

R. Lewis #11 11/3/15

QUANTIFYING THE OAK TREE ISSUE

Prepared by El Dorado Sr. Housing

For El Dorado County BOS Meeting, Jan 13, 2015

THE PREMISE

- El Dorado County – gross area - 1,100,000 acres ⁽¹⁾
- Total acreage of oaks in County – 300,000 acres ⁽²⁾
- Natural regeneration of oaks, acres/yr - Unknown
- Percentage of area in oaks – 27.2%
- Annual increase in urban land use in El Dorado Co., 1984 to 2008 ⁽¹⁾ – 516 acres
- Annual oak acreage subject to reduction as a result of development – 27.2% x 516 = 140 acres
- Estimated annual reduction in oak acreage resulting from development – 70% x 140 = 100 acres
- Estimated non-exempt ⁽⁵⁾ reduction resulting from development – 80% x 100 = 80 acres
- Estimated reduction mitigated on site – 25% x 80 = 20 acres
- Estimated reduction to mitigate off site – 75% x 80 = 60 acres
- Available acreage off site for mitigation – 6,000 acres ⁽³⁾

CONCLUSIONS

- We are losing 60 out of 300,000 acres of oak trees per year to development
- It is required to mitigate the impact of this loss
- Natural regeneration of the existing 300,000 oaks, if any, should be used to offset this loss
- Estimated cost of mitigation (without offsetting natural regeneration) – 60 acres x 200 trees/ac x \$40/tree = \$480,000/yr.

SUGGESTIONS

- Determine in-lieu fee on a per-tree basis as well as on the per-acre approach
- Example, based on above estimate of mitigation costs - \$8,000/acre or \$8/inch of tree diameter ⁽⁴⁾
- Developers should be given the option of using either basis for the in-lieu fee calculation

(1) The El Dorado County Economic and Demographic Profile, 2010-2011

(2) Oaks 2014 - The Status and Future of Oaks in California, California Oak Foundation

(3) It was stated at the Oct 7, 2014 BOS meeting that the County has a 6,000 acre conservatory which costs \$70k/yr to operate and manage

(4) Assume an average diameter of 5 inches per tree

(5) Exempt acreage includes agriculture, fire protection, and public facilities

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El Dorado Senior Resort.
3.1 Acres Canopy

Maximum Allowed to Remove 0.5 Acres

Quantify the Oak Tree Issue

El Dorado County	1,100,000	Acres
Oak Tree Acreage	300,000	Acres
Estimated Annual Regeneration	Unknown	Acres/Yr
Annual Increase in Urban Land Use	516	Acres/Yr
Estimated Annual Reduction in Oaks	100	Acres/Yr
Non-Exempt Reduction	80	Acres/Yr
On-Site Mitigation	20	Acres/Yr
Off-Site Mitigation	60	Acres/Yr