

# **CORRESPONDENCE**

October 17, 2012

The Honorable Mayor Helene Schneider and City Council  
City of Santa Barbara  
P.O. Box 1990  
Santa Barbara, CA 93102-1990

**Subject:** Proposed Landmark Designation of Lemon Scented Gum  
Eucalyptus trees at the Central Library

Dear Madam Mayor and Esteemed City Council Members,

In response to the Historic Landmark Commission's recommendation that the thirteen Lemon Scented Gum Eucalyptus trees (*Corymbia citriodora*) at the Central Library obtain Historic Landmark status, Santa Barbara Beautiful's Board of Directors studied the issue, met and a majority expressed that the thirteen Lemon Scented Gum Eucalyptus trees should not be granted Historic Landmark status. There were many perspectives on this issue and our board also emphasized that any re-design of the landscape surrounding the library preserve as many of the existing Lemon-scented gums as possible.

Our group developed a subcommittee to study and examine this issue with pertinent documents as well as a site visit to the Central Library. We discovered that these trees are currently regulated under SBMA Chapter 15.20 and that any proposed removal of the trees associated with redesign of the Library's plaza is subject to the Street Tree Advisory Committee's review and recommendation to the Parks and Recreation Commission accompanied by a staff recommendation. Ultimately, any decision by the Commission is appealable to City Council. We believe this process to be adequate for any proposed future actions regarding any of the thirteen trees.

Since the Central Library's current plaza has issues in regard to ADA access, public safety, and is underutilized in its current configuration, the Board believes granting Historic Landmark status to these trees reduces both the flexibility and the ability to better serve public interests in any redesign of the plaza.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Santa Barbara Beautiful