



Native birds and active nests are protected from harm or harassment by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. California Department of Fish & Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will issue citations and levy fines to individuals and companies that blatantly disregard the regulations.

Parrots are considered “non-native” in California, even though they have been recorded in this area since the 1950’s. They do not enjoy the protections of a native bird; however, they are still protected from inhumane acts, which does include nest disturbance and poaching.

Tree Trimming

- Did you know tree trimming in spring and early summer is irresponsible and possibly illegal? This can damage trees and devastate nesting birds.
- Cutting, trimming and pruning during spring and early summer can lead to diseased trees and intrusion of pests that harm trees. Fall is the best time to trim branches when trees are dormant!
- Hawk nests are large and visible, but the majority of songbird nests are small and camouflaged. Tree trimmers may not see nests until too late. Also, loud activity of tree trimming can disturb birds in surrounding trees.

Actions to help trees & birds:

- Trim and prune during the fall and winter when trees are dormant.
- Hire arborists, landscapers and tree trimmers who are concerned with the health of your trees and the birds that nest in them.
- Avoid hiring/contracting services that only trim trees (they have to work year-around).
- **If you see tree trimmers disturbing an active nest, TAKE A PICTURE of the nest, the destruction, and the company's name. Ask them to stop and make them aware it is against the law.** Be prepared to provide the exact location of the activity. Specifically note the address and cross streets, as well as a vehicle license plate number.
- **Report violations to the Law Enforcement Office of U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service at (310) 328-1516 (Office of Investigations and Compliance Inspection), California Department of Fish and Wildlife at (888) 334-2258.** To report nest disturbance or inappropriate trimming in the coastal zone: California Coastal Commission Enforcement Officer: (562) 590-5223
- **To report nest disturbance for parrots**, contact the San Diego Humane Society. Their Humane Law Enforcement team is best equipped to address animal-related issues.

(Information on this page based on recommendations from Sea & Sage Audubon, Cavity Conservation Initiative and SoCal Wildlife/SoCal Parrot)



Suggested Course of Action for Ocean Beach Town Council and citizens to approach San Diego City Council in two ways on two subjects; A) a new tree trimming policy, and B) a parrot protection ordinance in the City of San Diego.

1. Approach SD City Council Representative

OB is in SD City Council District 2, Lorie Zapf
loriezapf@sandiego.gov

2. Approach the Environment Committee

Members: Jennifer Campbell (Chair), Vivian Moreno (Vice Chair), Barbara Bry, and Scott Sherman
When: One to two Thursdays per month at 1P
Where: City Council Committee Room, 12th Floor, City Administration Building
Contact: Liezl Gloria
Environment Committee Consultant
619-236-7025
LGloria@sandiego.gov

Subject A: Tree Trimming Policy

Consistent with the policies set forth by The Tree Care for Birds and Other Wildlife Project's Best Management Practices in California document dated July 18, 2017. (Available at www.treecareforbirds.com and www.cavityconservation.com)

Subject B: Parrot Protection Ordinance

Based on a similar ordinance in Harlingen, Texas;

Prohibiting capture, kill or injury of parrots, their nestlings, unhatched eggs, roosting trees or nesting sites within the corporate city limits of Harlingen.

(Code 1997, § 90.03; Ord. No. 11-55, § 1, 11-21-2011)