



Performance Standards for Ministerial Tree Permits

County of Ventura • Resource Management Agency • Planning Division

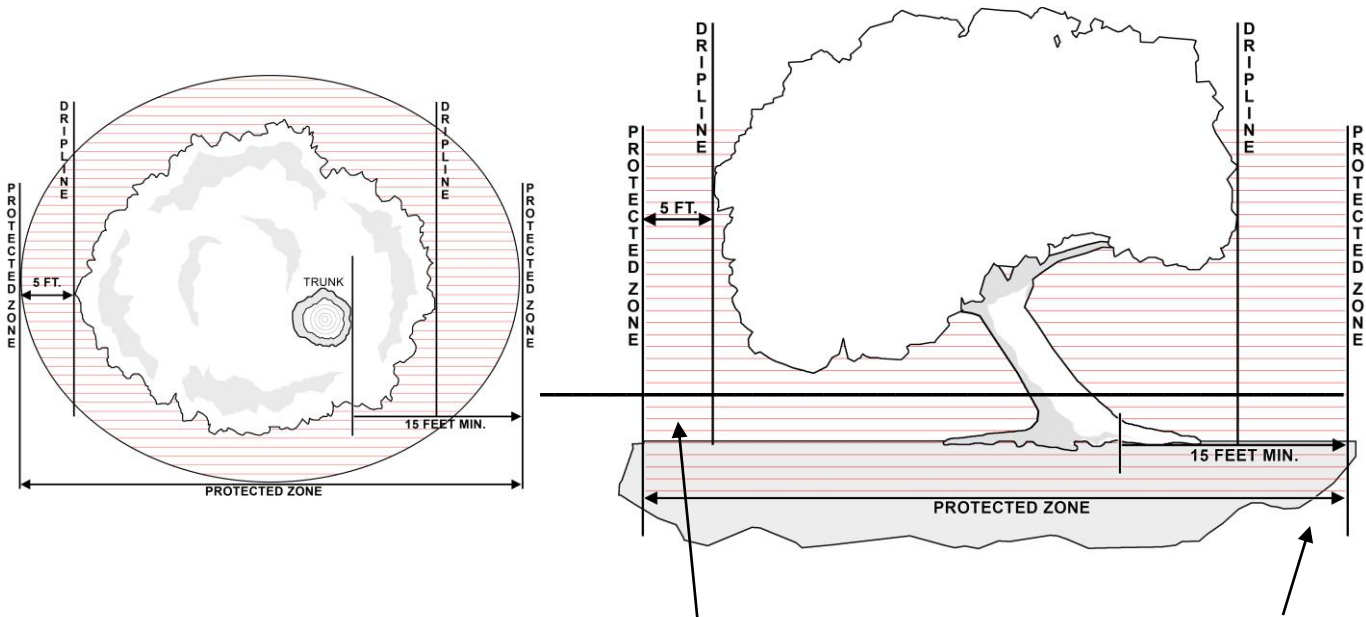
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<https://rma.venturacounty.gov/divisions/planning/tree-permits-and-the-tree-protection-ordinance/>

All Ministerial Tree Permits issued by the Ventura County Planning Division shall be deemed to incorporate the following performance standards, pursuant to Section 8107-25.6 of the Ventura County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance (NCZO) and Section 8178-7.4.4 of the Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance (CZO), except as the permit may otherwise specifically provide. The Permittee is responsible for ensuring compliance with these standards. Verification that protection measures were in place throughout the time of construction may be requested by the Planning Division through written documentation or photos prior to the issuance of any building permits.

Definition of Terms:

Tree Protected Zone (TPZ). Tree protection zone (TPZ) is used to describe the critical area of protection under a tree. Given the high sensitivity of native trees, especially oaks, great care must be taken when work is conducted near these trees. The TPZ extends out from the trunk to 5 feet beyond the dripline, **or** a minimum of 15 feet from the trunk—whichever is greater.



The Protected Zone extend **Or** a minimum of 15' from the trunk – **whichever is greater.**
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Protected Tree. As used in these Performance Standards, protected tree means trees protected under Ventura County's Tree Protection Ordinance that are to remain—including those growing on adjacent parcels—whose tree protection zones (TPZs) are within 20 feet of trees to be removed or the limits of the construction area (including access roads and storage areas).

Performance Standards

A. Timing. Pruning, removing or other tree alteration that could potentially disrupt known bird nests should not take place during the bird breeding and nesting season (Jan 1 to Sep 15). More information on the protection of nesting birds can be found on the Planning Division

website at <https://rmadocs.venturacounty.gov/planning/publications/planning-protection-of-nesting-birds-during-project-construction.pdf>.

- B. Tree Protection Fencing.** If there are remaining protected trees whose TPZs are within 20 feet of the construction envelope (e.g., any area that will be used during construction, including roads and storage areas), tree protection fencing shall be installed prior to any clearing, grubbing, trenching, grading, or land disturbances. The fencing shall be installed around the edge of the TPZ (or at the location of their approved encroachment), unless otherwise recommended in an Arborist Verification, Arborist Report or by Planning Division staff. In the coastal zone, for trees with an active raptor nest, a buffer no less than 500 feet shall be provided during construction. For all other active bird nests, the buffer shall be no less than 300 feet. The buffer shall be designated by protective fencing. Verification that tree fencing was in place throughout construction time may be requested by the Planning Division.

Verification that tree protection fencing has been installed shall be provided to the Planning Division before construction commences. The Planning Division may request written documentation or photographs that the protection measures were in place throughout the time of construction and grading.

Tree protection fencing shall remain in place during all phases of construction. Damaged fencing shall be immediately replaced or repaired.

1. Type of fencing. The fencing shall be temporary, readily visible, and a minimum of 4 feet high and constructed of chain link, orange plastic mesh fence, or a similarly durable material with stationary posts set at no greater than 10-foot intervals. The fencing shall effectively: (1) keep the foliage, crown, branch structure and trunk clear from direct contact and damage by equipment, materials or disturbances; (2) preserve roots and soil in an intact and non-compacted state; and (3) identify the TPZ.
2. Signage. One English language and one Spanish language, readily-visible, durable, waterproof sign shall be installed on the fence in 4 equidistant locations around each individual protected tree. Signs placed on fencing around a stand of protected trees shall be placed at approximately 50-foot intervals. The size of each sign must be a minimum of 16 inches wide and must contain the wording below. The lettering in the word "WARNING" (and Spanish equivalent) must be in capital letters at least 2 inches in height; the phrase "TREE PROTECTION ZONE" must be in capital letters at least 1 inch in size; all other lettering must be at least ½ inch in size.

WARNING

TREE PROTECTION ZONE

Entry prohibited. This fence shall remain in place throughout the entire construction period.

To report violations, contact

COUNTY OF VENTURA CONDITION COMPLIANCE DIVISION: 805/654-2457

ADVERTENCIA

ZONA DE PROTECCIÓN DE ÁRBOLES

Entrada prohibida. Esta cerca debe permanecer en su lugar durante el periodo de construcción.

Para reportar violaciones, contacte al

ENFORZAMIENTO DE PERMISOS DEL CONDADO DE VENTURA:
805/654-2457

C. Tree Protection Requirements Onsite and Conveyed to Workers. The approved tree permit shall be onsite during construction activity. The Permittee shall provide a copy of the tree permit and these Performance Standards to all responsible parties who will be performing work around protected trees. The location of protected trees and tree protection measures should be reflected in the final approved construction plans.

D. Tree Protection Zone Restrictions.

1. No ground disturbance, grading, trenching, construction activities or structural development shall occur within the tree protection zone (TPZ) except as specifically authorized by the Tree Permit.
2. No equipment, soil, or construction materials shall be placed within the TPZ. No oil, gasoline, chemicals, paints, solvents, or other damaging materials may be deposited within the TPZ or in drainage channels, swales or areas that may lead to the TPZ.
3. No equipment wash-off area shall be placed within the TPZ. Ensure that the equipment wash-off area is far enough from the TPZ such that there is no flow of harmful materials to the TPZ. The equipment wash-off area should be included in the final approved construction plans.
4. The placement of impervious paving materials in the TPZ shall be minimized. Pervious paving materials, such as interlocking pavers, gravel or pervious asphalt, may be used.
5. All work done within the TPZ, including brush clearance, digging, trenching and planting, shall be done with hand tools or small hand held power tools that are of a depth and design that will not cause root damage.
6. Roots that are 2 inches or more in diameter inside the TPZ may not be cut without a tree permit. Where trenching or digging within the TPZ is specifically permitted, the work shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes root damage. This generally involves tunneling under roots, or boring or drilling trenches. Damage to minor roots shall be traced back and cleanly cut behind any split, cracked or damaged area. Any roots exposed by trenching or digging shall be kept moist and covered with earth as soon as possible. Upon completion and back fill of the trench, the area of wounded roots shall be thoroughly watered.
7. Grade changes outside of the TPZ shall not significantly alter drainage to protected trees. Grading within the TPZ shall use methods that minimize root damage, ensure that roots are not cut off from air, and permanently re-stabilize the soil in cases where grading predisposed the soil to erosion. The following apply:
 - i. Unless approved in a tree permit, no fill greater than 6 inches shall be placed within the TPZ of protected trees and no fill whatsoever shall be placed within 10 feet of their trunks. Permitted grade fills over 6 inches or impervious overlay within the TPZ shall incorporate an approved permanent aeration system, permeable material or other approved system to minimize any potential damage to roots caused by reduced soil gas exchange.
 - ii. Unless approved in a tree permit, no grade cuts greater than 4 inches shall occur within the TPZ of protected trees and no grade cuts whatsoever shall occur within 10 feet of their trunks. Permitted grade cuts within the TPZ exceeding 4 inches shall incorporate retaining walls or other systems that permanently stabilize the soil.
8. Unless approved in a tree permit, protected trees shall not be used for posting signs, electrical wires or pulleys; for supporting structures; and shall be kept free of nails, screws, rope, wires, stakes and other unauthorized fastening devices or attachments.

E. Tree pruning methods.

1. Pruning standards. All pruning shall be in compliance with the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Tree-Pruning Guidelines and ANSI Standard A300 (Part 1).

2. Deadwood. All dead wood removal or pruning shall be done in accordance with ISA standards. Except for approved tree removal, climbing gaffs shall not be used by any tree climber on live wood.
3. Aesthetic pruning. No living limbs that amount to more than 20 percent of the trunk's girth may be removed from protected trees solely for the purpose of altering the appearance of a tree.

F. Tree removal methods.

1. Directional felling. Appropriate methods of felling trees, such as directional felling or rigging down, shall be used to avoid damage to remaining protected trees.
2. Stump removal. Unless root removal is recommended by an arborist for disease management, the stumps of the trees removed within the TPZ of the remaining trees should be ground down to just below the ground surface level and not excavated.
3. Debris disposal. In cases where a certified arborist has indicated that the spread of disease or insects is a concern, tree limbs and wood shall be disposed of in a safe manner as directed by the arborist.

G. Unanticipated Tree Damage. The Permittee shall report unanticipated damage to protected trees or their TPZs from construction activities to the Planning Division within 24 hours of the incident. Should unanticipated damage occur to protected trees or their TPZs from construction activities, the Permittee shall submit to the Planning Division within 2 weeks of the incident a report prepared by an arborist with an assessment of the tree damages.

Modifications to Performance Standards per Planning Division or Arborist Report:

By signing below, I certify the following:

- I have read and understand these Performance Standards;
- I acknowledge that issuance of my tree permit is contingent upon my compliance with these Performance Standards;
- I agree to abide by these Performance Standards.

Applicant/Permittee Signature

Date