

June 6, 2005

Honorable Chairman and Members of the
Public Works Commission

Regular Meeting of
June 15, 2005

**REMOVAL OF EUCALYPTUS TREE
ON PROSPECT AVENUE**

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Public Works Commission re-hear public testimony and make a recommendation regarding the removal of a eucalyptus tree from the public right-of-way on the west side of Prospect Avenue between 4th and 5th Streets based on the current situation.

Summary:

At their May, 2004 meeting, the Public Works Commission heard the request of a property owner who was building a new home on the east side of Prospect Avenue and wanted to have this tree removed in order to improve their view of the ocean (SEE ATTACHMENT 1). At that time, the property owner volunteered to pay all expenses of properly removing the tree and would have paid the cost of replacing it with three new trees of the City's choosing. The Commission voted to not take any action to remove the tree and noted that this decision did not preclude Staff from further investigating or the property owner from appealing the decision at the City Council level (SEE ATTACHMENT 2).

Staff recently received another request (SEE ATTACHMENT 3) for the removal of this tree – this request is from the owner of the property immediately adjacent to the tree location, Mr. William Belton. Mr. Belton is asking that the Commission reconsider the original decision and support removal of the tree. While he was not the originator of the request a year ago, he did appear at the meeting in support of removing the tree.

It is a huge tree, approximately 100 feet tall, and has been damaging Mr. Belton's property for many years. In addition, the City has spent a lot of money trimming this tree over the years; it is a safety concern due to the large branches falling into the street. Staff supports the removal of this tree.

A notice to residents of the area at the time of the first hearing prompted many to express their desire for not removing the tree as well as others in favor of removal. A notice to residents has been distributed for this hearing and responses are welcomed.

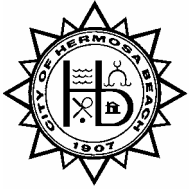
Staff requests that the Commission make a recommendation regarding disposition of this matter after receiving public comment.

Attachments:

1. May 2004 agenda item
2. Excerpt from May 2004 PWC Meeting Minutes
3. Correspondence from Mr. Belton

Respectfully submitted,

Richard D. Morgan, P.E.
Director of Public Works/City Engineer



City of Hermosa Beach PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING BEFORE THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR REMOVAL OF TREE FROM THE 400 BLOCK OF PROSPECT AVE., WEST SIDE OF THE STREET



PUBLIC HEARING

**WHAT'S BEING
DISCUSSED:**

A request for the removal of the large eucalyptus tree located on Prospect Ave. midway between 4th & 5th Streets, west side.

**WHY THIS AD:
about**

A public hearing will be held to give you an opportunity to talk the issues before any changes take place in your neighborhood.

WHERE & WHEN:

A public hearing will be held at the regular Public Works Commission meeting on Wednesday, June 15, 2005 at 7:00 or shortly thereafter, in the City Hall Council Chambers, 1315 Valley Drive, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254.

CONTACT:

The City's contact person is Richard D. Morgan, P.E., Director of Public Works, 310/318-0211.