



Los Angeles County
Department of Regional Planning

Planning for the Challenges Ahead



Richard J. Bruckner
Director

March 4, 2010

Nabeel and Mona Coobtee
4849 La Crescenta Avenue
La Crescenta, CA 91214

CERTIFIED MAIL - RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

**SUBJECT: PROJECT R2009-01900-(5)
OAK TREE PERMIT 200900044
4849 La Crescenta Avenue**

Dear Applicant:

PLEASE NOTE: This document contains the Director's findings, order and conditions relating to **APPROVAL** of the above referenced case and serves as the approved oak tree permit on file.

CAREFULLY REVIEW EACH CONDITION.

The permittee must submit a notarized affidavit accepting the conditions before this grant becomes effective. **USE THE ENCLOSED AFFIDAVIT FOR THIS PURPOSE.**

The applicant or **ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSON** may **APPEAL** the Director's decision to the Regional Planning Commission at the office of the Commission's secretary, Room 1350, Hall of Records, 320 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California 90012. Contact the Commission's secretary for the amount of the appeal fee at (213) 974-6409. The appeal must be postmarked or delivered in person within 14 days after this notice is received by the applicant. This grant will not become effective until and unless this period has passed without an appeal.

For further information on appeal procedures, compliance with conditions or any other matter pertaining to this grant, please contact the Zoning Permits Section at (213) 974-6435. For information on inspections or inspection fees, contact the County Forester at (818) 890-5719 or (323) 881-2481.

DIRECTOR'S FINDINGS AND ORDER:

FACTUAL SUMMARY:

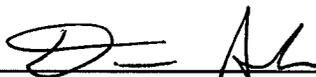
The applicant is requesting an oak tree permit to remove one oak tree, identified as Oak Tree Number 1 in an oak tree report dated August 3, 2009 prepared by Lisa Smith, for the future 600 foot addition to an existing single-family residence and attached garage located at 4849 La Crescenta Avenue, in the unincorporated community of La Crescenta-Montrose, in the La Crescenta Zoned District, unincorporated Los Angeles County. There is no plot plan approval associated with this project. The future construction of the addition to the single family residence will be reviewed separately.

FINDINGS:

Absent the encroachment permitted by the attached conditions, the placement of the subject oak tree precludes the reasonable and efficient use of the property for a purpose otherwise authorized. The work approved is not contrary to or in substantial conflict with the intent and purpose of the oak tree permit procedure.

DIRECTOR'S ACTION:

1. I find that the project is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. In view of the findings of fact presented above, Oak Tree Permit 200900044 is GRANTED subject to the filing of the attached affidavit and compliance with the attached conditions. Pursuant to Section 22.56.2250, an approved oak tree permit if not used within one year after the granting of such approval will become null and void and of no effect; except that where an application requesting an extension is filed prior to such expiration date, the director may extend such time for a period of not to exceed one year.

BY:  DATE: 03/10/2010

Diane Aranda
Zoning Permits II Section
Department of Regional Planning
County of Los Angeles

Enclosure: Affidavit and Conditions

c: Zoning Enforcement; County Forester

1. This grant authorizes the removal of one oak tree (*Quercus agrifolia*) identified as tree number #1 on the applicant's site plan and oak tree report for the future construction of a 600 foot addition to an existing single-family residence located at 4849 La Crescenta Avenue, in the unincorporated community of La Crescenta, in the La Crescenta Zoned District, unincorporated Los Angeles County, subject to the following conditions:
 - a. **This permit SHALL NOT be effective until a plot plan is approved for construction of the proposed single-family residence, demonstrating the need to remove the said tree; and**
 - b. The permittee shall strictly comply with all conditions and requirements contained in the County of Los Angeles Forester and Fire Warden, Forestry Division, letter dated February 1, 2010 (attached hereto), to the satisfaction of said Division, except as otherwise required by said Division. In addition, should any oak tree die as a result of the approved removal, requiring the planting of mitigation trees, an acorn shall also be planted at the same time as and within the watering zone of each mitigation tree.
2. Unless otherwise apparent from the context, the term "permittee" shall include the applicant and any other person, corporation, or other entity making use of this grant.
3. This grant shall not be effective for any purpose until the permittee and the owner of the property involved (if other than the permittee) have filed at the office of the Department of Regional Planning their affidavit stating that they are aware of, and agree to accept, all of the conditions of this grant, and until all required fees have been paid pursuant to the attached County Foresters letter.
4. The permittee shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the County, its agents, officers, and employees from any claim, action, or proceeding against the County or its agents, officers, or employees to attack, set aside, void or annul this permit approval, which action is brought within the applicable time period of Government Code Section 65009. The County shall notify the permittee of any claim, action, or proceeding and the County shall reasonably cooperate in the defense.
5. In the event that any claim, action, or proceeding as described above is filed against the County, the permittee shall within ten days of the filing pay the Department of Regional Planning an initial deposit of \$5,000, from which actual costs shall be billed and deducted for the purpose of defraying the expenses involved in the department's cooperation in the defense, including but not limited to, depositions, testimony, and other assistance to permittee or permittee's counsel. The permittee shall also pay the following supplemental deposits, from which actual costs shall be billed and deducted:
 - a. If during the litigation process, actual costs incurred reach 80 percent of the amount on deposit, the permittee shall deposit additional funds sufficient to bring the balance up to the amount of the initial deposit. There is no limit to the number of supplemental deposits that may be required prior to completion of the litigation.
 - b. At the sole discretion of the permittee, the amount of an initial or supplemental deposit may exceed the minimum amounts defined herein. The cost for collection and duplication of records and other related documents will be paid by the permittee according to Los Angeles County Code Section 2.170.010.

6. This grant shall expire unless used within two (2) years from the date of approval. A one-year time extension may be requested in writing and with payment of the applicable fee at least six (6) months prior to the expiration date.
7. The subject property shall be maintained and operated in full compliance with the conditions of this grant and any law statute, ordinance or other regulation applicable to any development or activity on the subject property. Failure of the permittee to cease any development or activity not in full compliance shall be a violation of these conditions.

If any inspection discloses that the subject property is being used in violation of any one of the conditions of this grant, the permittee shall be financially responsible and shall reimburse the Department of Regional Planning for all additional enforcement efforts necessary to bring the subject property into compliance.

8. Notice is hereby given that any person violating a provision of this grant is guilty of a misdemeanor. Notice is further given that the Regional Planning Commission or a hearing officer may, after conducting a public hearing, revoke or modify this grant, if the Commission or hearing officer finds that these conditions have been violated or that this grant has been exercised so as to be detrimental to the public's health or safety or so as to be a nuisance.
9. All requirements of the Zoning Ordinance and of the specific zoning of the subject property must be complied with unless otherwise set forth in these conditions or shown on the approved plans.
10. The permittee shall plant one acorn of the *Quercus agrifolia* variety for each mitigation tree planted. The acorns shall be planted at the same time as and within the watering zone of each mitigation tree.
11. All replacement trees shall be planted on native undisturbed soil. The first two irrigations or watering of planted trees shall incorporate the addition of a mycorrhizae product (i.e. "mycorrhizaROOTS" or similar product) in accordance with the label's directions. A layer of humus and litter from beneath the canopy of the removed tree shall also be applied to the area beneath the canopies of the replacement trees to further promote the establishment of mycorrhizae within their rooting trees.

Attachment:

February 1, 2010- County Forester's Letter

DA
03/04/2010



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294
(323) 890-4330

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

FEB - 4 2010

February 1, 2010

Phillip Estes, Principal Regional Planner
Department of Regional Planning
Zoning Permits Section
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Estes:

OAK TREE PERMIT #2009-00044, 4849 LA CRESCENTA AVENUE, LA CRESCENTA

We have reviewed the "Request for Oak Tree Permit #2009-00044." The project is located at 4849 La Crescenta Avenue in the unincorporated area of La Crescenta. The Oak Tree Report is accurate and complete as to the location, size, condition and species of the Oak trees on the site. The term "Oak Tree Report" refers to the document on file by Lisa Smith, the consulting arborist, dated August 3, 2009.

We recommend the following as conditions of approval:

OAK TREE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS:

1. This grant shall not be effective until the permittee and the owner of the property involved (if other than the permittee), have filed at the office of the Department of Regional Planning their affidavit stating that they are aware of and agree to accept all conditions of this grant. Unless otherwise apparent from the context, the term "permittee" shall include the applicant and any other person, corporation or other entity making use of this grant.
2. The permittee shall, prior to commencement of the use authorized by this grant, deposit with the County of Los Angeles Fire Department a sum of \$300. Such fees shall be used to compensate the County Forester \$100 per inspection to cover expenses incurred while inspecting the project to determine the permittee's compliance with the conditions of approval. The above fees provide for one (1) initial inspection prior to the commencement

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS
ARTESIA
AZUSA
BALDWIN PARK
BELL
BELL GARDENS
BELLFLOWER

BRADBURY
CALABASAS
CARSON
CERRITOS
CLAREMONT
COMMERCE
COVINA

CUDAHY
DIAMOND BAR
DUARTE
EL MONTE
GARDENA
GLENORA
HAWAIIAN GARDENS

HAWTHORNE
HIDDEN HILLS
HUNTINGTON PARK
INDUSTRY
INGLEWOOD
IRWINDALE
LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE
LA HABRA

LA MIRADA
LA PUENTE
LAKEWOOD
LANCASTER
LAWDALE
LOMITA
LYNWOOD

MALIBU
MAYWOOD
NORWALK
PALMDALE
PALOS VERDES ESTATES
PARAMOUNT
PICO RIVERA

POMONA
RANCHO PALOS VERDES
ROLLING HILLS
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES
ROSEMEAD
SAN DIMAS
SANTA CLARITA

SIGNAL HILL
SOUTH EL MONTE
SOUTH GATE
TEMPLE CITY
WALNUT
WEST HOLLYWOOD
WESTLAKE VILLAGE
WHITTIER

of construction and three (3) subsequent inspections until the conditions of approval have been met. The Director of Regional Planning and the County Forester shall retain the right to make regular and unannounced site inspections.

3. Before commencing work authorized or required by this grant, the consulting arborist shall submit a letter to the Director of Regional Planning and the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Forestry Division stating that he or she has been retained by the permittee to perform or supervise the work, and that he or she agrees to report to the Director of Regional Planning and the County Forester any failure to fully comply with the conditions of the grant. The arborist shall also submit a written report on permit compliance upon completion of the work required by this grant. The report shall include a diagram showing the exact number and location of all mitigation trees planted as well as planting dates.
4. The permittee shall arrange for the consulting arborist or a similarly qualified person to maintain all remaining Oak trees on the subject property that are within the zone of impact as determined by the County Forester for the life of the Oak Tree Permit or the Conditional Use Permit.
5. The permittee shall install temporary chain link fencing, not less than four (4) feet in height, to secure the protected zone of all remaining Oak trees on site as necessary. The fencing shall be installed prior to grading or tree removal, and shall not be removed without approval of the County Forester. The term "protected zone" refers to the area extending five (5) feet beyond the dripline of the Oak tree (before pruning), or fifteen (15) feet from the trunk, whichever is greater.
6. Copies of the Oak Tree Report, Oak tree map, mitigation planting plan and conditions of approval shall be kept on the project site and available for review. All individuals associated with the project as it relates to the Oak resource shall be familiar with the Oak Tree Report, Oak tree map, mitigation planting plan and conditions of approval.

PERMITTED OAK TREE REMOVAL:

7. This grant allows the removal of one (1) tree of the Oak genus (*Quercus agrifolia*) identified as Tree Number 1 on the applicant's site plan and Oak Tree Report. Trenching, excavation, or clearance of vegetation within the protected zone of an Oak tree shall be accomplished by the use of hand tools or small hand-held power tools. Any major roots encountered shall be conserved to the extent possible and treated as recommended by the consulting arborist.
8. In addition to the work expressly allowed by this permit, remedial pruning intended to ensure the continued health of a protected Oak tree or to improve its appearance or structure may be performed. Such pruning shall include the removal of deadwood and stubs and medium pruning of branches two-inches in diameter or less in accordance with the guidelines published by the National Arborist Association. Copies of these guidelines are available from the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Forestry Division. In no case shall more than 20% of the tree canopy of any one tree be removed.

9. Except as otherwise expressly authorized by this grant, the remaining Oak trees shall be maintained in accordance with the principles set forth in the publication, "Oak Trees: Care and Maintenance," prepared by the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Forestry Division. A copy of the publication is enclosed with these conditions.

MITIGATION TREES:

10. The permittee shall provide mitigation trees of the Oak genus at a rate of two to one (2:1) for each tree removed for a total of two (2) trees.
11. Each mitigation tree shall be at least a 15-gallon specimen in size and measure one (1) inch or more in diameter one (1) foot above the base. Free form trees with multiple stems are permissible provided the combined diameter of the two (2) largest stems of such trees measure a minimum of one (1) inch in diameter one (1) foot above the base.
12. Mitigation trees shall consist of indigenous varieties of Quercus agrifolia grown from a local seed source.
13. Mitigation trees shall be planted within one (1) year of the permitted Oak tree removals. Mitigation trees shall be planted either on site or at an off-site location approved by the County Forester. Alternatively, a contribution to the County of Los Angeles Oak Forest Special Fund may be made in the amount equivalent to the Oak resource loss. The contribution shall be calculated by the consulting arborist and approved by the County Forester according to the most current edition of the International Society of Arboriculture's "Guide for Plant Appraisal."
14. The permittee shall properly maintain each mitigation tree and shall replace any tree failing to survive due to a lack of proper care and maintenance with a tree meeting the specifications set forth above. The two-year maintenance period will begin upon receipt of a letter from the permittee or consulting arborist to the Director of Regional Planning and the County Forester indicating that the mitigation trees have been planted. The maintenance period of the trees failing to survive two (2) years will start anew with the new replacement trees. Subsequently, additional monitoring fees shall be required.
15. All mitigation Oak trees planted as a condition of this permit shall be protected in perpetuity by the Los Angeles County Oak Tree Ordinance once they have survived the required maintenance period.

NON-PERMITTED ACTIONS AND VIOLATIONS:

16. Encroachment within the protected zone of any additional tree of the Oak genus on the project site is prohibited.
17. Should encroachment within the protected zone of any additional tree of the Oak genus on the project site not permitted by this grant result in its injury or death within two (2) years,

Phillip Estes, Principal Regional Planner

February 1, 2010

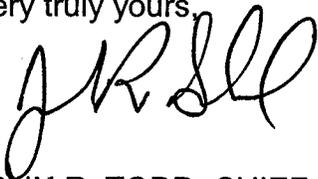
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the permittee shall be required to make a contribution to the Los Angeles County Oak Forest Special Fund in the amount equivalent to the Oak resource damage/loss. Said contribution shall be calculated by the consulting arborist and approved by the County Forester according to the most current edition of the International Society of Arboriculture's "Guide for Plant Appraisal."

18. No planting or irrigation system shall be installed within the dripline of any Oak tree that will be retained.
19. Utility trenches shall not be routed within the protected zone of an Oak tree unless the serving utility requires such locations.
20. Equipment, materials and vehicles shall not be stored, parked, or operated within the protected zone of any Oak tree. No temporary structures shall be placed within the protected zone of any Oak tree.
21. Violations of the conditions of this grant shall result in immediate work stoppage or in a notice of correction depending on the nature of the violation. A time frame within which deficiencies must be corrected will be indicated on the notice of correction.
22. Should any future inspection disclose that the subject property is being used in violation of any one of the conditions of this grant, the permittee shall be held financially responsible and shall reimburse the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, Forestry Division for all enforcement efforts necessary to bring the subject property into compliance.

If you have any additional questions, please contact this office at (323) 890-4330.

Very truly yours,



JOHN R. TODD, CHIEF, FORESTRY DIVISION
PREVENTION SERVICES BUREAU

JRT: jl

Enclosure