TREE PROTECTION GUIDELINES

City of Monterey – Division of Planning, Engineering, and Environmental Compliance.

The following guidelines are established pursuant to Section 37-2.5 of the Monterey City Code, which states: All public or private construction projects requiring acquisition of a building permit shall comply with the tree protection guidelines established by the City in order to safeguard and protect any trees affected by said construction.

- 1. These Tree Protection Guidelines apply to all "Protected Trees" in the City of Monterey, defined as:
 - a. trees located on a vacant private parcel that are more than two inches (2") in diameter when measured at a point four feet six inches (4'6") above the tree's natural grade; and,
 - b. trees located on a private, developed parcel that are more than six inches (6") when measured at a point four feet six inches (4'6") above the tree's natural grade.
- 2. These guidelines do not apply to unprotected trees or trees previously approved for removal.
- 3. All cut, fill and/or building foundations shall be located a minimum of 4.0 times the diameter of the tree away from the outside edge of the trunk of all trees scheduled for preservation. However, the minimum distance permitted shall be 6' 0", away from the outside edge of the trunk for all trees of a trunk diameter less than 2' 0". The diameter of a tree shall be measured at 4', 6" above the surrounding grade [Diameter at Standard Height (DSH)].
- 4. All Protected Trees shall be marked with a spot of paint, or flagging and temporarily fenced during construction. The marking serves to notify City inspectors and workers that the tree is to be fenced at all times during construction. Fencing and marking shall be installed prior to the issuance of building or grading permits and shall be located at the edge of the root zone. The root zone is determined to be that area located out a distance 15 times the trunk diameter in all directions. At no time shall the fencing be located closer than 3' 0" from the outside edge of the trunk or further than 3' 0" away from the approved building wall line, foundation, retaining wall, or grade cut, whichever provides the greater distance from the tree trunk. Tree Protection Fencing (TPF) shall consist of 6' tall chain link on all commercial projects and 4' tall plastic snow fencing on residential projects and shall be rigidly supported and maintained during all phases of construction. Fenced areas shall not be used for material stockpile, storage, vehicle parking, or dumping of materials, chemicals, or garbage. Fenced areas shall be maintained in a natural condition and not compacted. Removal of fencing shall only be approved by the City Forester.
- 5. Prior to the start of construction, all Monterey Pine trees scheduled for preservation shall have the lower 8' 0", sprayed with Astro, or Dragnet and then wrapped with plastic to reduce the potential for infestation by Red Turpentine Beetles. The plastic wrap and spray are used to control beetle attacks and shall remain on the tree throughout the construction period.
- 6. Utility and drain lines shall be located outside the TPA (Tree Protection Area) root zone of all trees scheduled for preservation. In cases where alternative routes are not available, utility conduit, pipe, wire and drain lines shall be tunneled under major roots. Major roots are determined to be those that exceed two (2) inches in diameter. In no case shall utility lines be permitted within 4.0 times the diameter of the trunk of any trees involved with construction unless the City Forester has approved with specific conditions in advance of work starting.
- 7. On projects that involve properties with multiple protected trees, the owner or contractor may be required to hire a private Certified Arborist to inspect and monitor the construction work to guarantee that the Tree Protection Guidelines are applied and that the trees to remain are not damaged, or negatively impacted during any phases of work. This determination is at the discretion of the City Forester.

- 8. All approved construction work within the root zone of trees scheduled for preservation shall observe-the following minimum tree protection practices:
 - a. Hand trenching at point or line of grade cuts closest to the trunk to expose major roots 2" in diameter or larger. In cases where rock or unusually dense soil prevents hand trenching, mechanical equipment may be approved by the City Forester, provided that work is closely supervised to prevent tearing or other damage to major roots.
 - b. Exposed major roots shall be cut with a saw to form a smooth surface and avoid tears or jagged edges.
 - c. Absorbent tarp or heavy cloth fabric shall be placed over new grade cuts where roots are exposed and secured by stakes. 2" to 4" of compost or woodchip mulch shall be spread over the tarp to prevent soil moisture loss. The tarp should be thoroughly wetted at least twice per week to insure constant moisture levels until backfilling occurs. In very dry climate conditions, additional watering may be required to maintain a constant moisture level. This program of watering shall be maintained through all phases of construction including delays and other periods of inactivity.
 - d. Decks located within the root zone of trees scheduled for preservation shall be of post and beam construction to eliminate any need for root pruning or removal.
 - e. On-grade patios or paving that cover more than one-third of the feeder zone of pine trees or oak trees shall be constructed of permeable materials that allow aeration and water penetration. Patios and paving shall be combined with any other non-permeable surface or structure for purposes of calculating the one-third coverage standard. A maximum 80% compaction for permeable surfaces shall be allowed. The paving design shall specify this restriction.
 - f. Planting beneath trees scheduled for preservation shall take into consideration watering requirements of the tree to prevent damage from over or under watering. Planting beneath native oak trees is of special concern and should be avoided. At a minimum, all new irrigation should be directed away from the trunks of oak trees. Installing lawn or other planting that requires frequent watering insures a slow death for oak trees due to their sensitivity to over watering and susceptibility to oak root fungus. Over-watering may also damage native pines.
- 9. Failure to comply with these Tree Protection Guidelines is punishable by Civil penalty, including Citation and fines.
- 10. All Tree Protection devices must be in place prior to issuance of a Building Permit. Please contact Robert Reid, City Forester, at 646-3408 for inspection to confirm Tree Protection or with any general tree preservation questions.
- 11. Chapter 37, *Preservation of Trees and Shrubs*, is available at www.monterey.org or http://www.codepublishing.com/ca/monterey/