

Exhibit A

TREE REPLACEMENT POLICY

An Administrative Policy based on Chapter 31 of The Lompoc City Code
(Tree Ordinance)

INTRODUCTION

Trees are a significant and highly visual portion of Lompoc's Urban Forest, a vital infrastructure system essential to the quality of life for our citizens. The Department of Parks & Recreation, Parks & Urban Forestry Division is the steward of Lompoc's Urban Forest. Lompoc's Urban Forest has matured into a dynamic system with diverse assets and liabilities. Appropriate planning, planting, and maintenance of city trees provide the residents of our City many economic, social, environmental, ecological, and aesthetic benefits. Moreover, appropriate planning, planting, and maintenance of trees contribute to public health, welfare, and safety. Properly maintained trees provide social and psychological well-being and enhance property values, securing and encouraging public and private investment.

On June 15, 1971, the Lompoc City Council created the Lompoc Beautification & Appearance Commission and appointed five Commissioners to make policy recommendations to Council and staff concerning Lompoc's Urban Forest and, specifically, concerning tree selection, tree planting, and tree care. Tree planting was an initial recommendation by the Commission, and a Tree Planting Request Form was developed. Citizens may request a Tree Planting Request Form by calling the Division Office. Chapter 31, Article 2, Section 3112. B(2) Lompoc City Code specifically charges the Lompoc Beautification & Appearance Commission with encouraging the planting of trees.

PROCEDURES FOR TREE REPLACEMENT

Tree planting is recognized as an essential part of the City of Lompoc's Urban Forest infrastructure.

This infrastructure system is identified in the City's General Plan under Urban Design: Goal 4, Policy 4.6, which states, "The City shall encourage the development of the Urban Forest along streetscapes and in public places." The benefits derived from planting trees will be optimized by establishing urban forestry programs that ensure that the collective population of trees and their management adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Replacement of every city tree removed with appropriate species and site selection. Survival rates for new planting until maturity should meet or exceed 90%.

Tree Replacement Policy

Procedures for Tree Removal (continued)

2. Provision of mixed age tree population, adequate species diversity, and an appropriate mix of tree types (evergreen vs. deciduous) in order to provide a diverse forest ecosystem more able to adapt to changing environmental pressures such as disease and pest infestation. Diversity for species should not exceed 100% of any one species.
3. Provision of varied forms, textures, structure, flowering characteristics, and other aesthetic benefits to enhance the types of environments found in the City.
4. Contribution to and preservation of the integrity of the native forest, both within and adjacent to the public right-of-way.
5. Encouragement and support of community design and plantings of additional trees through a one-stop permitting process and provisions for both short-term and long-term maintenance.
6. Assurance of the survival of newly planted trees with scheduled maintenance by qualified staff.
7. Increase of the dedicated airspace and root volume available for street tree planting through review and revision of design standards, increased use of permeable materials, and other such measures to provide better accommodation of street trees and protect street hardscapes.
8. Increase of awareness of the benefits of trees through a city wide education effort.
9. Recycling of all green waste generated by the maintenance of city trees.
10. Support of full utilization of a computerized Tree Inventory Management System to achieve the goals of this policy.

THE PUBLIC TREES OF LOMPOC WILL BE PROPERLY MAINTAINED AND OUR URBAN FOREST ENHANCED THROUGH POLICIES AND PROGRAMS THAT:

1. Utilize consistent, approved, state-of-the-art standards for the planting, pruning, management, and removal of trees on public property.
2. Ensure that public agencies and private enterprises impacting city trees operate with common goals and objectives.
3. Protect and provide for the necessary care of existing city trees.
4. Develop a properly managed urban forest that will require less long-term maintenance. By providing optimum maintenance practices to young trees, the trees of our future urban forest will become more self-sustaining.