

**San Mateo County Tree Ordinances Steering Committee
Policy Questions for January 26, 2017 Meeting**

Urban and Suburban Areas- Would you like to see:	Yes	No
A streamlined, over-the-counter permit for removing certain species of Eucalyptus and certain other exotic trees in urban areas ?	10	6
<p>No, The streamlined, OTC permit should be for removing exotics in rural areas. This would require site specificity and seasonality conditions</p>		
Mitigation planting for exotic tree removals?	12	5
<p>Yes, Must be ecosystem appropriate in certain areas If there was large scale removal</p> <p>No, Not in a densely wooded developed lot Should be handled case by case, based on subject species. Consider planting acorns due to soil phytophthora Handle as site-specific. Ensure that aesthetics and habitat are not negatively affected</p>		
A list of trees or the attributes of trees that would be suitable for re-planting for removed trees in urban areas based on site conditions that comply with the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance?	16	1
<p>Yes, Shrubs or other plants could be preferable in certain situations Replacement trees are not always necessary Other factors must be considered aside from WELO Drought-tolerant, natives are most important to plant</p> <p>No, Should be a list of plants that aren't allowed for planting!</p>		

Rural Areas - Would you like to see:	Yes	No
Removal of exotic trees without a permit?	7	10
<p>Yes, Yes on MidPen lands and in other parks, but should be case by case basis on private lands</p> <p>No, Should be a streamlined OTC permit Not if they are large exotic trees Too complex an issue to say yes. Need site specificity matrix Would say yes if erosion control could somehow be required. A reduced fee for permit would be good Maybe only certain exotic species could be removed without a permit</p>		
Property owners required to notify the county of such removals for monitoring purposes?	13	3
<p>Yes, Communication could make it possible to monitor erosion control efforts Depends on amount of trees removed</p>		
Removal of large numbers of exotic trees for fire safety, habitat restoration or other public goods?	13	4
<p>Yes, If site-appropriate Based on review of proposed plan</p> <p>No, Lacking definition Needs site specificity</p>		

County Wide - Would you like to see:	Yes	No
Policies that define and acknowledge the benefits of novel ecosystems made up of a mix of exotic and native tree and shrub species, and develop policies to protect such ecosystems, including individual trees?	10	5
<p>Yes, Especially where habitat has become established</p> <p>No, It depends</p>		
The amended Significant/Heritage Tree ordinances identify Eucalyptus above a certain size as heritage trees to be protected?	6	9
<p>No, Should be handled on case by case basis, to protect eucs if they are a visual or cultural resource</p>		

Implementing Large Scale Vegetation Management in the Resource Management and Planned Agricultural District Zones

Rural Areas (RM and PAD) - Would you like to see:	Yes	No
A vegetation management plan (VMP) ordinance that incorporates policies from the RM and PAD zoning ordinances and the LCP that provides for a streamlined review process for removal of vegetation over a large area where possible, and is distinct and separate from the tree regulations that apply in urban and suburban areas?	15	1
<p>Yes, To scale with request by type of applicant Be very thoughtful about burden of VMP</p> <p>No, I see a positive value in site specificity in rural areas, too</p>		

Public review and involvement should be required for VMP Permits, e.g., Noticing of neighbors? Public Hearing?	8	4
<p>Yes, But not for removal of invasives Depends on size of VMP</p> <p>No, This would be covered through CEQA 5 members wouldn't say yes or no, Depends, can process still be streamlined with this? Potentially – Already done in MidPen's Invasive Pest Management program If VMP goes through CEQA's additional public review, there will be increased burden</p>		
An appropriate, effective level of ongoing staff oversight for VMPs?	13	0
<p>Yes, Yes for natives, no for exotics Please based on matrix Depends on entity responsible, might not be necessary for restoration projects 4 members wouldn't say yes or no Staff must be appropriately and technically trained</p>		
Removal of large numbers of exotic trees for fire safety, habitat restoration or other public goods?	15	2
<p>Yes, Only with an arborist or foresters report and staff review Only if it can be validated that the removal specifically accomplishes these goals Site specific matrix needs to be developed Case by case, easier for agencies like MidPen Not as a blanket policy, but only as site appropriate</p> <p>No, Wording is too broad</p>		

Rural Areas (RM and PAD) - Tree Removals Near Authorized Structures	Yes	No
<p>Would you like to see:</p> <p>New Tree removal policies requiring permits for the removal of five or fewer trees within 100 feet of authorized buildings on sites zoned RM or PAD, given the similarity of these areas to landscaped areas surrounding suburban homes?</p>	13	3
<p>Yes,</p> <p>But why limit to 5 trees</p> <p>Permit should be as streamlined as possible</p> <p>Isn't the standard 30' for no tall trees near buildings for fire defensibility? 100' is the standard for fuel sources</p> <p>Should be within 500' of authorized buildings</p> <p>No,</p> <p>No permit required for removing invasives near buildings</p>		

Thoughts on Exotic Trees – Eucalyptus (from note cards)

Pros	Cons
May have some value in urban areas or novel ecosystems (2)	Negative impacts to native species and habitats, especially in wildlands (4)
Should be evaluated on cases by case basis (2)	Fire danger/litter accumulation (6)
Culturally important stands that do not displace increasingly rare vegetative communities that support rare, threatened, and endangered species or a higher native biodiversity than the Eucalyptus stand, or provide habitat for other RTE species	Increase soil productivity that changes the ability of the site to return to the previously intact native community
Appropriate Eucalyptus species may be okay in dense urban environment	Displace rare vegetative communities that support RTE species
Potential of enhancing vegetative canopy	Trees do not belong in all vegetative communities, including natives

Often a water saving alternative to traditional property landscaping that includes lawns	The potential for natural spread into surrounding areas which can influence local habitats, Invasiveness (4)
Provide some habitat	Areas need to be identified, acknowledged, and dealt with differently
Wildlife and recreation	Management costs
Though we need to emphasize focus on E. globulus on account of sheer volume/quantity, we need to acknowledge the existence of the approximately 100 other species which are not problems	Lack of expertise at the county to make decisions about exotics as they have been thought of as “evil” for many years
E. globulus can often provide at least some of the many documented benefits of most large-scale trees	“Public” attitudes appear to hate exotics, but maybe just the most vocal
Ramona appears to be thinking/talking very carefully - thoughtfully	New trees planted in wrong place that will shade and reduce use of adjacent property
Hazard assessment discussions would best be acknowledging TRAQ, TRACE, or such assessment protocols already established	The reasons for planting these trees no longer exist and the original stands have been abandoned
Too few CA and/or local native tree species to use in urban matrix, exotics often complimentary	Falling hazard of such a tall and massive tree in thin/poor soils
Need judicious species selection – Right tree	Maintenance and control of self-seeded trees
Listen to Igor!	