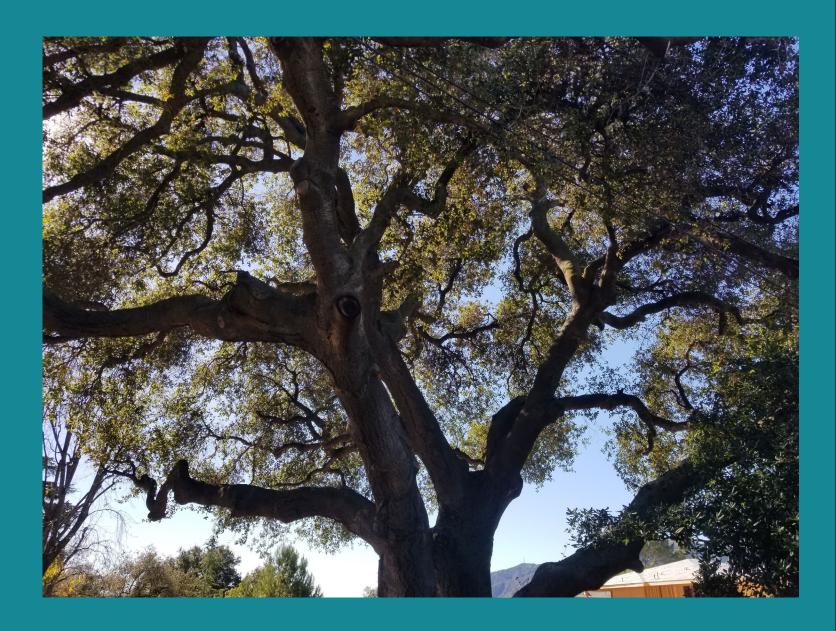
PLANNING

Oak Tree Permit Update: Meeting #5

Tuesday, September 30, 2025



Simultaneous Translation Available

Simultaneous language translation is <u>not available</u> 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

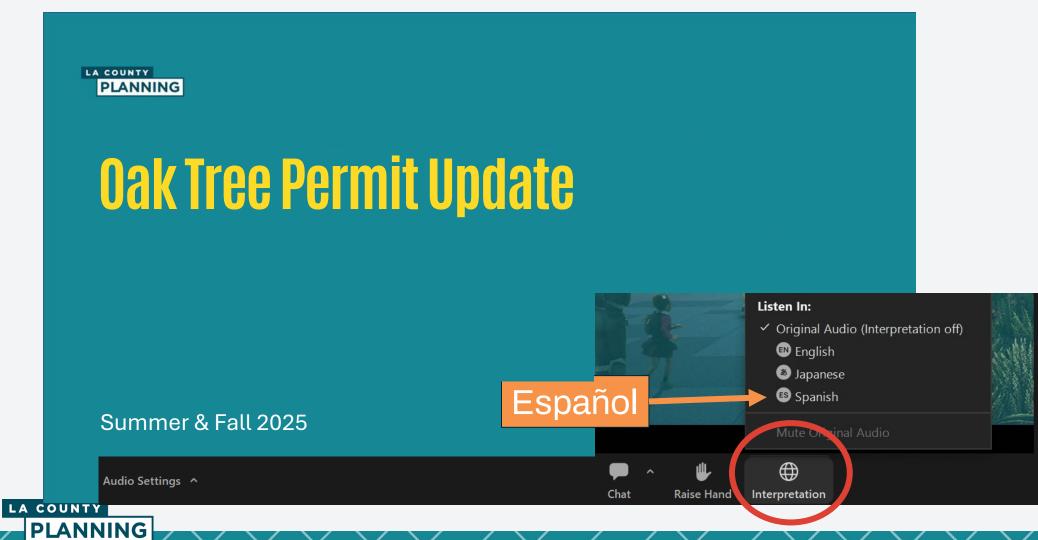
Android/iOS Users

- 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

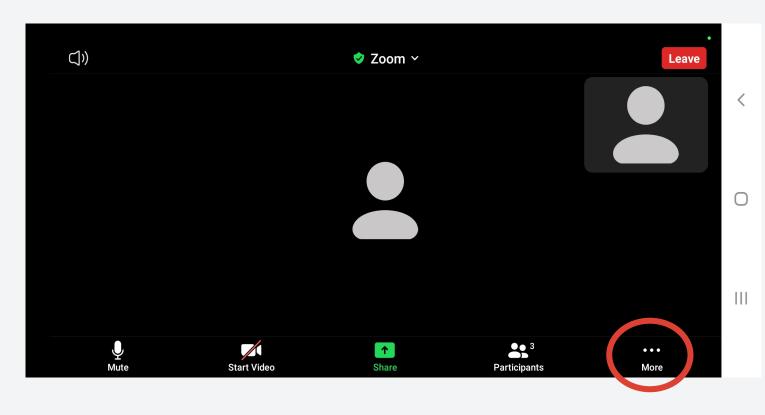


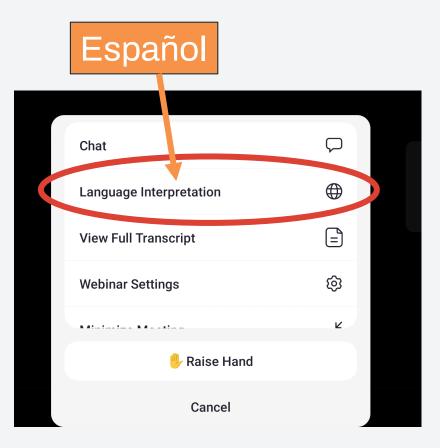
Click on the Interpretation Icon (##)





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	Findings + Relocations, Monitoring Periods (Conditions of Approval)
Meeting #6:	Tues 10/14 and Thurs 10/16 (Alt #6)	Restoration Permit (Enforcement)

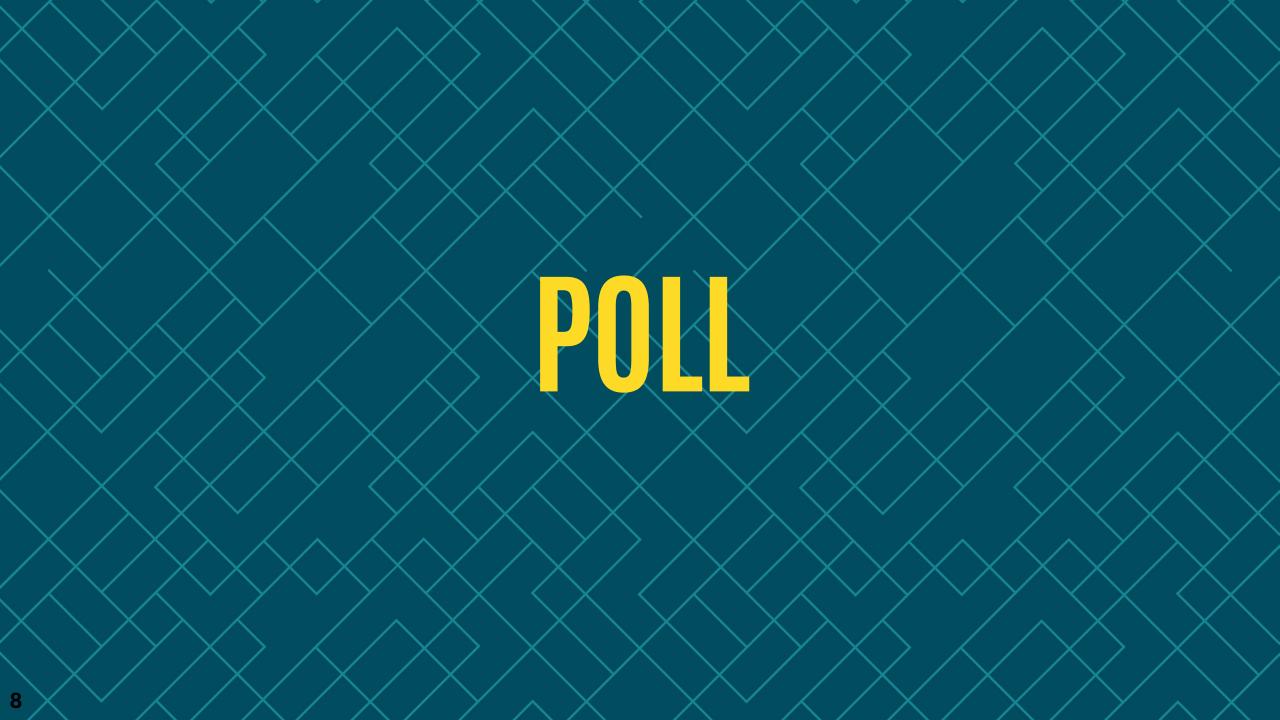
Meetings will be recorded, starting at 6:30pm and ending at 7:30pm.



Meeting #5: Findings & Conditions of Approval

- 1. Background
- 2. Findings
- 3. Conditions of Approval
- 4. Comments & Questions





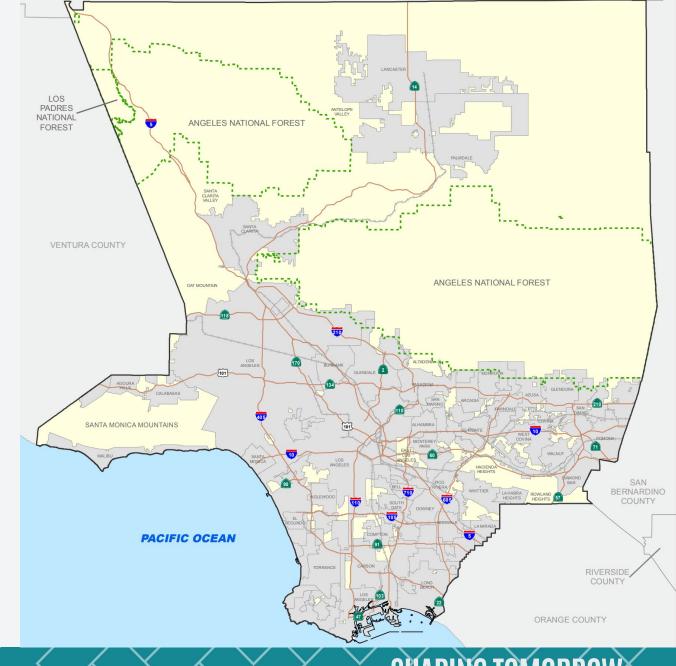


What is the Oak Tree Permit?

- 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.



Unincorporated Communities in Los Angeles County





Purpose

Chapter 22.174 - OAK TREE PERMITS

22.174.010 - Purpose.

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



Definitions

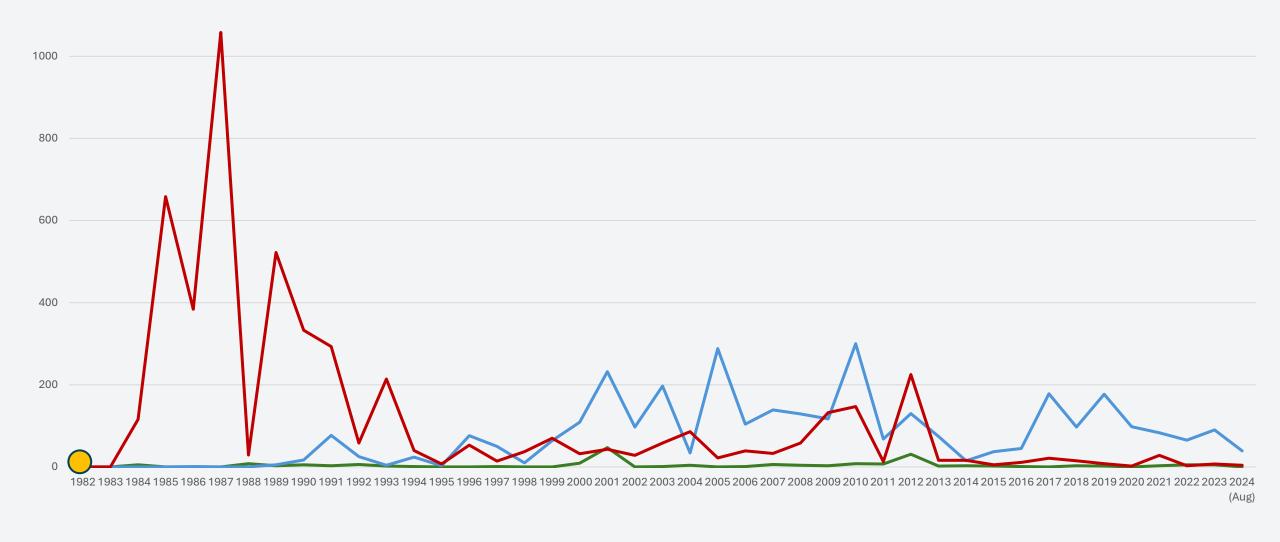
Protected oak tree.

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

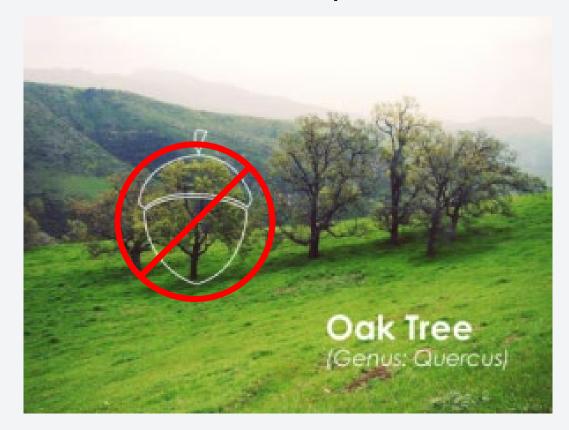


Encroachments, Pruning, Removals (1982 - 2024)





1. Unintended consequences







bit.ly/oaktreesurvey2



- 1. Unintended consequences
- 2. After-the-fact permitting is ineffective for preserving oak trees.





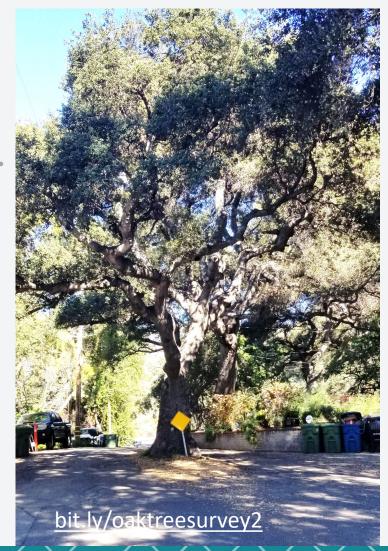


bit.ly/oaktreesurvey2

- 1. Unintended consequences
- 2. After-the-fact permitting is
- 3. ineffective for preserving oak trees.
- 4. Encroachments are treated all the

same











- 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.
 - 2. Oak Tree Report.
 - a. An Oak Tree Report certified to be true and correct shall be prepared by an individual with expertise acceptable to the Director and the Fire Department. The Oak Tree Report, as deemed acceptable by the Director and the Fire Department, shall identify each oak tree on the site plan as required by Subsection B.1, above, and shall contain the following information:
 - i. The name, address, telephone number, and business hours of the preparer.
 - ii. Evaluation of the physical structure of each tree as follows:
 - (1) The circumference and diameter of the trunk, measured four and one-half feet above natural grade; bit.ly/oaktreesurvey2
 - (2) The diameter of the tree's cappry, plus five feet, establishing the protected zone:







Role of County Forestry in the Oak Tree Permit

Proposed Project



PLANNING







Applicant

LA County Planner County Biologist

County Forester



Oak Forest Special Fund



- Site Visit
- Consultation with Planning
- Verification of the Oak Tree Report
- Monitoring





What are Findings?

- Factual evidence that justifies the rationale for granting a permit
- Required only for Oak Tree Permits with a Public Hearing.



Ple	ase identify the nu	mber of oak trees propos	ed for:	
	Removal	Encroachment	To Remain	Total existing oak trees
	Pursuant to County Code Section <u>22.174.060</u> : Findings, the applicant shall substantiate the following:			
	(Do not repeat th	ne statement or provide Yes	/No responses. If nece	essary, attach additional pages.)
В		construction or proposed us rees subject to Title 22 regu		l without endangering the health of ubject property.
В		relocation of the oak trees preased flow of surface water		



Type Reviews & Findings

OTP w/o a Public Hearing

OTP with Public Hearings

TABLE 22.224.020-A: TYPE REVIEW CHARACTERISTICS

	Chapter Number	Ministerial/Discretionary	Noticing Required	Posting Required	Review Authority	Public Hearing Required
Type I Review	22.226	Ministerial	No	No	Director	No
Type II Review	22.228	Discretionary	Yes	No	Hearing Officer	Yes
Type III Review	22.230	Discretionary	Yes	Yes	Commission. Hearing Officer	Yes

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How Are Findings Used?

22.222.200 - Findings and Decision.

The Review Authority uses Findings to:

- ✓ Approve, or
- Conditionally Approve

... a Permit Application

LA COUNTY PLANNING

B. Decision.

- General. After evaluating the administrative record, the Review Authority may approve, conditionally approve, or deny the application:
 - a. Approve. Where the Review Authority finds that the administrative record substantiates all of the findings required by this <u>Title 22</u>, the Review Authority may:
 - i. Approve the application;
 - ii. Approve the application contingent upon compliance with applicable provisions of other ordinances; and
 - ii. Impose conditions of use deemed reasonable and necessary to ensure that the approval will be in compliance with the findings made by the Review Authority.

How Are Findings Used?

The Review Authority uses Findings to:

- ✓ Approve,
- ✓ Conditionally Approve, or
- ✓ Deny

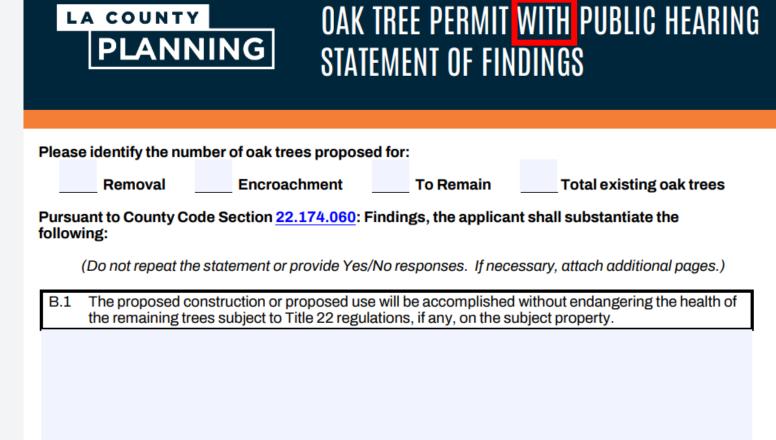
22.222.200 - Findings and Decision.

- b. Deny. Where the Review Authority finds that the administrative record does not substantiate all of the findings required by this Title 22 for approval, or the administrative record substantiates the findings required by this Title 22 for denial, the Review Authority shall deny the application.
- ...a Permit Application



What are Findings?

- Factual evidence that justifies the rationale for granting a permit
- Required only for Oak Tree Permits with a Public Hearing.



The removal or relocation of the oak trees proposed will not result in soil erosion through the

diversion or increased flow of surface waters which cannot be satisfactorily mitigated.



An Oak Tree Permit may be approved if evidence shows that:

 The removal of the oak trees proposed will not be contrary to or be in substantial conflict with the intent and purpose of the Oak Tree Permit procedure.

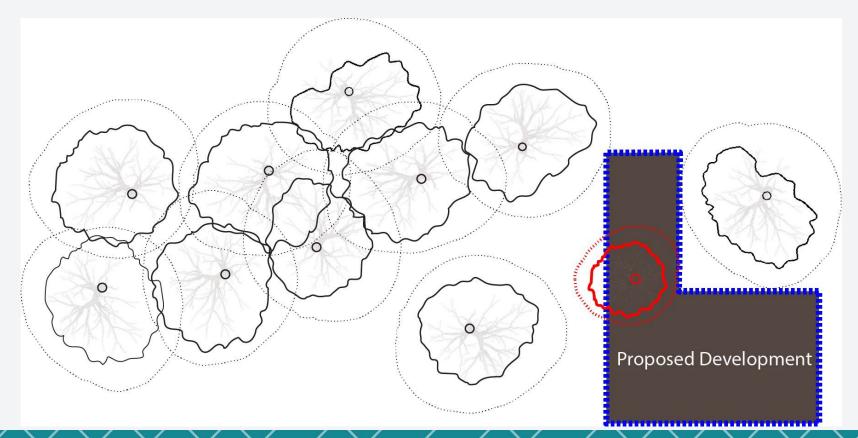
Chapter 22.174 - OAK TREE PERMITS

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



An Oak Tree Permit may be approved if evidence shows that:

 The proposed construction or proposed use should not endanger other oak trees on the subject property







- The removal of the oak trees proposed will not be contrary to or be in substantial conflict with the intent and purpose of the Oak Tree Permit procedure.
- The proposed construction or proposed use should not endanger other oak trees on the subject property
- Should not cause soil erosion or water diversion



- The removal of the oak trees proposed will not be contrary to or be in substantial conflict with the intent and purpose of the Oak Tree Permit procedure.
- The proposed construction or proposed use should not endanger other oak trees on the subject property
- Should not cause soil erosion or water diversion
- In addition to the above Findings, must show one of the following:
 - 1. The **impact to the oak tree is necessary** because...
 - a) Alternative development plans cannot achieve the permitted density or that the cost of such an alternative would be prohibitive, or



- The removal of the oak trees proposed will not be contrary to or be in substantial conflict with the intent and purpose of the Oak Tree Permit procedure.
- The proposed construction or proposed use should not endanger other oak trees on the subject property
- Should not cause soil erosion or water diversion
- In addition to the above Findings, must show facts for at least one of the following:
 - The impact to the oak tree is necessary because...
 - a) Alternative development plans cannot achieve the same **permitted** density or that the cost would be prohibitive, or
 - b) The existing oak trees makes the **reasonable and efficient (allowed) use** of the property impossible.



- In addition to the previous Findings, must show facts for at least one of the following:
 - 1. The **impact to the oak tree is necessary** because...
 - a) Alternative development plans cannot achieve the same permitted density or that the cost would be prohibitive, or
 - b) The existing oak trees makes the **reasonable and efficient (allowed) use** of the property impossible.
 - 2. Oak trees interfere with utility services, streets, or highways and no reasonable alternative to impacting them is possible.



- <u>In addition to the previous Findings</u>, must show facts for at least <mark>one</mark> of the following:
 - 1. The **impact to the oak tree is necessary** because...
 - a) Alternative development plans cannot achieve the same permitted density or that the cost would be prohibitive, or
 - b) The existing oak trees makes the **reasonable and efficient (allowed) use** of the property impossible.
 - 2. Oak trees **interfere with utility services**, streets, or highways and no reasonable alternative to impacting them is possible.
 - 3. The condition of the oak tree that will be impacted is sick or in danger of falling and will likely die, despite any reasonable efforts to preserve them.



22.174.010 - Purpose.





- <u>In addition to the previous Findings</u>, must show facts for at least one of the following:
 - 1. The **impact to the oak tree is necessary** because...
 - a) Alternative development plans cannot achieve the same permitted density or that the cost would be prohibitive, or
 - b) The existing oak trees makes the reasonable and efficient (allowed) use of the property impossible.
 - 2. Oak trees **interfere with utility services**, streets, or highways and no reasonable alternative to impacting them is possible.
 - 3. The condition of the oak tree that will be impacted is **sick** or in danger of falling and will likely die, despite any reasonable efforts to preserve them.





Proposed Updates to the Findings: Clarification

An Oak Tree Permit may be approved if evidence shows that:

 The removal of the oak trees proposed will not be contrary to or be in substantial conflict with the intent and purpose of the Oak Tree Permit procedure.

The proposed construction or proposed use should not endanger other oak trees on

TREE PERMITS)

the subject and adjacent properties



PROPERTY OWNER'S ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

Subject Property (Address or APN(s):	Application Type/Request

1. I am the property owner or have obtained the property owner's / owners' consent to the submittal of this application and contents therein; and



1	7. Are there any oak trees on the subject property or next to the subject property?
	Yes No
	320 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 • 213-974-6411 • TDD: 213-617-2292
	Page 3 of 3
	If yes, please check one of the following boxes:
	I certify that no activity will occur within five feet of any oak tree dripline (canopy) or within 15 feet of any oak tree trunk, whichever distance is greater. This applies to both oak trees located on the subject property AND oak trees next to the subject property. All oak tree dimensions, including trunk diameter and canopy, are accurately depicted on the plans, and drawn to scale for verification.
	Activity will occur within five feet of any oak tree canopy or within 15 feet of any oak tree trunk and I have concurrently filed for an oak tree permit. All oak tree dimensions, including trunk diameter and canopy, are accurately depicted on the site plan, and are drawn to scale.
REQ	UIRED SIGNATURE(S)*

I, the owner(s) of the subject property, have read, understand, and acknowledge the above, and

OAK TREE CERTIFICATION (PURSUANT TO COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 22.174: OAK

SHAPING TOMORROW

Proposed Updates to the Findings: Referencing to Development Standards

- The removal of the oak trees proposed will not be contrary to or be in substantial conflict with the intent and purpose of the Oak Tree Permit procedure.
- The proposed construction or proposed use should not endanger other oak trees on the subject and adjacent properties
- Should not cause soil erosion or water diversion
- At least one of the following four findings:
 - Must show that no alternative development plans listed in the Development Standards section can achieve the permitted density or the cost of an alternative plan is prohibitive



Proposed Updates to the Findings: Clarification

An Oak Tree Permit may be approved if evidence shows that:

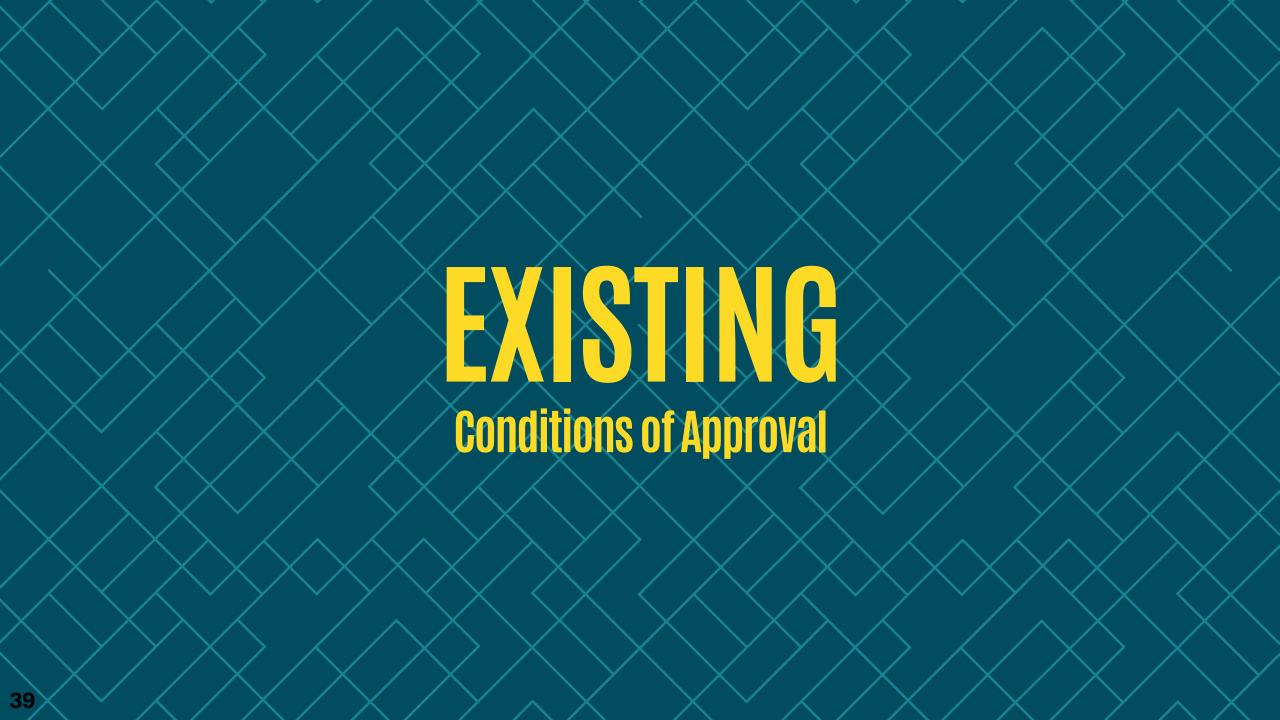
- The removal of the oak trees proposed will not be contrary to or be in substantial conflict with the intent and purpose of the Oak Tree Permit procedure.
- The proposed construction or proposed use should not endanger other oak trees on the subject and adjacent properties
- Should not cause soil erosion or water diversion
- At least one of the following four findings:
 - Must show that no alternative development plans listed in the Development Standards section can achieve the permitted density or the cost of an alternative plan is prohibitive
 - The placement of oak trees precludes the reasonable and efficient use of the property
 - Oak trees interfere with delivery of utility services to the private property, streets, or highways and no reasonable alternative to impacting them is possible.



Proposed Updates to the Findings: Deletion

An Oak Tree Permit may be approved if evidence shows that:

- The removal of the oak trees proposed will not be contrary to or be in substantial conflict with the intent and purpose of the Oak Tree Permit procedure.
- The proposed construction or proposed use should not endanger other oak trees on the subject and adjacent properties
- Should not cause soil erosion or water diversion
- At least one of the following four three findings:
 - Must show that no alternative development plans listed in the Development
 Standards section can achieve the permitted density or the cost of an
 alternative plan is prohibitive
 - The placement of oak trees precludes the reasonable and efficient use of the property
 - Oak trees interfere with delivery of utility services to the private property, streets, or highways and no reasonable alternative to impacting them is possible.
- The condition of the oak tree that will be impacted is sick or in danger of falling and will likely die anyways, despite any reasonable efforts to preserve them.



What are Conditions of Approval?

 Concrete actions and requirements that the applicant must fulfill as part of an approved permit.

General Plan

Conservation & Natural Resources Element
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.

Zoning Code

Chapter 22.174 - OAK TREE PERMITS

22.174.010 - Purpose.

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



1. A Tree Protection Plan

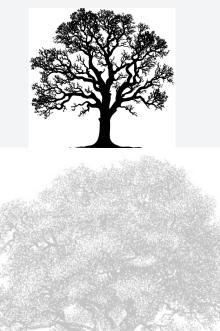
- B. A plan for protecting oak trees on the subject property during and after development, such as, but not limited to, the following requirements:
 - 1. The installation of chain link fencing not less than four feet in height around the protected zone of oak trees shown on the site plan. Said fencing shall be in place and inspected by the Fire Department prior to commencement of any activity on the subject property. Said fencing shall remain in place throughout the entire period of development and shall not be removed without written authorization from the Fire Department.
 - 2. Where grading or any other similar activity is specifically approved within the protected zone, the applicant shall provide an individual with special expertise acceptable to the Director to supervise all excavation or grading proposed within the protected zones and to further supervise, monitor and certify to the Fire Department the implementation of all conditions imposed in connection with the applicant's Oak Tree Permit.
 - 3. Any excavation or grading allowed within the protected zone or within 15 feet of the trunk of an oak tree, whichever distance is greater, be limited to hand tools or small hand-power equipment.
 - 4. Oak trees on other portions of the subject property not included within the site plan also be protected with chain link fencing thus restricting storage, machinery storage, or access during construction.
 - 5. The oak trees on the site plan be physically identified by number on a tag affixed to the north side of the tree in a manner preserving the health and viability of the tree. The tag shall be composed of a noncorrosive all-weather material and shall be permanently affixed to the tree. The oak tree shall be similarly designated on the site plan in a manner acceptable to the Director.



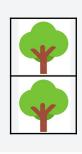
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- 1. A Tree Protection Plan
- 2. Replacement Oak Trees (2:1 for every non-heritage sized oak tree removed)







2:1



10:1

PLANNING

- A Tree Protection Plan
- 2. Replacement Oak Trees (2:1 for every non-heritage sized oak tree removed)
 - Replacement Oak Tree Monitoring Period

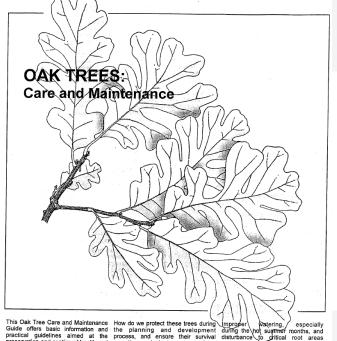




- 1. A Tree Protection Plan
- 2. Replacement Oak Trees (if the proposed project requires oak trees to be removed)
 - Replacement Oak Tree Monitoring Period

Owner shall receive a Tree Maintenance and Care Plan must be transferred to the

property owner.





LARGE DECIDUOUS TREE 60-75' HIGH, BROADLY SPREADING 50'-80' WIDE.

LEAVES : DEEP GREEN , 5"-4"LONG : PAPER LIKE TEXTURE
WITH DEEP ROUNDED LOBES ON THE LEAF EDGE.

TENDS TO PAVOR VALLEY BOTTOMS I FOR THIS REASON THE VALLEY OAK HAS DISAPPEARED FROM THE LANDSCAPE MORE RAPIDLY, IMPACTED SEVERLY BY ASSICULTURE AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.



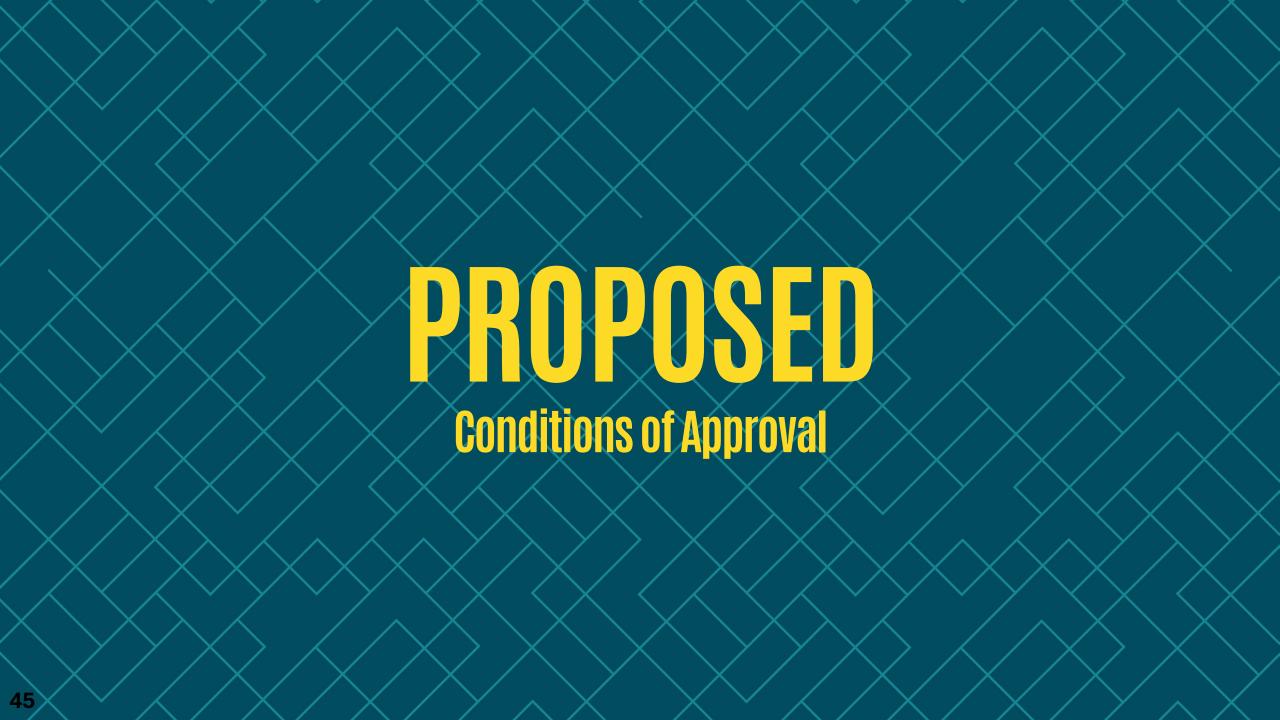
CORST LITE OUR

LARGE EVERGREEN TREE WITH A BROAD, ROUND SHAPE AND LARGE LIMBS. 30'-70' HIGH, 35'-80' WIDE.

AVES: GLOSSY GREEN, 1"-3" LONG SPINY, ROUNDED, AND HOLLY LIKE: BUT DISTINCTLY CUPPED OR CUPLED UNDER AT THE EDGES







Restructuring the Conditions of Approval (Proposed)

Tree Protection Plan

Tree Maintenance and Care Plan to the owner

Replacement Trees

Creating new subsections with the Oak Tree Permit ordinance...



Restructuring the Conditions of Approval (Proposed)

Tree Protection Plan

- Replacement Trees
- > Creation of a new "Replacement Trees" section
- Creation of a new "Relocated Trees" section



Restructuring the Conditions of Approval (Proposed)

Tree Protection Plan

- Replacement Trees
- > Creation of a new "Replacement Trees" section
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- Moving the "Tree Protection Plan" to the Application (requirements) section of the code.



Tree Protection Plan

- Replacement Trees
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- Creation of a new "Relocated Trees" section
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- Application must be accurate and complete



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- Moving the "Tree Protection Plan" to the Application (requirements) section of the code.
- Application must be accurate and complete
- Prior to impacting trees, tree should be checked for bird nests





Tree Protection Plan

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- Application must be accurate and complete
- Prior to impacting trees, tree should be checked for bird nests
- The County biologist and other staff may inspect and monitor compliance



Tree Protection Plan

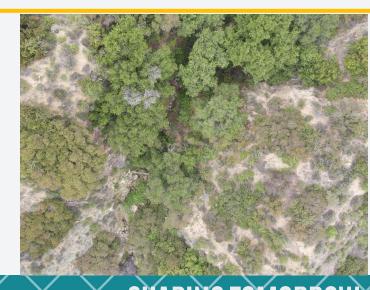
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- The County biologist and other staff may inspect and monitor compliance
- Fees may be collected for monitoring



Tree Protection Plan

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- Moving the "Tree Protection Plan" to the Application (requirements) section of the code.
- Application must be accurate and complete
- Prior to impacting trees, tree should be checked for bird nests
- The County biologist and other staff may inspect and monitor
- compliance
- Fees may be collected for monitoring
- Use of drones is allowed







Schedule for Standing Meetings

	Date	Standalone Topics
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Meeting #6:	Tues 10/14 and Thurs 10/16 (Alt #6)	Restoration Permit (Enforcement)

Meetings will be recorded, starting at 6:30pm and ending at 7:30pm.



Other Ongoing Meetings and Events

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

The LA County Invasive Pest Management Team 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



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



Schedule for the Oak Tree Permit Update



Oak Tree Permit Update Timeline

August 5 - October 16:

Standing Meetings & Listening Sessions

- Presentation of the existing Oak Tree Permit
- Sharing of proposed changes
- Participants ask questions and provide input
- Collected feedback informs the Draft Ordinance

To participate in the ongoing Standing Meetings & Listening Sessions, register here: https://bit.ly/oaktree_zoom_series

October 30:

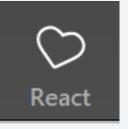
Public Draft Review

- The Draft Ordinance will be posted on the website
- The public has 45 days to review this Public Draft
- Review Period ends on December 15, 2025

Regional Planning Commission Hearing date is still TBD, but planned for Spring 2026

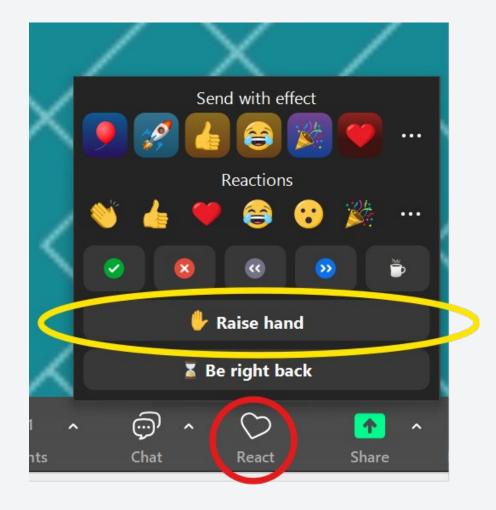
PLANNING PLANNING

To Raise Your Hand, Click on the



Icon







Comments & Ouestions

CONTACT US

Website: bit.ly/oaktreeprogram

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Phone: 213-974-6476

Mail: LA County Planning

320 W. Temple Street,

Los Angeles, CA 90012







