LA COUNTY PLANNING

Oak Tree Permit Update

Comments & Questions: Meeting #4

Date	Comment or Name	Meeting #	Comment or Question	Response
9/23/2025	Robert Ganguin	Alt Meeting #4	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. 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? Its encroachment zone falls well within the construction are 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?	Thank you for your comment. We will follow up with you for a meeting.

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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.
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. 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.	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	In my neighborhood, we've lost 2 or 3 that were trimmed incorrectly, or… and or had their roots damaged, and they ultimately died. 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. 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! 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.	Thank you for your comment.

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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. What I'm asking is for Regional Planning to make the follow-up process longer. [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. If this can be included in this, that's great.	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. Thank you for your comment and bringing this situation to our attention.
9/23/2025	Diane Marcussen	Alt Meeting #4	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? 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? 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". 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! That is my experience in my neighborhood. All those trees have died.	Thank you for your comment.
9/23/2025	Dorothy Wong	Alt Meeting #4	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. What are the regulations for removing larger limbs because they have been burned to maintain the health of the tree? Are there any regulations or is it up to the arborists?	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. Los Angeles County Fire Department, Forestry Division, Environmental Review Unit: 818-890-5719

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			Does your page also provide us the timing for this ordinance? Is that somewhere up here? 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.	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. **The link to Meeting #1 is:** https://planning-lacounty-gov.zoom.us/rec/share/bs_FtIQU5AGMi1xEpVzNuiw8w8jwqJx1tZ28EOTZ_cIVbLpPfWLaciHRwJNcbcm9.DV5R5R-YcciQ5rJw?startTime=1754442028000 **Passcode for Zoom Recording of Meeting #1:** **Er!ffz9n** 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. **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/
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