

**SANTA BARBARA**  
**Protections in place:**

	<b>Oak Tree Retention/ Replacement Provisions</b>	<b>Oak Construction Protection</b>	<b>Heritage Tree Protection</b>	<b>Riparian Vegetation Protections</b>	<b>Oak Canopy Retention Provisions</b>	<b>Oak Woodland Area Conservation</b>
<b>General Plan Language</b>	The Conservation Element Supplement requires protection of native oak trees, woodland and savanna in rural and agricultural lands. Development standards apply to all development requiring a permit for valley (2" dbh), live (6"), and blue oaks (4"). Removed trees must be replanted conforming to Standards. Development in historic valley oak areas must mitigate for historic loss through landscape plantings. The county should fund an Oak Specialist.	The Conservation Supplement prohibits development within 6' of the dripline of a valley oak.	None		The Conservation Element recommends development prohibitions in each oak woodland type	The Conservation Element Supplement calls for funding conservation easements, incentive programs, and landowner assistance.
<b>Specific Ordinance</b>	The Deciduous Oak Tree Protection Ordinance requires a permit and an oak management plan when agriculture will remove over 50% of all deciduous oak within 30 years on lots <100 acres or 30% on lots >100 acres. Permit also required for agricultural removals of between 9 and 155 deciduous oak trees, depending on parcel size. Non-agricultural removals between 3 and 13 deciduous oak requires a permit depending on parcel size. Replanting on a 15:1 basis with maintenance for 5 years is required. Trees must survive at a ratio of 10:1. Penalties for violations may be imposed up to \$25,000. The Grading	None	None	None	The Deciduous Oak Tree Ordinance requires replanting of 5 acres of valley oak for removal of 5 acres. The Grading Ordinance requires a management plan for agricultural removal of 15% of live oak	None

	<b>Oak Tree Retention/ Replacement Provisions</b>	<b>Oak Construction Protection</b>	<b>Heritage Tree Protection</b>	<b>Riparian Vegetation Protections</b>	<b>Oak Canopy Retention Provisions</b>	<b>Oak Woodland Area Conservation</b>
	Ordinance requires a management plan and regeneration for removal of fewer deciduous oaks.				canopy in 30 years (5% for non-ag removal).	
<b>Voluntary Guidelines</b>	The Oak Tree Appendix to the Grading Ordinance provides for landowner regeneration with voluntary mitigations for agricultural removals of 4-10 deciduous oaks on 100 acres. Replacement is required at 15:1, but the landowner self-certifies and evaluates compliance and notifies the Agricultural Commissioner. It is recommended that 2/3 <sup>rd</sup> survive for 5 years. A discretionary permit is required for removal of >26 deciduous oaks or >30% of all deciduous oaks on a property.	None	None	None	None	None

**Documents reviewed:**

**Date of Review:** July 2003

- Open Space Element
- Conservation Element
- Land Use Element
- Zoning Ordinance
- Subdivision Ordinance
- Grading and Erosion Ordinance

- Roads/Sidewalk Tree Ordinance
- Tree Removal Ordinance
- Voluntary Guidelines
- Other County Codes: Oak Tree Supplement to the Conservation Element, 2003, 3/11/2003 Staff Report on Oak Tree Protection and Regeneration Program

**Summary of Oak Protection Policies:**

Conservation Element, 1994	The Conservation Element describes areas of oak woodland in the county and identifies Valley Oak Savanna for special protection in part because of poor regeneration on ranch lands due to cattle grazing. In the Southern Oak Woodland, urban development and all but very light recreation should not be allowed. In the Foothill Woodland, development should be stopped, and further road construction should be prevented. Moderate recreational use would
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	<p>be acceptable. In Coast Live Oak Forests, urbanization, expansion of agriculture, and moderate or heavy recreational use should not be allowed.</p>
<p>Conservation Element, Oak Tree Protection Supplement 2003</p>	<p>Santa Barbara hopes to promote conservation and regeneration of oak woodlands and to increase the native oak population and extent of woodland acreage, especially for valley oak woodland and savanna. Native oak trees, woodland and savanna shall be protected to the maximum extent feasible in rural and agricultural lands. Regeneration shall be encouraged, especially for valley oaks. Development standards apply to all development in county requiring a permit: All development shall avoid removal or damage to valley oaks (2" dbh or over 6' tall) and mature oaks to the maximum extent feasible. Mature trees are live oaks &gt;6" dbh, blue oaks 4" dbh or live and blue oaks &gt;6' tall. Trees that cannot be avoided must be replanted on site, or if infeasible, in receiver sites contiguous to current woodland. Replanting must conform to Standards. Development may not encroach within 6' of the dripline of a protected valley oak. Where development is proposed within the historic valley oak tree habitat (even if no valley oak removal is proposed), mitigation for historic loss of valley oak habitat is required, where feasible, through landscape planting. The county shall pursue funding for conservation easements, incentive programs, or other assistance to encourage landowners to retain and regenerate oaks. The county should establish a fund to implement this as well as public education and outreach. The county should amend county code to implement this program, monitor its effectiveness after two and five years, and pursue funding for an Oak Tree Specialist.</p>
<p>Deciduous Oak Tree Protection and Regeneration Ordinance, Article III, Chapter 35, 2003</p>	<p>The Ordinance applies to all land outside the coastal zone and urban boundary lines, including agricultural for actions that require no other permits. Trees that are dead, hazardous or within 50' of a structure are exempt. Deciduous oak tree removal for agriculture in excess of 50% of all deciduous oak trees on property within a 30 year period on lots &lt;100 acres or 30% on lots &gt;100 acres requires a permit. The number of trees protected per lot acreage size is also specified. Permits are required for removal of 4 trees on a 50-100 acre lot and 5 trees on a 100-200 acre lot for non-agricultural purposes. Permit applications must include information on size, species, reason and methods of removal, and source of irrigation water for plantings. When a permit is required, an oak tree management plan must be prepared and endorsed by the county oak tree specialist addressing fragmentation, habitat patch size and corridors, and replanting and maintenance. Buffer zones around roots may be required. Replanting on a 15:1 basis (or 45:1 basis for valley/blue oak acorns- up to 3 to a hole) is required or protection of existing seedlings between 6" and 6' tall. Replanting must use local acorns. Replacements must be at least 20' from existing oaks but not more than 180'. Trees must be fenced until 8' tall. Trees must be nurtured for 5 years, the last two without irrigation according to UC's "How to Grow California Oaks". Trees must survive at a ratio of 10:1. Removal of valley oak from &gt;5 acres requires replanting of 5 acres. Civil penalties for violations may be imposed up to \$25,000. Criminal penalties for infractions are \$100/tree for the first violation, \$200/tree for the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and \$500/tree for the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Misdemeanor fines are</p>

	\$500 to \$25,000.
Grading Ordinance Appendix for Native Oak Tree Removal, Chapter 14, 2003	The Appendix to the Grading Ordinance applies to all land outside the coastal zone and urban boundary lines, including agricultural and differs slightly for deciduous and live oaks. For deciduous oaks, different acreage and tree removal numbers trigger different requirements. For a 100 acre parcel, removal of 3 oaks is exempt, removal of 4-10 requires regeneration through landowner self-certification, 11-26 requires a management plan with specific replacement requirements, and >26 requires a discretionary permit (or >30% of all oaks on a lot). Replacement is required at a 15:1 ratio. For landowner self-regeneration, the landowner evaluates success of mitigation, with the goal of 2/3 <sup>rd</sup> surviving for 5 years, or 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> to a height of 8', and notifies the Agricultural Commissioner. Management plans must be approved by the Commissioner based on ordinance standards. The County Oak Tree Specialist monitors the plan. For non-agricultural grading on a 100-acre parcel, removal of one oak is exempted from requirements, 3 requires replanting, and 4 requires a discretionary permit. For live oaks, a management plan with specific replacement standards is required for agricultural removal of 15% of live oak canopy within 30 years (5% for non-agricultural grading).

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**Web site:** <http://countyofsb.org/plandev/comp/programs/oaks/default.html>

**County Contacts:**

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