UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

DATE: November 15, 2019

CAMPUS: Santa Barbara

PROJECT TITLE: Campus-Wide Hazardous Tree Replacement Program

PROJECT LOCATION: University of California, Santa Barbara, Main Campus various locations (see attached site map).

BACKGROUND:

There are approximately 290 aging and unhealthy *Eucalyptus globulus* (Tasmanium blue gum) on the University of California, Santa Barbara's (University) Main Campus. The blue gum eucalyptus were planted as agricultural windbreaks between 1915 and about 1927 and are approximately 87 to 97 years old. The trees are approaching the end of their lifespan and have been determined to be unhealthy and unsafe to persons and property in their vicinity. Several of these trees fell and damaged property during storms in February 2019 and earlier years as well.

The mature trees are located in heavily travelled and populated areas around the University and residential and academic buildings surround the trees. Tree failure could potentially result in damage to property and persons and therefore need to be removed. There were several tree failures in 1985 and 1997 and again in 2017 and 2019 when several large trees fell in the core of campus. The 2017 failures at the west end of Academic Green occurred at about 8:30 AM on a weekday and narrowly avoided striking students going to class. The February 2, 2019 failures occurred on a Saturday, totaled a car, and did significant damage to an office building and area lighting (See photos of fallen trees). Blue gum fell along the Ocean Road windrow as well in February 2019 narrowly missing an apartment building and the Isla Vista Foot Patrol building.

With upwards of 30,000 people on campus at any given weekday and over 10,000 on weekends, the campus has a responsibility to provide a safe environment and remove weak and hazardous trees.

In July 2019 an arborist survey was completed to evaluate the remnant windrow trees on the Main Campus. A sample of 20 percent of the total trees on the Main Campus were evaluated: 41 out of a maximum of 290 trees. These mature eucalyptus trees are nearing the end of their lifespan, are diseased, or have poor structure. A majority of the trees received a fair or poor rating and a few a very poor rating (primarily along El Colegio Road near Pauley Track). One tree received a "good" rating and one received a "normal" rating. One tree was recommended to be removed.

A coastal raptor habitat survey was conducted in June 2019 and determined the trees in the Main Campus core are not raptor habitat. Raptor nesting was observed in trees at the AS Recycling Grove and below and west of the San Nicolas dorms. The trees adjacent to San Nicolas dorms are within ESHA buffer and are also adjacent to the Campus Lagoon. These trees are considered raptor habitat. Trees removed in those two areas will require a tree replacement and restoration plan restoring the raptor habitat either in the same location or an offsite location.

Approximately 70 of the blue gum eucalyptus in the campus-wide hazardous tree removal project are located along the Isla Vista-University border along Ocean Road. These trees are located within an area designated for Housing. The Ocean Road Housing project, including removal of the eucalyptus windrow, was analyzed in the 2010 Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) Environmental Impact Report and is designated in the University's LRDP (Policy LU-15) as allowed development. The Ocean Road Housing project is currently in planning stages and an Addendum to the LRDP EIR is being prepared as of this writing. It is anticipated the Addendum will be approved by the UC Regents in March 2020.

TREE REMOVAL AND REPLACEMENT PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Santa Barbara Campus proposes to remove approximately 290 aging and unhealthy *Eucalyptus globulus* (Tasmanium blue gum), in phases over approximately 2 to 3 years, at various locations on the University's Main Campus (see attached maps). Tree removal and replacement areas are primarily developed with buildings, sidewalks, bicycle paths, bicycle parking, and courtyards. Two areas, below San Nicolas Dorms and adjacent to the Campus Lagoon and the AS Recycling Grove adjacent to the Multipurpose Activity Center and Environmental Health and Safety office are more natural areas though still adjacent to development as well.

The trees are parts of remnant windrows of non-native blue gum eucalyptus and are approximately 100 feet in height. Numerous other species of large ornamental trees are found in the landscaped areas that surround the blue gum eucalyptus around the Main Campus. Other areas located adjacent to the trees are developed with hardscape (bicycle paths, sidewalks, buildings), landscaped with ornamental plant species, or are composed of bare dirt.

Campus-wide eucalyptus removal will take place in phases. Each phase may include the removal of 30 to 50 trees at a time and the exact number has not been determined. Phase 1 will include the removal of 31 trees on the Main Campus (see map) and will take commence in December 2019.

The campus will hire a contractor to remove the trees. Trees would be removed outside of bird nesting season. If work takes place within bird nesting season a pre-construction nesting survey will be conducted.

All of the trees will be replaced 1:1 at a minimum and trees within Environmentally Sensitive Habitat buffers or those determined to be raptor habitat will be replaced 3:1 with native species (Table 1). Tree replacement would take place immediately after tree removal.

All of the trees would be replaced either at the on-site location or off-site with trees that would grow to similar heights and size as the blue gum eucalyptus. Trees considered as replacement trees include and are not limited to: Corymbia citriadora (Lemon-scented gum), Dombeya cacuminum (Strawberry Snowball Tree)/Brachychiton diversifolius (northern kurrajong), afrocarpus gracilior (East African yellowwood)/Brachichyton acerofolius (illawarra flame tree), Lophostermon confertus (brush box), Quercus agrifolia (Coast live oak), Erythrina fusca (purple coral tree) or Erythrina latissma (Broad-leaved coral tree), Quercus acutissima (sawtooth oak) or Quercus mongolica (Mongolian oak), Liquidambar styraciflua (Sweet gum)/Magnolia grandiflora (Southern magnolia), Quercus virginiana (Southern live oak)/Quercus engelmannii (Engelmann oak), Cupressus macrocarpa (Monterey cypress), Ulmus parvifolia 'Tree Green' (Chinese elm), or Sophora japonica 'Regent' (Japanese pagoda), and Spathodea campanulata – yellow form (African tulip tree) (Table 1).

The offsite replacement trees would be planted either within the Mesa Road median or at pre-determined locations on North or West Campuses. *Corymbia citriadora* (Lemon scented gum) would be planted within the Mesa Road median to match the existing trees. Trees planted on North or West campuses would be Coast Live Oak, Monterey cypress, or another locally native species. Replacement trees will be species that

will grow to similar heights and size of the blue gum. In some cases replacement trees would already be large, for example, approximately 7-feet tall or in 60-inch boxes.

Phase 1 includes removal of 31 trees all with a 1:1 replacement ratio. Nineteen of the Phase 1 replacement trees would be planted in the Mesa Road median. The remaining 12 would be replaced onsite. The three trees removed near PSB-North near SW corner would be replaced 1:1 with a 60-inch box Afrocapus gracilior (East African yellowwood) and the 12 trees removed between Lot 29 and HSSB S of the bicycle path would be replaced 1:1 with 7-foot tall B&B Quercus acutissma (sawtooth oak)/Quercus mongolica (Mongolian oak) (Table 2).

Table 1: Campus Bluegum Removal and Replacement Plan

Trees Removed	Trees Replaced	Location	Replant	Suggested Replacement Species
4	4	Phelps Hall Interior Courtyard	On site	Brachychiton acerifolius/Brachychiton discolor
3	3	PSB - North near SW Corner	On site	Afrocarpus gracilior
4	4	Academic Green	Off site	Corymbia citiodora
3	3	Trailer 937 Near Broida	Off site	Corymbia citiodora
5	5	Webb Hall NW Corner	Off site	Corymbia citiodora
6	6	Parking Lot 9		
3	3	West Side of Chancellor's Residence	On Site	Agonis flexuosa/Banksia integrifolia/Casuarina equisetifolia
4	4	South of Pkng Lot 5	On site	Agonis flexuosa
17	17	RecCen NE	On site	Quercus agrifolia
1	1	Arts & Lectures West Side	On site	Erythrina fusca or E. latissima
4	4	South of the Events Center	Off site	Corymbia citiodora
1	1	NW Corner of Theater & Dance	Off site	Corymbia citiodora
19	19	Between Lot 29 and HSSB S of the Bike Path	On site	Quercus acutissima or Q. mongolica
10	10	El Colegio between Bldg 275 and Lot 27	On site	Liquidambar styraciflua/ Magnolia grandiflora
41	41	El Colegio East Side by Pauley Track	On site	Quercus lobata or Q. engelmannii
24	24	El Colegio Median	Off site	Median may be eliminated- Corymbia citiodora
24	72	AS Recycling "Euc Grove" and SE of EHS	Off site	Future development of FM pit as an HDAE site may put a loop road thru here. Timeline?
6	6	Stadium Rd West side by tennis courts	On site	Monterey Cypress as per theme on this road, or Quercus agrifolia
3	3	NW of HSSB on Raised Landscape Area	On site	Ulmus parvifolia 'True Green' or Sophora japonica 'Regent'
12	12	Parkng Lot 16	On site	Spathodea campanulata - yellow form
3	3	Parkng Lot 27	Off site	Corymbia citiodora
71	213	I. V. Windrow	On and off site	Monterey cypress and other as shown in Ocean Road Housing landscape plan
26	78	S & W of San Nic Dorm	On site	Coast Live Oak, Sycamore, Monterey cypress
294	**536**	**TOTAL**		

Table 2: Phase 1 Tree Removal and Replacement

Location	#Trees Removed	#Trees Replaced	Replacement Trees
PSB Near SW Corner	3	3	Afrocarpus gracilior 60"box onsite
Academic Green	2	2	Corymbia citriodora-Mesa Road median
Trailer 937 Near Broida	2	2	Corymbia citriodora Mesa Road median
Webb Hall NW Corner	3	3	Corymbia citriodora-Mesa Road median
Parking Lot 9	4	4	Corymbia citriodora-Mesa Road median
El Colegio Median	5	5	Corymbia citriodora
Between Lot 29 and HSSB S of the Bike Path	12	12	7-foot tall Quercus acutissima/Quercus mongolica onsite
TOTAL	**31**	**31**	

Schedule: Phase 1 of the proposed project, including the removal and planting of the 31 trees, is expected to commence in December 2019 and will take approximately one month complete. Removal of the remaining trees has not been scheduled at this time and will happen in phases, in the years to follow. The tree removal areas are heavily travelled areas and the trees will be removed during campus holidays or weekends while a majority of the campus population is gone and there is less vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic.

Consistency with the LRDP: The project site area land use is currently designated as *Academic and Support* or *Housing* in the 2010 LRDP. One of the removal areas is within ESHA Buffer. Tree removal and maintenance is permitted in both *Academic and Support* and *Housing* land uses and therefore the proposed project is consistent with the LRDP. Land use designations and the land use will not change when the work is complete. The project is also consistent with LRDP Policies SCEN-7, ESH-27, ESH-28 A, ESH-29 and LU-15.

The project is consistent with Policies SCEN-7, ESH-27, ESH-28, and ESH-29. A majority of the trees could be considered scenic however are not located along a scenic highway or scenic location, rather they are located in an urbanized area and the trees are non-native. 2019 raptor survey results show no raptor nesting activity at a majority of the trees on the Main Campus. The trees that are determined to be raptor habitat, such as those adjacent to the San Nicolas dorm and the Campus Lagoon, and the AS Recycling Grove, would adhere to LRDP Policy ESH-29 and require a 3:1 replacement ratio accompanied by a restoration plan. All of the blue gum eucalyptus in the remnant windrows have reached the end of their lifespan and have been determined to pose a substantial hazard to life or property and are allowed to be removed in accordance with LRDP Policies and Appendix 2, Tree Trimming and Removal Protocol.

Replacement trees would be either at the on-site location where the tree was removed or off-site with trees that would grow to similar heights and size as the blue gum. The objective is to replace raptor and bird perching and roosting habitat and nesting habitat where applicable.

In accordance with LRDP Policy LU-15 i. the eucalyptus windrow shall be replaced at a 3:1 ratio with Monterey Cyprus or similar trees suitable for raptor use, with 1:1 planted on-site in the form of a similar windrow with a north-south orientation and 2:1 planted off-site at a campus location(s) that is appropriate to support and create raptor habitat.

Consistency analysis: The campus-wide hazardous tree removal project includes the removal of 71 blue gum eucalyptus along the Ocean Road windrow where Ocean Road Housing would be developed. These

trees were evaluated by an arborist in 2010 and were determined to be of poor health at that time. Nineteen trees in the windrow were removed at that time. The trees would be replaced in accordance with Policy LU-15i which requires 3:1 replacement of the eucalyptus windrow.

CEQA COMPLIANCE:
This project is considered Categorically Exempt under CEQA Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land. None of the exceptions cited in Section 15300.2 apply to this project and there are no unusual circumstances which would create an exception to the Exemption. The project is located in an urban setting and includes removal of unhealthy non-native trees. The trees pose a life safety hazard to persons and property and require removal.

All actions will be consistent with applicable federal, state, and local environmental permitting requirements.

Documents are available at the University of California Santa Barbara Office of Campus Planning and Design from Shari Hammond. Shari.hammond@ucsb.edu and 805-893-3796.

DETERMINATION: Based on the above project assessment, the proposed project is classified as exempt from the provisions of CEQA under Section 15304, Minor Alterations to Land. None of the exceptions cited in Section 15300.2 apply to this project.

Shari Hammond

Shari Hammond
Principal Planner

11.15.2019

Date

REFERENCES

2019 Cook. Personal communication with Jon Cook, Associate Director, Grounds and Custodial.

2019 Dudek. Coastal Breeding Season Raptor Surveys and Raptor Habitat Assessment for the University of California, Santa Barbara, Tree Removal, Main Campus and West Campus. Prepared for Shari Hammond, Office of Campus Planning and Design, Budget and Planning, University of California, Santa Barbara. July 5. 2019.

2019 Murakoa. Eucalyptus globulus, Blue Gum Risk Assessment, University of California, Santa Barbara. Prepared by Robert Muraoka, B.s., M.S. ASCA Registered Consulting Arborist #469. ISA Certified Arborist #WE3987A. Argi-Turf Supplied Inc. Prepared for Jonathan Cook, University of California, Santa Barbara, Facilities Management.

CAMPUS HAZARDOUS TREE REMOVAL PLAN - PHASE I

○ ONE TREE REMOVAL

CAMPUS HAZARDOUS TREE REPLACMENT PLAN - PHASE I

◉ ONE TREE REPLACMENT

Campus Blue Gum
Removal and Replacement Plan

Blue Gum Eucalyptus are marked as yellow dots

Stumps are marked as red dots

Other tree species are marked as green dots

On Site = Same location trees were removed from

Off Site = Mesa Road Median, N-S Segment of Ocean Road Median, North Campus Open Space, or Coal Oil Point

Phelps Hall Interior Courtyard - 4 trees will be replaced on site; 1:1.

PSB-North near SW Corner - 3 trees will be replaced on site, 1:1.

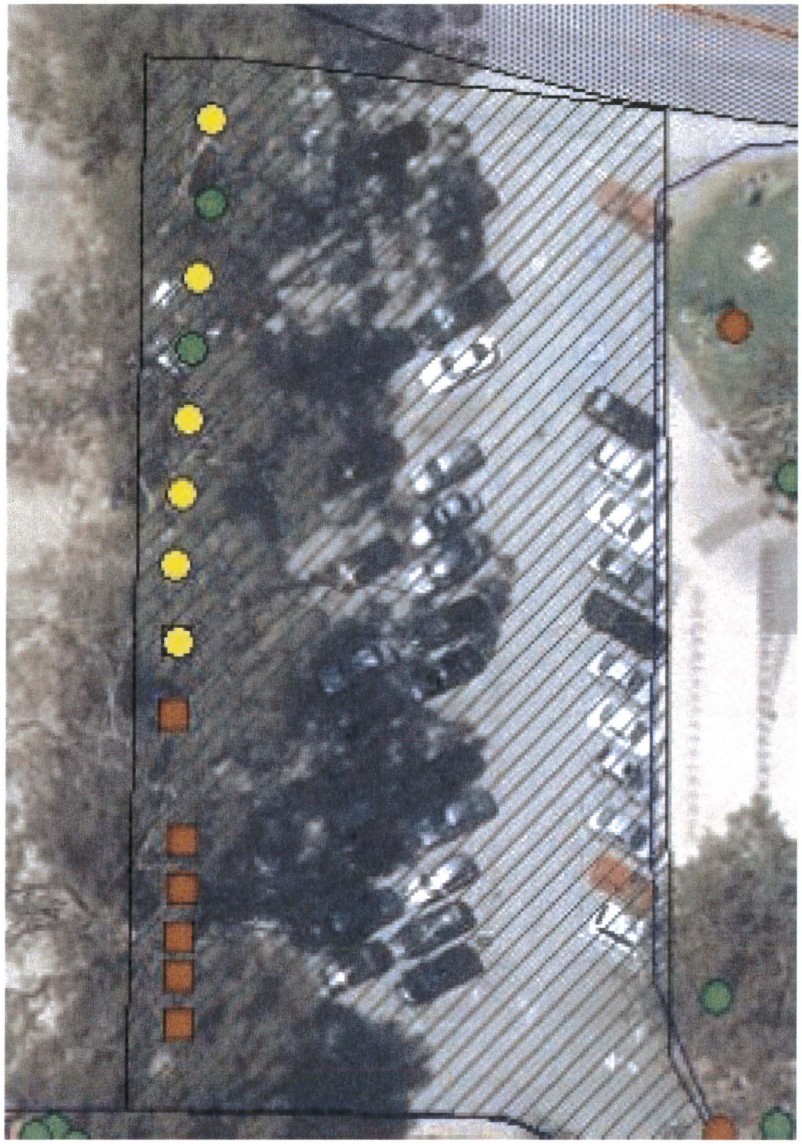
Academic Green – 4 trees will be replaced off site, 1:1.

Trailer 937 near Broida Hall – 3 trees will be replaced off site, 1:1.

Webb Hall NW Corner – 5 trees will be replaced off site, 1:1.

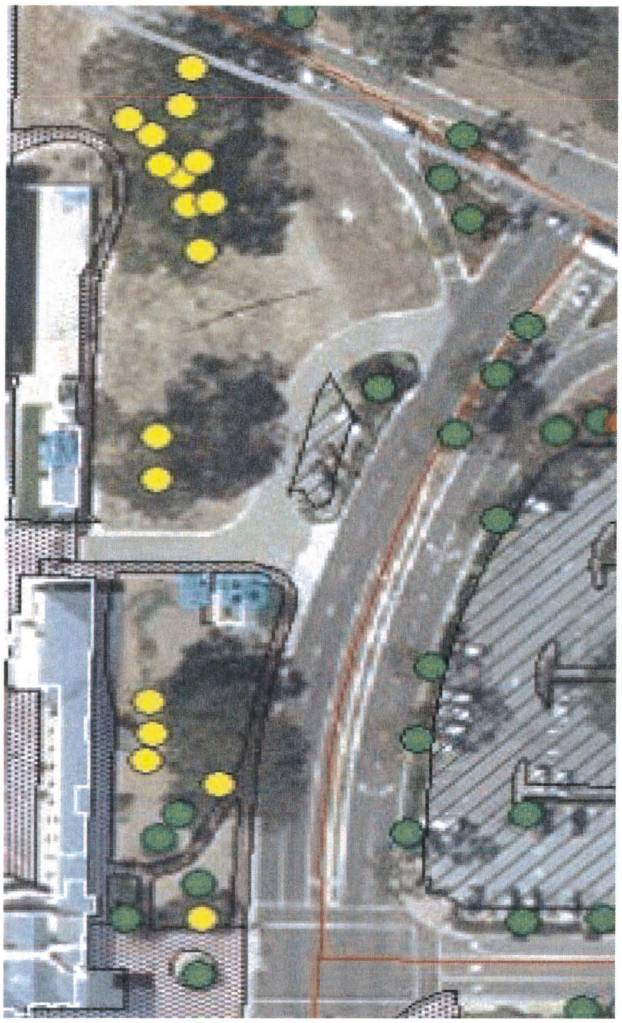
West Side of Chancellor's Residence – 3 trees will be replaced on site, 1:1.

Parking Lot 9 – 6 trees will be replaced off site, 1:1.



South of Parking Lot 5 – 4 trees will be replaced on site, 3:1.

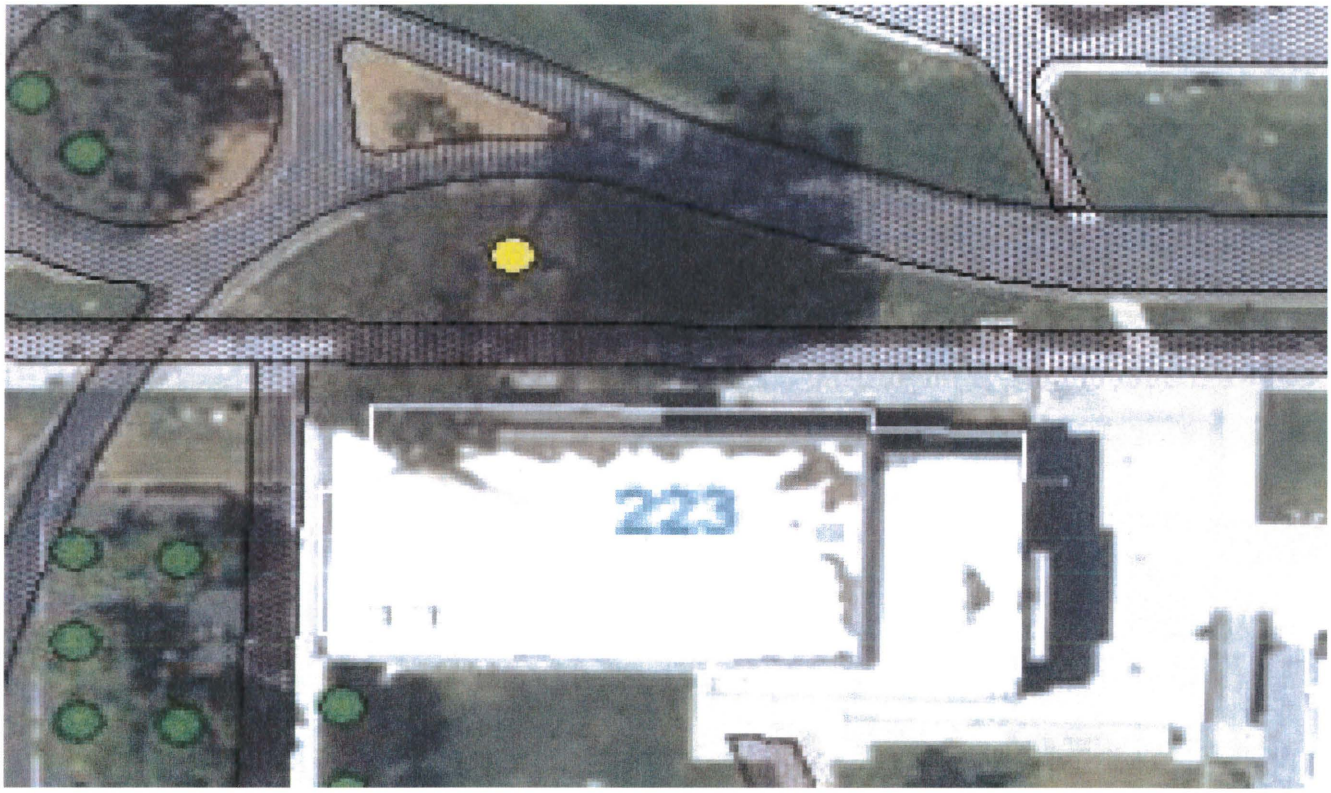
RecCen NE – 17 trees will be replaced on site, 1:1.



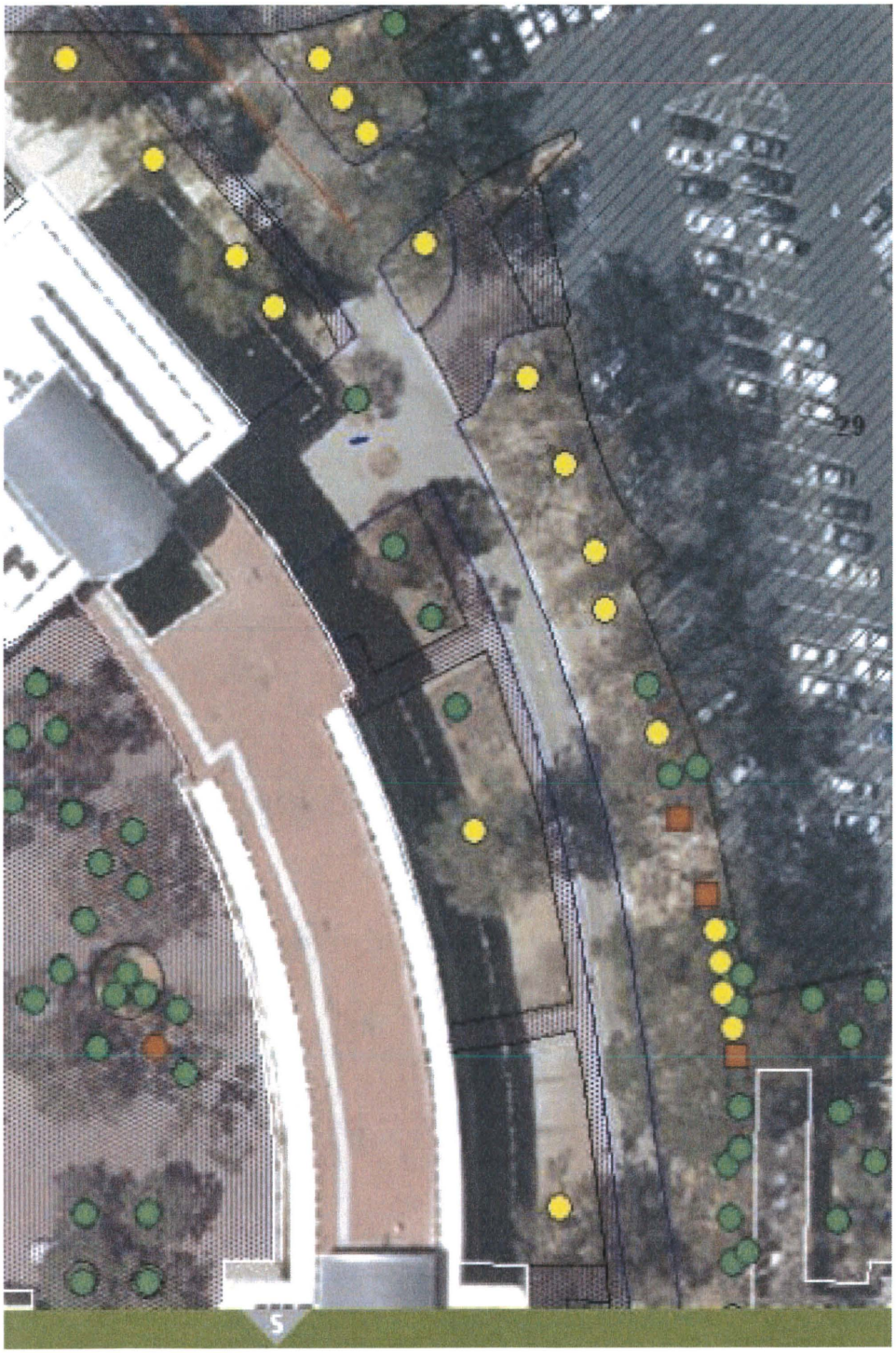
Arts & Lectures West Side – 1 tree will be replaced on site, 1:1.

South of the Event Center – 4 trees will be replaced off site, 1:1.

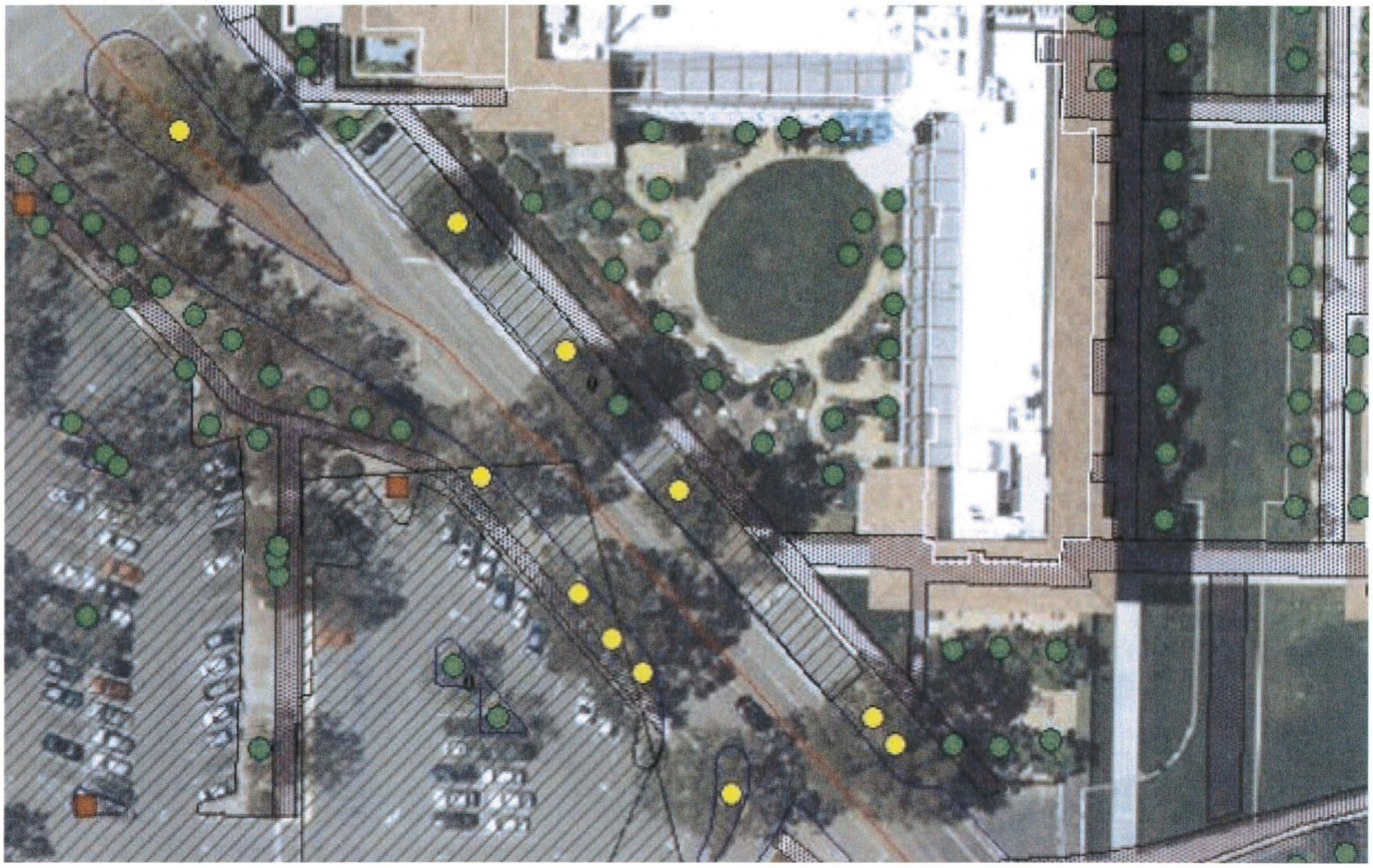
NW corner of Theatre & Dance – 1 tree will be replace off site, 1:1.



Between Lot 29 and HSSB S side of the bike path – 19 trees will be replaced on site, 1:1.



El Colegio between building 275 and Lot 27 – 10 trees will be replaced on site, 1:1.



El Colegio East Side by Pauly Track – 41 trees will be replaced on site, 1:1.

El Colegio Median – 24 trees will be replaced off site, 1:1.

AS Recycling "Euc Grove" and SE of EH&S – 24 trees will be replaced off site, 3:1.

Stadium Rd West side by tennis courts – 6 trees will be replaced on site, 1:1.

NW HSSB on Raised Landscape Area – 3 trees will be replaced on site, 1:1.

Parking Lot 16 – 12 trees will be replaced on site, 1:1.

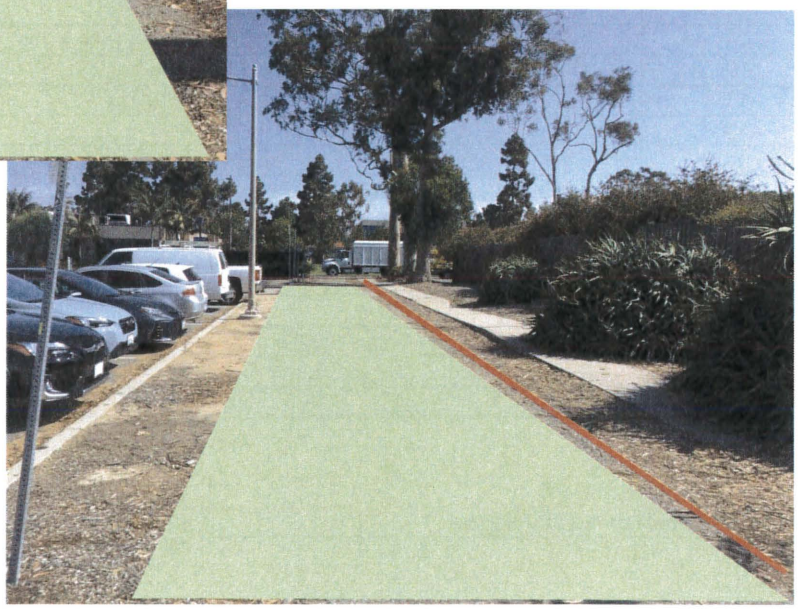
Parking Lot 27 – 3 trees will be replaced off site, 1:1.

I.V. Windrow (North to South) – 71 trees will be replaced on site 1:1 **AND** off site 2:1.

S & W of San Nicolas Dorm – 26 trees will be replaced on site, 3:1.

West Campus Faculty Condos – 75 trees will be replaced on site, 3:1.

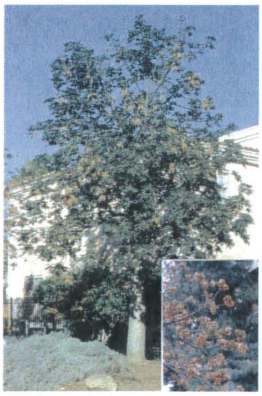
Chancellor's Residence – Remove 3 trees, extend fence, and replant 3 trees.



Campus Bluegum Removal and Replacement Cost Plan

# Trees Removed	# Trees Replaced	Location	$ Trees Removed	$ Trees Replaced	Include Small Bird Survey
4	4	Phelps Hall Interior Courtyard			
3	3	PSB - North near SW Corner			
4	4	Academic Green			
3	3	Trailer 937 Near Broida			
5	5	Webb Hall NW Corner	***$216,000***	***$62,000***	***$290,960***
3	3	West Side of Chancellor's Residence	***(54 trees)***	***(62 trees)***	
6	6	Parking Lot 9			
4	12	South of Pkng Lot 5			
17	17	RecCen NE			
5	5	El Colegio Median (*special condition trees*)			
1	1	Arts & Lectures West Side			
4	4	South of the Events Center			
1	1	NW Corner of Theater & Dance	***$356,000***	***$97,000***	***$474,360***
19	19	Between Lot 29 and HSSB S of the Bike Path	***(89 trees)***	***(97 trees)***	
10	10	El Colegio between Bldg 275 and Lot 27			
41	41	El Colegio East Side by Pauley Track			
19	19	El Colegio Median			
24	72	AS Recycling "Euc Grove" and SE of EHS			
6	6	Stadium Rd West side by tennis courts			
3	3	NW of HSSB on Raised Landscape Area			
12	12	Pkng Lot 16			
3	3	Pkng Lot 27			
71	213	I. V. Windrow	**$284,000**	**$213,000**	**$514,040**
26	78	S & W of San Nic Dorm			
64	225	West Campus Faculty Condos			
358	**769**	**TOTAL**	**$1,432,000**	**$769,000**	**$2,286,920**
$4,000 - Tree Removal					
$1,000 - Tree Replacement					
$12,000/50 trees - Small Bird Survey					

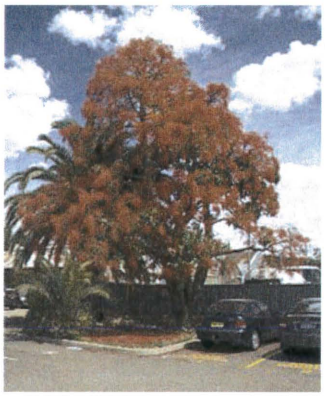
Dombeya cacuminum



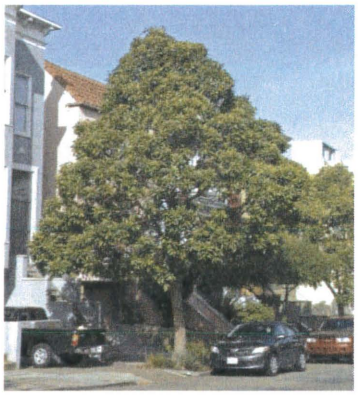
Brachychiton discolor

Brachychiton diversifolius

Afrocarpus gracilior



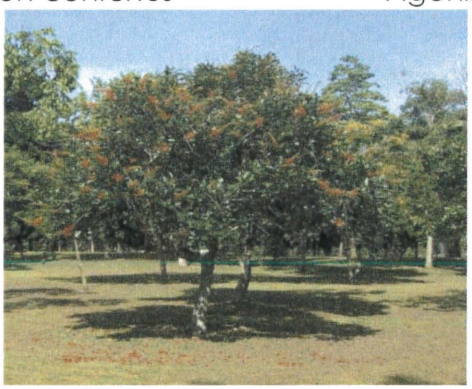
Brachichyton acerifolius



Lophostemon confertus

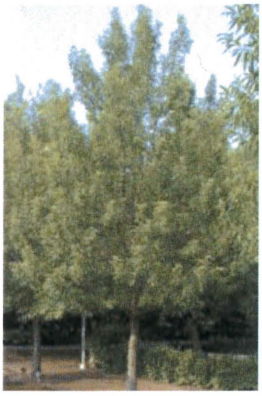
Agonis flexuosa

Quercus agrifolia



Erythrina fusca

Erythrina latissima



Quercus acutissima

Quercus mongolica

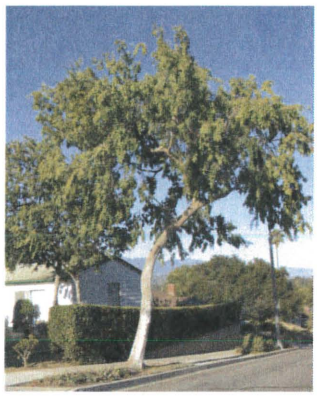
Liquidambar styraciflua

Magnolia grandiflora

Quercus virginiana

Quercus engelmannii

Monterey cypress



Ulmus parvifolia

Sophora japonica

Spathodea campanulata