



CITY OF MONTE SERENO

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TREE REMOVAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS

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

Tree Removal Permit Application

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.

Review/Hearing Process

Applications to remove a tree of the following species are reviewed 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.

Applications to remove trees that are dead or dying, as defined below, are 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.

All other applications are reviewed by the Site and Architectural Commission at a public hearing.

Criteria to Remove a Tree

Tree Removal Permit applications that are heard 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.