

**Community Development Department
Planning Division
Standard Operation Procedure: #001-2013**

Date: January 7, 2013

Name: Topsoil and Tree Preservation

Effective Date: Immediately

Issuing Authority: Community Development Director

Purpose: To establish a policy for placement of topsoil in proximity to trees being preserved during lot improvements.

Policy(s): There is an inherent conflict in requiring topsoil application around trees being preserved during construction. Burying tree roots decreases available oxygen, which in turn can push trees into decline. Therefore, application of topsoil, as outlined in the Zoning Code, shall not be required within the dripline of trees. Tree save fencing must be installed prior to and maintained throughout the construction process. This will not only leave the area undisturbed but will also avoid compaction of soil with the dripline of trees. This policy is not intended to eliminate the application of topsoil as required by City Code but rather to minimize potential long-term damage to trees that are being preserved.

Procedure: City staff shall have the authority waive topsoil application adjacent to trees being preserved during construction under the following conditions:

- Tree save fencing must be installed prior to construction activity and maintained throughout the process so that the area within the dripline of trees remains undisturbed and the soil is not compacted.

Development Services Manager
Tim Gladhill