#### **ARTICLE XIII**

### TREE REGULATIONS (Amended Ord. 2018-20)

1300. <u>INTENT.</u> It is the intent of this section to encourage the protection, and replacement of trees during and after development within certain zoning classifications. Benefits derived from tree protection, and replacement include: improved control of soil erosion, moderation of storm water runoff, and minimization of the cost of construction and maintenance of drainage systems; improved water quality including carbon reduction; interception of airborne particulate matter and the reduction of air pollutants; reduction of noise, heat and glare; enhancement of habitat for desirable wildlife; climate moderation; maintenance of aesthetic qualities provided by the natural environment and its scenic view sheds; provision of protective physical and psychological barriers between pedestrians and vehicular traffic; energy and water conservation; and the enhancement of real estate property values. (Amended Or. 2018-20)

Due to the physical and developmental nature of the County, Article XIII, Tree Protection, is divided into two tree overlay districts, one being the more urban section known as the Waccamaw Neck and the western section of the County which is more rural. The regulations contained in this Article apply to all zoning districts within the two areas. The regulations in both overlays of the County are divided into three classifications: occupied single family residential requirements, unoccupied single family residential requirements and non single family requirements. Refer to Article III for definitions for these classifications and other tree related definitions.

## 1301. GENERAL TREE REGULATIONS, COUNTY-WIDE

- 1301.1 <u>Protected Trees in Georgetown County.</u> This Section applies to all of Georgetown County, except where specific regulations are established for the two overlay zones. The regulations found in the overlay zones are in addition to the regulations found in this section. Protected trees for the two overlays are listed in the overlay sections. Article III. Definitions, Section 392, Tree, must be reviewed to fully understand the Georgetown County tree protection requirements.
- 1301.2 <u>Tree permits.</u> Tree removal permits for protected trees shall be required for all properties and shall be obtained from the office of the Zoning Administrator. A tree permit is not required for limb and root pruning of protected trees. However, negligent pruning of trees shall be considered a violation of this ordinance. All pruning shall follow the latest version of the ANSI A300 standards.
- 1301.3 <u>Prohibited Activities.</u> In addition to the removal or damage of protected trees identified in this ordinance without a permit, the following activities are prohibited:
  - 1301.3.1 <u>Tree topping,</u> unless such activity is taken as a result of a natural disaster.
  - 1301.3.2 <u>Removal of Waterway Trees.</u> Protected trees, or any tree in excess of ten (10) inches DBH growing in waterways adjacent to residential or non-residential

property and beyond certified property lines may not be removed unless the Zoning Administrator or Planning Director determines that no other way exists to install a permitted dock or deck. Such determination will be made in conjunction with DHEC-OCRM (Ocean and Coastal Resource Management) and the US Army Corps of Engineers if the activity is within their jurisdiction.

- 1301.3.3 <u>Relocation and Removal of Legacy Trees.</u> Legacy trees shall not be removed or disturbed, except that Legacy trees with a minimum diameter under eight inches may be relocated with the approval of the sponsoring individual or organization. If a legacy tree is planted in a County park, the County reserves the right to remove or relocate such tree on County property.
- 1301.3.4 <u>Removal of Grand Tree.</u> A Grand tree located in the Rural Area, except on occupied residential lots, shall not be removed or damaged without a permit from the Zoning Administrator or Planning Director unless the conditions of Section 1302.2 or 1303.4.1 are met or a variance is granted by the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- 1301.3.5 <u>Removal of Trees in Wetlands.</u> No protected tree in a wetland that requires a permit from the State of Army Corps of Engineers shall be removed except where needed to provide an access road, install a dock or deck, or install utilities. Where possible, needed utilities shall follow an access crossing to reduce the footprint in the wetlands.
- 1301.3.6 <u>Tree Protection Areas.</u> Construction activities in the tree protection area such as parking, material storage, concrete washout and burning shall not be undertaken.
- 1301.4 Permits and Process. When an application for a building permit, development permit or tree removal is submitted to the County, a tree plan shall be submitted to the Zoning Administrator. If a site is very small and easily accessible, in lieu of a written tree plan the Planning Director or his or her designee may elect to visit the site to view the marked trees on the ground and determine their eligibility to be removed. No building development or tree removal permit shall be issued until the tree plan has been reviewed by the Zoning Administrator or Planning Director who shall approve, approve conditionally or disapprove the plan. If the plan is disapproved or approved conditionally, the reasons for such action shall be stated in writing and signed by the Zoning Administrator or Planning Direction. The Zoning Department shall retain a copy of the justification for these actions, and a copy shall be given to the applicant. There is no fee for a tree removal permit.
- 1301.5 <u>Landscaping and Buffering Requirements.</u> Nothing is this Article shall negate compliance with Section 1103.4 (landscaping of parking lots and Article XII (Buffer Requirements) of this Ordinance.

- 1301.6 <u>Tree Plan Requirements.</u> A tree plan, if required by the County, shall include the following elements:
  - 1301.6.1 Location, DBH, species and total all protected and Grand trees on site. Non-protected trees, such as pines, should not be shown on the plan.
  - 1301.6.2 Designation of tree protection areas with identification of trees to be retained, and areas of tree replacement; notation of specifications for protection of trees to be retained during development; methods of tree protection for all tree protections areas, including tree fencing, erosion control, tree wells, retaining walls, terraces, tunneling for utilities, aeration systems, transplanting and staking.
  - 1301.6.3 Indication of any protected trees to be removed by placing an obvious X within a circle over the tree to be removed.
  - 1301.6.4 Limits of clearing and land disturbance such as grading, trenching, material storage, etc.
  - 1301.6.5 Proposed location of all underground utilities should be indicated. If an irrigation system is utilized, the location of the lines and heads must be shown.
  - 1301.6.6 Storm water swales and ponds.
  - 1301.6.7 The name, address and telephone number of the applicant.
- 1301.7 Platting of Subdivisions. Developers shall design a project so that buildable areas exist on lots to minimize the need for future homebuilders to remove Grand Trees to achieve reasonable use of a lot. The location of trees should be established before conceptual parcel lines are created so that parcels can be established around protected trees. The Planning Commission shall examine major subdivisions to assure compliance with this provision as well as ensure the minimization of the removal of other protected trees on the tract. Planning Department staff shall review minor subdivisions to assure compliance with this provision. It is not the intent of this Section to indicate that only Grand trees are protected in new subdivisions. County staff or the Planning Commission shall work to save as many protected trees as possible. The removal of Grand trees for the installation of infrastructure in a new subdivision shall not be permitted without a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- 1301.8 <u>Mass Grading of Property.</u> If fill material is applied to a site that covers the majority of the site, except the building pads and street system, protected trees must be preserved by use of tree wells that will prevent the added fill from eventually killing the tree. See Appendix A for an example of a tree well. Planning staff must approve the tree well design. A developer of his or her engineer may present an alternate means of saving the tree from the negative impacts of fill material. Such alternate must be approved by planning staff. In the event the site is excavated and the elevations decreased, tree protection measure such as terracing and retaining walls must be utilized.

1301.9 Mitigation Policy. Any protected tree removed without a permit authorization or that cannot be issued an after-the-fact permit or whose removal would have been denied by staff, must be replaced with three (3) trees each of three (3") inch caliper, and of a species categorized as Protected. If the Zoning Administrator determines that an act of clear-cutting of protected trees has occurred on site prior to issuance of a development permit, the property owner shall be required to replace the trees with protected tree species, at a rate of one(1) three (3) inch caliper tree per on thousand (1,000) square feet of open space, excluding the approved building area, any pre-existing open water features and storm water retention/detention areas. If a developer significantly add more trees than mitigations requires, the Planning Director may reduce or eliminate any fine associated with the relevant tree removal or damage activity. If any property is sold, subsequent to the act of clear-cutting by the previous owner, the new owner shall assume responsibility for mitigation and it will be his responsibility, if he so chooses, to seek redress and recover cost from the previous owner under whom the act occurred.

1301.10 <u>Maintenance of Trees.</u> Following development, the property owner shall be responsible for maintaining the trees that were saved and/or planted. (See ANSI 300 standards for additional information on remedial tree care.) If any of the trees become diseased or damaged, the property owner shall be responsible for replacing the trees immediately after their removal. The Zoning Administrator or a designee may inspect replacement trees after one year of installation and as needed to ensure the health of the trees. Additional replacement trees will be required if trees are deemed unhealthy at the time of inspection.

1301.10.1 As the trees within a development grow and mature, the Zoning Administrator or his or her designee may authorize removal of certain trees, which lack vigor or are diseased, in order to maintain the appearance and health of the remaining trees. If site conditions are conducive to replacing the removed trees, the Zoning Administrator or his or her designee may require tree replacement.

1301.11 <u>Tree Protection Requirements For Unoccupied Single-Family Lots and Non Single Family Lots.</u> The following section applies to protected trees as specified in the two overlay zones on both unoccupied single family and non-single family parcels.

1301.11.1 Protected trees or stands of trees designated to be saved shall be protected from the following damages, which may occur during all phases of land disturbance and construction processes:

1301.11.1.1 direct physical root damage,

1301.11.1.2 indirect root damage, and

1301.11.1.3 trunk and crown disturbances.

- 1301.11.2 <u>Protective Barriers.</u> Prior to any land disturbance, suitable protective barriers shall be erected and maintained around all protected trees to be retained during development, so as to prevent damage. The Zoning Administrator or his or her designee shall be consulted regarding the specific type(s) of barrier(s) to be utilized and shall periodically visit the site during the construction stage to ensure compliance with all provisions of this Ordinance.
  - 1301.11.2.1 Active protective tree fencing shall be installed during construction along the outer edge of and completely surrounding the protected area to include the area underneath the dripline of the canopy.
  - 1301.11.2.2 These fences shall be a minimum of 4 feet high, constructed in a post and rail configuration. A four-foot orange polyethylene laminar safety fence is also acceptable.
  - 1301.11.2.3 Passive forms of tree protection may be utilized in any area not subject to land disturbance.
  - 1301.11.2.4 These areas shall be completely surrounded with continuous rope or flagging (heavy mill, minimum 4" wide.
  - 1301.11.2.5 There shall be no grading or paving with any impervious material within five (5) feet of the trunk of any retained tree (additional area may be specified by the Zoning Administrator if necessary to prevent injury to Protected trees). The required five (5) foot setback may be reduced by the Zoning Administrator, or his or her designee for pedestrian or biking trails.
  - 1301.11.2.6 All trees to be protected shall be protected from the sedimentation of erosion material.
  - 1301.11.2.7 Silt screening shall be placed along the outer edge of tree protective zones at the land disturbance interface. The screening shall be backed by 12-gauge 2 inch x 4 inch wire mesh fencing in areas of steep slope.
  - 1301.11.2.8 All tree fencing and erosion control barriers shall be installed prior to and maintained throughout the land disturbance process and building construction.
- 1301.11.3 <u>Encroachment Within Root Zone.</u> If encroachment is anticipated within the critical root zones of protected trees, the following preventive measures shall be employed, as required by the Zoning Administrator.
  - 1301.11.3.1 <u>Clearing activities:</u> The removal of trees adjacent to tree protection areas can cause inadvertent damage to the roots of protected

trees. Whenever possible, a minimum three (3') foot deep trench shall be cut along the limits of land disturbance, rather than tear the roots.

- 1301.11.3.2 <u>Soil compaction</u>: Where compaction might occur due to traffic or materials storage, the tree protection area shall first be mulched with a minimum 4 inch layer of processed pine bark or wood chips, or a 6 inch layer of pine straw.
- 1301.11.4 <u>Utility installation</u>: The installation of utilities through a tree protection area shall occur in a manner least detrimental to the existing protected trees. If roots must be cut proper root pruning procedures shall be employed as required in ANSI A300 standards.
- 1301.11.5 <u>Grade Changes:</u> Protection from the potential damaging effects of grade changes shall be addressed. A decrease in grade shall be accompanied with the use of retaining walls or through terracing. An increase in grade shall be accommodated by use of tree wells or equivalent tree protection measures.
- 1301.11.6 <u>Irreparable damage</u>: Where the Zoning Administrator has determined that irreparable damage has occurred to trees within a tree protection area, removal or replacement of the trees shall be required. In addition, penalties as outlined in Section 1305 may be imposed.
- 1301.12 <u>Tree Replacement</u>. Tree replacement, including a written plan, is required for non-single family uses including commercial, industrial, non-profit, public and multifamily. Single family lots whether occupied or unoccupied do not require tree replacement unless otherwise addressed in this Article. Protected trees removed without a permit will require compliance with Section 1301.9, Mitigation Policy

# 1301.12.1 Tree Replacement Calculations.

- 1301.12.1.1 If the existing, undeveloped site contains less than 1 tree per 1,000 SF of land, then the post development tree to open space ratio shall be equal to the pre-development tree to lot area ratio. If the existing, undeveloped site contains 1 tree per 1,000 SF of land or greater, then the post development tree to open space ratio shall be equal to 1 tree per 1,000 SF of open space.
- 1301.12.1.2 If one or more Grand trees are removed from a site, then the post development tree to open space ratio must be two times the predevelopment tree to lot area ratio not to exceed 1 tree per 1,000 SF of open space.
- 1301.12.1.3 In no case shall tree replacement be required to exceed the 1 tree per 1,000 SF of open space ratio.

- 1301.12.1.4 For purposes of this ordinance, open space shall be defined as the total lot area minus any wetlands, Stormwater detention area, parking areas and building pads.
- 1301.12.1.5 The plan shall take into consideration the general landscape characteristics of the site, defined by the density of plant material in the immediate and surrounding areas, and any distinctive grouping of trees or other landscaping features. It shall contain a strategy for retaining those characteristics.
- 1301.12.2 <u>Planting Requirements.</u> The applicant, while planting trees, shall consider the following:
  - 1301.12.2.1 The spacing of replacement trees shall take into consideration the eventual size at maturity of selected species.
  - 1301.12.2.2 Species selected for replacement shall be quality specimens 50% of which must be selected from the protected tree list found in the Rural Overlay Zone regardless of which overlay the subject property is located. The remaining 50% of replacement trees must be of a species approved by the Zoning Administrator, Planning Director or their designee.
  - 1301.12.2.3 All replacement trees shall be at least three inches caliper in size.
  - 1301.12.2.4 Protected tree and stands of trees shall be replaced by species with potential for comparable size and growth.
  - 1301.12.2.5 Species replacement shall be subject to the approval of the Zoning Administrator, Planning Director or their designee.
- 1301.13 <u>Subdivisions.</u> Tree removal permits for future individual parcels in minor or major subdivisions will not be issued at the beginning stage of a subdivision. TREE REMOVAL PERMITS MUST BE APPLIED FOR WHEN A BUILDING PERMIT IS SOUGHT FOR A PARTICULAR PARCEL, NOT AT THE BEGINNING STAGE OF A RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION.
- 1301.14 <u>Industrial Property.</u> Industrially zoned or utilized properties shall not remove or harm any Grand tree without a tree removal permit form Georgetown County. Staff may issue a tree removal permit if the subject tree meets the factors outlined in Section 1302.2 of this Article or the footprint of the plant, street, storage, utility infrastructure or parking areas cannot be feasibly or safely constructed without the tree removal as determined by the Planning Director. Protected trees on industrially utilized property are exempt from this Article. Trees that serve as part of required buffers on industrial properties are not exempt.

1301.15 Frontage. For all parcels referenced which contain 100 feet of frontage or more on Highway 17 Bypass, Highway 17 Business, Highway 701, Highway 707 or Highway 521; where replacement trees are required at least one of the required replacement trees must be planted for every 100 feet of highway frontage within twenty (2) feet of the front property line. Existing protected trees within twenty (20) feet of the front property line may count toward this requirement. Replacement trees shall not be planted as to eventually interfere with overhead utility lines. Parcels that contain overhead utilities along the front may locate the required replacement trees further back than twenty (20) feet if necessary in order to provide safe clearance from utility lines.

1302. **RURAL AREA TREE OVERLAY REGULATIONS.** The rural area is defined as all of Georgetown County not located on the Waccamaw Neck which is between the Horry County boundary, the Waccamaw River and the ocean. The following trees are protected in the rural overlay zone.

Live Oaks, Laurel Oaks	10"
All hickories, except Pecan and Pignut	10"
Red Maple	10"
Bald Cypress	8"
Pond Cypress	8"
American Beech	10"
Southern Magnolia	10"
Yellow Popular	10"
American Elm	10"
River Birch	10"

1302.1 Occupied Single Family Residential Requirements. All occupied single family parcels as defined in Article III of this ordinance are exempt from both tree protection and tree replacement provisions found in this Article.

1302.2 <u>Unoccupied Single Family Residential and Non-Single Family Requirements.</u> Such lots or developments shall meet the general tree protection provisions found I Section 1301 of this ordinance. This section does not apply to residential tracts of land proposed for subdivision and prior to the installation of infrastructure. See Section 1301.7 Platting of Subdivisions for these requirements. See Section 1301.16 for regulations specific to industrial uses. No protected tree (including Grand trees) shall be removed unless the Zoning Administrator, Planning Director or a designee determines by issuance of a permit that:

1302.2.1 The tree is dead or diseased.

1302.2.2 The tree is in such an advanced stage of decay it threatens life and/or property.

- 1302.2.3 The trunk of the tree is leaning over or towards a structure such that it threatens the structure if it fell.
- 1302.2.4 The trunk of the subject tree is within eight (8) feet of a habitable or accessory structure.
- 1302.2.5 The tree clearly blocks visibility from a vehicle leaving the premises.
- 1302.2.6 The development of agricultural fields, pastures or animal enclosures for farming.
- 1302.2.7 The protected tree is in the footprint of the planned habitable building pad. The County cannot require the planned habitable building to be decreased in size but can require the building pad to be shifted. This same provision applies to farming structures.
- 1302.2.8 The protected tree is in the only feasible and safe location for a needed driveway.
- 1302.2.9 The Zoning Administrator, Planning Director or a designee may identify other justifications warranting tree removal.
- 1302.2.10 The following are not reasons to approve the cutting of the trees referenced in this section:
  - 1302.2.10.1 The tree is dropping leaves or debris that has to be removed.
  - 1302.2.10.2 A swimming pool will be too close to such tree. This swimming pool provision relates to Grand trees, not protected trees.
  - 1302.2.10.3 A tree is too close to a driveway.
  - 1302.2.10.4 The Zoning Administrator, Planning Director or a designee shall determine if other reasons warrant tree removal.
- 1302.3 Prohibited Activites. See Section 1301.3 of this Article.

#### 1303. URBAN AREA (WACCAMAW NECK) TREE OVERLAY REGULATIONS.

- 1303.1 <u>Protected Trees.</u> All trees of at least ten (10) inches DBH, except for Palmetto, Bradford Pear, Pecan Trees, Pine Trees, Crepe Myrtles and Wax Myrtles are protected in this overlay.
- 1303.2 Occupied Single Family Residential Requirements. All occupied single family parcels as defined in Article III of this ordinance are exempt from both tree protection

and tree replacement found in Section 1301 of this Article, except that no personal shall cut or cause to be cut a Grand Tree without an approved tree removal permit from the County issued based on the standards found in Section 1303.4.1. Additionally, Section 1301.3.2, Removal of Waterway Trees, shall be enforced.

- 1303.3 <u>Unoccupied Single Family Residential Requirements.</u> Protected trees as identified in Section 1303.1 shall not be removed without approval from the Zoning Administrator. The provisions found in Sections 1301 and 1302.2 of this ordinance shall apply. Removal of protected trees is not permitted until a building permit is issued for the site.
- 1303.4 <u>Non-Single Family Requirements</u>. The following sections apply to non-single family parcels only. The term non-single family includes commercial uses as well as churches, public facilities and multi-family developments. This section does not apply to residential tracts of land proposed for subdivision and prior to the installation of infrastructure. See Section 1301.7 Platting of Subdivisions for these requirements. See Section 1301.16 for regulations specific to industrial uses.
  - 1303.4.1 <u>Protected Trees.</u> Within the entire property, no protected, Legacy, replacement or Grand tree shall be removed or cut unless the Zoning Administrator or Planning Director determines in writing by issuance of a permit that:
    - 1303.4.1.1 The tree is hazardous, diseased or infectious.
    - 1303.4.1.2 The removal of the tree is necessary to maintain the appearance, health or vigor or the remaining trees.
    - 1303.4.1.3 No practical alternatives for the reasonable use of the property exist.
    - 1303.4.1.4 The trunk is leaning over a principal structure or its roots are causing damage to the structure's foundation.
    - 1303.4.1.5 In making a determination regarding reasonable use, the Zoning Administrator or Planning Director shall not require that any proposed building be reduced in size.
      - 1303.4.1.6 The Zoning Administrator, Planning Director or a designee may identify other justifications warranting tree removal.
- 1303.5 Prohibited Activities. See Section 1301.3 of this Article.
- 1303.6 Tree Replacement. See Section 1301.14 of this Article.
- 1304. **EXCEPTIONS TO ARTICLE XIII.** Exceptions to this Article are listed below.

- 1304.1 <u>Unhealthy Trees.</u> If any protected trees, including Grand Trees, are determined by the Zoning Administrator to be diseased, injured or located in a manner that endangers the public health, safety or welfare, the Zoning Administrator or Planning Director may authorize immediate removal. If a party requests the removal of a protected tree and claims it is diseased or unhealthy and the Zoning Administrator or Planning Director disagrees, the applicant may elect to solicit guidance from a tree professional. The applicant must pay any cost charged by the tree professional to provide the County with needed information.
- 1304.2 <u>Natural Disaster</u>. Immediately after the event of a natural disaster such as a tornado, hurricane, storm, flood or ice storm which results in catastrophic loss or damage to trees, lost or damaged trees may be removed without a permit. County Council shall determine catastrophic loss or damage. Any tree lost that was part of a required tree replacement, landscaping or buffer plan shall be replaced on a 1:1 basis with a tree of at last 2" diameter.
- 1304.3 <u>Utilities</u>. The ability of public utilities and electric suppliers to maintain safe clearances around existing utility lines shall not be affected by this ordinance. Tree cutting not associated with the safety or proper operation of the utility falls under the provision of this ordinance. Trees may be removed from existing ditches or Stormwater infrastructure if they are impeding adequate operation of the system. Trees located along drainage swales may not be removed unless an engineer provides clear evidence that the Stormwater system is measurable impacted by the tree. If the subject tree and swale are located in a County easement or are a part of a County approved Stormwater system, this determination shall be made by the County Public Works Director who shall consult the Planning Director. This section exempting public utilities from the provisions regarding removal of trees shall not include private parties installing utilities in public rights-of-way or easements. Such private installations of utilities shall comply with this ordinance. As used herein, "private parties" shall not include any public electric, water, sewer or gas utility, supplier or the employees, agents or assigns thereof. (*Amended Ord 2019-26*)
- 1304.4 <u>Golf Courses</u>. The removal or pruning of protected trees for the development and maintenance of golf courses excluding sites for clubhouses, shed and other amenities shall not be affected by this ordinance.
- 1304.5 <u>Rights-of-way</u>, easements and <u>public utilities</u>. Public road rights-of-way except those relating to subdivisions referred to in Section 1301.7, easements for utilities and drainage, wells, lift stations and water storage tanks shall be exempt from this ordinance. However, the installation by a private party of utilities in a right-of-way or easement as stated in section 1304.3 of this ordinance is not exempt from this ordinance. As used herein, "private parties" shall not include any public electric, water, sewer or gas utility, supplier or the employees, agents or assigns thereof. (*Amended Ord. 2019-26*)
- 1304.6 <u>Farming</u>. All farming operations including tree farms for pulpwood, lumber, horticultural use and other tree products. This exception does not apply if the owner of a

tract rezones the property to allow for farming activities and then converts said tract for residential, commercial or industrial development within a five year time period measured from the date of the rezoning. In this case, the property owner will be required to replant trees on the site based on the mitigation policy provided in Section 1301.9 of this ordinance.

- 1304.7 <u>Commercial Timbering Operations.</u> Legitimate commercial timber harvesting operations exempt from the provisions of this ordinance.
- 1304.8 <u>Shooting ranges</u>. Trees located on County-permitted or grandfathered commercial outdoor shooting ranges that are located between the shooting stations and the targets are exempt from this ordinance.
- 1305. **ENFORCEMENT AND REMEDIES.** Any person or entity who violates any provision of this Article shall have committed a misdemeanor. The Zoning Administrator or the Planning Director shall institute appropriate legal action.
  - 1305.1 <u>Fines.</u> Tree Removal or topping in a manner not consistent with this ordinance or any standards referred to in this ordinance \$500 per violation for each tree. In the event a violator refuses to pay a fine, a summons will be issued to appear before the Magistrate for prosecution.
  - 1305.2 General Penalty. In addition to the above fines, violators shall be subject to all of the provisions established in Section 1-6. General Penalty; continuing violations, of the County Code of Ordinance, except that the misdemeanor violation fee amount shall be as stated in Section 1305.1 dealing with fines. Issuance of a fine or penalty does not relieve any party of complying with the mitigation requirements set forth in this Article. All monies collected as a result of the enforcement of this Article will be placed in the Tree Fund and used by the County for the purpose of planting trees and installing landscaping in public areas.
  - 1305.3 <u>Withholding Approvals</u>. The removal of any protected tree in violation of this Article shall constitute grounds for withholding new building permits or certificates of occupancy directly related to said tree removal until the violation has been corrected, including the payment of all fines and the planting of all trees required as mitigation. In the event replacement trees cannot be planted immediately dues to the season, the County may accept a financial guarantee in the amount of the installed costs plus twenty five (25) percent.
  - 1305.4 <u>Stop Work Orders.</u> If a project is underway when a tree ordinance violation occurs, the Zoning Administrator or the Planning Director may elect to issue a stop work order either for the phase of the project or the entire project.
  - 1305.5. <u>Appeals.</u> In the event an affected party disagrees with the Zoning Administrator or Planning Director on the interpretation of any provision in this Article, or seeks a

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variance to the requirements of the Article an appeal may be submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals.