

<b>Task # 18</b>
<b>Overall Task Subject:</b> Partial Exemption for Forestry Operations
<b>Purpose of this part of task:</b> Provide partial exemption for forestry operations from the Tree Protection Ordinance. This revision was requested by representatives of the Forestry Commission and Timbering Industry after several meetings with Planning Staff.

**Text Recognition:**  
~~deleted text~~ = deleted text  
***Substituted/added text is bold italics***

**ARTICLE 9.4 TREE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION**

**9.4.1 GENERAL**

**B. Applicability and Exemptions**

**1. Applicability**

The provisions of this Article in their entirety shall apply to all real property in unincorporated Charleston County, except as otherwise expressly exempted.

**2. Exemptions**

- a. Single family detached residential lots of record shall be exempt from all provisions in this Article except for the Grand Tree documentation, protection and replacement provisions. This exemption does not include applications for Major or Minor Subdivisions for which landscape buffers may be required per Section 9.5.4.
- b. The Planning Director shall be authorized to modify or reduce the standards of this Article for commercial nursery operations.
- c. This Article shall not restrict public utilities and electric suppliers from maintaining safe clearance around existing utility lines, and existing easements in accordance with applicable state laws. Siting and construction of future gas, telephone, communications, electrical lines or other easements shall not be exempt from the provisions of this Article.
- d. ~~Commercial timber operations shall be exempt from the provisions of this Article except for the Grand Tree documentation, protection and replacement provisions. Buffer requirements per Section 9.5.3 shall apply.~~

***Removal of trees for the purpose of conducting “bona fide forestry operations” shall be exempt from the provisions of this Article except for removal of Live Oak species of Grand trees.***

- e. Removal of trees for the purpose of establishing bona fide agricultural uses,

as specified in Section 3.8.2A of this Ordinance, shall be exempt from the provisions of this Article except for the Grand Tree documentation, protection and replacement provisions.

- f. Removal of trees for the purposes of maintaining safe clearance for aircraft as required by federal law or the establishment of facilities exclusively dedicated to aviation operations are exempt from this Article.
- g. Removal of trees on properties in the Industrial Zoning District is permitted pursuant to the following conditions:
  - i. Tree removal cannot occur prior to site plan approval;
  - ii. This exemption shall not apply to Live Oak species of Grand Trees or any protected trees within required buffers and parking lots; and
  - iii. Mitigation of removed trees, as stated in this Section, is required. Staff shall approve the mitigation of such trees in accordance with Section 9.4.6 of this Ordinance.