

LA COUNTY
PLANNING

Oak Tree Permit Update: Meeting #1


August 5, 2025




Simultaneous Translation Available

Simultaneous language translation is not available if you use dial-in or call-in phone audio features.

Windows/ MacOS Users

1. Go to the bottom control buttons, click **Interpretation** 
2. Click on the language that you would like to hear.
3. (Optional) To hear the interpreted language only, click Mute Original Audio

Android/iOS Users

1. In your meeting controls, tap ellipses 
2. Tap Language Interpretation
3. Tap the language you want to hear
4. (Optional) Tap the toggle to Mute Original Audio
5. Click Done

Click on the Interpretation Icon

LA COUNTY
PLANNING

Countywide Residential
Design Standards

November 17, 2022

Español

Listen In:

✓ Original Audio (Interpretation off)

EN English

あ Japanese

ES Spanish


Mute Original Audio

Audio Settings ^

Chat

^

Raise Hand

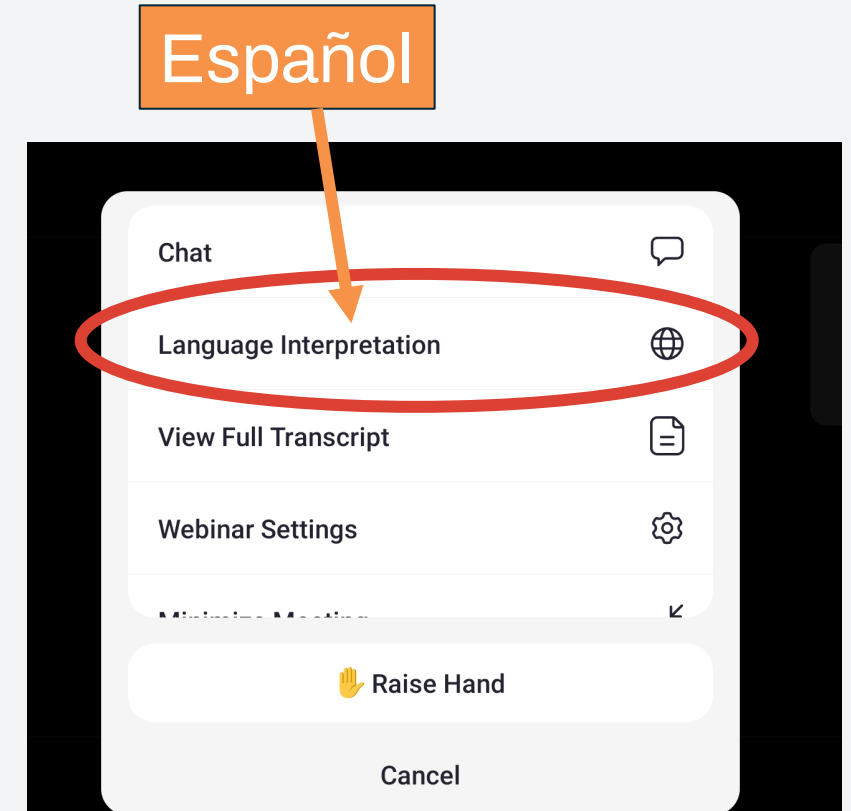
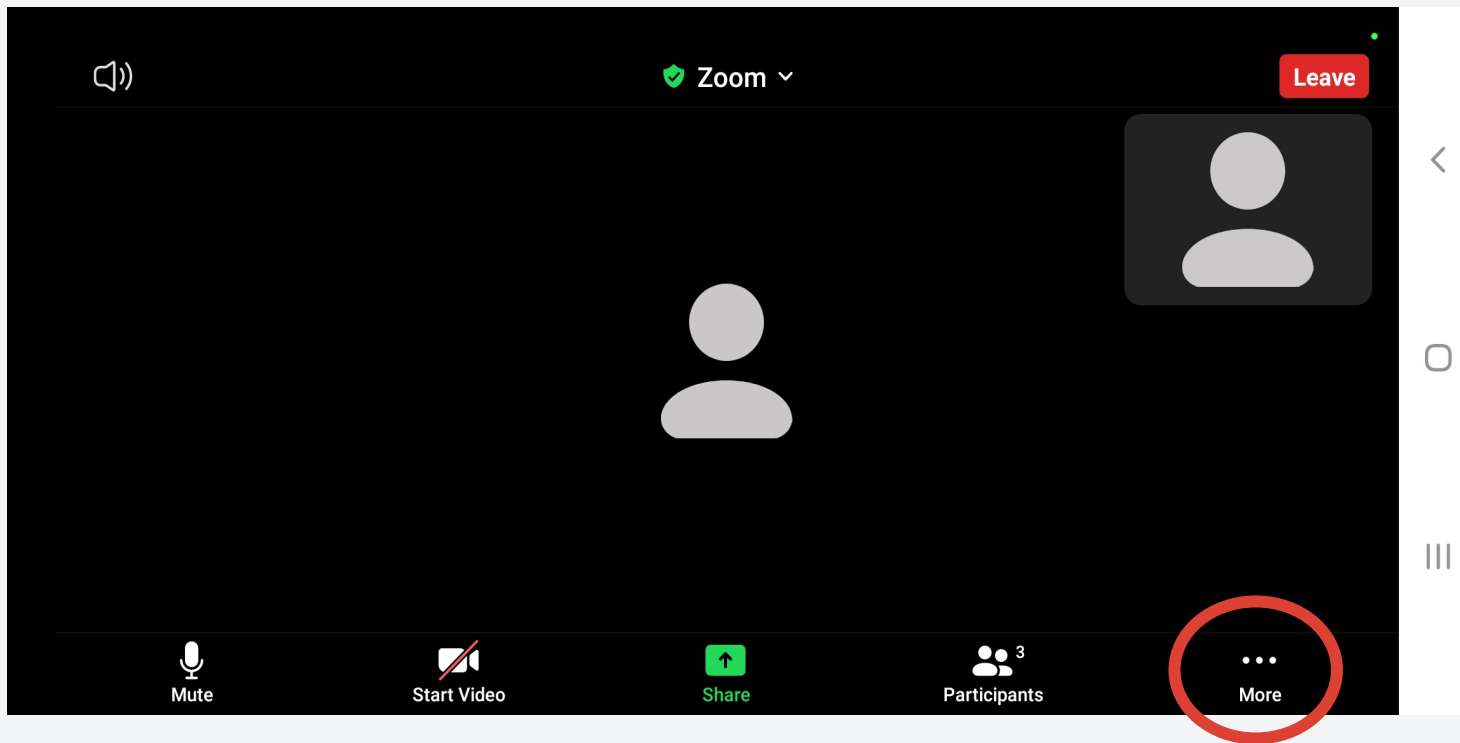


Interpretation

LA COUNTY
PLANNING

SHAPING TOMORROW

Tap on More button or ellipsis ...



Welcome / Introductions

County Project Team

- Edward Rojas, Assistant Deputy Director, Advance Planning
- Mark Herwick, Supervising Regional Planner
- Caroline Chen, Senior Regional Planner
- Interpreters: Hajime (Spanish) and Nancy (Chinese)

Meeting #1: Agenda

- Background
- Project Scope
- Process
- Next Steps
- Q&A



POLL

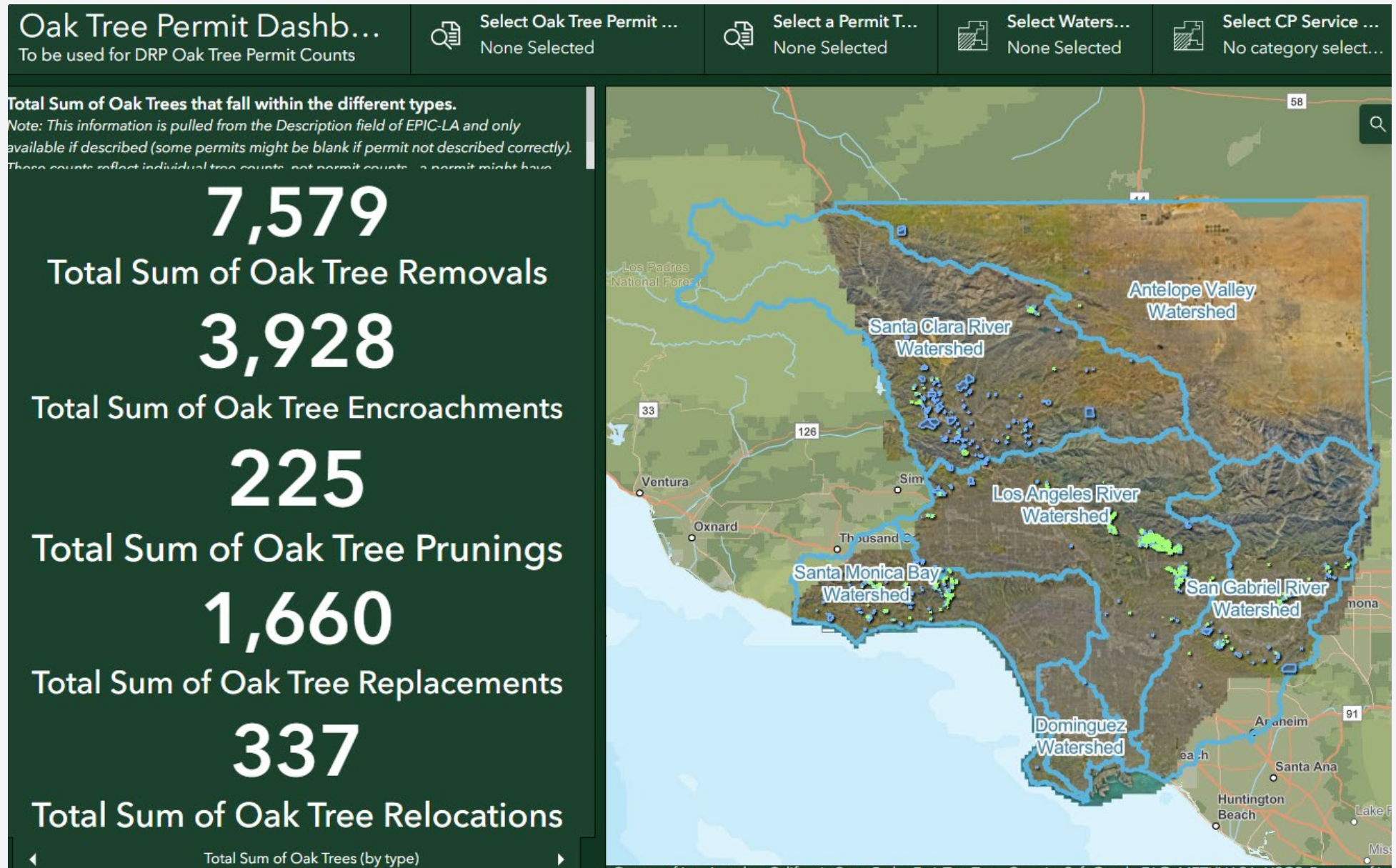


BACKGROUND

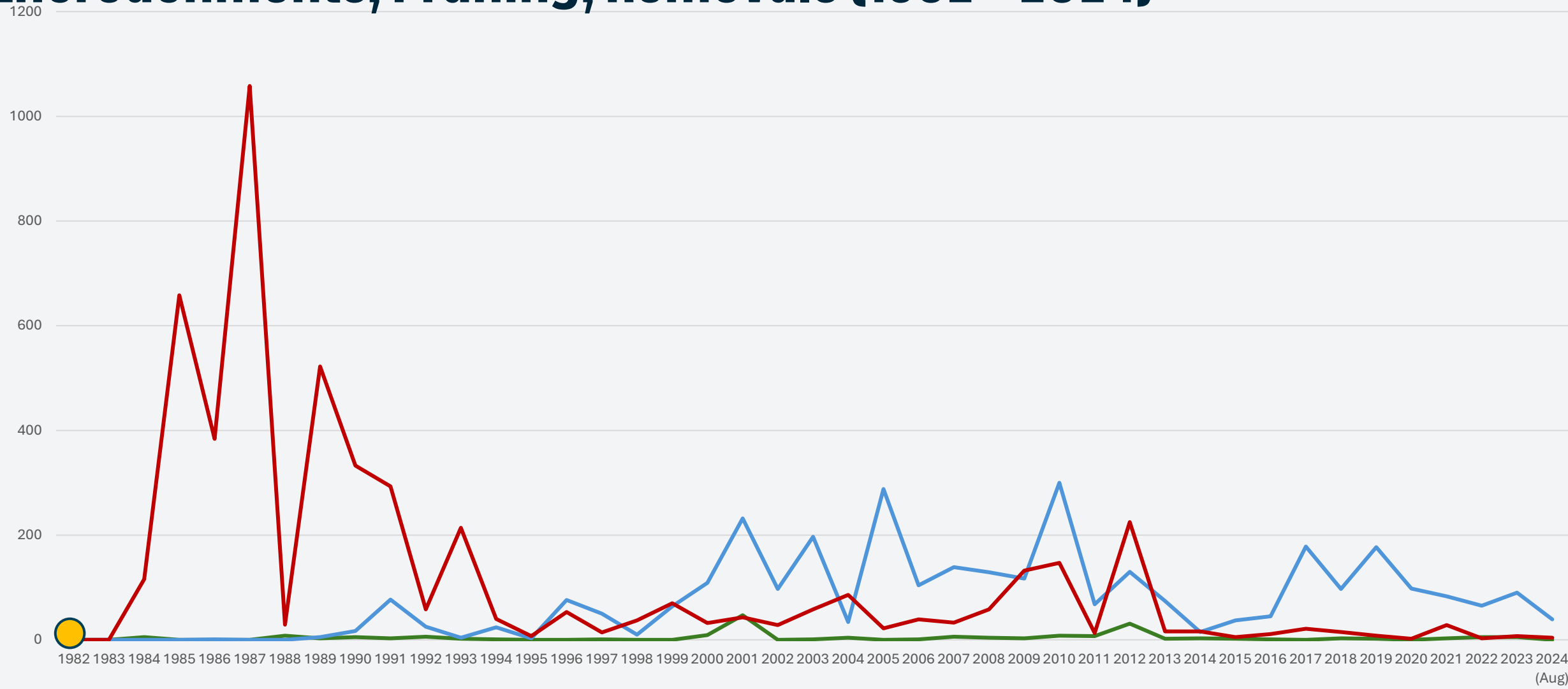
What is an Oak Tree Permit?

- The Oak Tree Permit, issued by LA County Planning, **grants permission** to impact oak trees.
- **Requirements:** application, an oak tree report, an oak tree protection plan, a planning counseling meeting, fees, and may also require mitigation and a public hearing.
- The LA County Oak Tree Permit ordinance is found in the Zoning Code, Chapter 22.174.

Impacts to Oak Trees since 1982



Encroachments, Pruning, Removals (1982 - 2024)



What is the Purpose of the LA County OTP?

Chapter 22.174 - OAK TREE PERMITS

22.174.010 - Purpose.

“... to preserve and maintain healthy oak trees in the development process.”

LA County General Plan

Conservation & Natural Resources Element

Goal 4: Conserved and sustainably managed woodlands.

Policy 4.1: Preserve and restore oak woodlands and other native woodlands that are conserved in perpetuity with a goal of **no net loss of existing woodlands.**

Definitions

Protected oak tree.

Any living oak tree (genus *Quercus*) native to southern California, with one trunk measuring eight inches in diameter at four and a half feet above natural grade (DBH), or in the case of an oak tree with more than one trunk, a combination of the two largest trunks measuring a total of twelve inches in diameter or more in at four and a half feet above natural grade (DBH).

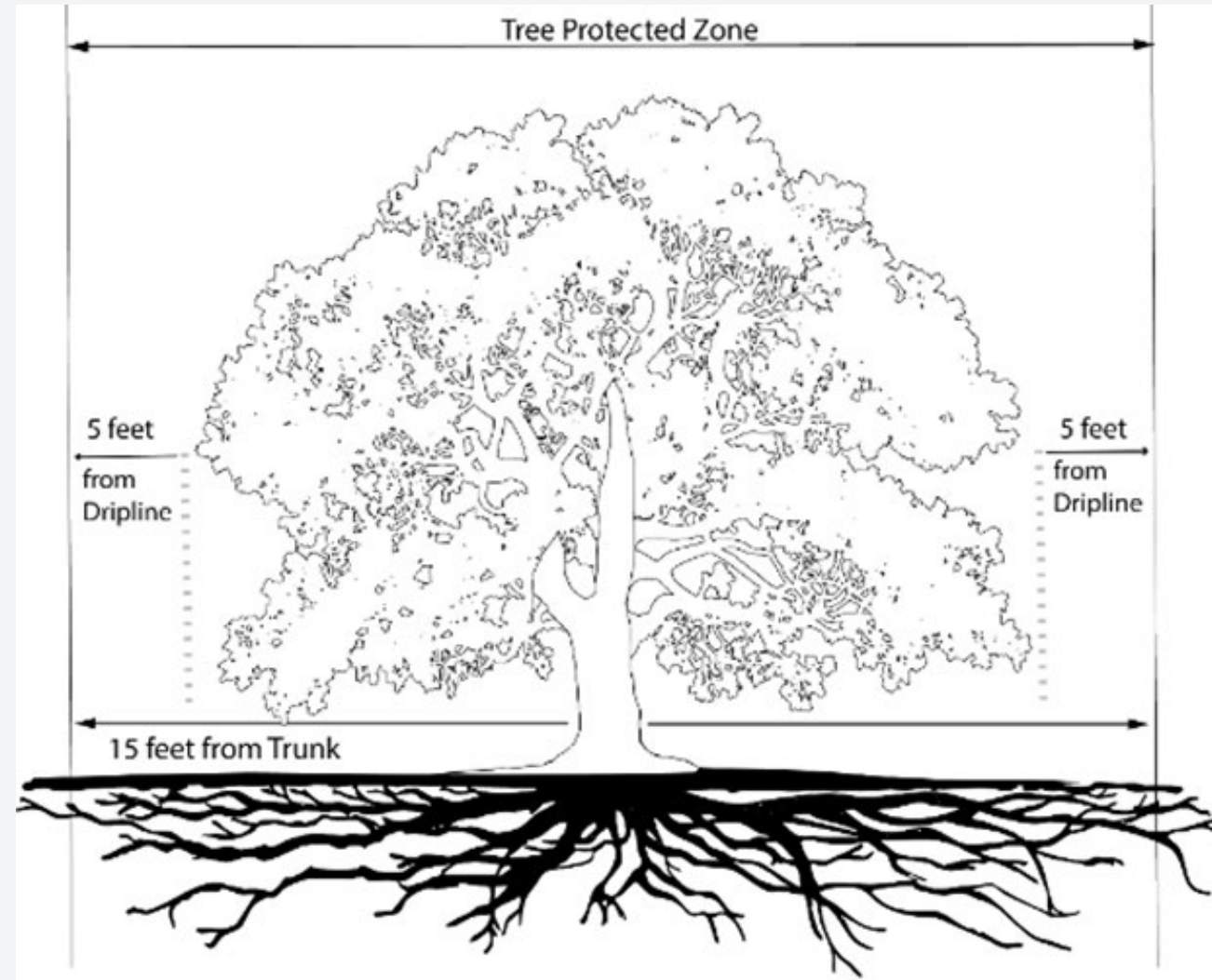
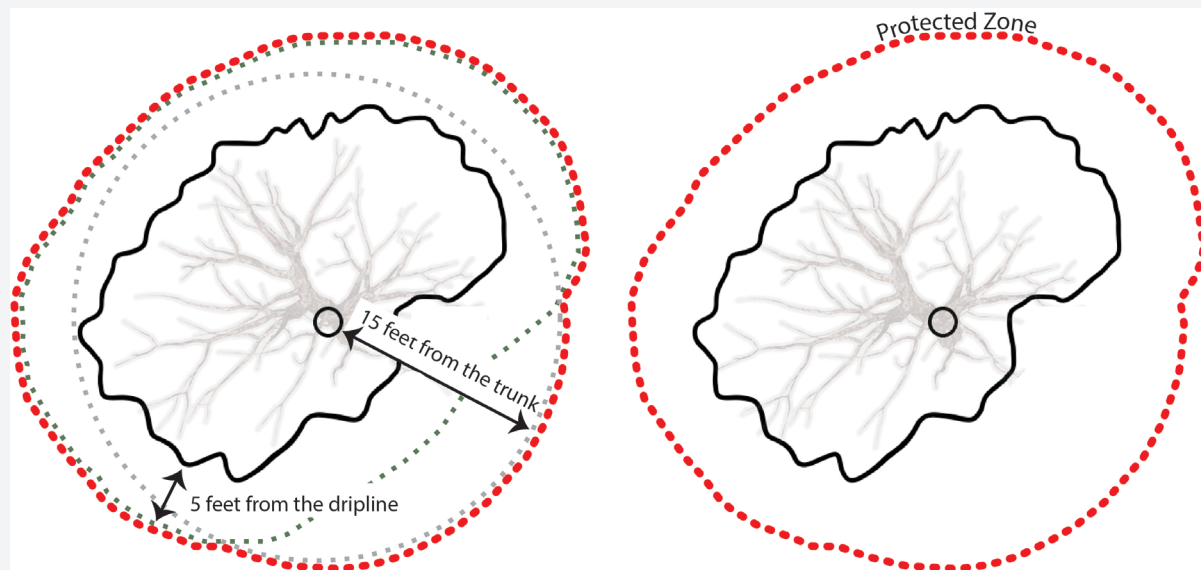
Protected oak trees include: (1) oak trees with these trunk diameter sizes and larger, as well as (2) replacement, and other oak trees that have been planted as a requirement of a County permit or code, regardless of trunk diameter size.

- **For more about native *Quercus* to LA County, visit the LA County Tree Hub**

Definitions

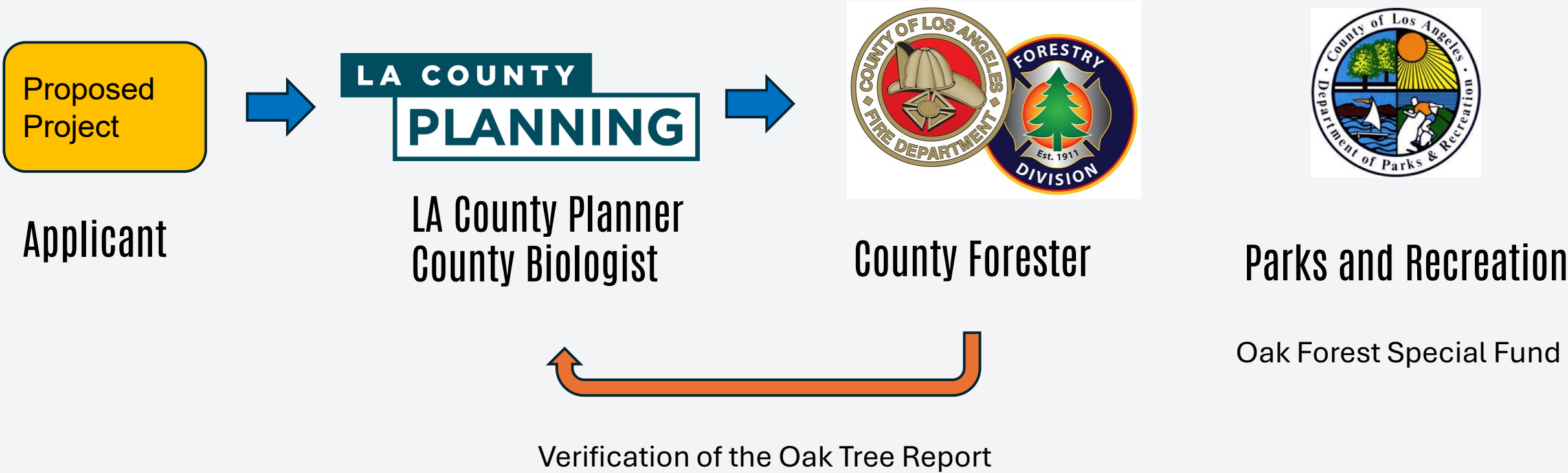
Protected Zone.

The area extending from the trunk to a distance of five feet past the dripline, or the area extending 15 feet from the trunk of a protected oak tree, whichever distance is greater.



How Does the OTP Work?

Existing Measures



A Brief History of the OTP

- Adopted by the BOS in 1982
- Past Updates:
 1. Addition of the Oak Forest Special Fund for Offsite Mitigation (1991)
 2. Adding Expiration Date for Emergency Oak Tree Permits (2023)

PROJECT SCOPE

Main Issues to Address:

1. Unintended consequences
2. After-the-fact permitting is ineffective for preserving oak trees.
3. Permit does not address encroachments.
4. Oak tree reports vary by quality.

Schedule for Standing Meetings

Date		Standalone Topics
Meeting #1:	Tues 8/5	Overview
Meeting #2:	Tues 8/19	Purpose + Critical Root Zone (Definitions) + Landscape Oak Trees (Applicability) + Site Plan Buffer, Arborist Qualifications (Application)
Meeting #3:	Tues 9/2	Tiered Permitting, One Removal with a Ministerial Permit (Review Procedures)
Meeting #4:	Tues 9/16	Design to Minimize Impacts (Development Standards) + Stewardship Trees, Replacement Ratios, Appraisals (Mitigation)
Meeting #5:	Tues 9/30	Alternative Locations (Findings) + Relocations, Monitoring Periods (Conditions of Approval)
Meeting #6:	Tues 10/14	Restoration Permit (Enforcement)

- *Standing meetings will be recorded and begin at 6:30pm and end at 7:30pm.*
- *Staff will stay after the meeting ends for 30 minutes to answer any questions that were not answered in the first hour.*

Other Ongoing Meetings and Events

Mondays at noon

Defensible Space Working Group/**Zone 0** (UCLA hosting)

+

Thurs, Sept 18:

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, **in-person Southern California Workshop for Zone 0.**

For more info contact Nurit Katz (UCLA)

Thurs, Oct 30:

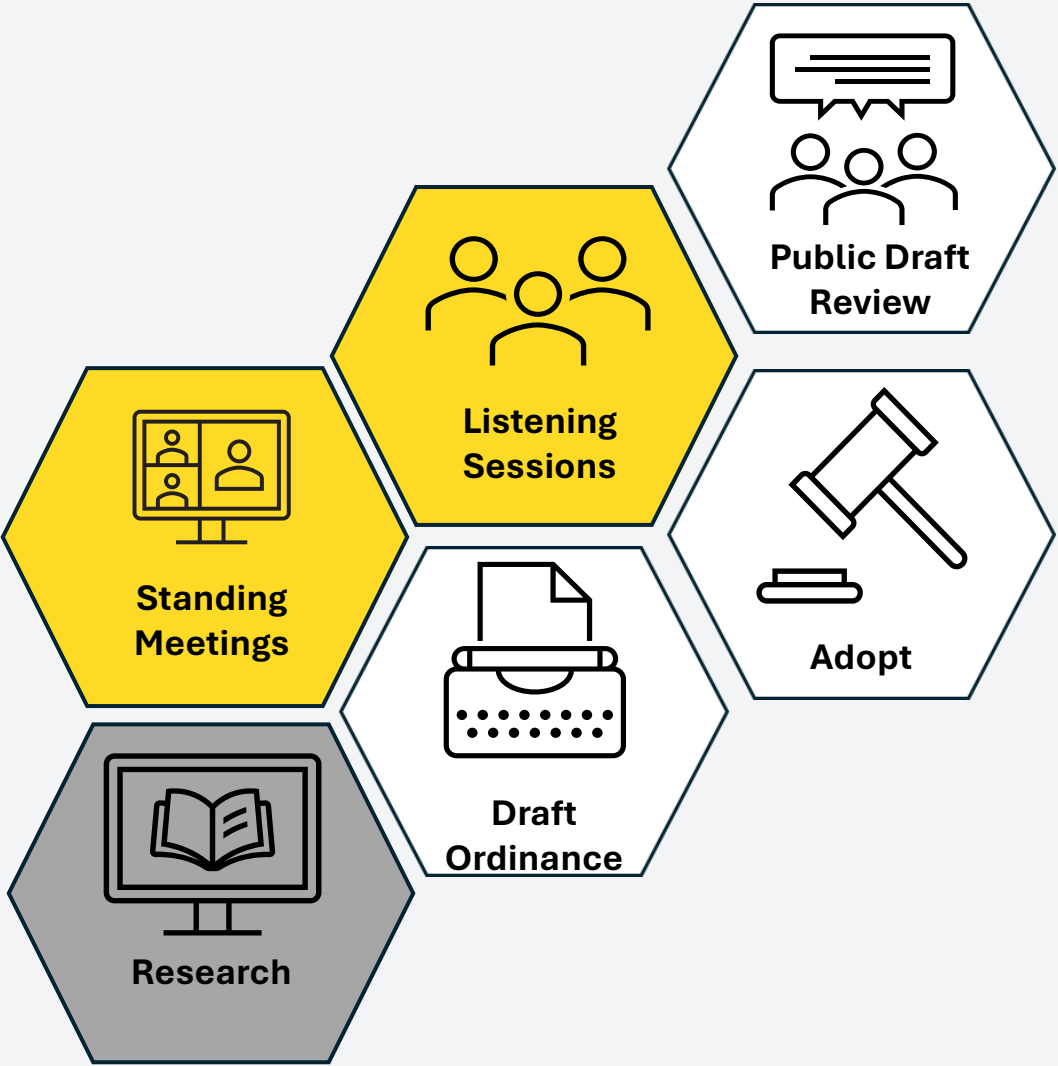
Community Planning Month Webinar on Planning and Oaks, hosted by the American Planning Association and LA County Planning (11:30am- 1pm)

For more info, sign up for the newsletter

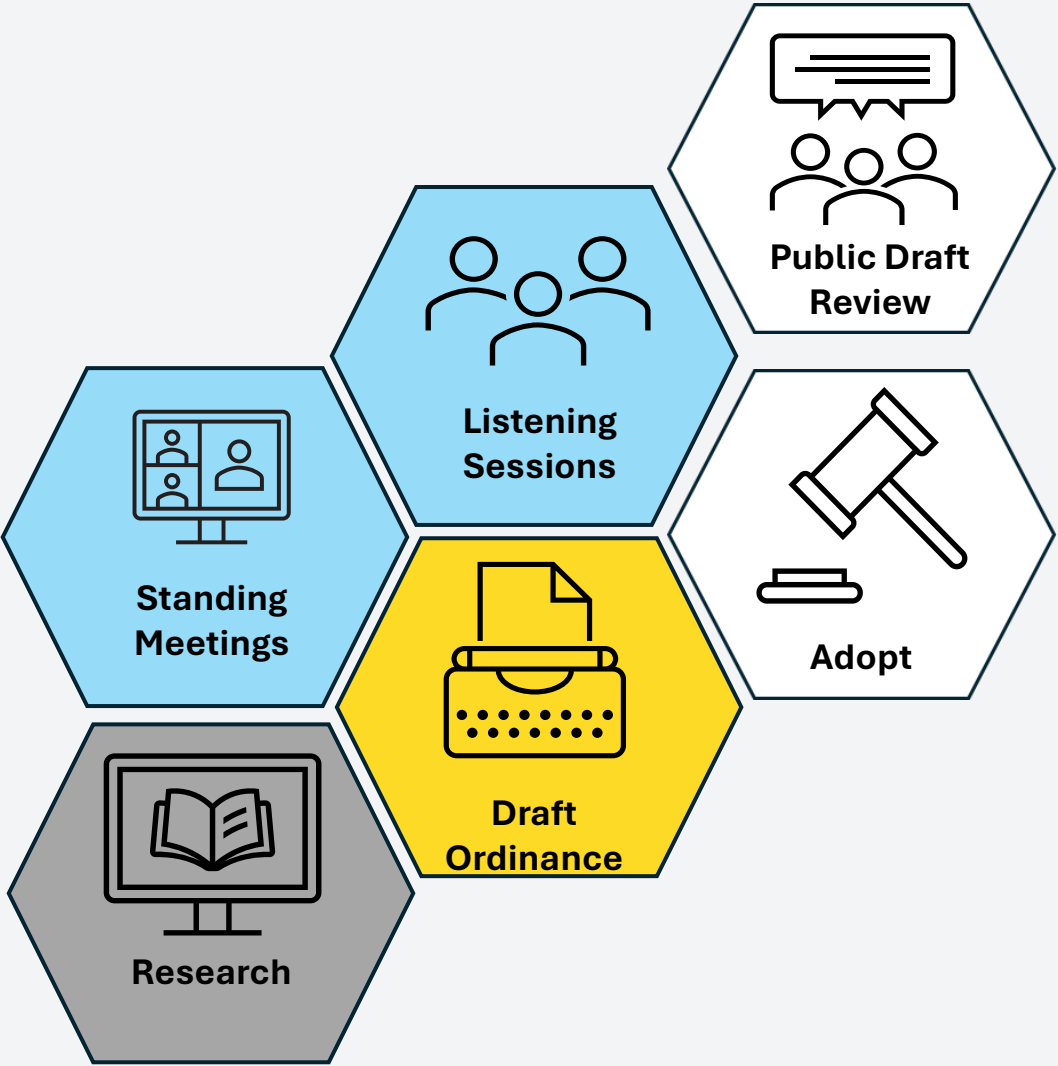


PROCESS

PROCESS



PROCESS



PROCESS



Draft Ordinance Posted:
10/30/2025

Public Review Ends:
12/14/2025

PROCESS





NEXT STEPS

Listening Sessions

Communities in Oak Woodlands August – Mid-October

Foothills

Altadena, La Crescenta-Montrose, East Pasadena-East San Gabriel, Chapman Woods

Puente-Whittier

Hacienda Heights, Rowland Heights, Avocado Heights

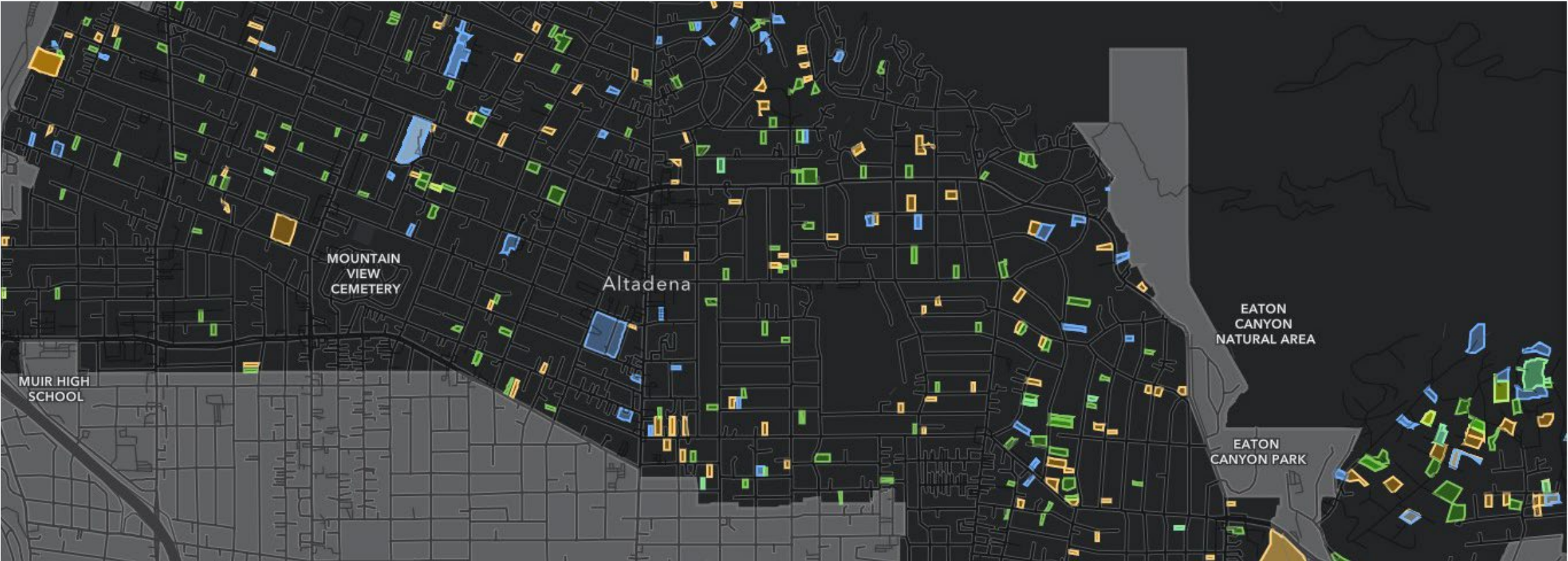
Coastal

Santa Monica Mountains Communities including Topanga, Monte Nido, and Sunset Mesa

North County

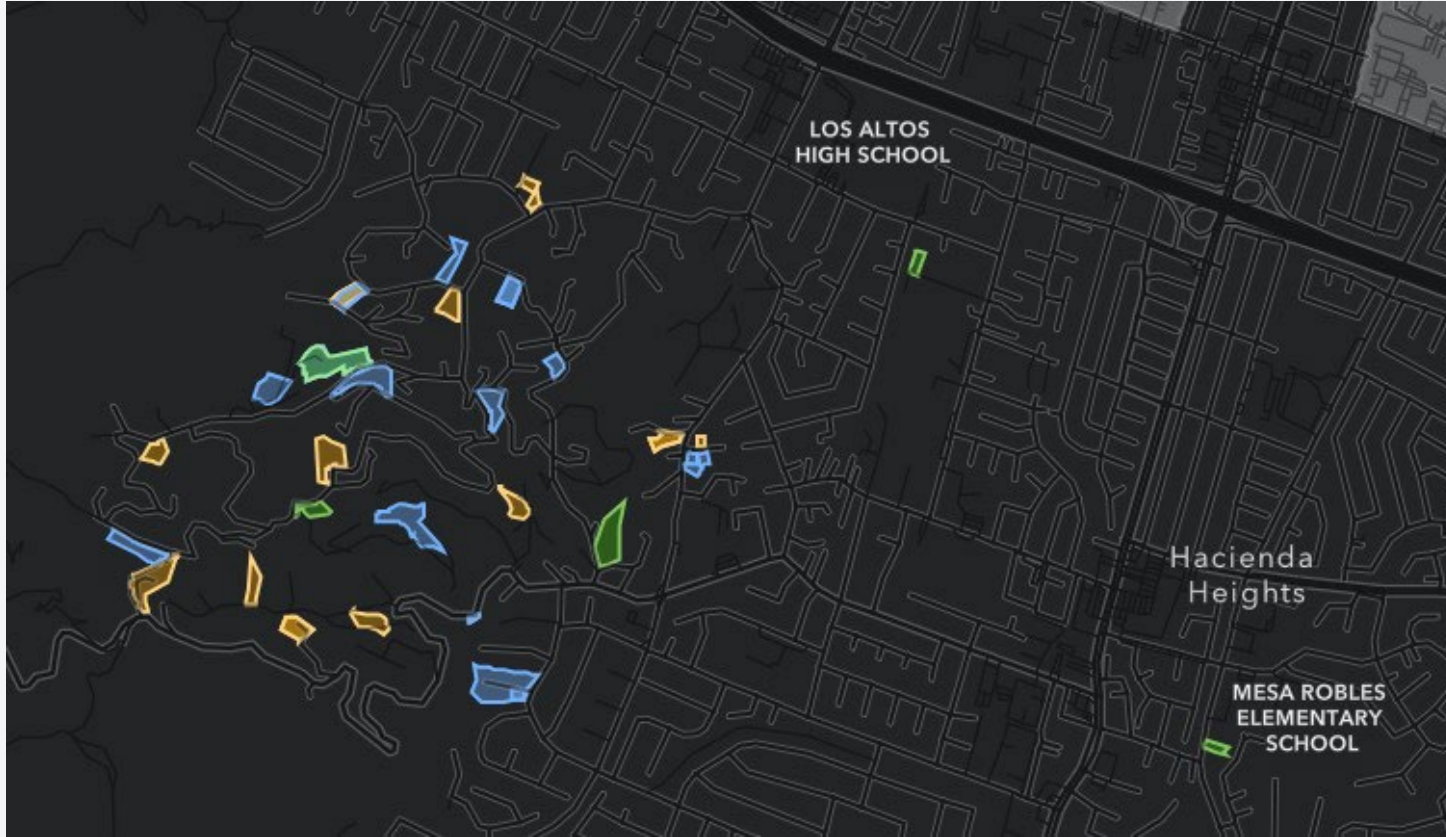
Green Valley, Santa Clarita, Kagel Canyon, West Chatsworth-Lake Manor, Westhills, Twin Lakes

Mapping Oak Tree Permits

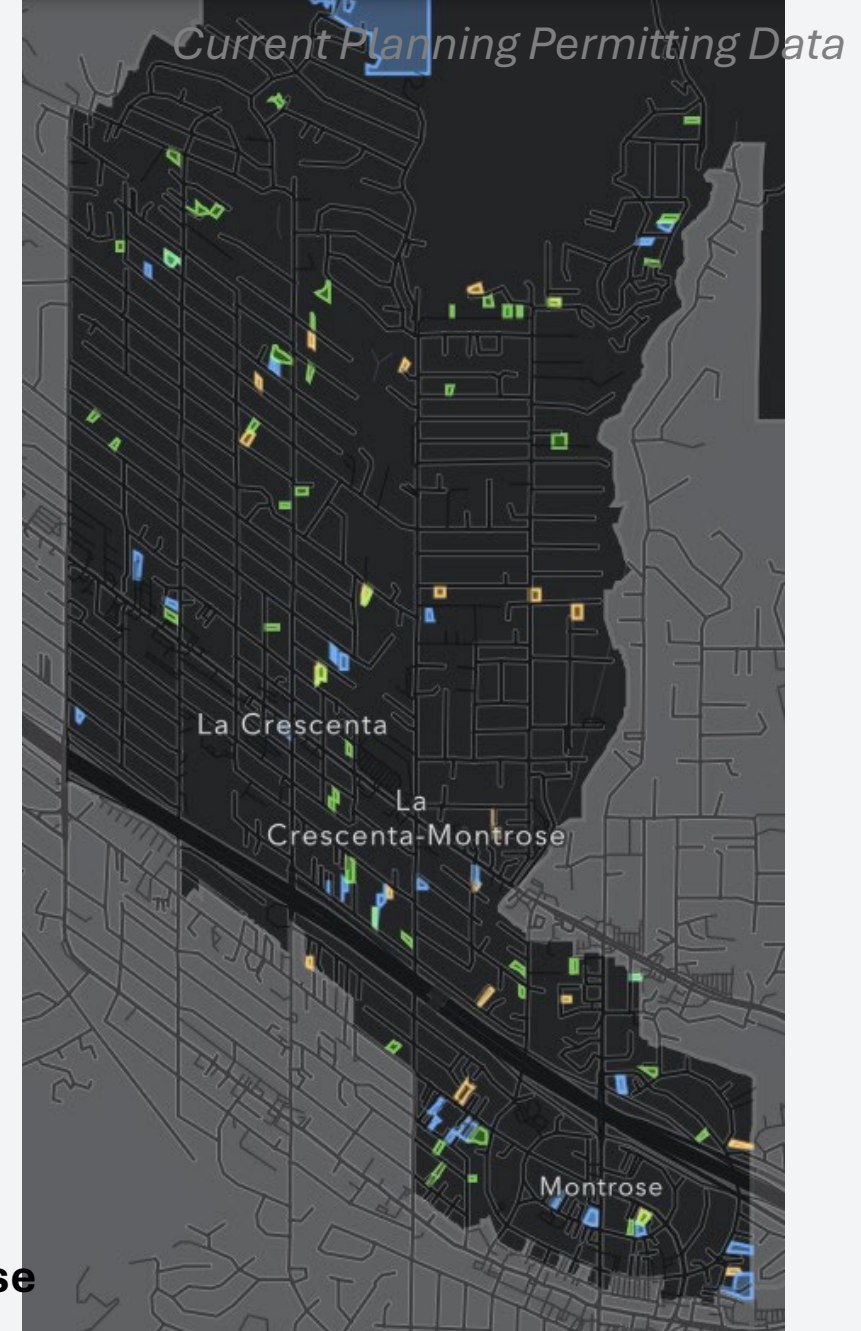


Altadena

Mapping Oak Tree Permits



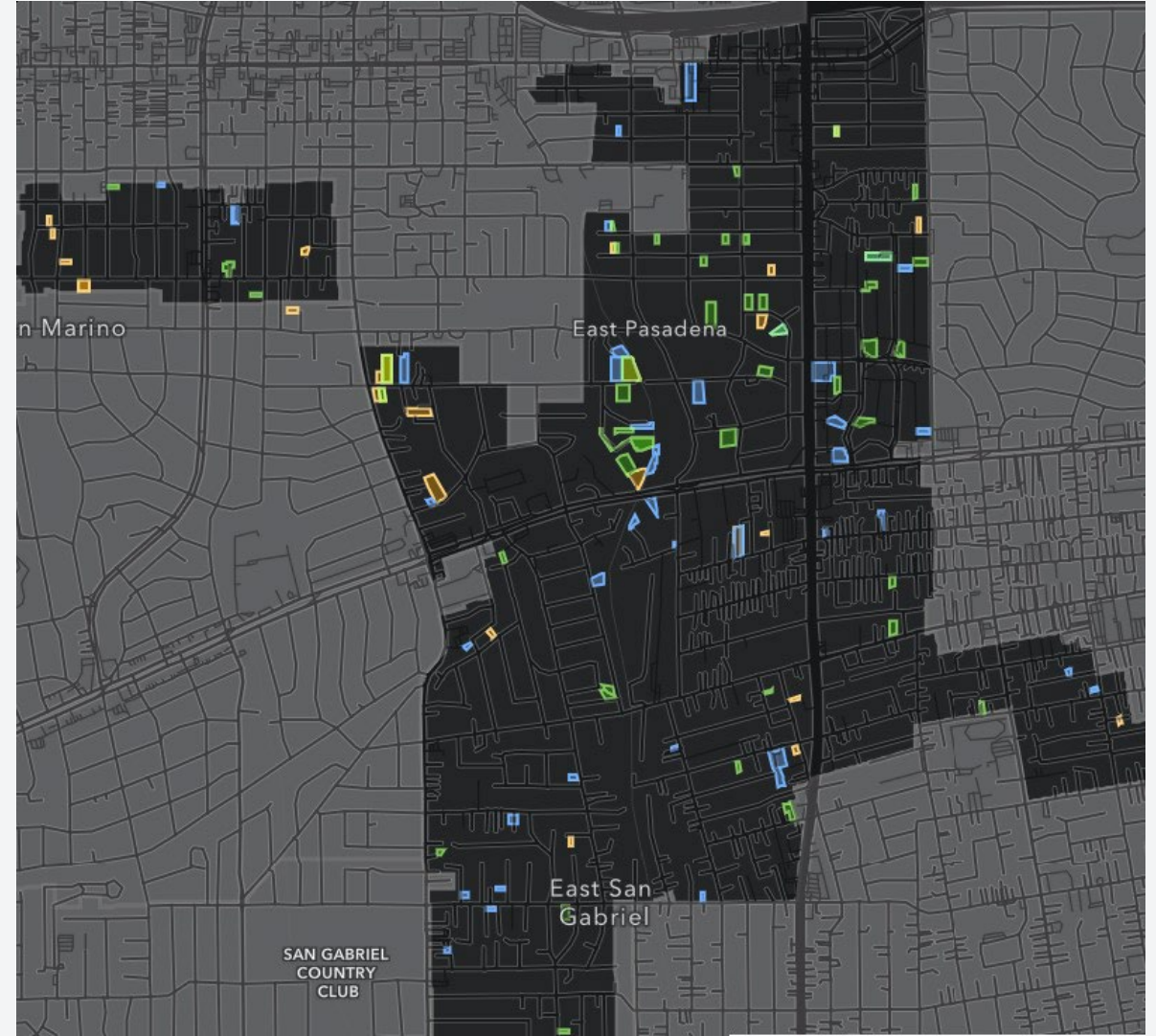
Hacienda Heights



La Crescenta-Montrose

Mapping Oak Tree Permits

Current Planning Permitting Data



East Pasadena

Mapping Oak Tree Permits

Current Planning Permitting Data



Monte Nido



Topanga

Mapping Oak Tree Permits

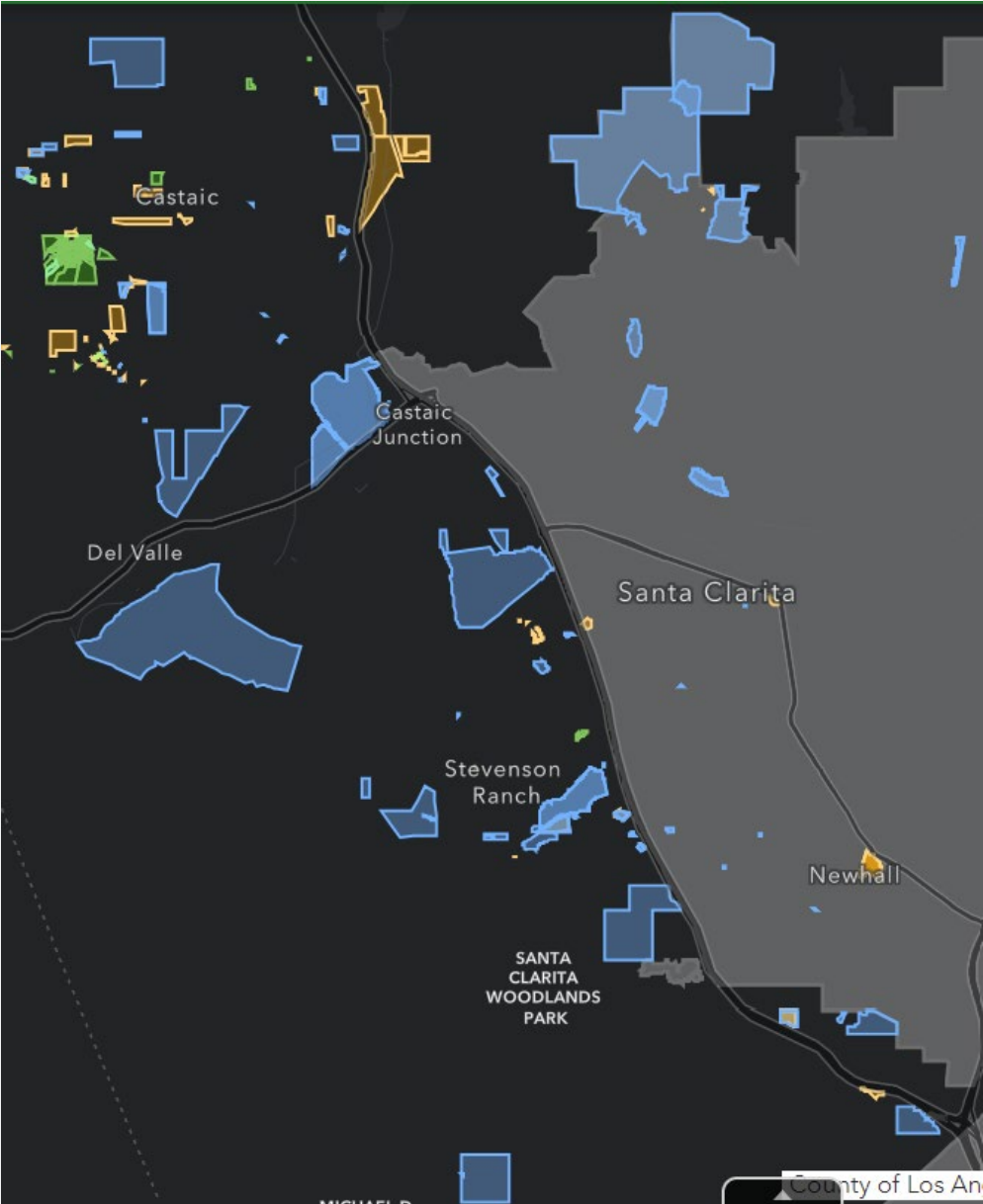
Current Planning Permitting Data



Castaic

Mapping Oak Tree Permits

Current Planning Permitting Data



CONTACT US

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Los Angeles, CA 90012

Fill out our
Survey





Q & A



Thank you!