

LOS ANGELES

Protections in place:

	Oak Tree Retention/ Replacement Provisions	Oak Protection During Construction	Heritage Tree Protection	Riparian Vegetation Protections	Oak Canopy Retention	Oak Woodland Conservation Program
General Plan Language	The Land Use Element directs protection stands of oaks in development to the extent possible, especially on slopes >/ 25%. The Conservation Element requires preservation of more than 60 significant ecological areas (SEA's) using preservation, mitigation, and enhancement.	None	None	None	None	None
Specific Ordinance	Oak Tree Ordinance requires permit to remove oaks 8” dbh (12” dbh combined for multiple trunks). An oak tree report is generally required as well as replacement with 15-gallon oaks in a ratio of 2:1. Replacement trees must be maintained for 2 years, or payment into oak forests special funds if replacement is infeasible.	Oak Tree Ordinance requires permit to encroach within 5’ of the drip line or 15’ from the trunk, whichever is greater. Oaks must be fenced prior to development activities. Excavation within the protected zone must be limited to hand tools or hand-power equipment.	Oak Tree Ordinance defines heritage oaks (36” dbh or with significant historical or cultural importance)	None	None	None
Voluntary Guidelines	None	None	None	None	None	None

Documents reviewed:

Date of Review: July 2003

Open Space Element (summary)

Grading and Erosion Ordinance

Conservation Element (summary)
 Land Use Element (summary)
 Zoning Ordinance (summary)
 Subdivision Ordinance

Roads/Sidewalk Tree Ordinance
 Tree Removal Ordinance
 Voluntary Guidelines
 Other County Codes: Brushing Ordinance 12.28

Summary of Oak Protection Policies:

Land Use Element, 1993	Areas with significant natural resources and scenic values should be protected (15). Development on slopes of 25% or greater should preserve distinct visual characteristics or community assets such as oak trees (Appendix B: Hillside Management). A minimum of 25% of a project site must be retained in a natural or open condition for urban and 70% for non-urban residential hillside developments. Developments should preserve major natural features including major drainage courses, riparian vegetation, rock outcroppings and stands of oaks and other native trees to the extent possible.
Conservation and Open Space Elements, 1993	Significant ecological areas should be preserved by appropriate measures, including preservation, mitigation, and enhancement (8). More than 60 significant ecological areas (SEA's) that represent a wide range of biotic communities are designated and development standards imposed.
Oak Tree Ordinance 22.56, 1982** (being reviewed in 2003)	<p>TREE RETENTION/REPLACEMENT: The ordinance requires an oak tree permit to preserve and maintain healthy oak trees in the development process. Any oak over 8” dbh (or 12” dbh combined for multiple trunks) or replacement tree may not be damaged, removed, or encroached on (within 5 feet of the drip line or 15 feet from the trunk) without an oak tree permit. Applications must include a site plan with landscaping, irrigation, construction, excavation, grading and/or landfill specified along with the location of all oak trees to be removed within 200 feet of proposed construction, grading, landfill or other activity. An oak tree report with information on the tree’s structure, aesthetic qualities, and health, may be required or waived for single tree removal in conjunction with a single-family residence. The applicant may be required to replace oaks removed with 15-gallon size indigenous oak trees in a ratio of 2:1. Replacement trees must be maintained for 2 years and replaced if mortality occurs. When replacement or relocation on the project site is inappropriate, the applicant may be required to pay into the oak forests special fund to plant new trees on public lands; maintain oaks on public lands; purchase prime oak woodlands; and purchase oaks of cultural significance.</p> <p>TREE PROTECTION: Oak trees must be protected during and after development by installation of a 4’ high chain link fence around the protected zone of trees in place prior to development activities. Where grading within the protected zone is specifically approved, the applicant must provide an individual with special expertise to supervise. Excavation within the protected zone must be limited to hand tools or small hand-power equipment. Utility trenching should avoid encroaching into the protected zone.</p>

	HERITAGE OAKS: Heritage oaks 36“ dbh or have significant historical or cultural importance or identified by RCD.
Brushing Ordinance 12.28	This ordinance requires a permit for removal or destruction of natural vegetation on terrain with 8% slope or greater. The permit request must include a description of the property and by a map showing topography, drainage courses; the location and extent of the proposed work; and details of the precautionary measures or devices to be used to prevent erosion. Conditions may be attached to the permit including limitation on the time of year when vegetation removal is performed, requirements for erosion control devices, vegetation removal methods, and replanting.

Contact Information:

Department of Regional Planning
Hall of Records (13th Floor)
320 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone: (213) 974-6411
Fax: (213) 626-0434

Web site: <http://planning.co.la.ca.us/>

County Contacts:

- No contacts
- Policies provided by county staff
- Policies discussed with county staff
- Policy inventory reviewed by county staff