

**From:** [Patricia Schulz](#)  
**To:** [Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [Joice Corridori](#)  
**Subject:** Goal Setting Workshop  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 9:55:08 AM

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**To:** Agoura Hills City Council  
**From:** Hillrise Open Space Association

**Subject:** Request that City Council consider revising the Oak Tree Ordinance

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers,

We are following up on our request made to the Land Use/Economic Development Subcommittee during their September meeting. We asked that the City Council consider revising the Oak Tree Ordinance to differentiate between the regulations for residential property and those for commercial property or new development.

The regulations and pruning limitations in the ordinance are very restrictive. City fees and requirements, including mitigation requirements for removal of a tree, are expensive for homeowners. Reasonable changes could be made to the ordinance to accommodate homeowners, allowing flexibility for more pruning without requiring expensive fees.

The cost for a permit application is a minimum of approximately \$800 - \$1000. In addition to the base permit fee of \$371, the applicant must also pay for an arborist report that is required to be submitted with the permit application. Depending on the scope of work being applied for, if multiple trees are involved, or review by the planning commission is required, the permit fees and associated costs can reach \$3000 - \$4000 or more. These city costs are all in addition to the cost of doing the actual tree trimming or removal work.

With less restrictive regulations and requirements and if the city staff was granted authority to approve more extensive trimming, some of the city costs could be reduced or eliminated for residential property owners.

An additional factor we suggest addressing in the ordinance is fire defensive landscaping to protect our homes from wildfires to the extent possible.

On behalf of the Hillrise Open Space Association Board of Directors we request that the council consider reviewing the ordinance as one of the goals for the upcoming year. If a committee or task force is formed we respectfully ask to be included in the process.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Joice Corridori, President, Hillrise Open Space Association  
Pat Schulz, Landscape Committee Chair