

# Environmentally Sensitive Vegetation Management

## DOs

- Assess each site for characteristics of creekside or sensitive parcel.
- Review the creek protection guidelines set forth in the Creek Protection Ordinance.
- Leave a 20-foot creek buffer from the top of the creek bank. If the top of bank cannot be identified, leave a 50-foot buffer from the centerline of the creek.
- Leave “islands” of vegetation in order to prevent erosion and landslides and protect nesting habitat.
- Leave at least 6 inches of vegetation on the site.
- Trim tree branches from the ground up (limbing up) and leave tree canopy intact.
- Leave stumps and roots from cut down trees to prevent erosion.
- Plant fire-appropriate, drought-tolerant, preferably native vegetation.
- Err on the side of caution. If you don't know if a plant, tree or area is sensitive, ask for a second opinion before you cut.
- Provide erosion and sediment control protection if cutting vegetation on a steep slope.
- Leave tall shrubbery at least 3-feet high.
- Fence off sensitive plant habitats and creek areas to protect from goat grazing.
- Obtain a tree protection permit for a protected tree (includes all mature trees except eucalyptus and Monterey pine).
- Contact the City Tree Department (615-5850) for dead trees.

## DON'Ts

- Do not clear-cut vegetation. This can lead to erosion and severe water quality problems and destroy important habitat.
- Do not remove vegetation within 20-feet of the top of bank. NOTE: If the top of bank cannot be identified, do not cut within 50-feet of the centerline of the creek.
- Do not trim/prune branches that are larger than 4 inches in diameter.
- Do not remove tree canopy.
- Do not dump cut vegetation in a creek.
- Do not cut tall shrubbery to less than 3-feet high.
- Do not cut short vegetation (grasses, ground-cover) to less than 6-inches high.