

## TREE REMOVAL IN ALTA SIERRA

The Architectural Committee has been receiving numerous calls regarding the removal of trees in Alta Sierra. What are the guidelines, how long does it take for approval, who can I call to determine if my tree(s) are diseased, can I remove a tree that is damaging my home/driveway/foundation/walls or is/are leaning over my home or a neighbor's home/what about fire safety issues? The answers are fairly easy.

### TREES THAT QUALIFY FOR REMOVAL

1. Trees which are diseased or dead.
2. Roots encroaching and/or damaging foundations, decks, driveways, retaining walls etc.
3. Trees close enough to the structure with limbs overhanging the structure.
4. Insurance company notification to remove trees, often ones 12 feet or closer to the structure.
5. Closer together than the CDF/CALFIRE guidelines of 20 feet apart at the base or that require clearing/thinning based on a CDF/CALFIRE inspection.

### CONDITIONS THAT DON'T QUALIFY FOR TREE REMOVAL

1. To obtain a better view.
2. To "thin out trees" (unless CDF/CALFIRE guidelines apply).

### HOW DO I REQUEST AN APPROVAL?

Fill out the application "**Application for Approval of Construction Activity, Fencing and Tree Removal in the Alta Sierra Community**". The application is available at the Paul Law GMAC Realty office located at Highway 49 and Alta Sierra Drive, or online at [www.aspoa.org](http://www.aspoa.org). On the ASPOA home page click on "Standards" (last choice on top line). On the Standards page scroll down and click on "Application for Construction & Fencing pdf", which will bring up the application. Print the application and fill it out. Several items are important to attach to the application:

1. A plot plan of your lot and the location of your home on the lot and the location of the trees you wish to remove.
2. If you are asking to remove a diseased tree or trees, attach a letter from an arborist stating the tree is diseased and should be removed.
3. If tree removal or thinning is required by CDF/CALFIRE include a copy of their report for required work.

The completed application should be returned to the Paul Law office for committee consideration.

The committee meets every Tuesday at 10:30 AM at the Paul Law office and will consider the application at the meeting. Generally the application is approved within just a few days and you will be notified of approval. A committee member may visit the site to locate the involved trees. Please also remember that you can't cut down trees on your neighbor's property. Verify your lot lines before cutting. Many licensed tree trimming/tree cutting companies have an arborist on staff that can assist you in determining the health of your trees.

Paul Kranz, ARC Committee

07-03-07