

City of San Diego, Land Development Code Revisions **Other Provisions**

Instructions to review group: Review and mark deletions, additions and edits on the proposed code language. Number and write reasons for the changes (on separate paper).

- Tree care for birds and other wildlife
- Urban wood utilization
- Protecting trees during construction

TREE CARE FOR BIRDS AND OTHER WILDLIFE:

1. During the breeding season, tree care work must be supervised by a Certified Arborist with Wildlife Training.
2. During the breeding season, projects in habitats with high human use and few mature trees should have a pre-work inspection for nesting wildlife performed by a Wildlife Trained Arborist. During the non-breeding season, projects in these habitats should have a pre-work inspection for nesting wildlife.
3. During the breeding season, projects in high-value habitats (with low human use, high plant diversity and many mature or dead-dying trees) should have a pre-work inspection for nesting wildlife performed by a Wildlife Biologist. During the non-breeding season, projects should have a pre-work inspection for nesting wildlife performed by a Certified Arborist with Wildlife Training.
4. Projects in riparian habitats should have a pre-work inspection for nesting wildlife performed by a Wildlife Biologist.
 1. Pre-work inspections should identify signs of wildlife, that include concentrations of bird droppings, nests that may be active, and wildlife breeding behavior.
 2. If an active nest is discovered, tree care operations should cease immediately within about 100 feet of passerine nests and about 300 feet of raptor nests.
 3. If an active nest is discovered in high-value habitats and riparian areas, buffers should be increased to 300 feet of passerine nests and 500 feet of raptor nests.
 4. In emergency situations, if work needs to be done within these buffers, a Wildlife Biologist should be consulted to consider smaller buffers or other protections, monitor the nest during work, or obtain a permit for work to continue, if necessary.
 5. If wildlife is injured during tree care operations, work should cease immediately, a local Wildlife Rehabilitator contacted and recommendations followed, and an inspection performed by a Wildlife Biologist before work proceeds.

References: www.treecareforbirds.com

Best management practices were written to provide guidance to the California tree care and landscape industry about how to minimize impacts to wildlife during the course of tree work and manage wildlife habitat. While many tree care workers and managers wish to act responsibly around wildlife, little information has been available about how work can best be accomplished while minimizing impacts to wildlife. In addition, Federal and California wildlife regulations are not widely known within the tree care industry, thereby putting uninformed workers at risk of significant fines and public criticism.

City SD, Land Development Code revision, Other Provisions, February 5, 2020, page 2

URBAN WOOD UTILIZATION:

Excerpt from: **Standards for Certification and Chain of Custody for Urban, Salvaged and Reclaimed Woods, Appendix E: Sample Urban Wood Recycling Policy**

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This effort is to divert the wood byproducts away from landfills and the waste-stream in general and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are released through the traditional disposal processes. This policy is also in place to bolster the City of _____ Climate Action Plan as a carbon securing measure.

- **Tree removal salvaging plan.**
 - Any trees that are cut down, dismantled or harvested for the reasons stated within the City of _____ ordinance are subject to be potentially repurposed for their highest and best use. This can include but is not limited to being milled into lumber, left in public spaces as natural architecture or crafted into useable products for example, benches, picnic tables, new construction elements and / or other artisan wood worker crafts.
 - The selection criteria for urban wood shall be made at the discretion of the city arborist or other designated city representative.
- **Desirable species replacement plan.**
 - Tree replacement criteria should include a consideration of end of life use. Suitable lumber nursery stock sources should take priority in areas where planting space and irrigation needs allow.
 - These replacement species can include the following list of species (Insert Local list of hardwoods with good wood characteristics for the local area)
- **Urban wood for new construction**
 - To gain the maximized benefits of the repurposed lumber from city trees, any new construction development that takes place within the city limits should include an urban wood element that is at a minimum cost of 1% of the overall project. This measure can assure that the market for the City of _____ urban wood is sustainable.
 - All urban wood utilization plans must be approved by the City of _____ planning department. All project scope details are to be approved in accordance with all municipal construction and / or building code standards.