

# FAQ'S

## BUFFER, LANDSCAPE & TREE ORDINANCE PROPOSAL

- **Does it mean homeowners can't cut down the trees in their own yards?** No, it does not affect a homeowner's decision to remove a tree. It also does not affect his/her decision to remove a tree or trees to build an addition, garage, guesthouse, etc.
- **Does it mean homeowners can't landscape their yards the way they want to?** No, it does not. A BLT ordinance only specifies the number and size of trees and shrubs in new residential or commercial development. It may specify the size of planting islands in parking lots, the distance between plantings along sidewalks, and the size of the tree canopy.
- **What's a buffer?** A buffer is landscaping screen between different land uses, such as commercial and residential. A BLT ordinance specifies the size of the trees and may require maintaining existing vegetation and trees, as well as the installation of new plantings.
- **What's the purpose of a BLT ordinance?** The purpose is to preserve the tree canopy in future development and to discourage clear-cutting through a system of preservation and replanting of vegetation and trees to provide privacy, cooling, and to maintain the aesthetic appeal of the mountain. It is also designed to encourage native species. Trees and vegetation help sustain the environment by reducing ozone, soil erosion, storm water runoff, and providing habitat for mountain flora and fauna.
- **How will it affect builders and developers?** Specific tree density will be required depending on size or type of development. This density can be obtained in a number of ways at the option of the builder/developer. No single method is mandated, and density can be obtained by preservation, planting or any combination of the two. Appraisers have estimated the value of a given home on a comparable lot is 15% to 25% higher when trees are present.