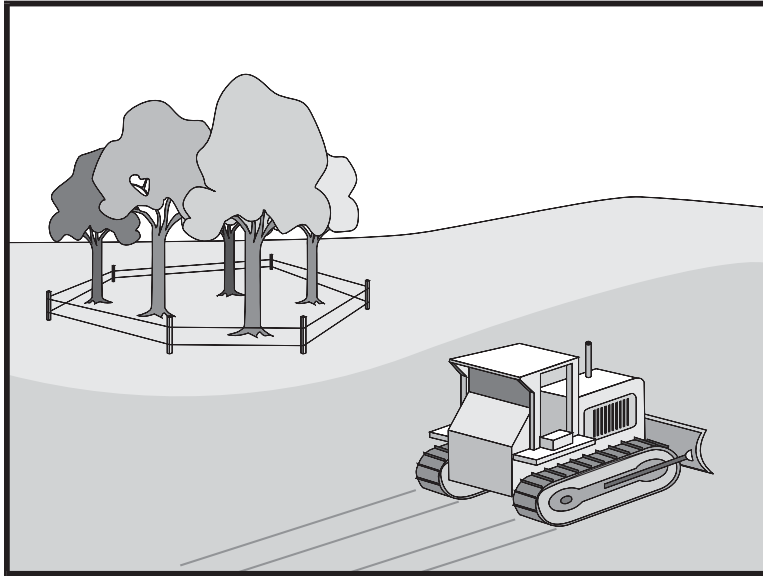

Preservation of Existing Vegetation

SM-16



Source: Caltrans Construction Site Best Management Practices Manual, 2003.

Description

Identification of existing vegetation to remain provides erosion and sediment control on a site with future land disturbing activities.

Applications

Preservation of existing vegetation practices apply to the following:

- Areas on-site where no construction activity occurs or will occur at a later date.
- Areas where the existing vegetation should be preserved such as steep slopes, watercourses, and building sites in wooded areas.
- Natural resources or environmental protection areas requiring preservation by local, state, and federal governments such as wetlands and marshes.

Installation and Implementation Requirements

- Incorporate existing vegetation into landscaping plans when possible. Proper care of this vegetation before and after construction is required.
- Consider aesthetic and environmental values, tree/plant health, life span, sun exposure limitations, and space requirements when determining which vegetation to preserve.
- When preparing the landscaping plans, avoid using vegetation which competes with the existing vegetation.
- Establish setback distances defined by devices such as berms, fencing, or signs. Setback distances are based on vegetation species, location, size, and age. The type of construction activity in the vicinity of the vegetation shall also be considered. Construction activities are not permitted within the setback.

Preservation of Existing Vegetation

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**Installation and
Implementation
Requirements
(Continued)**

- Protect existing vegetation using one of the following methods:
 - Mark, flag, or fence areas of vegetation to be preserved;
 - Designate limits of root system (tree drip line);
 - Tree wells and retaining walls which are large enough to protect the root system;
 - Limit grading to within one foot of the tree drip lines, if grading under the tree is necessary; and
 - Locate construction traffic routes, spoil piles, etc. away from existing vegetation.

Limitations

- Requires advanced planning and coordination between the owner/developer, contractor, and designer.
- Limited use if final site design does not incorporate existing vegetation.
- Diverse site topography may result in additional expenses to satisfy vegetation preservation and the grading required for the site improvements.

**Inspections and
Maintenance**

Inspect protective measures and immediately repair or replace damaged protection measures.