



CITY OF MONTE SERENO

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TREE REMOVAL PERMITS

Following is a listing of the general requirements based on the Monte Sereno Municipal Code (MSMC). This brochure is intended to provide general information, contact the Planning Division for any questions or additional information

A Tree Removal Permit is required to remove any significant tree, as defined below.

Review/Hearing Process

Applications to remove trees that are dead or undesirable (as defined below) are reviewed by staff. Applications for removal for all other significant trees (as defined below) are decided by the Site and Architectural Commission at a public hearing.

Criteria to Remove a Tree

Applications are reviewed to determine the condition of the tree or trees with respect to disease, danger of falling, proximity to existing or proposed structures and interference with utility services. With respect to dead trees or unsuitable trees, each application shall be reviewed to validate the health of the tree and/or species. In addition, in the case of a significant tree the following shall be determined:

- A. The significant tree or trees need to be removed to allow reasonable economic enjoyment of the property or the significant tree or trees need to be removed due to disease, danger of falling or threat to owner or surrounding residents;
- B. If the topography of the land and the effect of the removal of the significant tree will have a significant effect on erosion, soil retention and diversion or increased flow of surface waters;
- C. The number of trees existing in the neighborhood on improved property and the effect the removal would have on the established standard of the area and the property values; and
- D. The number of trees the particular parcel can adequately support according to good forestry practices.

Tree Replacement Standards

If approved, the number, size, and species of replacement trees will be determined for each application based on the trees being removed and the site conditions.

Definitions (MSMC 10.15.015)

Significant tree means: (1) oaks or redwood trees having a circumference greater than twenty (20) inches measured at a height of forty-eight (48) inches above natural grade; or (2) any tree having a

circumference greater than twenty-five (25) inches measured at a height of forty-eight (48) inches above natural grade.

Dead tree means a significant tree that is no longer alive, has been removed beyond repair, or is in an advanced state of decline (where an insufficient amount of live tissue, green leaves, limbs or branches exists to sustain life) and has been determined to be in such a state by a certified arborist during a non-dormant or other natural stage of the tree that would minimize the likelihood that the tree would be mistakenly identified as being in such a dead state.

Unsuitable tree means a live significant tree or dead tree on a lot that is used for any purpose, where the tree meets the following criteria:

1. On a lot used for a dwelling, the tree belongs to a species that has been determined by the City Council to be uniquely less compatible with the immediate environment because the species is invasive or non-native to the Monte Sereno region or is susceptible to disease. Such tree species include the following:
 - Eucalyptus, Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*);
 - Eucalyptus, Red Gum (*Eucalyptus calimaldulensis*);
 - Black Acacia (*Acacia melonaxylon*);
 - Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthis altissima*);
 - Tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*);
 - Palm (all species);
 - Privet (*Ligustrum*);
 - Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*);
 - Fruit trees.