



Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning



Planning for the Challenges Ahead

Jon Sanabria
Acting Director of Planning

June 11, 2009

TO: Alejandro Garcia
Hearing Officer

FROM: Tyler Montgomery *TM*
Regional Planning Assistant II
Zoning Permits II Section

SUBJECT: **PROJECT NO. 03-087-(5)**
OAK TREE PERMIT CASE NO. 200800049-(5)
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CASE NO. 03-087-(5)
June 16, 2009 Public Hearing
Agenda Item No. 3

The above item was continued from the June 2, 2009 public hearing in order for staff to further discuss the recommended ratio of mitigation trees with the County Forester.

At the previous public hearing, the applicant objected to the second set of calculations for mitigation trees, as recommended by the Forester. The applicant states that these removals, although unpermitted, were carried out in accordance to the requirements of the Department of Public Works, which required that the drainage and slope stabilization system be constructed. In addition, the original Oak Tree Permit 03-087 was cleared by Public Works for hearing without this requirement, and as a result these removals were not conceived of during the first public hearing process. Because of this, the applicant requested that the Hearing Officer modify staff's conditions of approval to allow for the planting of mitigation trees on a 2:1 basis for all removals instead of the inch-per-inch basis suggested for the 16 unpermitted removals.

Staff contacted the Forestry Division, whose staff indicated that they were aware of the situation described by the applicant. However, they are still of the opinion that the most appropriate mitigation measure for the unpermitted removal of oak trees is an inch-by-inch replacement of the removed trees. Therefore, staff's recommendation remains one of approval for the requested permit with the conditions of approval as previously submitted at the June 2, 2009 public hearing, which included this requirement.

06/11/09
MM:TM