



Oak Resources Conservation Ordinance Update

(Title 130, Chapter 130.39)



Board of Supervisors

June 17, 2025

Background

February 2024

- Workshop with Planning Commission
- Commission recommended minor edits

January 2025

- Workshop with Board of Supervisors
- Board 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



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 January 2025 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 Exemptions for Oak Tree Removal

- Oak trees less than 6" DBH in size
- Dead, dying or diseased trees
 - Requires Arborist or Forester Certification
- Approved fire prevention activities
 - Fire safe plans
 - Community wildfire protection plans
 - Defensible space maintenance
- County road projects
- Public utility construction/maintenance



Image: El Dorado County
Fire Safe Council, 2024

Live Oak Trees

- Exempt live oaks from Chapter 130.39 and ORMP
 - Triggers CEQA and new EIR
 - Estimated cost: ~\$300K
 - Timeline: 2 years
- Requires live oak verification by certified professional
 - Property owner cost: \$200-\$2,000+
- Board rejected similar exemption in 2014

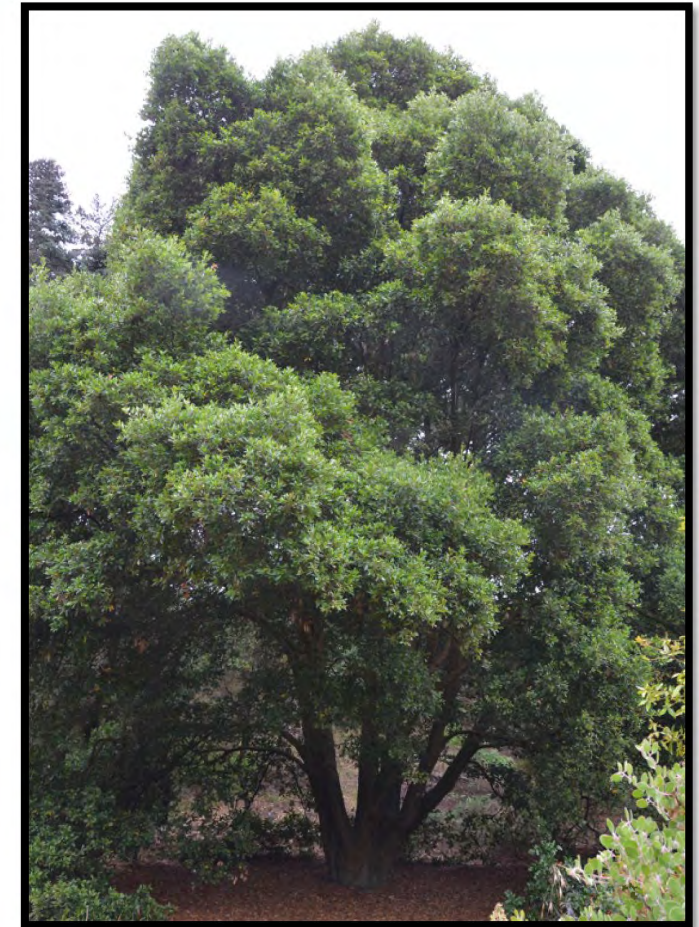


Photo courtesy of:
<http://selectree.calpoly.edu/>

Roadside Oak Removal for Wildfire Prevention

- Exempt trimming and removal of roadside oaks for fire safety
 - Triggers CEQA and new EIR
 - Less extensive analysis than live oak exemption
 - Estimated Cost: ~\$250K
 - Timeline: 1.5 years
 - Recommend combining both exemptions in one EIR for efficiency
 - Combined EIR estimate: ~\$400K
 - Timeline: 2-3 years



Image: El Dorado County
Fire Safe Council, 2024

Roadside Oak Removal for Wildfire Prevention

Items to Be Addressed:

- Coordination with CAO wildfire prevention staff
- Required clearing distance
- Cost of tree trimming/removal
- Oak tree identification
- Funding responsibility
- Consideration of Countywide program
- Property owner permissions and access



Image: El Dorado County
Fire Safe Council, 2024

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board:

1. Advance the draft amendments to Chapter 130.39, including minor edits/clarifications recommended by the Board, to hearing by the Planning Commission;
2. Not pursue either exemption due to budget considerations; and
3. Defer proposed exemptions for future consideration as part of possible comprehensive updates to the General Plan, Zoning Ordinance, and ORMP.



Questions & Comments

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