



Policy Type: Board

Category: Land Use

Policy Name: Tree Preservation Policies - Board Policy 7.1

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7.1 TREE PRESERVATION POLICIES

(A) General Plan Requirements

- (1) The County's General Plan calls for the preservation of healthy specimen trees and heritage trees. Heritage trees are listed on the "Heritage Resources Inventory".
- (2) The General Plan also speaks to protecting water resources by controlling the cutting of trees and riparian vegetation. The Plan also establishes guidelines for controlling vegetation along electric line corridors.

(B) California Department of Forestry Regulations

- (1) The State supersedes local jurisdictions in the regulation of commercial cutting of trees on more than three acres of land. This includes the cutting of trees for sale as either lumber or firewood.
- (2) The State exempts from its regulation the cutting of any number of trees on privately owned property when it is cut for the owner's own use.
- (3) Commercial cutting of trees on three acres or less can be regulated by the State at the County's option.

(C) Zoning Ordinance Guidelines



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Most tree cutting in Santa Clara County that is not regulated by the State is covered by the zoning ordinance regulations for two zones -- hillsides and ranchlands. These regulations divide proposed tree cutting into three categories of use based upon acreage and the number of cords to be cut. The categories are determined (1) as a matter of right of the property owner, (2) subject to securing a special permit and (3) subject to securing a use permit. The regulations requiring use permits for the hillsides and ranchlands zones are for commercial firewood harvesting. The Board may direct the Planning Commission to adopt standards in that regard.

Related Policies

None.

Related Forms and Information

- Resolution of the Board of Supervisors on Removal of Trees on County Property, November 23, 1992 -
[url]/sites/policies/FormsrelatedtoPolicies/Trees-1992-Board-Resolution.pdf

History

Date	Changes Made
2/10/2014	Policy Uploaded. (Kyle Larson)