



**City of Atascadero  
Community Development Department**

**PUBLIC INFORMATION- PLANNING SERVICES**

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**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:

- If construction is planned and a building permit is expected to be submitted within the next year;
- If the tree is in the multi-family zone or a planned development;
- If the tree is in a commercial zone.

**If any of those conditions apply, please contact the City of Atascadero Community Development Department 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: I have an existing single family home within a single family zoning district with no construction permits open and am not planning on completing any construction. Do I 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 within the next year are exempt from a tree removal permit (Atascadero Municipal Code 9-11.105(b)(5)).

**Q: I am proposing construction within a dripline of a native tree but do not plan on removing the tree. Do I 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 must include any required mitigation or fencing to protect native trees.

**Q: I am 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 the dripline of a native tree. Fencing shall be 4-feet in height, at minimum, around the dripline of the tree.

**If any of those conditions apply, please contact the City of Atascadero Community Development Department 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.**

## ▶▶ FEES

Fees are required for a tree removal permit. In addition to permit fees, a mitigation fee is also required. This mitigation fee goes into the City's Tree replacement fund. The fee is based on the size of the tree, the zoning district in which it is located, and whether it is deciduous or non-deciduous.

### ▶ Removal fee for native trees- above 2" diameter

Application Fee +	Property Zoning	Mitigation per 6" diameter removed*	
		Deciduous	Non-Deciduous
	RSF, RS, LSF	\$100	\$50
	RMF/Non-Residential/Roads	\$200	\$100

\*Mitigation fees can be reduced by planting native trees on-site. Contact Planning Staff for additional details.

### ▶ Removal fee for native trees- Heritage trees

Application Fee +	Property Zoning	Mitigation per 6" diameter removed*	
		Deciduous	Non-Deciduous
	RSF, RS, LSF	\$100	\$50
	RMF/Non-Residential/Roads	\$200	\$100

\*Mitigation fees can be reduced by planting native trees on-site. Contact Planning Staff for additional details.

