

# Trees selected for Pacific Avenue

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7-2-91  
SANTA CRUZ — Unless the City Council has other ideas, the trees that will line Pacific Avenue are spreading planes, pink-blossomed cherries and white-trunked birches.

No palm trees allowed — as per council demand.

On Monday, members of the Streetscape Committee recommended the bloodgood London plane to line the east side of Pacific Avenue.

On the opposite side will be a row of larger-than-normal flowering cherry trees. In the 8-foot-wide median strip between Cathcart and Laurel streets, jacquemontii birches will be planted.

On July 23, the City Council will be asked to approve the selection, and authorize staff to buy the trees so they will be available when planting begins next year.

The row of palm trees at the end of Cooper Street in front of the proposed retail/cinema building have been replaced by plane trees.

The palms had been the focus of much debate, with the council three weeks ago finally siding with those who thought the species inappropriate for

Pacific Avenue.

Qualities of the three trees as explained to the Streetscape Committee include:

- The plane tree has a high, wide canopy that would allow dappled shade, but wouldn't become too dense with regular pruning.

They would reach 30 feet in 10 years.

- The cherry trees would have pink blooms, a cherry-colored bark, pink stems on the foliage and large leaves.

They would have darker, glossier, greener leaves than those on the plane trees across the street.

They would reach 20 feet in 10 years.

- The birches are the "whitest white of any of the birch tree, with a typical birch leaf," said consultants.

It would be a "colonnade-looking" tree, that would contrast with the more broad look of the plane tree canopies.

They could grow as high as 60 feet.

- A fourth tree, the copper beech, is being considered for key intersections and the north end of the mall.

There would be four planted at the mall's tip, and two each at Locust, Church, Walnut and Lincoln streets.

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'We need to be realistic. The city is looking at not really a flush time economically.'

— Mayor Jane Yokoyama discussing \$100,000 kiosks

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Consultants said they still are trying to find appropriate specimens, and may have a final recommendation in time for the council's July 23 meeting.

The 25-foot spacing between trees remains on Pacific Avenue, but committee members asked ROMA Design Group consultants to consider 50-foot spacing on some of the side-street plans.

Also discussed at the Streetscape Committee meeting were the four street kiosks.

The design was for the still-\$100,000 kiosk that City Council members had asked to be whittled down to a cheaper model.

Consultant Boris Dramov made a pitch for sturdy, copper-topped kiosks that would make a permanent statement on the avenue.

Mayor Jane Yokoyama agreed, but pointed out that a \$100,000 kiosk might

send the wrong message to residents at a time when the city is preparing to raise taxes.

"We need to be realistic," said Yokoyama, a member of the Streetscape Committee. "The city is looking at not really a flush time economically."

Dramov said he would send the kiosk design plans to manufacturers so a more accurate cost estimate can be provided the council later this month.

## No holiday paper

The Sentinel will not publish on Thursday, the Fourth of July holiday. The newspaper will resume publication Friday. For information, call 458-0111.