



El Dorado County Oak Resources Conservation Ordinance Update (Title 130, Chapter 130.39)



Planning Commission, July 10, 2025

Objectives

Applicability: Clarify how the ordinance would apply to public lands
(Section 130.39.020)

Clarify in-lieu fee calculation method for removal of oak woodlands vs. individual native oak trees
(Sections 130.39.070.1 and 130.39.070.2)

Clarify oak mitigation requirements for new subdivision maps
(Section 130.39.060)

Consider revising the definition of "Heritage Trees" to address identified issues with trees containing multiple small trunks
(Section 130.39.030)

Objectives

Review/clarify exemption for existing single-family parcels
(Section 130.39.050)

Oak bonds: clarify applicability and process requirements
(Sections 130.39.070.B and 130.39.070.C)

Consider a standalone "oak tree removal permit" for ease of enforcement
(130.39.060)

Incorporate other activities that cause oak impacts (e.g.. septic permits)
(Section 130.39.020)

Address identified issues with personal use exemption
(Section 130.39.070.D.4)

Background

January 2025 - Board Workshop

- Supported majority of amendments
- Directed staff to evaluate scope, cost, and timeline for
 1. Live oak exemption
 2. Roadside oak trimming/removal for wildfire prevention exemption

June 2025 - Board Informational Update

- Directed staff to not pursue the additional exemptions at this time
- Directed staff to expedite ordinance amendments



Valley Oak Woodland

Photo Credit: University of California Oak Woodland Management:
http://ucanr.edu/sites/oak_range/Californias_Rangeland_Oak_Species/Valley_Oak/

Summary of Proposed Amendments

- Ordinance exemption for County projects
- Updates for consistency with State/County fire safe regulations
- Clarify mitigation fee calculation/methodology
- Remove exemption for existing parcels that cannot be subdivided
- Update definition of "Heritage Tree" to resolve measurement challenges with multi-trunked trees
- Administrative permits for all development activities impacting oaks
- Clarifications for ease of use



Photo courtesy of:
<http://selectree.calpoly.edu/>

Proposed Permit Exemptions for Oak Tree Removal

- Less than 6" DBH in size
- Damaged by natural disasters
- Defensible space activities
- County road projects
- Public utility construction/maintenance



Image: El Dorado County
Fire Safe Council, 2024

Proposed Mitigation Exemptions (County Permit Required)

- Insurance-required tree removal
- Personal use
- Dead, dying or diseased trees



Image: El Dorado County
Fire Safe Council, 2024

Anticipated Project Timeline/Next Steps

Next Step	Anticipated Timeline
Planning Commission Hearing	July 10, 2025
Board of Supervisors Hearing	July 22, 2025
Ordinance Effective Date (Fire Safe Components)	Upon Board Adoption
Ordinance Effective Date (Balance of Amendments)	August 22, 2025

Staff Recommendation

Forward the following recommendation to the Board:

1. Adopt Addendum to the County's 2017 Biological Resources Policy Update and Oak Resources Management Plan; and
2. Approve amendments to Chapter 130.39 of the Zoning Ordinance and ORMP.