



Agenda Item A.3
CONSENT CALENDAR
Meeting Date: February 11, 2026

TO: Chair and Members of the Public Tree Advisory Commission

SUBMITTED BY: Luz “Nina” Buelna, Public Works Director

PREPARED BY: Paul Medel, Public Works Manager

SUBJECT: Street Maintenance Division Report

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file a report regarding Street Tree maintenance activities during September 2025 through January 2026.

DISCUSSION:

Tree Maintenance

From September 2025 through January 15, 2026, the City of Goleta’s street tree maintenance contractor, West Coast Arborists (WCA), continued its pruning of Zones 4 and 5, which are located east of Los Carneros Road, west of Kellogg Avenue, and south of Calle Real, extending northward. These Zones comprised approximately 1,800 trees in Zone 4 and 1,100 trees in Zone 5, totaling approximately 2,900 trees. The focus has been on pruning larger trees, including liquidambar, Chinese elm, carrotwood, and melaleuca.

This work has been essential during the wet winter months, when winter storms historically caused down branches and toppled heavy trees. Reducing the heavy canopy and pruning these trees are vital to protecting the health and safety of our Urban Forest. Focusing on larger tree species such as carrotwood, shamel ash, Modesto ash, and liquidambar was key during the recent rain events. WCA will continue the pruning cycle in these zones through the end of June 2026.

STORM DAMAGE

The loss of trees was minimal, given the record rainfall and heavy flooding during the last few months of 2025 and early 2026. The Streets Division lost approximately six trees during the November rain event and six more during the last December/January rain event.

During the December/January storm, two large private trees fell into the City's right-of-way. City crews, along with WCA and the Santa Barbara County Fire Department, worked together to quickly remove trees and open the public right-of-way to ensure public safety.

2025 Arterial Pavement Project

On October 28, 2025, the City held an open house to share its plan to replant 13 trees removed during the 2025 Pavement Management Program. At the meeting, attendees learned more about the City's urban tree program and how to plant trees within the City right-of-way, and reviewed tree species options consistent with the City's Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP). The information boards presented at the open house were posted on the City's website. Residents were encouraged to submit their first choice tree selection during the open house or provide feedback by email through January 15, 2026. The City is currently developing the planting schedule and anticipates planting the trees by early spring.

Approved By:



Luz "Nina" Buelna
Public Works Director