



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

Board of Supervisors, July 22, 2025



Objectives

- Clarify applicability for public lands
- Update “Heritage Tree” definition for multi-trunk trees
- Clarify in-lieu fees for oak woodlands vs. individual trees
- Clarify mitigation security deposit process
- Review personal use and single-family parcel exemptions
- Consider standalone oak removal permit for all oak-related impacts
- Include impacts from septic and similar permits

Background

January 2025 - Board Workshop

- Supported amendments
- Directed staff to explore new exemptions

June 2025 - Board Informational Update

- Directed staff to not pursue additional exemptions now and to expedite amendments as is

July 2025 - Planning Commission Hearing

- Recommended Board approve the amendments, EIR Addendum, and ORMP updates as presented



Valley Oak Woodland

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

Proposed Exemptions for Oak Tree Removal

- Permit exemptions
 - Less than 6" DBH in size
 - Damaged by natural disasters
 - Defensible space activities
 - County road projects
 - Public utility construction/maintenance
- Mitigation exemptions
 - Insurance-required tree removal
 - Personal use
 - Dead, dying, or diseased trees



Image: El Dorado County
Fire Safe Council, 2024

Summary of Proposed Oak Amendments

- Ordinance exemption for County projects
- Updates for consistency with State/County laws
- 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/>

Summary of Proposed Urgency Amendments

- Adopt exemption language for fire safe activities
- Add exemption for removal of hazardous vegetation
- Add exemption for insurance-required oak removal
- Effective Date: immediately upon Board adoption



Image: El Dorado County
Fire Safe Council, 2024

Project Timeline/Next Steps

Next Step	Timeline
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

Recommendation

Staff recommends the following:

- Adopt EIR Addendum to the County's 2017 Biological Resources Policy Update and ORMP Final EIR; and
- Approve proposed amendments to Title 130 Chapter 130.39 and ORMP as recommended by the Commission.