



City of Atascadero Community Development Department

6500 Palma Avenue Atascadero, CA 93422 (805) 461-5035

PUBLIC INFORMATION - PLANNING SERVICES

NATIVE TREE REGULATIONS

The City of Atascadero adopted a native tree ordinance in 1998 to protect native trees within the City. These regulations encourage the preservation, maintenance and regeneration of our native trees and woodlands. Prior to any removal or trimming of trees, professionals should utilize the following three steps in determining whether or not a permit is required.



STEP 1: DETERMINE TREE TYPE

City of Atascadero Native Tree List		
Scientific Name	Common Name	Type
<i>Arbutus menziesii</i> Pursh.	Madrone	Non-Deciduous
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> Lindl	Toyon, California Holly	Non-Deciduous
<i>Juglans hindsii</i> Jeps.	California Black Walnut	Non-Deciduous
<i>Plantanus racemosa</i> Nutt.	California Sycamore	Deciduous
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i> Eastw.	Coast Live Oak	Non-Deciduous
<i>Quercus alvordiana</i> Nee	Blue Oak/Desert Oak	Deciduous
<i>Quercus dumosa</i> Jeps.	Scrub Oak	Non-deciduous
<i>Quercus durata</i> Jeps.	Leather Oak	Deciduous
<i>Quercus douglasii</i> H&A	Blue Oak	Deciduous
<i>Quercus lobata</i> Nee	Valley	Deciduous
<i>Quercus turbinella</i>	Desert Oak	Deciduous
<i>Umbellularia californica</i> Nutt	California Bay Laurel	Non-deciduous

Determine if the tree is a protected Native tree within the City of Atascadero. The species that are protected are shown in the table on the left.



STEP 2: IS A PERMIT REQUIRED?

A tree removal permit is required for any of the species listed in the table if any of the following occurs:

- Removal of any deciduous native tree two (2) inches dbh or greater;
- Removal of four (4) inches dbh or greater for all other protected native trees;
- Pruning of more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the live canopy in native trees;

Removal or pruning of more than 25% of the live canopy in native trees in a non-residential or multi-family residential zone.

If any of those conditions apply, please contact the City of Atascadero City Hall at (805) 461-5000 and speak with a planner on how to proceed or stop by City Hall's Permit Center during posted business hours.



STEP 3: APPLY FOR A PERMIT

A tree removal permit is required prior to removal or pruning of more than 25% of the live canopy in a native tree. This permit should be filled out and signed by both a certified arborist and property owner. Applicable fees will be due at the time of permit application.



NATIVE TREES Q&A

Q: My client has an existing single family home with no construction permits open and is not planning on completing any construction. Does my client need to obtain a Tree Removal Permit?

A: No. Single family residences in single family zoning districts, where a permanent dwelling exists, and building or grading permits are not being sought are exempt from a tree removal permit (Atascadero Municipal Code 9-11.105(b)(5)).

Q: My client is proposing construction within a dripline of a native tree but does not plan on removing the tree, Does my client need to do anything?

A: Yes, if construction occurs within a dripline of a native tree, the City's Native Tree Ordinance requires a tree protection plan (Atascadero Municipal Code 9-11.106). This plan needs to be completed by a certified arborist and include any required mitigation or fencing to protect native trees.

Q: My client is proposing construction near a native tree, does the City require anything?

A: Yes. The City requires tree protection fencing for construction projects within 20-feet or less of a native tree. Fencing shall be 4-feet in height, at minimum, around the dripline of the tree.



FEES

Permit fees are required for a tree removal permit. In addition to permit fees, a mitigation fee is required. This mitigation fee goes into the City's Tree replacement fund. No fee is required if a tree is determined to be dead or hazardous by a certified arborist, however mitigation fees still apply. The fee is based on the following:

- Zoning of the property
- Whether the native tree is deciduous or non-deciduous
- Whether the removal of the native tree(s) is greater than 24-inches dbh
- Mitigation fees can be reduced by planting native trees on-site. Contact Planning Staff for additional details.
- Removal of native trees 24" DBH and above requires planning commission approval

Please call Community Development, (805) 461-5035, and ask for a planner for fee information specific to your project.

Please contact the City of Atascadero City Hall at (805) 461-5000 and speak with a planner or stop by City Hall's Permit Center during posted business hours if you have any additional questions.