

**Example Specification Language
to include in tree care contract**

Wildlife are an important part of our urban forests. Most wildlife species encountered in the urban forest are protected by law and cannot be harmed during tree care work. The intention of these measure are to ensure the protection of wildlife during tree care work.

1. All tree care shall be performed using methods that minimize impacts to nesting wildlife. There are many methods to minimize impacts, but one methodology described in the *Tree Care for Wildlife Best Management Practices in California* (www.treecareforbirds.com) is summarized below.
2. Tree care shall be performed by Certified Arborists who Awareness Training (20 minute video available at www.treecareforbirds.com).
3. Tree care workers should have contact information for a local Wildlife Biologist and Wildlife Rehabilitator available on-site in case of discovering a nest or injured wildlife.
4. Tree care workers should know whether the project falls into Category 1, 2 or 3 based on habitat value and breeding season.
 - a. Category 1 projects should have a pre-work inspection for nesting wildlife performed by someone with Awareness Training.
 - b. Category 2 projects should have a pre-work inspection for nesting wildlife performed by a Wildlife Trained Arborist (at least 4 hours of training searching for nests).
 - c. Category 3 projects should have a pre-work inspection for nesting wildlife performed by a Wildlife Biologist (experienced in searching for nests and establishing buffers).
 - i. All tree care in riparian areas should be performed under the recommendations of a Wildlife Biologist.
5. If a nest is discovered, tree care operations should cease immediately within 100 feet of passerine nests and 300 feet of raptor nests.
 - a. In High Value Habitats and riparian areas, this should be increased to 300 feet of passerine nests and 500 feet of raptor nests.
 - b. If work needs to be done within these buffers, a Wildlife Biologist should be contacted who may be able to recommend smaller buffers or monitor the nest during work.
6. If wildlife are injured during tree care operations, work shall immediately cease. A local wildlife rehabilitator should be contacted and their recommendations should be followed. A Wildlife Biologist should perform a pre-work inspection before work proceeds.