

**VENTURA**

**Protections in place:**

	<b>Oak Tree Retention/ Replacement Provisions</b>	<b>Oak Protection During Construction</b>	<b>Heritage Tree Protection</b>	<b>Riparian Vegetation Protections</b>	<b>Oak Canopy Retention Requirements</b>	<b>Oak Woodland Conservation Program</b>
<b>General Plan Language</b>	The General Plan requires developments involving damage or removal of trees in Scenic Resource and Scenic Highway areas to comply with the "Tree Protection Regulations".			The General Plan requires discretionary development within 300' of stream to be evaluated by a biologist for potential impacts.	None	The General Plan requires discretionary development in areas of significant biological resources to be evaluated by a biologist, and sited and designed to mitigate impacts
<b>Specific Ordinance</b>	Tree Protection Regulations require a permit for removal of all oaks >9.5" dbh. Ministerial permits are required for removal of diseased or hazardous trees, up to 5 trees blocking access or 6-25 trees for agricultural operations. Discretionary permits are required for larger removals as well as 1:1 offsets.	Tree Protection Regulations require those with a Discretionary Tree Permit to use the "Tree Protection Guidelines" during operations	Tree Protection Regulations define heritage tree as >90" dbh, or 2 trunks > 72". No more than 2 historical or heritage trees may be removed to allow property access with a ministerial tree permit.	None	None	The County's SOAR ordinance requires countywide voter approval of any change to the General Plan involving Agricultural, Open Space or Rural land use map designations.
<b>Voluntary Guidelines</b>	None	None	None	None	None	None

**Documents reviewed:**

**Date of Review:** August 2003

- Open Space Element
- Conservation Element
- Land Use Element
- Zoning Ordinance
- Subdivision Ordinance
- Grading and Erosion Ordinance

- Roads/Sidewalk Tree Ordinance
- Tree Removal Ordinance
- Voluntary Guidelines
- Other County Codes: SOAR Fact Sheet, General Plan Resources Appendix, 1994, General Plan Land Use Appendix, 1995, Tree Protection Guidelines

**Summary of Oak Protection Policies:**

<p>General Plan, 1997</p>	<p><b>OAK WOODLAND:</b> The valley oak woodland community in Ventura County is found in Thousand Oaks, Lake Casitas, and Hidden Valley. A large area of foothill oak woodland is found on Sulphur Mountain.</p> <p><b>WILDLIFE HABITAT:</b> A General Plan goal is to preserve and protect significant biological resources from incompatible land uses and development. Significant biological resources include endangered species and habitats, wetlands, wildlife migration corridors and locally important species/communities (1.5.2). Discretionary development in these areas must be evaluated by a qualified biologist, and be sited and designed to mitigate impacts.</p> <p><b>RIPARIAN VEGETATION:</b> Discretionary development within 300' of an intermittent or perennial stream shall be evaluated by a biologist for potential impacts (1.7.2).</p> <p><b>SCENIC RESOURCES:</b> Discretionary development which would significantly degrade visual resources shall be prohibited unless no feasible mitigation measures are available and there are overriding considerations. Developments in the Scenic Resource Protection (SRP) Overlay Zone must have significant grading evaluated through the discretionary permit process. Removal, damaging or destruction of protected trees shall be in compliance with the County's "Tree Protection Regulations". Development within the Scenic Highway Protection (SHP) Overlay Zone requires a Planned Development Permit. Removal, damaging or destruction of a protected tree shall be in compliance with the County's "Tree Protection Regulations".</p> <p><b>LAND USE DESIGNATIONS:</b> Open space designations are made to preserve renewable and nonrenewable resources including plant and animal life, including habitat for fish and wildlife species; rivers, streams.</p>
<p>Zoning Ordinance, Sec. 8104</p>	<p>The Zoning Ordinance establishes Open Space Zones to provide for conservation of natural resources and environmental quality. Agricultural Exclusive (A-E) Zones protect commercial agricultural lands from encroachment by non-related uses. The Scenic Resource Protection (SRP) Overlay Zone protects scenic resources through regulation of uses. The Scenic Highway Protection Overlay Zone protects visual quality along scenic highways.</p>
<p>Tree Protection Regulations,</p>	<p><b>TREE REMOVAL:</b> Protected Trees include all oaks with a dbh of 9.5" in all zones. No person shall remove or alter a Protected Tree except with a permit. A permit is not needed in case of emergency, when dead, or when pruning &lt;20% of the canopy or the root system. Also exempt is felling or removal of 5 or fewer Protected Trees in any year for agricultural</p>

8107-25	<p>operations or expansion in agricultural, open space or timber preserve zoning, when the trees are not heritage or historical, and records of removal are kept and submitted to the Planning Director. Ministerial Tree Permits are approved when a tree is hazardous, diseased, interferes with public utility or safety, a private sewer line or other danger. No more than 5 trees may be removed or altered to allow access and no more than 2 may be historical or heritage trees. Certification is also required for removal of 6 to 10 trees in a year for agricultural operations or expansion in agricultural, open space or timber preserve zoning, when the trees are not heritage or historical, and records of removal are kept and submitted to the Planning Director; 11 to 25 trees in a year when a field inspection by the county has occurred. Standard conditions to ensure only the approved trees are altered, felled, or removed such as tree tagging and protective fencing for remaining trees are imposed. Discretionary Tree Permits are issued for removal of 6 or more trees for property access or for commercial agricultural purposes when there is a farm plan for expansion, agricultural activities are consistent with proper and accepted customs and standards and the proposed agricultural activities would benefit the public after mitigations are imposed". Unless exempted, offsets shall be provided on a 1:1 basis for discretionary tree permits or for violations. Transplanted trees that survive at least 5 years are exempted from "offset" requirements. Offsets are based on the "cross-sectional" area. A violation is a misdemeanor/infraction. As an alternative to legal action, the county may instead require mitigation.</p> <p>TREE PROTECTION: In granting a Discretionary Tree Permit, the county shall use the Tree Protection Guidelines</p> <p>HERITAGE TREES: These are defined as any tree with a single trunk &gt;/90 dbh, or multiple trunks two of which total 72".</p> <p>Historical trees are identified by the County or a city as a landmark, or identified on the Federal or California Historic Resources Inventory.</p>
Tree Protection Guidelines, 2003	<p>These guidelines contain standards for issuance of both ministerial and discretionary permit standards, methods for calculating cross sectional areas of removed and mitigation trees, options for planting mitigation trees or funding mitigation elsewhere, and required plans for agricultural operations and commercial harvesting.</p>
Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources	<p>Nine local jurisdictions in Ventura County have Save Open Space and Agricultural Resources ordinances (SOAR) that prohibit development of any land outside of a "City Urban Restriction Boundary" without voter approval. The County's SOAR ordinance requires countywide voter approval of any change to the General Plan involving Agricultural, Open Space or Rural land use map designations.</p>

**Contact Information:**

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**Web site:** <http://www.ventura.org/planning/>

**County Contacts:**

- No contacts
- Policies provided by county staff
- Policies discussed with county staff
- Policy inventory reviewed by county staff

