



CITY OF MONTE SERENO

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TREE REMOVAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS

PLANNING DEPARTMENT REQUIREMENTS

The following is a listing of the general requirements based on the Monte Sereno Municipal Code. This brochure is intended to provide general information, contact the Planning Department for any questions or additional information.

When a Tree Removal Permit Application is Required

A Tree Removal Permit is required to remove any “Significant Tree,” defined as follows:

- (1) oaks or redwood trees having a circumference greater than 20 inches measured at a height of 48 inches above natural grade; or
- (2) any tree having a circumference greater than 25 inches measured at a height of 48 inches above natural grade.

No permit is required to remove trees that do not meet the criteria above.

Review Process

Unsuitable Trees. The following species are deemed as “Unsuitable Trees” in the Municipal Code and applications to remove such trees are reviewed/approved by staff:

- 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.

Dead Trees. When a tree is dead, as defined below, the application will be reviewed by staff:

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.

Hazardous/Dangerous Trees. In the case of an emergency or when a significant tree is hazardous/dangerous to life or property, the application is reviewed by staff.

All other conditions. If the reason for the request to remove a tree does not meet one of the criteria above, the Tree Removal Permit application will be reviewed by the Site and Architectural Commission at a public hearing.

Criteria to Remove a Tree

Tree Removal Permit applications that are reviewed by the Site and Architectural commission are reviewed based on the following criteria:

- 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 approved for removal and the site conditions.

PERMIT PROCESS

Planning Permit Review

- 1. Tree Removal Permit applications can be submitted online at:
<https://epermits.montesereno.org/>

Planning Permit Application Requirements

Submittal requirements for Planning Permit applications are available online at:
<https://www.montesereno.org/2339/ApplicationForms>