

UFC Questions on Draft Tree Protection Ordinance

In (rough) priority order:

1. Regarding the reclassification to exempt tree decisions from SEPA appeal, please explain the rationale behind this and how this change came about.
2. Please explain where funds from the payment-in-lieu program will go? To SDCI in general or to a specific tree planting and maintenance fund? This is not clear in the ordinance language.
 - a. Also, where do the funds generated from penalties go? Are these put into a special fund for tree planting, protection, and care?
3. 12" v. 6": Please explain the rationale for using a 12" DSH threshold for tree replacement requirements, site planning, and non-development tree removal rather than the 6" DSH that UFC recommended.
4. Tree replacement requirements:
 - a. Should be required for all trees $\geq 6"$
 - b. Should be more than a 1:1 requirement depending on the tree size
 - c. Should be required for removal of hazard trees as well
 - d. Protection of replacement trees for a period of time is not included; strongly recommend including this.
5. Please explain further the rationale for not including the permit requirement for tree removal on private property and instead making compliance voluntary (unless caught)?
6. Please explain further the rationale for not reducing the number of significant trees that can be removed under non-development purposes. Specifically, we have these questions:
 - Why allow 3 trees per year?
 - Under what scenarios do homeowners generally need to remove so many trees each year?
 - Why would the removal of 3 trees per year be the standard?
7. Why is there no requirement for public posting of tree removal on-site and online for 2-weeks prior to tree removal?