the project to retain the healthy mature trees on the project site. As a result, the applicant modified the plans for one of the homes and its driveway; therefore, retaining one mature California Sycamore tree that was initially identified for removal. One existing Oak tree will be minimally impacted, was not identified for removal, and shall be retained in place. Six trees growing on Addison Street are growing in clusters with poor branching structure and growing several inches above the sidewalk grade, because of their structure and location, the trees are not considered viable candidates for tree preservation. One Australian Willow (Geijera parviflora) tree was initially identified to be retained; however, the tree was apparently removed without StreetsLA knowledge; therefore, the applicant shall replace all removed street trees with a minimal of 36-inch box size trees.
RE bâtiments en construction sur un site de 26,311 pieds carrés, localisé entre 12327 et 12347 Addison Street, sous le n° de Tract Tentatif 60421. Le projet est situé au coin nord-est de Addison Street et Rhodes Avenue dans la communauté de Valley Village.

En tant que condition pour la construction du projet, le Bureau d'Ingénierie (BOE) requiert le développeur effectuer des améliorations de rue incluant la construction d'une nouvelle voie de 18 pieds de large sur Rhodes Avenue et la construction d'un nouvel trottoir et d'une voie pour piétons sur Addison Street, en plus d'autres améliorations de rue associées. Mr. Levy a demandé au BOE un permis de construction de classe "B" pour les améliorations de rue comme condition. BOE a informé Mr. Levy que les améliorations de rue et la construction de maisons pourraient nécessiter l'élimination d'arbres.

Mr. Levy a sollicité les services de Ms. Kay Greely (Ms. Greely), Architecte paysagiste inscrit, pour effectuer une évaluation du site et pour aborder l'impact du projet sur les arbres protégés sur le site de construction. Ms. Greely a préparé un rapport d'évaluation d'arbres protégés (PTR) en réponse à la demande et a soumis le PTR pour la revue StreetsLA.

Ms. Greely a évalué le site initial et a identifié un total de deux arbres protégés sur le site qui incluent un (No. 2088) arbre de Live Oak et un (No. 2105) arbre de Sycamore de Californie, avec sept arbres de Carya illinoensis (Pecan). Un arbre de Willow Australien a été identifié et retenu; toutefois, il a été retiré sans le savoir de StreetsLA. Le rapport de StreetsLA a indiqué que l'arbre de Willow Australien était préservé et que les arbres de Pecan étaient situés dans une zone dédiée à la ville sur Addison Street. Les arbres mesuraient environ 8 à 40 pouces de diamètre et 30 à 70 pieds de hauteur. Si l'autorisation est accordée, les arbres retirés seront remplacés par des espèces qui fournissent de l'ombre et de nombreux avantages environnementaux et esthétiques à la communauté.
Within the contents of the Inter-Departmental Correspondence BOE condition of approval S-3(i), requires the developer to widen Rhodes Avenue from 18-feet half-roadway to a 36-feet roadway. The required street widening, and public sidewalk improvements will severely impact six street trees. StreetsLA agrees that performing street widening and the installation of the sidewalk, driveway, curb, and gutter will require the removal of the remaining six street trees.

**CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA):**

The Department of City Planning prepared a MND (Case No. ENV-2004-0910-MND) for the project finding the project will have a less than significant environmental effect with the incorporation of Mitigation Measures (IV-f) as identified in the Initial Study to the MND. StreetsLA reviewed and determined the project MND properly addresses the tree removals proposed for this project.

The project MND was utilized in forming the recommendations in this report and is on file with the StreetsLA and available to the public upon request.

**CONCLUSION:**

The Second Council District Office was informed of the tree removal permit request on April 10, 2020. The Council Office will inform any persons inquiring of the opportunity to be heard by the Board at the public hearing for the tree removal permit request.

Public comments on this tree removal permit request will be received and heard, both in-writing and in-person, during the scheduled public hearing with the Board. The following public noticing of this tree removal permit was conducted:

- Notice of the proposed tree removals was physically posted on the subject trees on November 19, 2019;
- Proposed tree removals were included on the Bureau of Street Services Tree Removal Notification System; and
- The Community Forest Advisory Committee (CFAC) and Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) were notified.

The applicant shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the City, its agents, officers, or employees from any claim, action, or proceeding against the City or its agents, officers, or employees relating to or to attack, set aside, void or annul this approval.
The applicant has been advised of the recommendations contained in this report.

Respectfully Submitted,

ADEL H. HAGEKHALIL, P. E.
Executive Director and General Manager
Bureau of Street Services

Prepared by:
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AH/GS/TT/HB:jk
S:Board Reports/2019 Board Reports/12327 thru 12347 Addison St