

POLICY TITLE FOREST MANAGEMENT OF WATER DEPARTMENT
WATERSHED LANDS

POLICY STATEMENT:

Timber Harvests

Commercial Timber harvesting shall be allowed where it is consistent with the primary goals of maintaining forest health and drinking water source protection. Revenue generated from commercial harvest will be directed into dedicated accounts to be utilized for the purposes of furthering forest health, ecosystem resilience to fire and climate change, drinking water source protection, or other related Water Department ecosystem management goals. All commercial timber harvest plans shall be reviewed by the Water Commission and City Council prior to implementation.

Preservation of Old Growth Trees

The City Council of the City of Santa Cruz hereby declares it to be its policy that old growth and residual trees on City-owned lands are to be preserved unless safety factors or critical infrastructure needs dictate their removal, or if the Council makes a specific exception.

For the purposes of this policy, the following definitions will apply:

“Old Growth Tree” means a tree that is greater than 300 years old and has one or more of the following characteristics:

- Outline of the live crown is irregular
- Broken-off or spike top is present
- Epicormic branching or reiterations are present
- Large horizontal branches (>8") are present in the upper half of the tree
- Cavities (goosepens), broken limbs or other "defect" present
- Burn scars are visible on the trunk

“Residual” tree means a tree that was alive during the initial harvesting of the old growth forest but was small and not harvested during those harvests.

AUTHORIZATION: Approved by Resolution No. NS-30,456. Previous policy entitled Timber Harvests in Watershed Area and Preservation of Old Growth Trees repealed.