



Prohibition on the Removal of Coast Live Oak Trees

Oak Tree Removal Ordinance (Berkeley Municipal Code Chapter 6.52)

The City of Berkeley, through Ordinances 6321-N.S (1996), 6462-N.S (1998), 6484-N.S. (1999), 6550-N.S. (2000), 6796-N.S (2004), 6905-N.S. (2006), and 7615-N.S. (2018), prohibits the removal of any single stem Coast Live Oak tree of 18-inches or more and any multi-stemmed Coast Live Oak tree with an aggregate circumference of 26 inches or more (as measured at 48-inches above grade).

Further, any pruning of a Coast Live Oak that is excessive and injurious to the tree is prohibited. Excessive and injurious pruning is defined as the removal of more than one-fourth of the functioning leaf, stem or root system of a tree in any 24-month period.

Exceptions:

1. An exception may be made to this Section if the City Manager, or his/her designee, finds that any tree described in the Ordinance codified in this section is a potential danger to life or limb due to the condition of the tree, or is a danger to property, and that the only reasonable mitigation would be removal of the tree.
2. An exception may be made to this Section if the City Manager, or his/her designee, finds that any tree described in the Ordinance codified in this section would substantially interfere with a development project that includes 50% or more units affordable to Extremely Low-, Very Low- or Low-income households, as defined in Berkeley's Affordable Housing Trust Fund Guidelines, so long as any tree removed is replaced by the developer with another Coast Live Oak either on the development site or at another location within the City of Berkeley. Location for replacement trees shall be at the City Manager's discretion.

This moratorium shall remain in effect until such time that the City Council adopts a Tree Preservation Ordinance.

Coast Live Oak Tree Removal Moratorium

Effective December 10, 1998

The circumference of a Coastal Live Oak is measured at a point 4 feet above existing grade. Single trunk trees over 18-inches and multi-trunk trees over 26-inches (aggregate) in circumference are protected by Ordinance 6462-N.S.

4' feet above grade



Actual Size

**18" Circumference = 5.72"
Diameter**

Scientific name:
Quercus agrifolia

Common names:
Coast live oak,
California live oak

