

Oak Tree Permit Update: Meeting #4


Tuesday, September 16, 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
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Click on the Interpretation Icon

LA COUNTY
PLANNING

Oak Tree Permit Update

Summer & Fall 2025

Audio Settings ^

Chat ^ Raise Hand

Listen In:

- ✓ Original Audio (Interpretation off)
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- あ Japanese
- ES Spanish

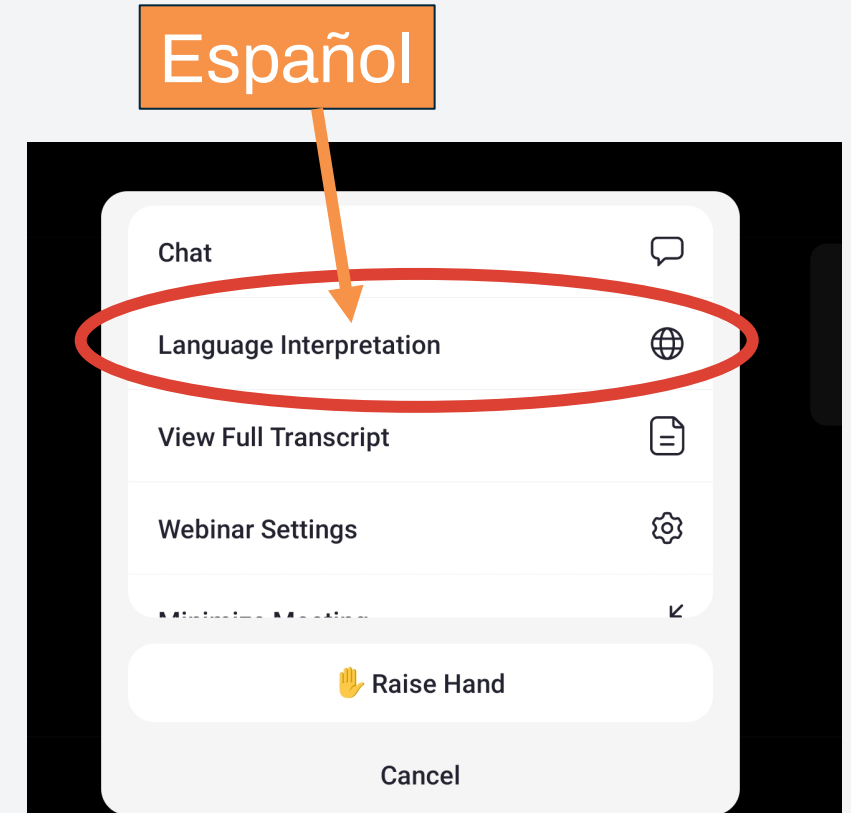
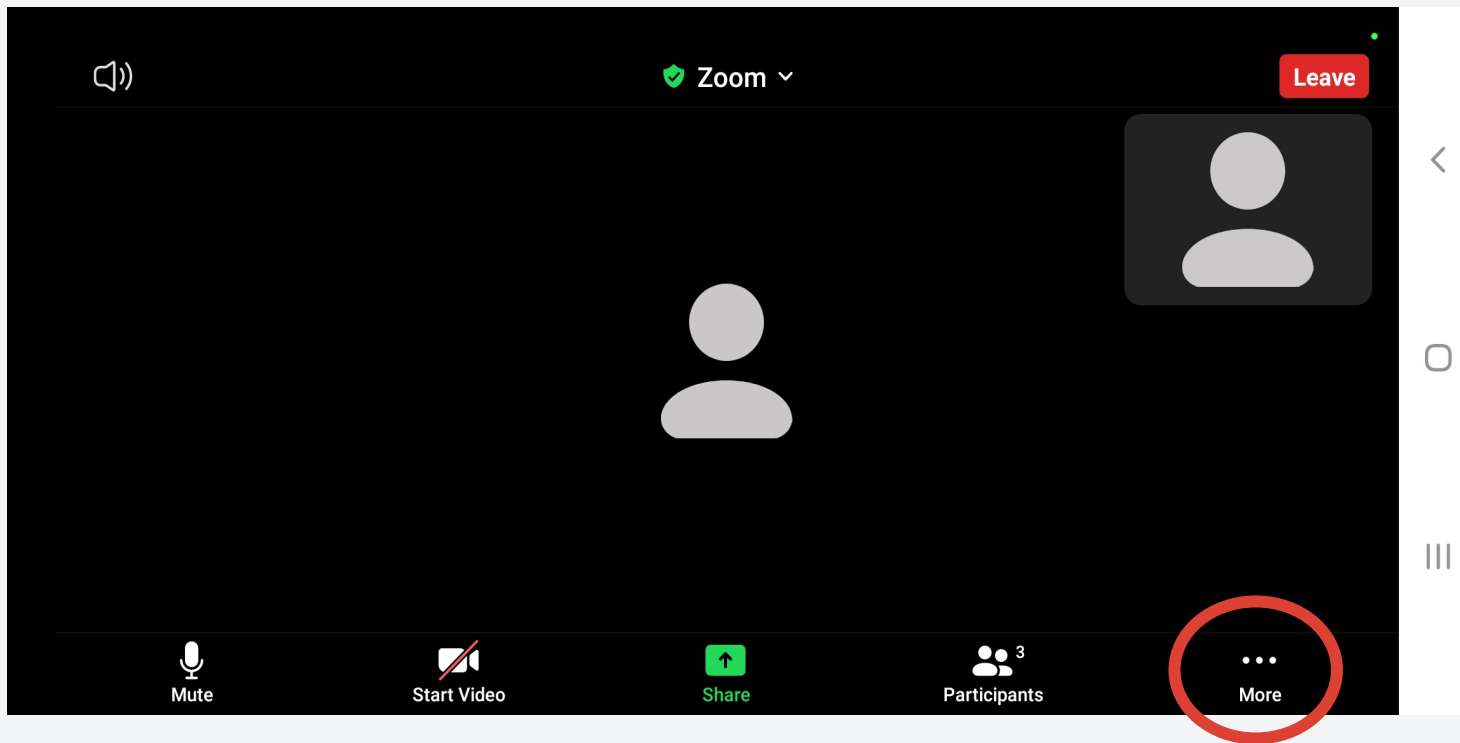
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Interpretation

Español

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Tap on More button or ellipsis ...



Welcome / Introductions

County Project Team

- Connie Chung, Deputy Director of 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	Permitting Tiers, One Removal with a Ministerial Permit (Review Procedures)
Meeting #4:	Tues 9/16	Replacement Trees + Stewardship Trees, and Design to Minimize Impacts (Development Standards)
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 #4:

Replacement Oak Trees & Development Standards

1. Background
2. Replacement Oak Trees
3. Development Standards
4. Q&A

POLL

BACKGROUND

What is the LA County Oak Tree Permit?

Chapter 22.174 - OAK TREE PERMITS

22.174.010 - Purpose.

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

LA County Zoning Code, Chapter 22.174 Oak Tree Permit:

https://library.municode.com/ca/los_angeles_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT22PLZO_DIV8PERELEAC_CH22.174OATRPE

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.**

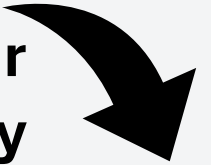
LA County General Plan's Conservation and Natural Resources Element:

https://planning.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/9.0_gp_final-general-plan-ch9.pdf

Why are we updating the Oak Tree Permit?

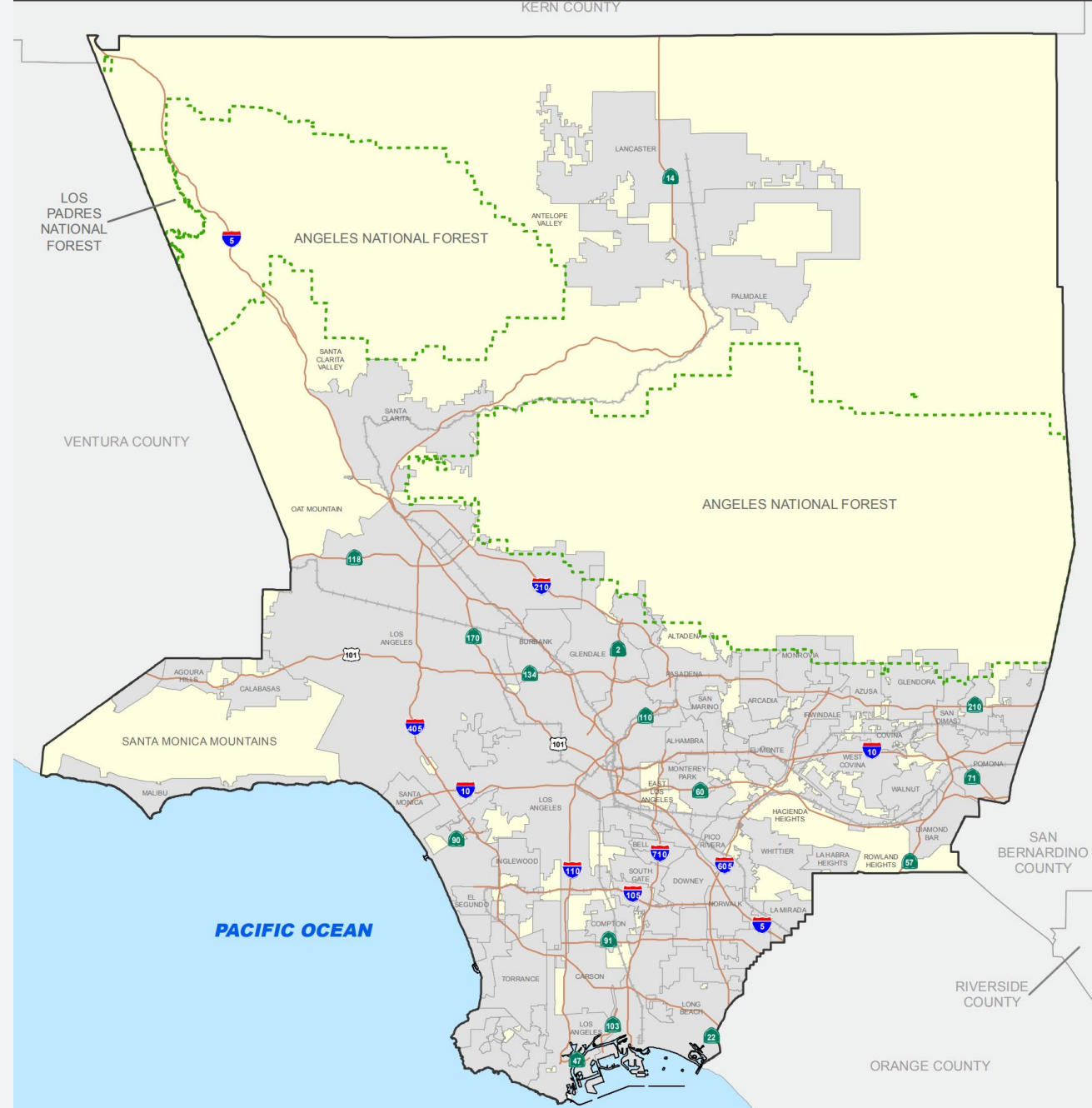
1. Unintended consequences
2. After-the-fact permitting is ineffective for preserving oak trees.
3. Encroachments are treated all the same
4. Oak tree reports vary by quality.

Fill out our
Survey



bit.ly/oaktreesurvey2

Unincorporated Communities in Los Angeles County



Definitions

Protected oak tree.

Any living oak tree (genus *Quercus*) 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**

Indigenous Oaks



Valley Oak (*Q. lobata*)

Region: Puente-Whittier Area, North County

Summary: This is the largest oak in North America and solely native to California. It averages about 60 to 80 feet tall and can live up to 600 years or longer. The fast pace of growth it has is also distinct from other oaks, reaching 20 feet in just the first five years. Its bark is very rigid or rough looking with leaves that change colors seasonally. They are yellowish orange in autumn, brown in fall, and green thereafter.

Indigenous Oaks

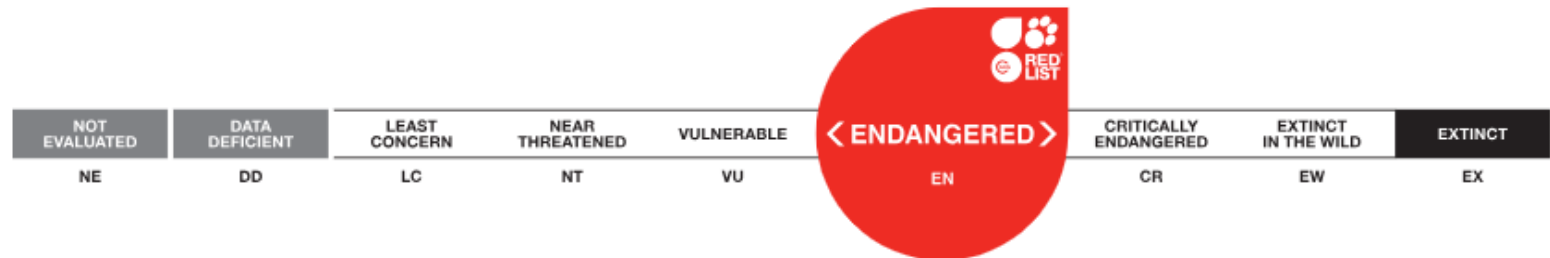


Engelmann / Pasadena Oak (*Q. engelmannii*)

Region: Foothills

Summary: The Engelmann (also known as Pasadena) oak tree is more delicate and smaller than the coast live oak. They only live up to about 150 years old while the coast live oaks can live 400 or so years. LA County only has one intact grove at the Arboretum and some on the N/E corner of Santa Anita Park. These oaks are aging and more should be planted to replenish the ones that won't survive. Engelmann's thrive near water sources, not in high fire hazard areas since they are not as fire-resistant.

International Union for Conservation of Nature



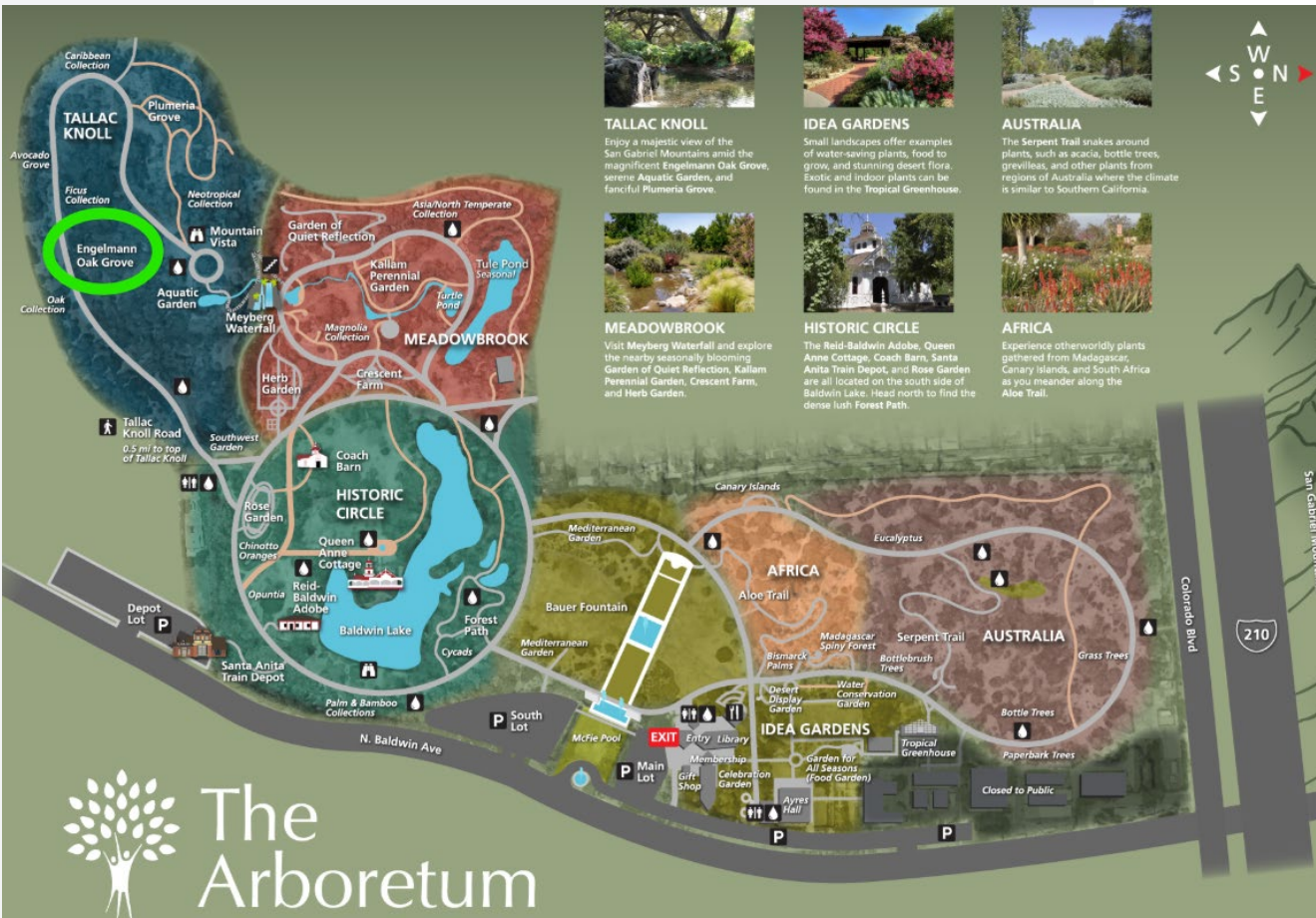
LA County Arboretum & Botanical Garden

PACIFIC
HORTICULTURE

Contributor

James Henrich

The Most Majestic Southern California Oak



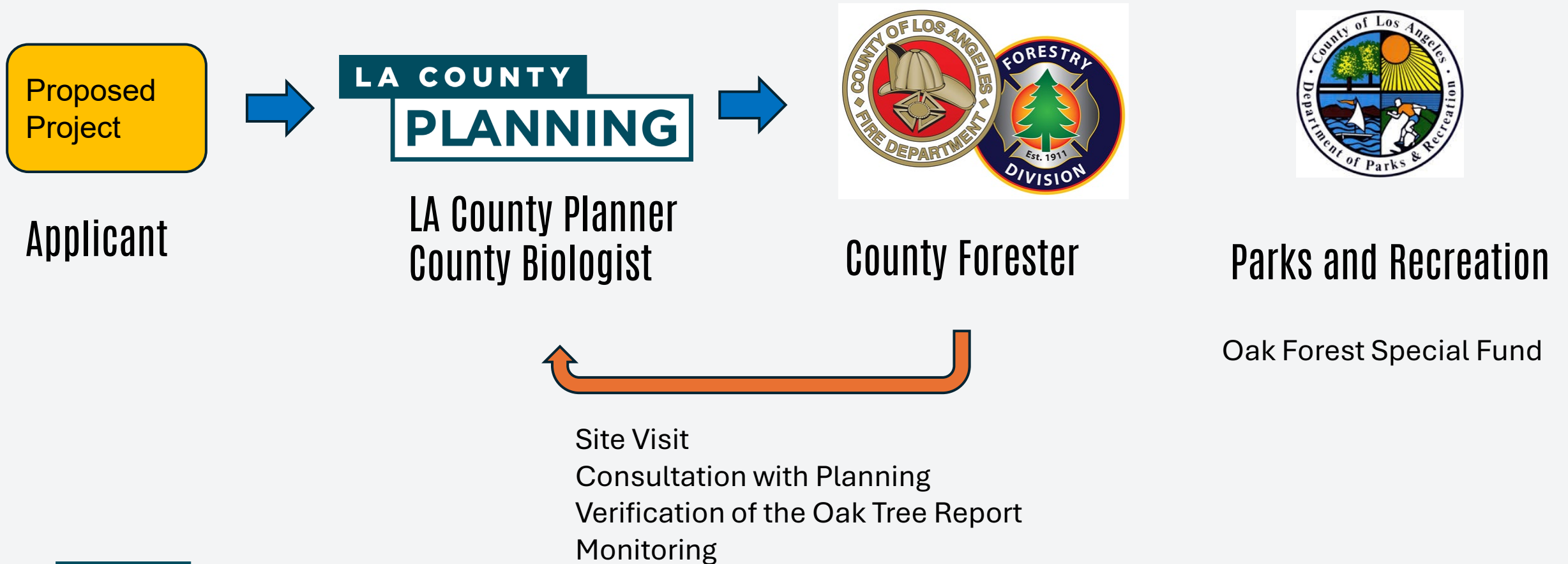
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<https://pacifichorticulture.org/articles/the-most-majestic-southern-california-oak/>

SHAPING TOMORROW

How Does the OTP Work?

Existing Measures



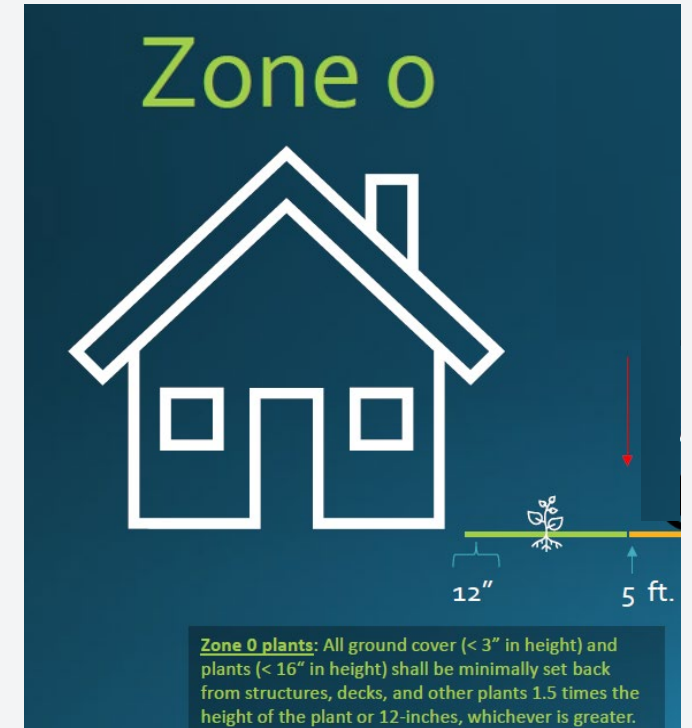
Emergency Oak Tree Permits



Invasive Tree Pest Division
(562) 622-0426
APEPQ@acwm.lacounty.gov



Forestry Division
818-890-5719
Fire-ForestryPublicInfo
@fire.lacounty.gov



Wait for instructions!

...from the Fire Inspector on
how to comply with fuel
modification!

EXISTING

Replacement Trees

Replacement Trees

- 2:1 Replacement Ratio
- Minimum 15-gallon replacement tree size.
- Monitoring period is 2 years with 3 visits from County Forestry



PROPOSED

Replacement Trees

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OR



- **As an option**, naturally-occurring oak tree seedlings that are already growing on site may serve as replacement oak trees that are:
 1. Situated in a location that will support long-term undisturbed growth
 2. Protected with a fence enclosure
 3. Mapped on the site plan, tagged (on the enclosure)

EXISTING

Development Standards

<https://planning.lacounty.gov/connect-with-a-planner/>



Two Permitting Processes

No Impacts = No Oak Tree Permit!

Ministerial

Discretionary

PROPOSED

Development Standards

Development Standards - *a new section in the OTP*

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Purpose: To guide the design of proposed projects to avoid or minimize impacts to oak trees

- Encourage siting of the proposed project to preserve and minimize impacts to oak trees
- Limiting permitted use to the minimum necessary to provide reasonable use of the property.

INFORMATION:

An online **DRP - Base Application – Permits and Reviews** must be completed via EPIC-LA (<https://epicla.lacounty.gov>). Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Please refer to “[How to Apply Online](#)” on our applications page (<http://planning.lacounty.gov/apps>).

Applicants are advised to consult with planning staff prior to applying at **213-974-6411** or info@planning.lacounty.gov.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE UPLOADED TO YOUR APPLICATION:

1. [Owner Acknowledgment Form](#)
2. **Site Plan:** Plans must be drawn to scale and combined into one PDF. Plans must depict the following:

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- **Employ design interventions that minimize impacts, where possible, such as:**
 - Pier-based footings instead of continuous footings



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 - Flexible and permeable paving materials
 - Narrower path widths



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 - Avoidance of deep soil cuts
 - Impact only on one side of the oak tree



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 - Tunneling under and around roots, and
 - Combining all utilities into a single trench.



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NEXT STEPS

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Other Ongoing Meetings and Events

Zone 0 Working Group (Mondays at noon) For more info contact **Nurit Katz (UCLA)** nkatz@fm.ucla.edu

+

Board of Forestry Zone 0 Advisory Committee Meeting this Thursday

The in-person **Southern California Meeting** on Thurs, 9/18 from 10:30am – 5pm at the Pasadena Convention Center

The **LA County Invasive Pest Management Group** is planning free trainings for the public and for tree care professionals on how monitor for the Gold Spotted Oak Borer. **Save the Dates (10/26; 10/28; 10/29)**

“Planning Among Oaks: Research, Community Mapping, and Practice.”

Community Planning Month Webinar on Planning and Oaks, hosted by the American Planning Association and LA County Planning **(Thurs, 10/30, 11:30am- 1pm)** REGISTER: <http://bit.ly/PlanningMonth2025>

Alternative Meeting times added for OTP update Alternative Meetings #4 (9/23) for Altadena and other communities with scheduling conflicts

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

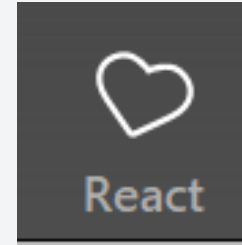
Santa Monica Mountains Communities including Topanga, Monte Nido, and Sunset Mesa

North County

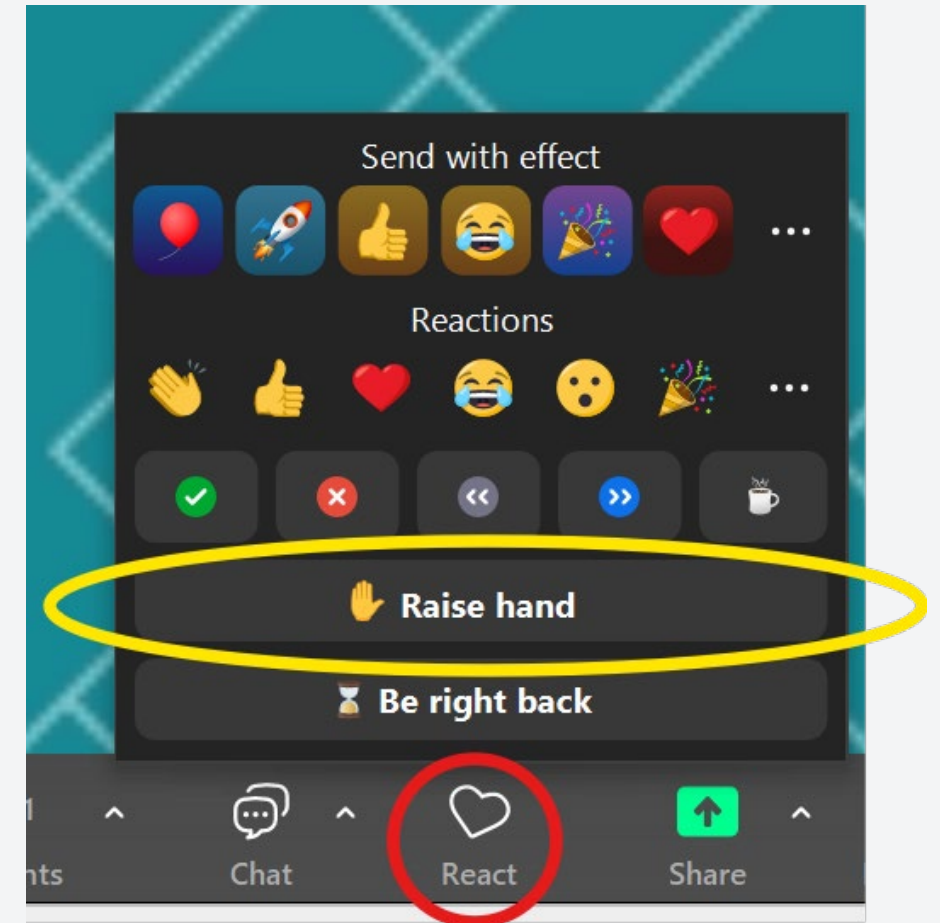
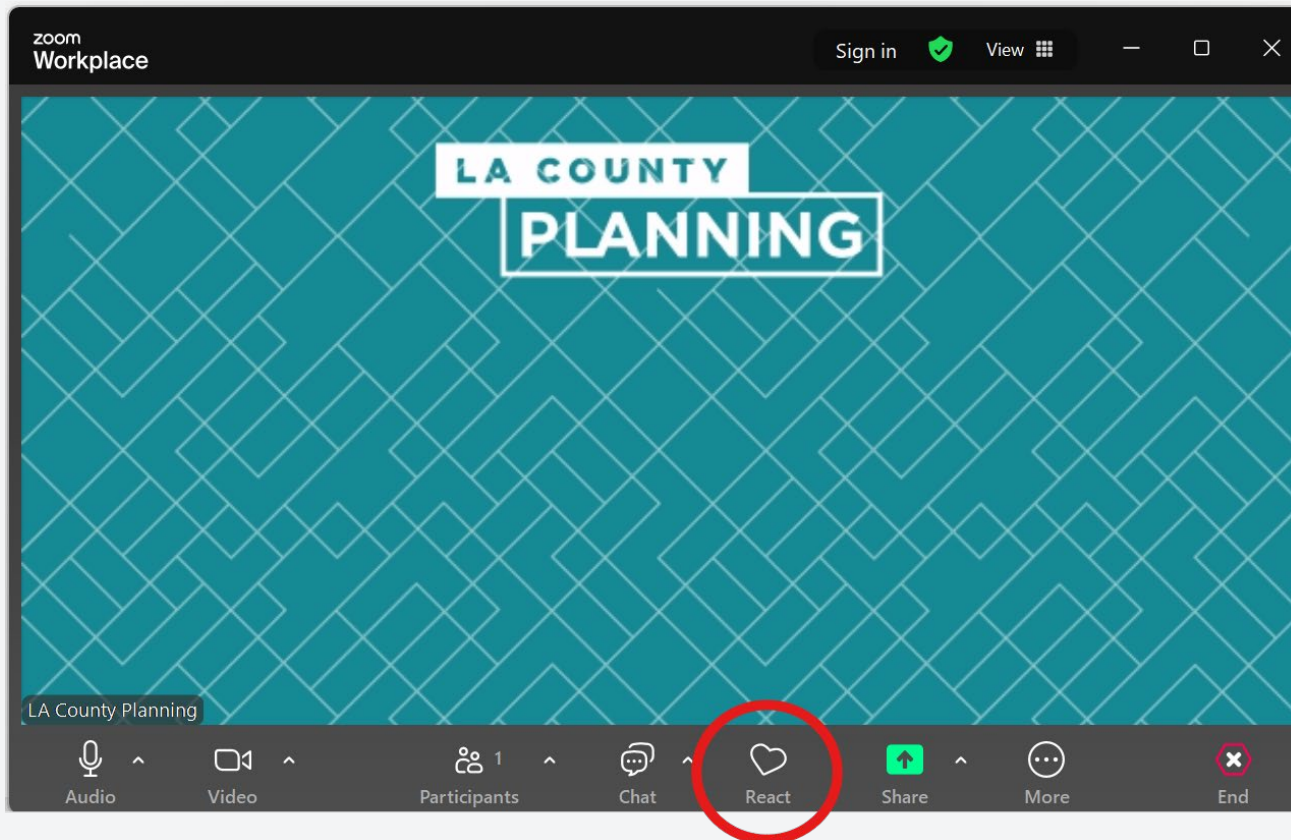
Green Valley, Santa Clarita, Kagel Canyon, West Chatsworth-Lake Manor, Westhills, Twin Lakes

oaktree@planning.lacounty.gov

To Raise Your Hand, Click on the



Icon



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Comments & Questions

CONTACT US

Website: bit.ly/oaktreeprogram

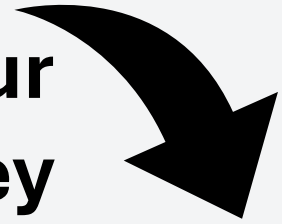
Mailing List: bit.ly/oaktree-newsletter

Email: oaktree@planning.lacounty.gov

Phone: 213-974-6476

Mail: LA County Planning
320 W. Temple Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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Thank you!