

LA COUNTY
PLANNING

Oak Tree Permit Update: Meeting #2


Tuesday, August 19, 2025




Simultaneous Translation Available

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

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2. Click on the language that you would like to hear.
3. (Optional) To hear the interpreted language only, click Mute Original Audio

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1. In your meeting controls, tap ellipses 
2. Tap Language Interpretation
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Click on the Interpretation Icon

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Countywide Residential Design Standards

November 17, 2022

Audio Settings ^

Chat ^ Raise Hand

Listen In:

- ✓ Original Audio (Interpretation off)
- EN English
- あ Japanese
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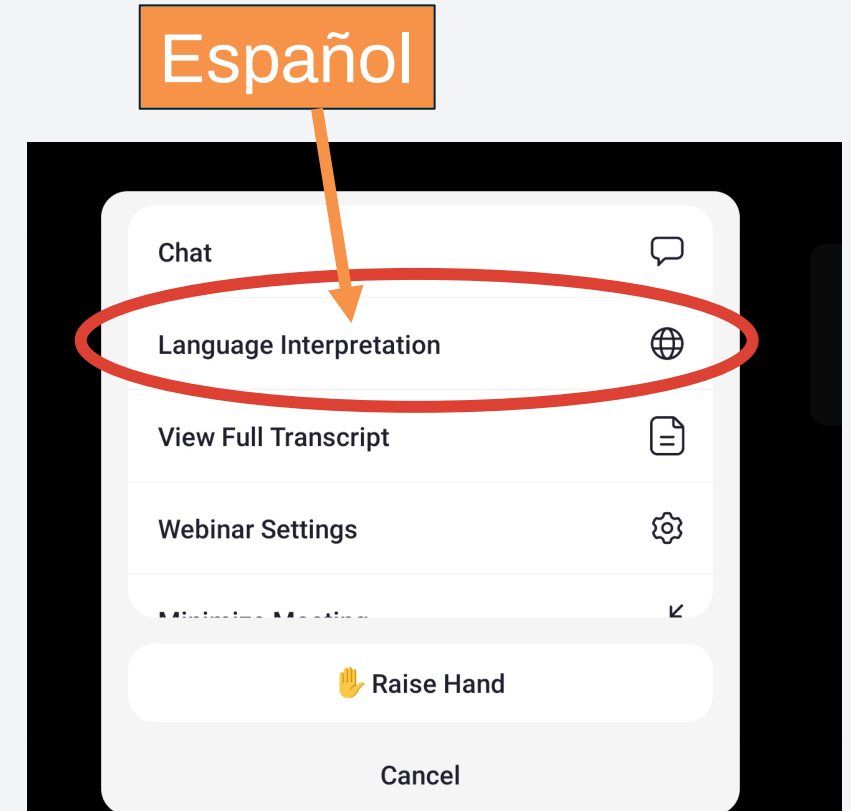
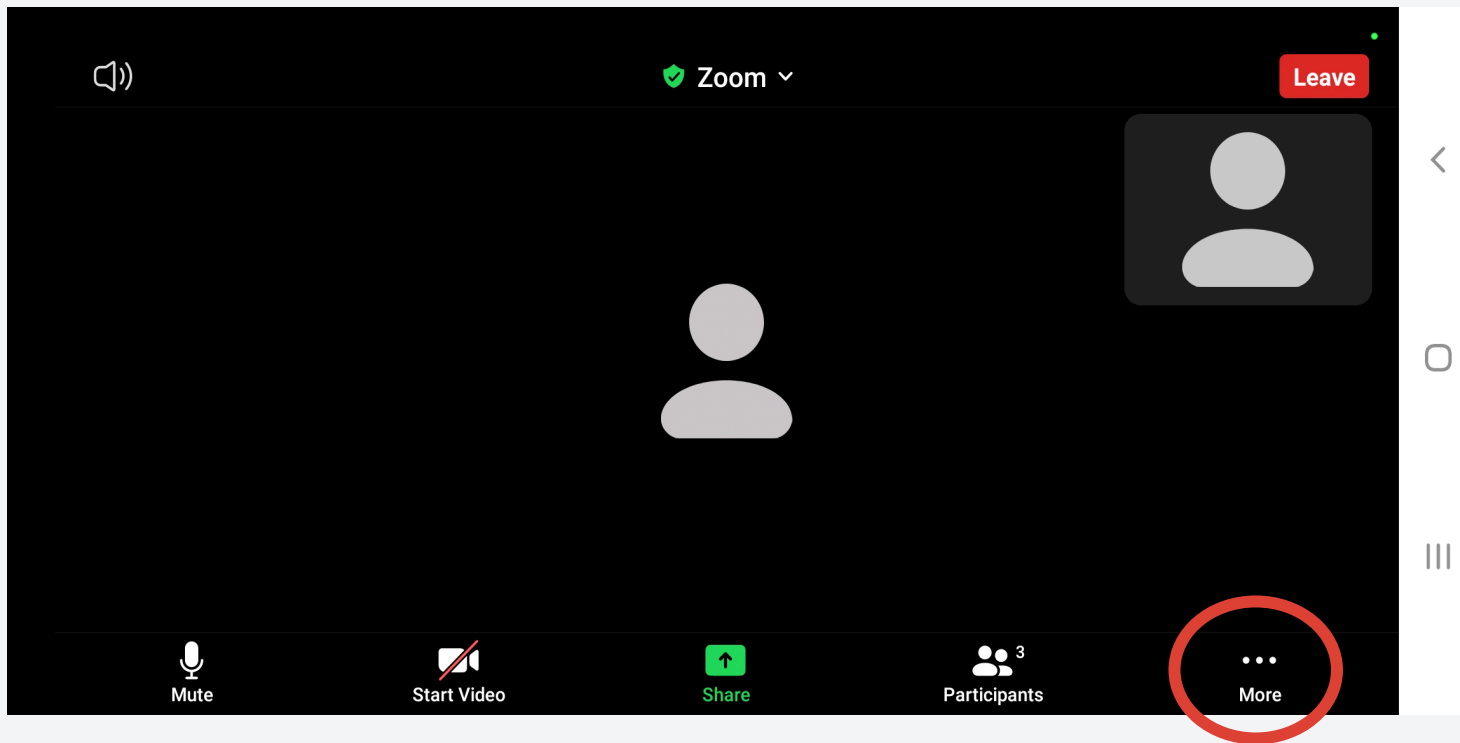
Interpretation

Español

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SHAPING TOMORROW

Tap on More button or ellipsis ...



Welcome / Introductions

County Project Team

- Connie Chung, Deputy Director, Advance Planning
- Mark Herwick, Supervising Regional Planner
- Caroline Chen, Senior Regional Planner
- Interpreters: Hajime (Spanish) and Felix (Chinese)

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.*

Meeting #2: Agenda

- Background
- Purpose
- Applicability (Exemptions)
- Definitions
- Application: Oak Tree Reports, Arborist Qualifications
- Questions



POLL



Background

What is an Oak Tree Permit?

- The Oak Tree Permit, issued by LA County Planning, **grants permission** to impact oak trees **in unincorporated communities** in LA County.
- **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.

What is the Zoning Code?

“The Oak Tree Permit is located in the LA County Zoning Code....”

“How to
implement
development?”

The Zoning Code
(Title 22)

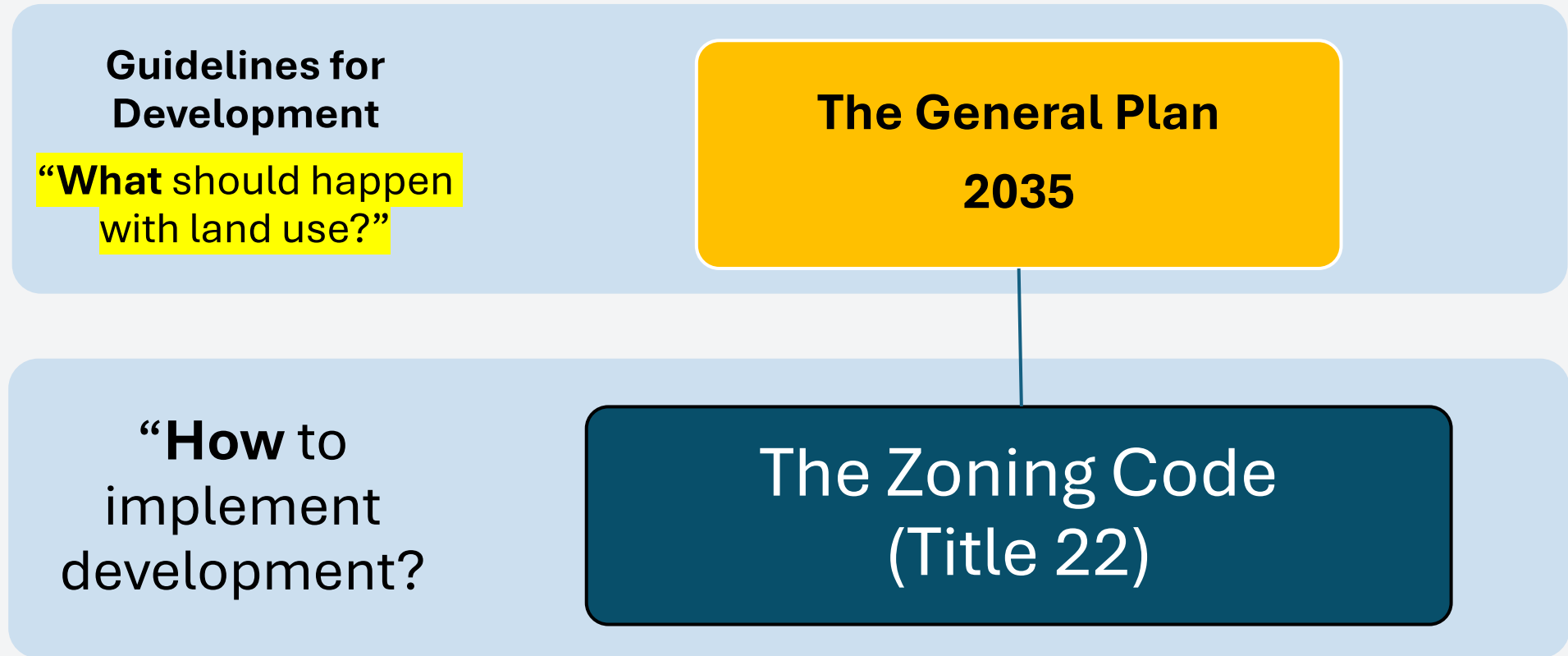
Chapter 22.174 - OAK TREE PERMITS



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How Does the Zoning Code relate to the General Plan?



LA County General Plan Conservation & Natural Resources Element

Goal 4: Conserve and sustainably manage 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.**

What is the Zoning Code?

“The Oak Tree Permit is located in the LA County Zoning Code....”

Guidelines for Development

“What should happen?”

**The General Plan
2035**

“How to
implement
development?”

**The Zoning Code
(Title 22)**

Chapter 22.174 - OAK TREE PERMITS

Ch 22.44 Santa Monica Mountains Local Implementation Program
Ch 22.102 Significant Ecological Areas
Ch 22.336 Santa Monica Mountains North Area CSD

Why are we updating the Oak Tree Permit?

1. Unintended consequences
2. After-the-fact permitting is ineffective for preserving oak trees.
3. Encroachments are treated all the same
4. Oak tree reports vary by quality.



PURPOSE

What is the Purpose of the Oak Tree Permit?

Chapter 22.174 - OAK TREE PERMITS

22.174.010 - Purpose.

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

Chapter 22.174 - OAK TREE PERMITS

22.174.010 - Purpose.

The Oak Tree Permit is established:

- (a) to recognize oak trees as significant historical, aesthetic, and ecological resources, and as one of the most picturesque trees in Los Angeles County, lending beauty and charm to the natural and manmade landscape, enhancing the value of property, and the character of the communities in which they exist; and
- (b) to create favorable conditions for the preservation and propagation of this unique, threatened plant heritage, particularly those trees which may be classified as heritage oak trees, for the benefit of current and future residents of the County.

It is the intent of the Oak Tree Permit to maintain and enhance the general health, safety and welfare by assisting in counteracting air pollution and in minimizing soil erosion and other related environmental damage. The Oak Tree Permit is also intended to preserve and enhance property values by conserving and adding to the distinctive and unique aesthetic character of many areas of the County in which oak trees are indigenous. The stated objective of the Oak Tree Permit is to preserve and maintain healthy oak trees in the development process.

Title 22, Chapter 22.174 Oak Tree Permit

§22.174.010 Purpose

Adding to Benefits:

- Quality of life
- Visual screening
- Biodiversity

Removing from Benefits:

- Value of property
- Counteracting air pollution

Adding to Intent:

- Replacement and recruitment of young oak trees (regeneration)
- Promote adaptation to climate change
- Continued health and viability



Applicability

§22.174.030 Applicability

Existing Exemption for Pruning:

Pruning of branches less than 2 inches in diameter (no limit)

Editing Exemption for Pruning:

Limit of removing 25 percent of live foliage at a time, within a two-year period

Adding to Exemptions:

Fire Department can attempt to nurse infested oak trees back to health (no expiration)
Landscape oak trees

Adding to Applicability for clarity:

When tree protections overlap, the more protective tree regulation prevails

Definitions

§22.174.020 Definition

Existing Definitions:

Damage
Heritage Oak Tree
Protected Zone

Editing for clarity

Damage
Protected Zone

Adding Definitions for:

Canopy
Critical Root Zone
Diameter at Breast Height
(DBH)
Dripline
Encroachment
Landscape Oak Tree *
Protected Oak Tree

Adding Definitions for:

Prune or Trim
Replacement Oak Trees
Removal
Stewardship Oak Trees *

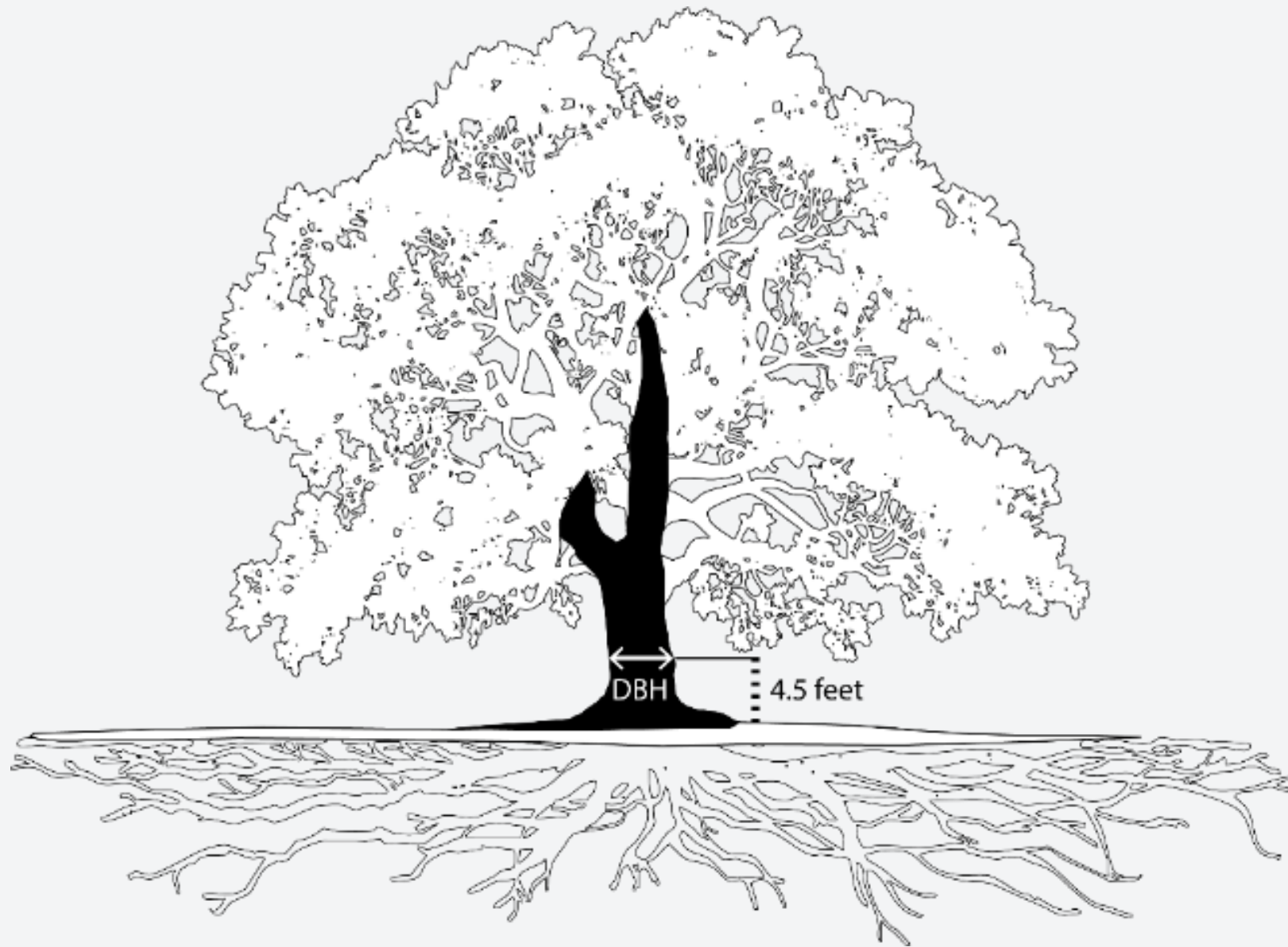


FIGURE 22. 14.150-E: DIAMETER AT BREAST HEIGHT (DBH)

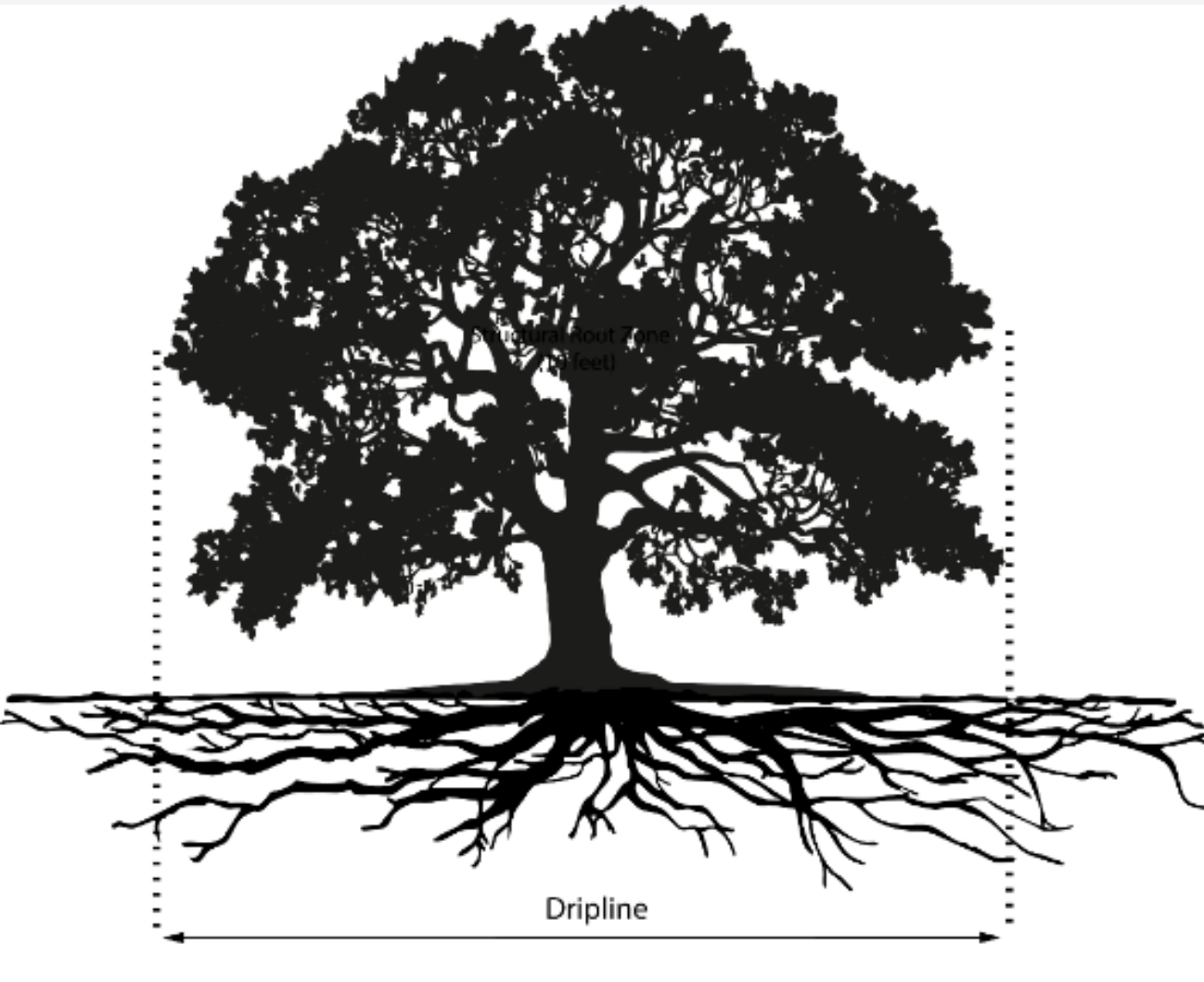


FIGURE 22.14.150-F: DRIPLINE (ELEVATION VIEW)

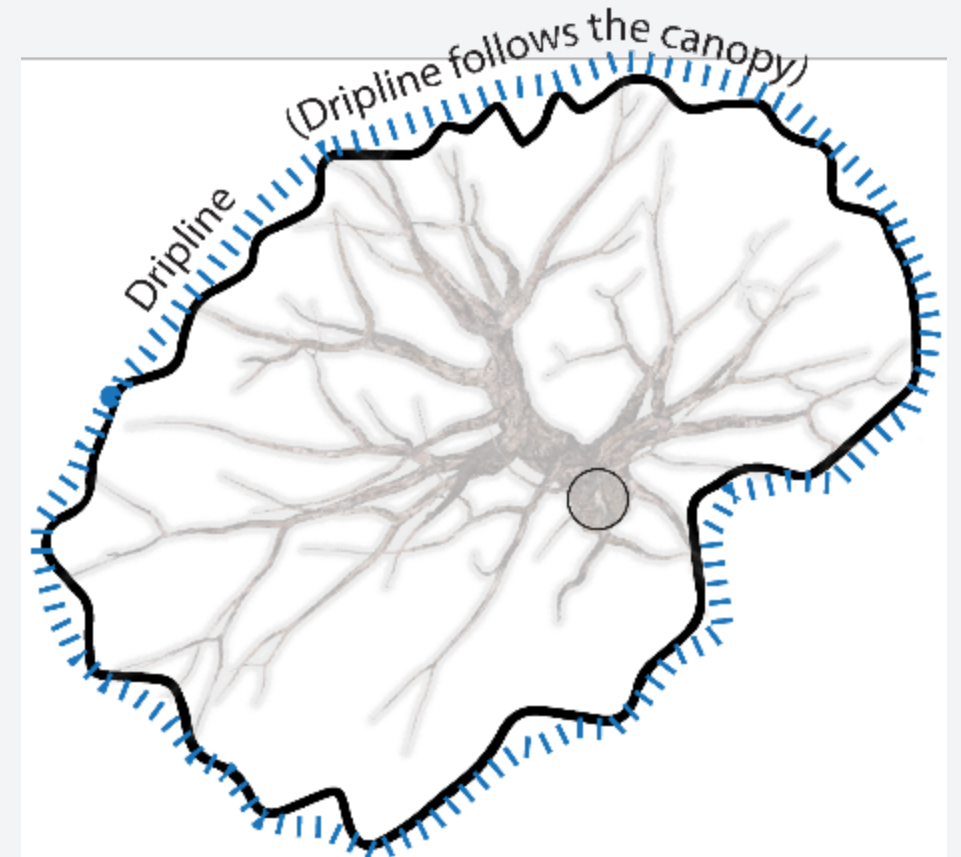


FIGURE 22.14.150-G: DRIPLINE (PLAN VIEW)

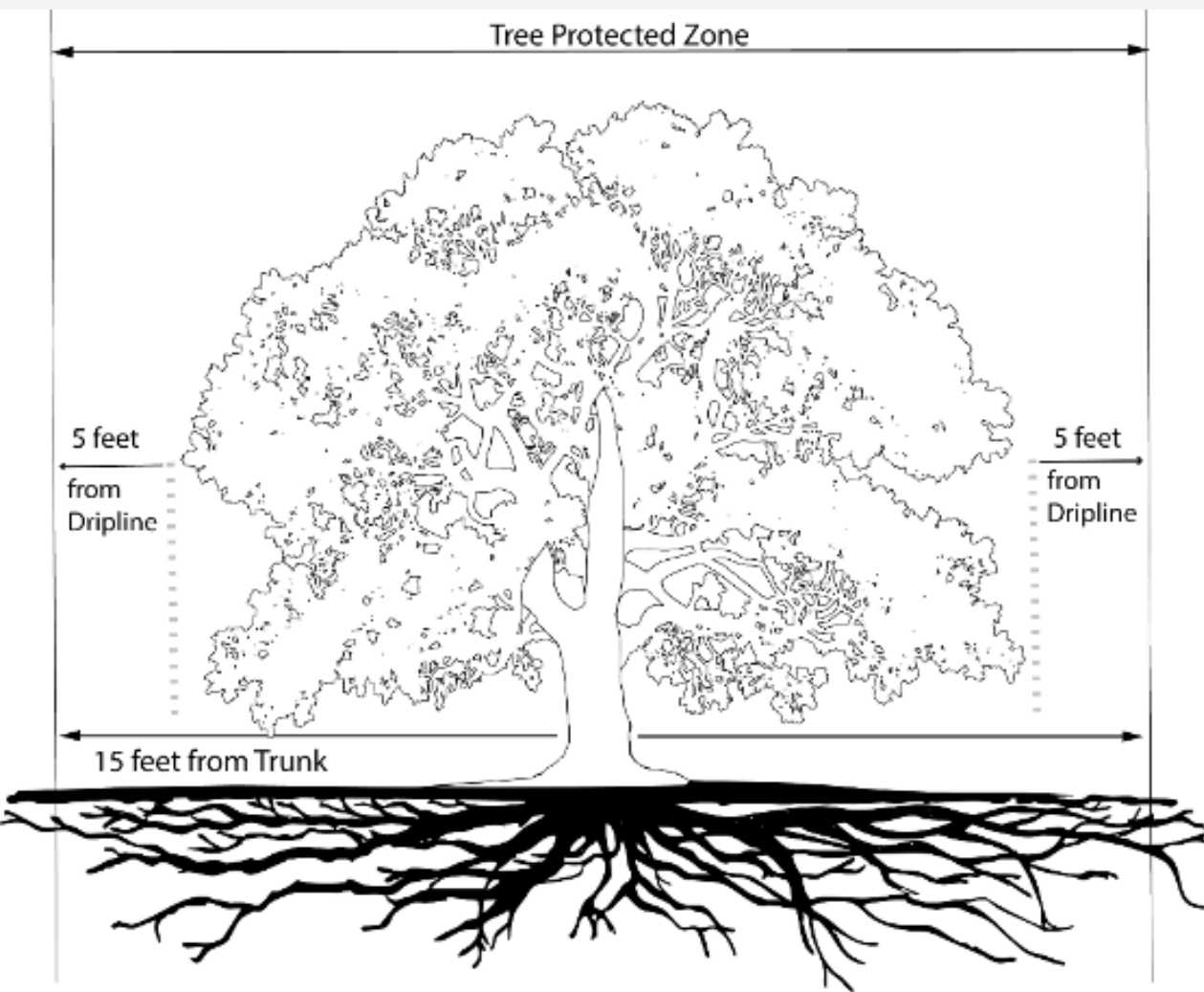


FIGURE 22.14.150-H: TREE PROTECTED ZONE (ELEVATION VIEW)



FIGURE 22.14.150-I: TREE PROTECTED ZONE (PLAN VIEW)

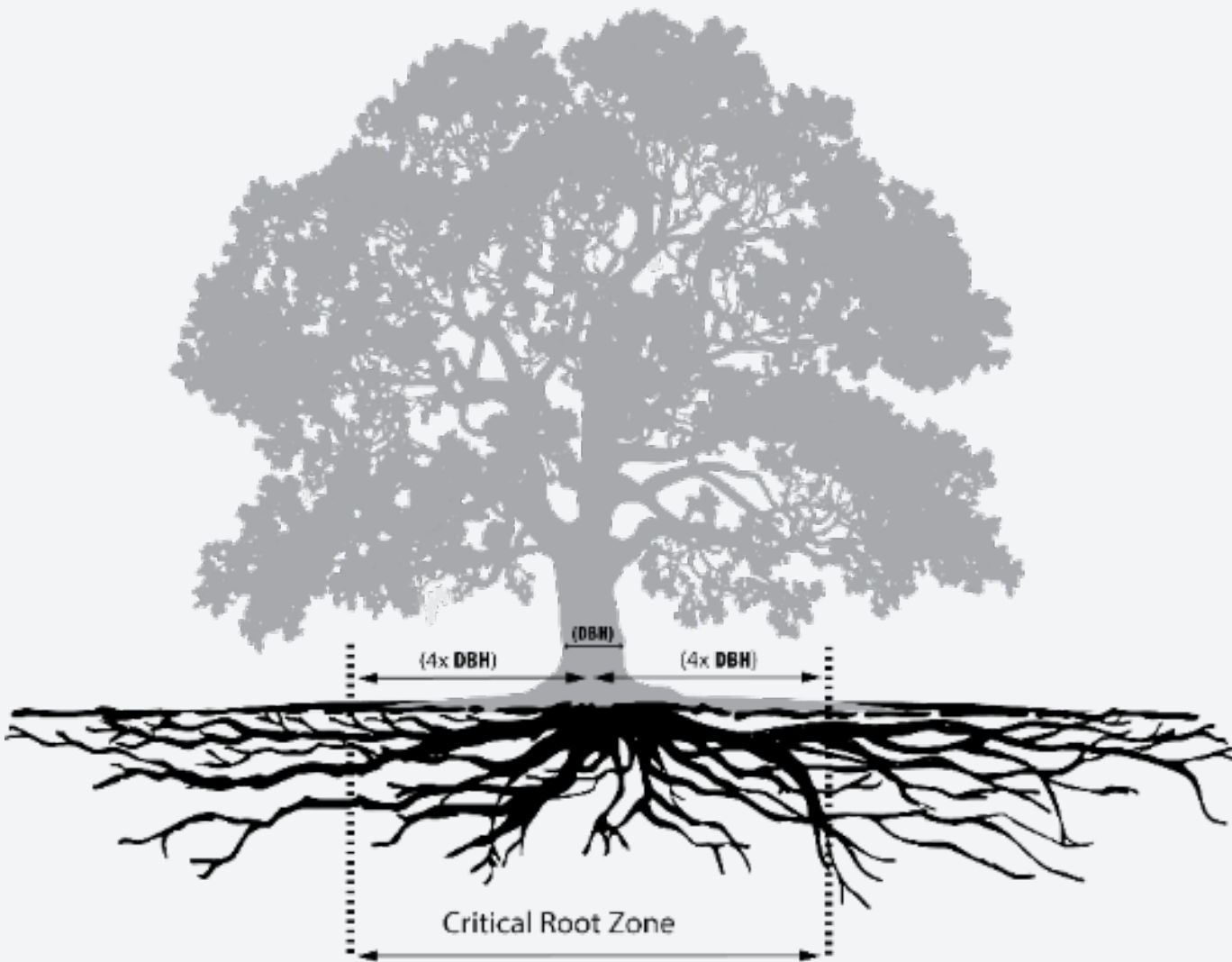


FIGURE 22.14.150-C: CRITICAL ROOT ZONE (ELEVATION VIEW)

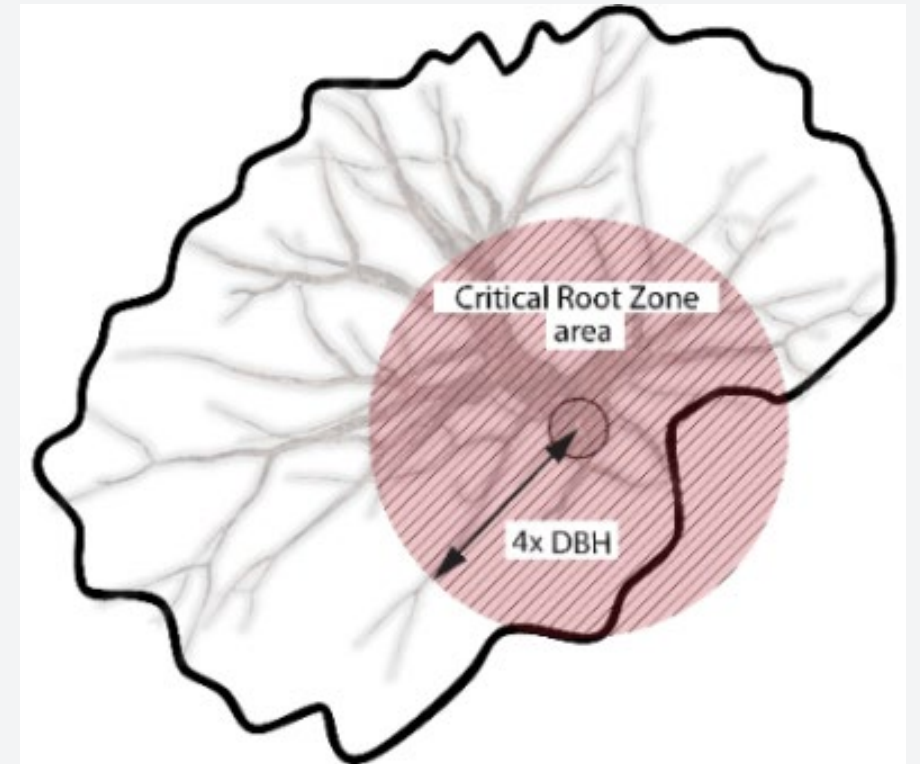


FIGURE 22.14.150-D: CRITICAL ROOT ZONE (PLAN VIEW)

Application

§22.174.040 Application

Existing Site Plan Requirements:

All oak trees within 200 ft of proposed construction

Editing Site Plan Requirements:

Within 50 ft of proposed construction

Adding to Site Plan Requirements:

Critical root zone
Dripline (actual)
Protected zone
Fuel modification impacts
Percentages of encroachment and pruning

Adding to Site Plan Requirements:

Including any oak trees depicted in prior approvals
Estimated tree protected zones on adjacent properties that can be observed without trespassing

§22.174.040 Application

Existing Oak Tree Report Requirements:

Written by "an individual with expertise acceptable to the Director and the Fire Department"

Editing OT Report Requirements:

Written by ISA certified or ASCA registered consulting arborist

Adding to Tree Protection Plan:

Warning signs on fence
Stop work order
Project arborist on site to monitor

Adding Tree Maintenance and Care Plan

Maintenance
Watering
Wire fence enclosures

Existing OT Report:

DBH, Canopy Size,
Protected Zone
Physical Structure Eval
Tree Health (Disease or insects, Vigor, Health Rating, Recommendations)

Adding to OT Report:

Project description
Reason for desired impact
Proposed impact
Percentage pruning or encroachment
Replacement tree locations

Adding to OT Report:

Oak Tree Inventory:
Geocoordinates
Appraised values



NEXT STEPS

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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) nkatz@fm.ucla.edu

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

Alternative Meeting times added for Meetings #4 (9/23) and #6 (10/16).

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

CONTACT US

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Fill out our
Survey



bit.ly/oaktreesurvey2

Questions + Comments



Thank you!