

Oak Tree Permit Update

Comments & Questions: Meeting #4

Date	Commentor Name	Meeting #	Comment or Question	Response
9/3/2025	Yael Pardess	Email	<p>1.I wanted to suggest that in addition to detailing tree count on properties sold, where Oaks are in danger of being removed or trimmed- that photos of existing oaks are clearly provided by owner, in order to assess the before and after condition of these Oaks.</p> <p>In our neighborhood I am documenting exiting trees in vacant lots, or lots for sale, because they can disappear overnight, and this is the only way to prove to Urban Forestry that trees were there. Inspectors sent are not always up to par to recognize the existence of past trees and cases will be closed.</p>	<p>1. Thank you for your comment. We only require owners to provide a site plan and oak tree report when impacts to oak trees are proposed.</p> <p>The LA County Community Forest Management Plan (CFMP) sets out a vision for the community forest. As part of the CFMP Implementation, LA County Planning is leading a subgroup, Oaks and Mapping. One of our long-term goals is to identify oak trees by remote sensing, if funding becomes available. Such an inventory of existing protected trees may help address the concerns you describe.</p> <p>The LA County Community Forest Management Plan: https://cfmp.lacounty.gov/</p>
9/3/2025	Yael Pardess	Email	<p>2. No Oaks should be removed without a permits. Non- Heritage trees can still be very large and impactful for the environment. Any trees replanted will take 20 years to mature and give same benefits. It should NEVER be given as a permit free option.</p> <p>You can offer the option to remove Oaks that are under 4" Diameter only.</p> <p>In LA the tree ordinance does not consider a tree protected if it is under 4" CUMULATIVE diameter at breast height. It causes many protected trees to be cut and is not a good policy, but this is the existing policy...</p>	<p>2. Thank you for your comment. Please see the response below about "landscape oaks" and our rationale behind this option. Oak trees that are not registered with LA County Planning would continue to be protected after reaching regulation size.</p> <p>The City of LA has different tree regulations than LA County. We understand the City of LA protects oak trees starting at 4" DBH.</p> <p>In unincorporated LA County, the protected oak tree threshold begins at 8" DBH, or 12" DBH if the oak tree is a multi-trunked specimen. LA County Planning is not considering changing the existing 8" DBH protected tree threshold at this time.</p>
9/3/2025	Yael Pardess	Email	<p>3. I did not catch what was the resolution regarding permits required for Zone 0 requirements.</p> <p>Zone 0 means tens of thousand of permits required for Oak branches or full removals in California. It is an additional heavy financial burden for homeowners for an extreme policy.</p> <p>However, If these permits are waived under the guise of Zone 0, many will take advantage of that and cut many oak trees without discrimination. We will lose too many trees.</p>	<p>3. Legally approved fuel modification plans from the Fire inspector are exempted from the Oak Tree Permit.</p> <p>This is has already been the case in practice, but we will clarify this in the Oak Tree Permit update.</p> <p>Zone 0 regulations are continuing to evolve. I believe you are already attending Nurit Katz (UCLA)'s Defensible Space working group on Mondays at noon, but for others who are not aware of it, please contact Nurit to obtain updates about the Zone 0 regulations: "Katz, Nurit" <nkatz@fm.ucla.edu></p>
9/3/2025	Yael Pardess	Email	<p>4. Re: Zone 0 Will these Oaks be replaced and where?</p>	<p>4. Legally approved fuel modification plans from the Fire inspector are exempted from the Oak Tree Permit.</p>

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9/16/2025	Yael Pardess	Email	Can we not request you place having BEFORE photos as a requirement? Otherwise how can we assess what happened?	The oak tree report with before photos and a site plan of proposed impacts are required as part of the application for an oak tree permit.
9/16/2025	Yael Pardess	Email	If I understand correctly, Oaks will be removed if Fire Dept requests it, without permits? Can we request that the Fire Dept request is documented to prevent removal and not having any proof that fire Dept requested that?	Yes, with a legally approved fuel modification plan from the Fire Inspector. A "documented request" will be in the form of a legally approved fuel modification plan from the Fire Department's Fire Inspector. What is documented within the fuel modification plan is exempt from permits. What is removed beyond the fuel modification plan is not exempt and will be a violation of the Oak Tree Permit.
9/16/2025	Yael Pardess	Email	We know that some Oaks will be removed and not just trimmed. Some will die as a result of heavy trimming. Why can we not request replacement trees? Valuable Oaks will be removed and gone.	Legally approved fuel modification plans from the Fire inspector are exempted from the Oak Tree Permit.
9/16/2025	Pat Ruiz	Meeting #4 Chat	Contractors are willing to kill wildlife to seal hollows [in oak trees]. Maybe [we can add something about] what can and cannot be done.	Protection of animals and bees are technically outside the scope of the Oak Tree Permit update. However, we will consider the impact on oak trees on sealing oak tree hollows with our biologists and foresters.
9/16/2025	Pat Ruiz	Meeting #4	Currently there is an adjacent property where there's an oak tree. The contractor plans to kill the bees that are living in the hollow of the oak tree. In the past, he has filled up the holes in the tree with spray foam. I don't know what the next plan is - one of my neighbors is trying to save the bees. I don't know if there is anything in regulations of what contractors can do and not do to the hollows because there may be animals that live in the hollows and they will die if the holes are sealed up. This will also hurt the health of the tree. This is my concern.	Protection of animals and bees are technically outside the scope of the Oak Tree Permit update. However, we will consider the impact on oak trees on sealing oak tree hollows with our biologists and foresters. The purpose of the Oak Tree Permit is to preserve and maintain healthy oak trees in the development process.

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9/16/2025	Nick Araya	Meeting #4 Chat	<p>[The slide states] "the County forester CAN determine a different size for the replacement tree"</p> <p>Does this mean the minimum is 15 gallon but the forester could arbitrarily decide that yours, for some reason, must be a 60 inch box replacement?"</p> <p>I wanted to clarify the question I asked about the Forester having the ability to change the required replacement tree size. It seems very open-ended and arbitrary right now that the Forester could theoretically say, well, I don't like you, so I'm going to penalize you by requiring a larger replacement size.</p> <p>So I think it should be... more clearly defined so that in those cases where the Forester does feel like a different tree size should be acceptable, that there's parameters that everyone understands why those decisions were made, instead of us waiting, you know, and then getting a different forester to give a different response. I think it should just be kind of locked in.</p>	<p>Yes, our proposal is that the standard is a 15-gallon tree, but the Forester can suggest otherwise.</p> <p>Thank you for your comment, we will discuss with our biologists and forester to consider including language on when a different size of replacement tree is warranted.</p>
9/16/2025	Cynthia Wiese	Meeting #4	<p>My neighboring property, was sold to someone I do not know. The oak tree exists on their property, but half of the canopy is over my property.</p> <p>I feel that the tree was, destroyed in the fire - even though it's still standing. I think it has, or is in the process of dying as a result of the fire.</p> <p>What steps do I need to go to in order to have someone come and evaluate the tree, and then how could I get that new owner to remove the tree?</p> <p>Is there a resource out there that will remove the tree on behalf of this landowner?</p>	<p>If you think the oak tree may be a hazard, please contact the County Forestry Division and inquire about an Emergency Oak Tree Permit. They can assess your oak tree and provide recommendations.</p> <p>Los Angeles County Fire Department, Forestry Division, Environmental Review Unit: 818-890-5719</p>
9/16/2025	Jessica Richards	Meeting #4	<p>[Re: Resource for removing trees]</p> <p>There's an organization called Altadena Green, which is made up of arborists that are active in evaluating trees, post-fire in Altadena. They have been doing this now for months so I think they likely have a high level of expertise in evaluating [trees impacted by fire, determining] their viability, and making solid recommendations.</p> <p>Altadena Green: https://altadenagreen.org/</p>	<p>We would also like to add that the LA County Oak Tree Permit regulates trees on private property.</p> <p>If a tree is on someone else's property, and even though the canopy may be coming over to your property, one needs to first obtain permission from the property owner to gain access to the property.</p>

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9/16/2025	David Rose	Meeting #4 Chat	I would like to watch Meeting #3 and will need a code to open it. Can you provide me the code ?	<p>[We demonstrated in Meeting #4 how to find the Passcode for the recorded Zoom meetings]</p> <p>The passcode for each Zoom recording is listed in the Public Outreach Meetings table after the text, "Passcode for Zoom Recordings".</p> <p>The link to Meeting #3 is here:</p> <p>Passcode for Zoom Recording of Meeting #3: 1&4rFK1%</p> <p>All the links to recordings from previous meetings are listed in the table. You do need to enter a Passcode for the Zoom recordings and they are also listed in the table. A pdf of the presentation is also available from each meeting along with all the comments and questions from respondents, plus Planning's responses.</p> <p>Link to the Public Outreach Meetings table with ALL the Zoom recordings (and their individual passcodes): https://planning.lacounty.gov/long-range-planning/oak-tree-program/meetings-and-headings/</p>
9/16/2025	Nick Araya	Meeting #4 Chat	Is there a map somewhere where I can input an address and it will tell me if that property is indeed in an unincorporated part of LA County? It's not always clear	<p>Here is a tool to help you learn which jurisdiction you are in: https://planning.lacounty.gov/#area-lookup</p>
9/16/2025	James Komen	Meeting #4	<p>I would like to offer a suggestion or comment. Your proposal involves a strict, number ratio, 2 to 1, 10 to 1.</p> <p>The trees between minimum protected size and heritage size, and then the minimum heritage size all the way up to the largest heritage trees that we have in the county, are very diverse in size.</p> <p>I would suggest, as an alternative, to use, instead of tree for tree, or 2 to 1, 10 to 1 replacement ratio, I would suggest using a dollar-for-dollar replacement ratio that relates to the appraised reproduction cost of the tree.</p> <p>We have methods and techniques of appraising the reproduction cost of a tree. For example, <i>The Guide for Plant Appraisal</i>, and using the Trunk Formula Technique, we can come up with a dollar value that scales relative to the size and condition of the tree, and then the property owner or manager could put back [the cost of the removed tree].</p> <p>For example, if it's a \$20,000 tree, they could put back \$20,000 worth of trees in whatever shape or form they may take, whether it's multiple 60-inch boxes or more smaller trees.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We will consider your suggestion.</p>

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9/16/2025	David Rose	Meeting #4 Chat	<p>[Re: Replacement Ratios]</p> <p>Replacing one oak tree removal with two 15 gallon trees is preposterous. If the goal is no net loss of canopy, you're not going to get that by replacing 30 inch (DBH) oak trees with two 15 gallon trees.</p>	Thank you for your comment.
9/16/2025	Patrick Crooks	Meeting #4 Chat	<p>[Re: Replacement Ratios]</p> <p>I agree with the comments by Nick and James for replacement ratios. 15-gallon ought to be the minimum replacement but I would encourage the County to have standards utilizing the <i>Guide to Plant Appraisal</i> to truly replace trees in-kind on value.</p> <p>Two 5 year old oak trees do not provide the same value as a 20-inch coast live oak. The urban forest canopy in unincorporated County will continue to decline if the ratio stays at 2 to 1.</p>	Thank you for your comment.
9/16/2025	Gabriele Burkard	Meeting #4 Chat	<p>How do you deal with oaks partially blown down by the windstorm?</p>	<p>If you think the oak tree may be a hazard, please contact the County Forestry Division and inquire about an Emergency Oak Tree Permit. They can assess your oak tree and provide recommendations.</p> <p>Los Angeles County Fire Department, Forestry Division, Environmental Review Unit: 818-890-5719</p> <p>If the tree in question is a street or park tree (on public property), please contact please contact the LA County Department of Public Works at 626-458-5100 or use the The Works App: https://pw.lacounty.gov/theworks/</p>
9/16/2025	Gabriele Burkard	Meeting #4	<p>We have quite a large oak tree and a large branch of that was blown down the night before the Altadena fire and it was partially because, in a portion of it, it was termited, so we had... and they... it was in front of our cars, so we had somebody come and cut that off so we could get out. So what do we do?</p> <p>And then there's another... a big branch that's hanging over the neighbor's driveway, and they've told us that they're concerned about that big branch hanging over their driveway.</p>	<p>If the tree is on your property, a certified arborist can provide you a tree health assessment. If the tree is on your neighbor's property, discuss with your neighbor about obtaining a tree health assessment.</p> <p>You can also contact the County Forestry Division and inquire about an Emergency Oak Tree Permit if you think the tree may be a hazard. They can assess your oak tree and provide recommendations.</p> <p>Los Angeles County Fire Department, Forestry Division, Environmental Review Unit: 818-890-5719</p>

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			How can we get information from some of the earlier meetings? Like the second meeting to find out what the critical root zone is?	<p>Please visit the Oak Tree Program Meetings webpage: https://planning.lacounty.gov/long-range-planning/oak-tree-program/meetings-and-headings/</p> <p>The link to Meeting #2 is here.</p> <p>The Passcode for Zoom Recording of Meeting #2: RnVJ@*0R</p> <p>All the links to recordings from previous meetings are listed in the table. You do need to enter a Passcode for the Zoom recordings and they are also listed in the table. A pdf of the presentation is also available from each meeting along with all the comments and questions from respondents, plus Planning's responses.</p> <p>Link to the Public Outreach Meetings table with ALL the Zoom recordings (and their individual passcodes): https://planning.lacounty.gov/long-range-planning/oak-tree-program/meetings-and-headings/</p>
9/16/2025	Gabriele Burkard	Meeting #4		
9/16/2025	Jessica Richards	Meeting #4	<p>I was wondering if this applies specifically to the areas impacted by the fire in which Southern California Edison and other entities removed many oak trees, post-fire, without any evaluation or permitting.</p> <p>Will they be required to adhere to current replacement policies and standards?</p> <p>The volume of removals [is large] - we're not talking about two, you know.</p>	<p>Utilities are exempt from the Oak Tree Permit.</p>
9/16/2025	Nick Araya	Meeting #4 Chat	<p>[Re: Jessica Richard's Q about utility companies.]</p> <p>Utilites are exempted from tree replacement policies</p>	Thank you for your comment.
9/16/2025	Ellen Walton	Meeting #4 Chat	<p>[Re: Jessica Richard's Q about utility companies.]</p> <p>If a resident did not file a waiver, then the U.S. Army Corps or Engineers or Southern California Edison had no restrictions [on pruning oak trees]</p>	Thank you for your comment.

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9/16/2025	James Komen	Meeting #4	I'd like to express my concern about a slide earlier that you said, was no impact, no permit required. And I'm concerned that property owners will self-declare that there's no impact. Thereby not triggering an investigation by an arborist.	Thank you for your comment.
			And no competent arborist or other tree professional would even be there to spot the issue, to realize that there will likely be an impact that a layperson might not otherwise identify.	The existing Oak Tree Permit intake process does <u>not</u> directly ask the applicant to answer the question, "is there an impact or not?".
			So my recommendation is to have some sort of simplified process from the County that says, like a determination that no further investigation is required, or a determination that an arborist is not needed. Or maybe an arborist is needed to make a determination that no further mitigation actions are required.	Instead, applicants are asked to acknowledge: (1) whether an oak tree is present (Y/N) and (2) whether activity will happen inside the tree protected zone (Y/N).
			But just skipping the whole process simply because a property owner self-declares that there's no impact seems like a pretty big gaping loophole.	Planners who process permit applications check aerial imagery for oak trees, and make site visits to verify the submitted site plans as part of routine procedure. If oak trees are present within a certain distance from the project (existing: 200' from the project; proposed: 50' from the project - presented in Meeting #2), but applicants did not acknowledged them in their application, the applicants must revise the site plan to reflect the presence of oak trees and apply for an Oak Tree Permit.
				In this presentation (Meeting #4), I shared the slide, "No impacts = no Oak Tree Permit," in the context of what happens in the initial counseling session with a planner.
				One objective of this session is to find out how to align the proposed development with the zoning code, including protection of oak trees, which is the purpose of the Oak Tree Permit ordinance. The point of the slide is that avoiding any impacts to oak trees while fulfilling the aims of the proposed project is beneficial to both the interests of the applicant (who no longer needs to obtain an Oak Tree Permit) and the protection of oak trees.
9/16/2025	Sara Hammes	Meeting #4 Chat	Can you clarify again how the new ordinance is expected to encourage the planting of oak trees for every oak tree that is removed? (discussion under unintended consequences)	For oak tree removals, the existing Oak Tree Permit requires replacement oak trees to be planted under Conditions of Approval: every non-heritage sized oak tree that is removed shall be replaced with two new oak trees (for heritage oak trees, the replacement ratio is 10:1).
				Feedback from staff, biologists, and consultants over the years have revealed two main unintended consequences: (1) avoiding planting oak trees, and (2) removing undersized oak trees (before they reach protection size). To remedy the first unintended consequence, we are proposing to exempt "landscape oaks" (see below for discussion), and to remedy the second unintended consequence, we are creating educational materials and webinars about the value and benefits of oak trees.

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9/16/2025	Sara Hammes	Meeting #4	Have you considered incentives to encourage planting of Oak trees for preserving them?	<p>To encourage more planting of oak trees in LA County, we are proposing to introduce the option of "landscape oaks". "Landscape oaks" are oak trees that are voluntarily planted by residents and registered with LA County Planning with photo documentation showing the moment the oak tree was planted. We are considering exempting these registered landscape oaks from Oak Tree Permit protections.</p> <p>We are proposing to offer landscape oaks as an option for those residents who may want to plant oak trees but have mixed feelings about regulations. This option would allow them to plant new oak trees <u>without future regulations</u>. A few caveats follow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Landscape oaks cannot be replacement oak trees <i>that were required to be planted</i> because of an oak tree removal elsewhere. - Landscape oaks must also be <u>documented at the time of planting</u>, and registered with LA County Planning, after the effective date of the Oak Tree Permit update. Thus oaks planted in the past cannot qualify for this new exemption. - Naturally-occurring oak seedlings do not qualify to become landscape oaks because exempting natural oak regeneration in oak woodlands may cause unintended harm to ongoing ecological processes. <p>We envision the exempt status of landscape oaks to stay with the property. Even if the property changes hands, the exempt status of the landscape oak remains. However, we are also considering the option for property owners to extinguish this exempt status if desired.</p> <p>We have received some comments against the idea of landscape oaks. However, minus registering (and documenting the planting of) the landscape oak with LA County Planning, any oak tree that is planted and reaches regulation size will continue to receive protections under the Oak Tree Permit as before.</p> <p>To encourage preservation of oak trees, we are creating new educational materials and opportunities to learn more about the ecological benefits provided by oak trees.</p>
9/16/2025	Yael Pardess	Meeting #4	<p>In my experience of trying to protect illegally removed, protected trees from our neighborhood, many people will try every which way to not declare trees on their properties... and to remove them without permits.</p> <p>There was an incident where there were 93 protected trees on several lots where a developer wanted to develop. The trees were not declared. Twice on plans, the developer said there were no protected trees on this property, but there were 75.</p> <p>So please make it very strict, please penalize. Do everything you can as far as enforcement in your regulations.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p> <p>We will discuss Penalties in Meeting #6 on 10/14 (and Alternative Meeting #6 on 10/16).</p> <p>To sign up for the OTP series (including Meeting #6 on 10/14): https://bit.ly/oaktree_zoom_series</p> <p>If this meeting time does not work for you, we will be offering a second meeting time introducing the same content, Alternative Meeting #6 (10/16). Separate registration is necessary to receive the link.</p> <p>Please register for Alternative Meeting #6 here: https://planning-lacounty-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/dHEGK1_zQ_ifArqDmv-NvQ</p>

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			<p>If we're noticing people are cutting down naturally-occurring trees that are about to enter the protected status range...</p> <p>So for example, you have a 6-inch diameter tree and the arborist says, "It's going to be protected soon, let me charge you \$100 to cut it down right now!"</p> <p>And you really does not want to lose the oak tree, but you also doesn't want to be entangled in bureaucracy if you need to cut it down in 10 years... What if we allowed people to declare the preservation then? Like, I'm going to let this tree keep growing, but I want to retain the right to remove it in the next 10, 20 years, whatever numbers we put on it.</p>	Thank you for your comment and sharing your thoughts.
9/16/2025	Nick Araya	Meeting #4	<p>Because, I had the option to remove it right now, and I'm going to let that option go. It seems like that would help us reach our goals in the long term, that we're keeping the oak canopy for a longer time.</p> <p>And I know it seems weird to let that tree become a 30 inch diameter tree, and then having a guy say, "Well, I want to cut it down now". Everyone will be mad about it, but if we remember that the tree would not have been there at all [in the first place, when the person was] kind of forced to cut it down when it was 6 inches in diameter.</p> <p>This is not so much a question. It's just an idea to think about as a way to incentivize people to retain those small-sized trees.</p>	
9/16/2025	James Komen	Meeting #4	<p>I'll add a third comment to the mix, and that has to do with the credentialing. I'm happy to see the new list of credentials required for the reports. I'm very happy to see that improvement.</p> <p>One addition that I would suggest is taking into consideration the TRAC credential, T-R-A-Q, Tree Risk Assessment Qualification.</p> <p>And that should be required for any removal or pruning permit granted on the basis of tree risk. Too often, we're seeing arborists or other professionals improperly.</p> <p>Writing risk assessments and just simply saying, oh, this tree is a hazard. But there's a very specific procedure for assessing trees for risk involving a declaration of likelihood of failure, impact, consequences, and a risk rating.</p> <p>And I think having that credential as a requirement for getting a permit on the basis of risk would go towards improving the quality of decisions that the county can make with that information.</p>	Thank you for your comment.

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9/16/2025	Jessica Richards	Meeting #4	[Re: James Komen's comment about requiring TRAQ certification] I agree that TRAQ should be a requirement!	Thank you for your comment.
9/16/2025	Yael Pardess	Meeting #4	[Re: James Komen's comment about requiring TRAQ certification] Totally agree with James. Many wrong tree health assessments in tree reports	Thank you for your comment.
			I have, a mature oak tree that is 2.5 stories high and has a trunk well over 12 inches, and it borders my property with my neighbor. Now, my neighbor and I do want to build a wall between us.	Thank you for your comment. We will follow up with you for a meeting.
			The neighbor was given a retro permit, but yet the tree is on my property. I was never contacted by the County in any way or form to voice my opinions about how I would want walls or the encroachment to be built. I was never contacted.	
			You had mentioned that the Forester comes out when these retro permits get submitted for review. No one came to my property to review my tree, and yet the permit got approved. How is this possible?	
9/23/2025	Robert Ganguin	Alt Meeting #4	Its encroachment zone falls well within the construction area of the home. This gentleman did not mark on his sitemap for approval [the oak tree on my property] when he got the building permits. He did not mark that little box that says there are oak trees within the build. So he had to then get a retro permit. He applied for one at the end of July and it was just approved.	
			The person who actually has the liability of the tree is me. It falls on my property. It brings asset value to my property, yet now there's going to be a retaining wall built within 3 feet of the trunk. And that's where the major root structure will be. It's a good possibility this tree will not survive that.	
			I reached out to the person at Regional Planning who was in charge of it and sent him emails. I went to visit him twice. Yet never once did they reach out to me to discuss the matter, and since the tree is on my property, they never came to my property to review it . . . I want pier footings and all of this, and I don't know if that's going to happen because I was not involved. So how do I move forward with this?	
9/23/2025	Robert Ganguin	Alt Meeting #4	Unfortunately, and I understand that County is bombarded right now with thousands and thousands of site plans to review, and all of this is going on, and I think what is happening is, when it comes down to permitting regulations for oak trees, and not only oak trees, but, like, drainage and grating and all of this type of stuff. It's kind of just pushed under the water. Nothing personal, but it's pushed under the water because there's a lack of resources. But unfortunately... because there's so much work out there right now, but unfortunately, that impacts people like me who really want to protect my tree . . . I want it to be done properly, and I just don't think that's happening.	Thank you for your comment.

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9/23/2025	Diane Marcussen	Alt Meeting #4	I heard you say that you were going to be tracking new planted oak trees longer than you were in the past.	Yes, we are proposing to extend the monitoring period for replacement oak trees from two to five years by the County Forester.
9/23/2025	Diane Marcussen	Alt Meeting #4	I don't know if that's part of this discussion or not, but where somebody has injured the roots of a tree or trimmed it more than they should. My experience is that the tracking time for those is not long enough, either.	
9/23/2025	Diane Marcussen	Alt Meeting #4	In my neighborhood, we've lost 2 or 3 that were trimmed incorrectly, or... and or had their roots damaged, and they ultimately died.	Thank you for your comment.
9/23/2025	Diane Marcussen	Alt Meeting #4	In our census tract, we've had a person who built a wall under an oak tree. This was reported to Regional Planning and the person got a violation, and they watched the tree for 2 years. The tree was suffering, but not dead and so when we asked for a follow-up, County said "not dead yet." But then it is now - it is now [dead] gone.	
9/23/2025	Diane Marcussen	Alt Meeting #4	There was another one in the neighborhood that was reported that they cut too much off of it. [The County] came out, same thing: watched it, came out, not dead yet, then came out a year later, it is dead and gone!	
9/23/2025	Diane Marcussen	Alt Meeting #4	So it seems to me that the time frame allotted for following up on [heavy pruning] or damaging roots is not long enough, in my experience with at least three trees.	
9/23/2025	Diane Marcussen	Alt Meeting #4	I'm guessing that with all the rebuilding, there may be more of these situations and I'm just hoping that they can be followed longer or something . . . Perhaps you can think about seeing if it would be worthwhile to follow damaged trees longer... the ones that are reported, that you're aware of.	We had only considered the monitoring period for replacement oak trees, but you are highlighting the monitoring period for violations, which we had not considered.
9/23/2025	Diane Marcussen	Alt Meeting #4	What I'm asking is for Regional Planning to make the follow-up process longer.	Thank you for your comment and bringing this situation to our attention.
9/23/2025	Diane Marcussen	Alt Meeting #4	[Not talking about replacement oak trees, but] the ones that are damaged. I think they really need to be watched longer. I think that the County's saying okay, and oh, and two years later, they're still fine, so we don't have a problem. I think you do have a problem. I think you do have a problem with people damaging older [oak trees], older, really older, established oaks that people aren't treating well. Okay, so then we get someone to come out and tell them how to treat them, but by then, it is too late, and if you don't watch them longer, I think you're not seeing what the damage really does.	
9/23/2025	Diane Marcussen	Alt Meeting #4	If this can be included in this, that's great.	

LA COUNTY PLANNING

Date	Commentor Name	Meeting #	Comment or Question	Response
9/23/2025	Diane Marcussen	Alt Meeting #4	<p>I'm thinking about the rebuilding. How many oak tree roots are going to have some sort of encroachment on them? Can we watch these longer?</p> <p>I mean, you will find it maybe some activities we're allowing (we = the County) to have happen... maybe this needs to be ultimately changed?</p> <p>If you hurt an oak tree and its still alive in 2 years, then it is no big deal. Maybe this needs to be changed to, if you hurt an oak tree and it's 3 years later and it is dead. What happens then? Maybe the County wants to look at what they're considering "damage".</p> <p>Maybe it is, "you need not cut branches bigger than an inch and a half". Maybe the guidelines for what is damage to a tree - if you're finding that everything you say is okay, [but] 3 years later, the tree is dead!</p> <p>That is my experience in my neighborhood. All those trees have died.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment.</p>
9/23/2025	Dorothy Wong	Alt Meeting #4	<p>You know, a lot of our trees, based on, oak trees, based on, you know, the damage from the wildfire. A lot of residents are holding on to their trees, but there are going to be probably, like, major limbs removed.</p> <p>What are the regulations for removing larger limbs because they have been burned to maintain the health of the tree?</p> <p>Are there any regulations or is it up to the arborists?</p>	<p>If you think the oak tree may be a hazard, please contact the County Forestry Division and inquire about an Emergency Oak Tree Permit. They can assess your oak tree and provide recommendations.</p> <p>Los Angeles County Fire Department, Forestry Division, Environmental Review Unit: 818-890-5719</p>
9/23/2025		Alt Meeting #4	<p>Does your page also provide us the timing for this ordinance? Is that somewhere up here?</p> <p>I think it would help people who come in later, like me. I want to make sure everybody in my census track knows what is going on.</p>	<p>The timeline for the ordinance was explained in Meeting #1 but it is a really good idea to have this on our webpage as well. Thank you for the question and idea.</p> <p>The link to Meeting #1 is here.</p> <p>Passcode for Zoom Recording of Meeting #1: Er!ffz9n</p> <p>All the links to recordings from previous meetings are listed in the table. You do need to enter a Passcode for the Zoom recordings and they are also listed in the table. A pdf of the presentation is also available from each meeting along with all the comments and questions from respondents, plus Planning's responses.</p> <p>Link to the Public Outreach Meetings table with all Zoom recordings (and their individual passcodes): https://planning.lacounty.gov/long-range-planning/oak-tree-program/meetings-and-headings/</p>