

From: [Arthur Dawson](#)
To: [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [district3](#); [district4](#); [district5](#); [Tennis Wick](#); [Scott Orr](#); [Ross Markey](#); [Robert Aguero](#)
Subject: Comment Letter on Oak Woodland Ordinance and Tree Protection Ordinance
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 11:03:13 AM
Attachments: [SMP Oak and Tree Protection Ordinances.pdf](#)

Dear Permit Sonoma and County Supervisors,

Attached is a letter from Sonoma Mountain Preservation, a local non-profit, with comments regarding the Oak Woodland (OWO) and Tree Protection Ordinances (TPO). Our organization supports approval of the OWO and recommends several changes which would strengthen the TPO.

One significant change, which we have not seen elsewhere, is the exemption of both Douglas fir and Bay trees less than 36" in diameter from protection. A recent CALFIRE-funded study by Pepperwood Preserve shows an increase in Doug fir forest extent up to 12X in the last 150 years. In many places, Douglas fir are choking out oak woodlands as well as increasing fire hazard (link is included in the letter).

With appreciation for your public service,

Arthur Dawson

Arthur Dawson, Chair
Sonoma Mountain Preservation
(707) 996-9967
www.sonomamountain.org

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From: [Gavin Waters](#)
To: [Chris Coursey](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Robert Aquero](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [BOS](#)
Subject: Oak Woodland and protecting trees
Date: Monday, February 19, 2024 12:06:23 AM

Team,

I have been involved with the public input portion of the Oak Woodland ordinance for at least the past year. This is critical, we must protect this valuable ecological resource. Oak trees are a keystone species and provide so much for other organisms, including us.

Please approve and expand on the oak woodland ordinance. Property owners should have no right to remove ANY oak trees. Oak trees are not a hazard, humans are.

Please also approve the tree protection ordinance as well.

This ecology is what our region and county are made of yet many of us feel it is necessary to dismember and kill an oak tree for no good reason. Our oak woodlands are already fragmented by old agricultural practices, sprawl and other factors. We must protect what remains now!

Safety is not a legitimate reason to remove an oak in my mind. Safety is often used as an excuse and I think it's time to prioritize the safety of these amazing beings over "safety" (a guise for convenience) of humans. Oak trees can live for hundreds of years even with completely rotten or hollow middles. The middle of a tree is dead, the living part is the exterior, under the bark.

Furthermore, as a county we need to encourage and subsidize our wonderful agricultural practitioners to restore their lands to oak Savannah and hillside. Cattle grazing under oaks will be happy cattle! Farmers should be incentivized to plant native oaks in their fields surrounded by cattle exclosures.

I also like eucalyptus but I don't think they belong here. The county should pay a bounty for their removal. Maybe they can be turned into a cool product like flooring. Non native trees have very little ecological benefit. If we replaced every county eucalyptus with a native oak, our ecology would take off on a tear.

We must take every action to restore as much Oak Savannah as we can. I have a vision of one day roaming our remaining country side under the uninterrupted canopy of oaks, barbed wire fencing removed, to spot grazing native pronghorn that have been brought back to the Savannah. Oaks define the place where we live, let's give them a chance.

Thanks, Gavin Waters

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From: [Hope Salzer](#)
To: [Robert Aguero](#)
Subject: Plz strengthen tree protections..
Date: Friday, March 1, 2024 12:01:50 PM

EXTERNAL

As a full-time resident, active voter and taxpayer, I urge you to strengthen Sonoma's historic tree protection ordinance, with particular preservation of native tree species.

Thank you for considering my opinion on this topic.

Sincerely,
-Hope Salzer

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From: [Steve Griffith](#)
To: [Robert Aguero](#)
Cc: [Doug Bush](#)
Subject: Question re list of protected trees
Date: Saturday, March 2, 2024 2:25:47 PM
Attachments: [Functions of Trees Protected by Ordinance \(dragged\).pdf](#)
[Functions of Trees Protected by Ordinance \(dragged\).pdf](#)
[Functions of Trees Protected by Ordinance \(dragged\).pdf](#)

EXTERNAL

Dear Gents,

Would you direct me to the persons who compiled the original list of tree species that is in the proposed Ordinance?

i would like to show them this chart of that list, for their comments or any corrections.

There are currently some formatting, correction of typos, and minor language edits in process.

I regret we are too late for inclusion in the Bd packet, but we will get it to the Supes and staff on Monday.

I hope you agree it will be beneficial to take the somewhat abstract list of names clumped together in one paragraph, and give each species its due for providing beneficial functions!

Thank you,
Steve Griffith

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From: [Rue](#)
To: [David Rabbitt](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#)
Cc: [district4](#); [Tennis Wick](#); [Scott Orr](#); [Ross Markey](#); [Robert Aguero](#)
Subject: Signed TPO & OWO letter
Date: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 11:11:08 PM
Attachments: [BoS TPO & OWO Ltr FINAL 2.28.24.pdf](#)

EXTERNAL

Good morning,

Thank you all for taking the time to refine greater protections of our trees and oak woodlands through the Tree Protection and Oak Woodland Ordinances. In a few short days, your constituents drafted a letter with a short list of priorities that has been reviewed and signed by organizations and individuals across the county. (attached below)

Just as Sonoma County citizens have repeatedly voted to tax ourselves to preserve the character and values of our home for future generations, we are committed to greater protections through Policies and Ordinances such as these.

It is our hope that our efforts will help focus your understanding of our shared commitment to preservation of our fragile landscapes,

with appreciation for the work you do on behalf of all of us,
Rue Furch

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From: [Maggie Jensen](#)
To: [BOS](#)
Cc: Peter.McHugh@wildlife.ca.gov; [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Che Casul](#); joe.pecharich@noaa.gov; [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [Robert Aguero](#); [Christopher Woltemade](#); [Carrie Lukacic](#); [Mike Jensen](#)
Subject: VII Regular Calendar, 18. ORD21-0001 and ORD23-0004 Modernizing Tree and Woodland Protections
Date: Monday, March 4, 2024 10:17:44 AM
Attachments: [PCI BOS Tree Ordinance.pdf](#)
Importance: High

Dear Board of Supervisors,
Please find the attached letter outlining PCI's support for the Tree Protection and Oak Woodland Ordinances. In addition to our support, we respectfully request the inclusion of an exemption clause, designed to accommodate the removal of trees as part of approved ecological restoration projects.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Maggie Jensen

Landscape Architect/CEO

PCI ecological design & planning

103 Morris Street, Suite A-5, Sebastopol, CA 95472

Cell: 707.591-5332 | Direct: 707.824.4601 x118

maggie@pcz.com | www.pcz.com

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