

**From:** [christine hoex](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** 1/23 BOS meeting/Tree protection  
**Date:** Saturday, January 20, 2024 7:38:35 AM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Sonoma County Supervisors,

I am writing once again about the need to protect trees in Sonoma County. On Tuesday, January 23rd when you prioritize the Board's Calendar of Significant Agenda Items (item 28) please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium.

And as a separate item, please also calendar and approve, as soon as possible, The Tree Protection Ordinance.

These official acts of creating and strengthening the protection of trees in Sonoma County can be the pinnacle in a pyramid of care and recognition of TREES in our bioregion. Public education, promotion, and enforcement of care for Trees and the ecosystems they create will be a key action in meeting a changing climate future. Water, air quality, soil quality, and the natural beauty of our surroundings are all at risk if we do not actively protect our trees from development. Our children and grandchildren deserve the right to experience the natural world and learn the lessons it has to teach them.

Thank you for your ongoing efforts in this matter,  
Respectfully,  
Christine Hoex  
330 Horn Ave Santa Rosa

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**From:** [Kimberly Burr](#)  
**To:** [Chris Coursey](#); [Sean Hamlin](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Gorin](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [James Gore](#); [David Rabbitt](#)  
**Subject:** Comments Tuesday January 23, 2024 Tree Protection Ordinances  
**Date:** Sunday, January 21, 2024 7:19:56 PM  
**Attachments:** [PastedGraphic-2.tiff](#)

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Chairman Coursey and Board of Supervisors:

Thank you for your continued interest in the Tree Ordinances that have been presented to you after many months of work.

It is my sincere hope that those who may have not previously been familiar with the contents and intent of the ordinances, now acknowledge the flexibility and exemptions already in the ordinances.

As you may know, the update of the ordinances began many years before fire was visited on some neighborhoods in Sonoma County. The process, therefore was purely an effort to modernize the Tree Protection ordinance given the increasing values woodlands and trees are now understood to have in our community. Protecting homes from fire and other fire related issues were not, and are not, intended to be regulated by the update. As I expect the Supervisors by now understand, fuel reduction and the like are permitted activities (exempted from the ordinances).

Many if not all hypotheticals raised, including evacuation routes and hazardous tree removal, are largely covered by the many exemptions. Some changes have even been made in hopes of clarifying the intent and to address questions raised.

The proposed ordinances are more modern and this may be uncomfortable to some who are used to doing things the old way. Now, however we need to maximize the potential sequestration our woodlands and trees provide in a reasonable and manageable manner.

These ordinances bend over backwards to do this. Please pass them without further delay.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Burr

cc: Senator McGuire



West Piner Road woodland.



Uplands Laguna de Santa Rosa

Kimberly



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**From:** [Derek Knowles](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aquero](#); [autumn burnes](#); [Mica Burnes](#); [Lea Goode-Harris](#); [Keala Peterson](#); [Will Carruthers](#); [Dave Ransom](#); [Gunther Kirsch](#); [Chelsea Rose](#); [Mike Lipelt](#); [Richard Bell](#); [Fleming, Victoria](#)  
**Subject:** Constituent writing in support of the Oak Woodland and Tree Protection Ordinances  
**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2024 10:31:54 AM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors,

Upon attending a recent meeting for the local Milo Baker chapter of the California Native Plant Society, I was inspired to learn about the Tree Protection and Oak Woodland ordinances before you, only to wonder why these tree- and ecosystem-friendly laws weren't already on the books.

I've called Sonoma home for six years now, have made documentaries about its [best](#) and [worst moments](#), am organizing a restoration of a pocket park in my Junior College neighborhood, and hope to one day raise a family here. I want my kids to grow up in a community and county which protects and honors its environment, both because it is beautiful but because doing so is increasingly a necessity for survival and enjoying the spectacular place that we get to call home. I can think of no better way to do so than in recognizing the vast contributions of the oak and native trees that make our lives here possible.

Oaks, especially, should enjoy every protection and honor we can bestow on them. They are a keystone species in more ways than one, providing a home to hundreds if not thousands of creatures, from moths to squirrels and songbirds, and embodying the spirit of resilience that many Sonomans who have now lived through fires and climate disasters know well. We know that maintaining vibrant ecosystems is an essential aspect of remaining resilient in the face of warming and more volatile weather and we can't afford to apply the same business-as-usual practices that prioritize wanton (and often private) development over the health of the land we all call home.

With that said, I am urging you to consider the following:

- 1) Approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance before the expiration of the Emergency Moratorium when you meet tomorrow, January 23, to determine the Board's Calendar of Significant Agenda Items.
- 2) Please calendar and approve the Tree Protection Ordinance

In copy you will also find a handful of my friends and neighbors whom I know share my passion and determination that our elected officials remain responsive to the needs of our community and the passing of these most basic protections for our home.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Derek Knowles

719 King St.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

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**Derek Knowles**  
[310.279.7507](tel:310.279.7507)  
[derekknowles.com](http://derekknowles.com)

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**From:** [Ann Edminster](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: SEND AN EMAIL TODAY 1/19 - To Save Sonoma County Trees  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 12:23:52 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Sonoma County Supervisors,

I'm writing to ask that you take decisive action at your meeting next Tuesday to protect the trees in our county. Specifically, please approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance to take effect before the Emergency Moratorium expires. In addition, please adopt the Tree Protection Ordinance as soon as possible.

Our trees and woodlands are incredibly important for their role in planetary climate control, as well as serving critical biological functions. They provide essential habitat and nourishment to wildlife. And they are also important to all of us humans who reside here, for the scenic, recreational, respite, and spiritual benefits they confer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Ann

*Ann V. Edminster, M.Arch. (she/her)*  
Petaluma Climate Action Commissioner  
Design AVenues LLC | 650-740-9634 | [www.annedminster.com](http://www.annedminster.com)

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**From:** [Erika Erzberger](#)  
**To:** [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aquero](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Subject:** In Support of Tree Ordinances, please read  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 12:38:24 AM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I have already emailed Lynda Hopkins individually (thanks for your response) and am now reaching out to the rest of you as well. I have lived in Sebastopol for over 20 years and have endeavored to educate myself about this beautiful place we call our county.

I am writing to share my hopes and concerns for the trees in our county and the decisions the board will be making regarding our county trees. I care about trees because of their intrinsic value as living beings. I also recognize that trees provide many services that humans and other beings benefit from. Trees store carbon and also reduce some of the harmful effects of climate change. Trees provide habitat and beauty. It is much easier to keep trees that are already thriving than to raise new seedlings in nurseries to mitigate trees that are felled. Let's prioritize the growth of local seedlings, raised in place, to reduce waste, save time, money, and water.

Trees benefit livestock, wild animals, crops, and understory plants. Tree roots spread through the soil, connecting with fungal hyphae and other tree roots in a vibrant network that takes years to develop. We are fortunate to live in a county with forested lands, let's rise to the responsibility for this land as a human good and an earthly good. As elected stewards of this land, this good, green, earth, please stand strong for what is right and speak for all those who don't have the ability to raise their own voices. Thank you.

When you prioritize the Board's Calendar of Significant Agenda Items on Tuesday, January 23rd (Item 28), please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium.  
As a separate item, please also calendar and approve, as soon as possible, the Tree Protection Ordinance.

Warmly,  
Erika

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**From:** [Charles Little](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aquero](#)  
**Subject:** It's Time for the Tree Ordinances  
**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2024 10:02:56 AM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisory Friends,

We older folks are constantly disappointed by the lack of significant action of our leaders, world-wide, in addressing climate change, loss of habitat and all the things that continue to degrade our planet. And young folks, as we heard at your last meeting, are still hopeful, and surprised when necessary actions are not taken.

So PLEASE, now is the time to pass the Tree and Oak Woodlands ordinances. Give us some hope that here, in Sonoma County, we are doing the right thing.

Thanks for your attention,  
Charles Little

Charles S. Little  
ReLeaf Petaluma  
Newsletter Editor  
415.342.2720  
<https://www.releafpetaluma.org/>

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**From:** [Gary Morgret](#)  
**To:** [David Rabbitt](#); [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aquero](#)  
**Subject:** Please protect Sonoma County trees  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 3:18:16 PM

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## EXTERNAL

For the health of our eco-systems, and all the benefits that trees give us and wildlife and especially birds... please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance before the expiration of the emergency moratorium. Also please calendar and approve the Tree Protection Ordinance.

Thank you!  
Gary Morgret

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**From:** [Barbara Goodman](#)  
**To:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Oak Woodland and Tree Protection  
**Date:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 10:29:30 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear County Supervisor,

When you prioritize the Board's Calendar of Significant Agenda Items on Tuesday, January 23rd (Item 28), please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium.

As a separate item, please also calendar and approve, as soon as possible, the Tree Protection Ordinance.

It is so important to care for the trees as it is for the people—they work together as a give and take.

I just moved into SantaRosa from Kenwood where I lived with nature so much more than what my situation is now. Now I have to search for places to be with nature and luckily there are places in SR that we must care for the life that gives life. I don't have noticed that I am not as healthy as I was .

This is not important to just me but to all sentient beings.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Goodman

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**From:** [Josh Williams](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Oak Woodland and Tree Protection Ordinances  
**Date:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 9:16:31 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Hello,

I understand you will be prioritizing the Board's Calendar of Significant Agenda Items on Tuesday, January 23rd. I am writing to ask that you please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance before the Emergency Moratorium ends. Also, please schedule and approve the Tree Protection Ordinance as quickly as possible.

The aforementioned ordinances are key to protecting and preserving what makes Sonoma County attractive to so many people: our natural landscape. I moved to this area 15 years ago because of the beauty of this place. Our oak woodlands are the signature flora that makes the County so appealing. They provide habitat to so many species, sequester carbon and help slow rain runoff, allowing more water to be absorbed in our aquifers.

Please expedite and approve these ordinances as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Josh Williams

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**From:** [Celeste Murad](#)  
**Subject:** Oak Woodland Ordinance  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 6:20:45 AM

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**EXTERNAL**

Dear Supervisor,

First of all let me say how much I appreciate the support and care you give to Sonoma County with your work.

I am writing today to urge you to please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance on the agenda for Tuesday, Jan. 23rd. Also, please calendar the Tree Protection Ordinance as soon as possible.

Oak trees are what make Sonoma County so special. It is imperative that we protect these wonderful trees and ecosystems. The beauty of these trees and the habitats they create support Sonoma County economically, not only by attracting people who want to live here, but also by creating a huge draw for tourism. Trees are also of critical importance to manage Global Warming and sequester carbon. Furthermore, they are the cornerstone of healthy ecosystems, which not only help protect wild animals, but also protects our drinking water. Up to 2300 species are known to be associated with the oak. They are the kings of biodiversity!

The future health of our county is in your hands, so please approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance.

Thank you so much,  
Sincerely,  
Celeste Murad  
Rohnert Park

--



(707) 338-8201

<https://organizingwithceleste.com/>

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**From:** [Marie Hansen](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Oak Woodland Ordinance  
**Date:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 6:58:27 PM

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## EXTERNAL

January 18, 2024

Dear Board of Supervisors of Sonoma County, Susan Gorin, David Rabbitt, James Gore, Lynda Hopkins, Chris Coursey, and Robert Aguero,

When you prioritize the Board's Calendar of Significant Agenda Items on Tuesday, January 23rd (Item 28), please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium.

As a separate item, please also calendar and approve, as soon as possible, the Tree Protection Ordinance.

I care about the Oak Woodlands! The sight of this plant community brings me joy and peace.

Plus, I have studied what is going on biologically. Oaks are a keystone species. They may live for a few hundred years. They harbor hundreds of insect species that feed our songbirds, quail, hummingbirds, and more. Oaks send their roots deep. Each root provides a channel for rain water to penetrate to the ground water. The stored water keeps the oaks and the whole plant and animal community resilient during our long dry season. The oaks provide shade for mammals, as well as shade over creeks where salmon occasionally run.

The oaks are huge and dense. In their leaves, stems, trunks, roots are carbon molecules. These are carbon molecules that are not in our air! The removal of an older oak cannot be mitigated by planting a young oak somewhere else. That would take a couple of centuries.

The woodland as a whole must be preserved to insure there is a succession of young oaks gradually replacing the older trees.

Please act for the health of Sonoma County in the distant future.

Marie Kay Hansen 6518 Stone Bridge Rd. Santa Rosa

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**From:** [judith Rousseau](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Oak Woodland Ordinance and Tree Protection Ordinance  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 10:53:37 AM

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## EXTERNAL

Board of Supervisors

I have written to you all several times on this subject over the past few years. Now is the time to get it done!

Our oak woodlands are precious beyond words. And they serve very important functions, as you know. Biodiversity, carbon sequestration, water capture, natural fire resilience are only a few of these unique functions.

They also define the character of our iconic landscapes. They deserve your fierce attention. Please schedule your vote soon.

The Tree Protection Ordinance should also be prioritized.  
Extend the moratorium now, if necessary, and publicize and enforce it.

There are so many of us in Sonoma County who care deeply about this. But it is not just political. Your legal obligation to protect our public trust is way overdue.

Thank you for your time.

Judith Rousseau  
Graton

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**From:** [Nic Wisser](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Oak Woodland Ordinance and Tree Protection Ordinance  
**Date:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 5:49:16 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Board Members,

I'm writing to express my disappointment that you have decided to delay passing rules to protect Sonoma County's Oak Woodlands and other important Tree Species. I am urging you to schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance before the emergency moratorium runs out. I am also urging you to calender and approve the Tree Protection Ordinance. Protecting our natural resources and taking measures to restore what we have destroyed in the name of profit and progress is very very important to me.

Regards, Nic Wisser

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Nic Wisser  
They/them

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**From:** [Bev Alexander](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Susan Gorin](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Oak Woodland Ordinance!  
**Date:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 9:43:32 PM

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## EXTERNAL

1. When you prioritize the Board's Calendar of Significant Agenda Items on Tuesday, January 23rd (Item 28), please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium.
2. As a separate item, please also calendar and approve, as soon as possible, the Tree Protection Ordinance.
3. We cannot afford to waste our native and natural treasures. The Oak Woodlands are an integral part of Sonoma county, and pulling loose that thread will have delirious, affects that we may not even be able to imagine at this point. The woodlands are part of the web of life in Sonoma county, not only providing biological benefits, but nourishing us with their beauty.

Hoping you will act with care and wisdom.

Many thanks for your service.

Sincerely,  
Beverly Alexander

Beverly Alexander  
Protect Wild Petaluma  
ProtectPetaluma.org

peace.  
it does not mean to be in a place  
where there is no noise, trouble  
or hard work. it means to be in  
the midst of those things and still  
be calm in your heart.

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**From:** [Chuck Twichell](#)  
**To:** [Susan Gorin](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Oak Woodland Ordinance  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 4:41:11 PM

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EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisor Gorin,

We are writing to express our hope that if the Board does not approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance at it's January 23rd meeting, that you would at least approve an extension to Urgency Ordinance 6460.

We think it is vitally important that there be continuous protection for our oak woodlands until the Oak Woodland Ordinance can be approved. This, along with the Tree Protection Ordinance will go a long way to preserving Sonoma County as the place we have enjoyed most of our lives.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Chuck Twichell  
Mary Stroh-Twichell

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**From:** [Chuck Twichell](#)  
**To:** [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Oak Woodland Ordinance  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 4:41:08 PM

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EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisor Coursey,

We are writing to express our hope that if the Board does not approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance at it's January 23rd meeting, that you would at least approve an extension to Urgency Ordinance 6460.

We think it is vitally important that there be continuous protection for our oak woodlands until the Oak Woodland Ordinance can be approved. This, along with the Tree Protection Ordinance will go a long way to preserving Sonoma County as the place we have enjoyed most of our lives.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Chuck Twichell  
Mary Stroh-Twichell

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**From:** [Chuck Twichell](#)  
**To:** [David Rabbitt](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Oak Woodland Ordinance  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 4:41:01 PM

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EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisor Rabbitt,

We are writing to express our hope that if the Board does not approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance at it's January 23rd meeting, that you would at least approve an extension to Urgency Ordinance 6460.

We think it is vitally important that there be continuous protection for our oak woodlands until the Oak Woodland Ordinance can be approved. This, along with the Tree Protection Ordinance will go a long way to preserving Sonoma County as the place we have enjoyed most of our lives.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Chuck Twichell  
Mary Stroh-Twichell

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**From:** [Chuck Twichell](#)  
**To:** [Lynda Hopkins](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Oak Woodland Ordinance  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 4:40:56 PM

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EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisor Hopkins,

We are writing to express our hope that if the Board does not approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance at its January 23rd meeting, that you would at least approve an extension to Urgency Ordinance 6460.

We think it is vitally important that there be continuous protection for our oak woodlands until the Oak Woodland Ordinance can be approved. This, along with the Tree Protection Ordinance will go a long way to preserving Sonoma County as the place we have enjoyed most of our lives.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Chuck Twichell  
Mary Stroh-Twichell

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**From:** [Chuck Twichell](#)  
**To:** [James Gore](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Oak Woodland Ordinance  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 4:40:54 PM

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EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisor Gore,

We are writing to express our hope that if the Board does not approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance at its January 23rd meeting, that you would at least approve an extension to Urgency Ordinance 6460.

We think it is vitally important that there be continuous protection for our oak woodlands until the Oak Woodland Ordinance can be approved. This, along with the Tree Protection Ordinance will go a long way to preserving Sonoma County as the place we have enjoyed most of our lives.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,

Chuck Twichell  
Mary Stroh-Twichell

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**From:** [Jane Valerius](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Oak Woodland Ordinance  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 10:11:46 AM

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## EXTERNAL

I am writing to ask you to prioritize the Board's Calendar of Significant Agenda Items on Tuesday, January 23rd (Item 28), please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium. As a separate item, please also calendar and approve, as soon as possible, the Tree Protection Ordinance.

As you know trees and other vegetation provide us with the oxygen we breathe and use the CO2 we exhale. We literally would not exist on this planet without them. Trees are a major source of carbon sequestration and they provide habitat for all of our animals. They are, again, literally home, food and shelter for all the birds and animals, including humans. If you are like me you spent hours playing in trees and they allow us to use and expand our imagination. They also provide incredible beauty and joy and we need that more than ever in these times. The list goes on. The value and importance of trees cannot be overstated and therefore they deserve all the protection we can provide for them. There needs to be more compensation for when trees are removed, and not just providing an in lieu fees where the money goes into some budget and never gets used for planting more trees.

Please give these ordinances all of your attention and see the broader picture of the importance of trees for us, the animals, the County, and the planet.

Thank you,  
Jane Valerius  
Botanist

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**From:** [VICKY GROOM](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Oak Woodland Ordinance  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 10:25:31 AM

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## EXTERNAL

As a resident of beautiful Sonoma County, specifically Cloverdale, I believe it is imperative that trees and oak woodland be protected and well maintained for all reasons that are personal, planetary, biological, aesthetic.

My request is that when you prioritize the Board's of Significant Agenda Items on Tuesday, January 23rd (Item 28), please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium.

As a separate item, please also calendar and approve, as soon as possible, the Tree Protection Ordinance.

Thank you for your consideration.

Vicky Groom

Member, California Native Plant Society--Milo Baker Chapter

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**From:** [Julene Bair](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aquero](#)  
**Subject:** Oak Woodland Ordinance  
**Date:** Saturday, January 20, 2024 9:26:50 AM

---

## EXTERNAL

Dear Sonoma County Supervisors,

I am very concerned about delays in approving the Oak Woodland Ordinance. I am writing to plead with you to approve it before the emergency moratorium expires. Please prioritize this at the meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is item # 28. I also ask that you put the Tree Protection Ordinance on the calendar and approve it as soon as possible.

I can't imagine why the county is dragging its feet on addressing this important issue. We cannot afford to lose any more of our oak woodlands. They add quality of life that can never be replaced if they are destroyed. They support habitat for birds and all kinds of wildlife while also keeping many native plants from going extinct. They literally provide us with breathable air and absorb carbon. To destroy them means to undermine any possibility of achieving county-wide net zero carbon emissions. If the economy is your number one concern, then that is another reason to protect the woodlands. They help make Sonoma County the attractive tourist destination that it is. Please do not let developers run roughshod over what remains of the natural environment that makes so many of us want to live here.

Thanks for listening.

Sincerely,

Julene Bair

[www.julenebair.com](http://www.julenebair.com)

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**From:** [Denise Ellestad](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Robert Aquero](#); [James Gore](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [David Rabbitt](#)  
**Subject:** Oak Woodland Ordinance  
**Date:** Sunday, January 21, 2024 6:24:57 PM

---

## EXTERNAL

Dear Sonoma County Board of Supervisors,  
Please approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance. It is important to me to protect the remaining oaks in Sonoma County. There is so much potential for loss of these iconic trees. They need our protection otherwise they will be gone. From the Press Democrat--  
"Almost 27,000 acres of oak trees — 15% of the county's stock — have died or entered serious decline in the past decade, according to the UC Cooperative Extension."  
Please care about these woodlands and protect them.  
Thanks,  
Denise Ellestad  
13523 Harrison Grade Place, Sebastopol

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**From:** [Laura Morgan](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [James Gore](#); [david.rabbit@sonoma-county.org](mailto:david.rabbit@sonoma-county.org)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Oak Woodland Ordinance  
**Date:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 7:24:21 PM

---

EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors,

We are writing to urge that you schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance before the Emergency Moratorium expires. It will appear on your Tuesday calendar as Item 28.

We also implore you to schedule and approve the Tree Protection Ordinance as soon as possible.

Sonoma County's forests and woodlands are fast disappearing to vineyard conversions, development, sudden oak death and climate change. The beauty of our region draws visitors from around the world and makes life here sublime. It is an essential component of our public's health. Please protect them with your vote.

Sincerely,  
Laura Morgan and Jim Seward, MDs,  
Sebastopol

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**From:** [Lyn Gannon](#)  
**To:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Oak Woodlands Ordinance and Tree Protection Ordinance  
**Date:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 8:20:28 PM

---

## EXTERNAL

As a Master Gardener for 15 years, I've always loved and appreciated Sonoma County's trees and Oak Woodlands. When you prioritize the Board's Calendar of Significant Agenda Items on Tuesday, January 23rd (Item 28), please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium. Also, please also calendar and approve, as soon as possible, the Tree Protection Ordinance.

Thank you.

Lyn Gannon  
1247 Jean Drive  
Sebastopol CA 95472

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**From:** [Leslie Lihou](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Pass: Woodland and tree ordinance  
**Date:** Monday, January 22, 2024 12:09:37 PM

---

## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors,

When you prioritize the Board's Calendar of Significant Agenda Items on Tuesday, January 23rd (Item 28), please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium. As a separate item, please also calendar and approve, as soon as possible, the Tree Protection Ordinance.

Woodlands and trees are essential in ameliorating global warming /climate change: trees uptake and store carbon dioxide, provide cooling shade, and transfer rain to groundwater storage. Woodland ecosystems provide habitat for the resilience of species affected by climate change and habitat destruction. They also provide respite for us humans and connect us with natural process imperative to our survival. Moreover, the ordinance offers exemptions that address concerns about tree removal restrictions.

Please act now. Addressing climate changes of immediate importance.

Sincerely,  
Leslie Lihou  
Santa Rosa

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** [Steve Hackett](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 8:05:37 AM

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## EXTERNAL

As a member of the California Native Plant Society and a Sonoma County resident it has come to my attention that Board of Sups support for the Oak Woodland Ordinance and emergency moratorium protecting Sonoma's remaining oak woodlands may be coming to an end due to inaction by the Board of Supervisors. These woodlands are essential wildlife habitat and their protection needs to be a priority.

1. When you prioritize the Board's Calendar of Significant Agenda Items on Tuesday, January 23rd (Item 28), please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium.
2. As a separate item, please also calendar and approve, as soon as possible, the Tree Protection Ordinance.

Thank you

Steven and Mary Hackett

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**From:** [Catherine Lipson](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Please take action on the Oak Woodland Ordinance and the Tree Protection Ordinance  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 9:07:56 PM

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## EXTERNAL

To the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing today as a Sonoma County resident of District 5 - to remind you of some important agenda items for your next meeting and to urge you to take action on the following:

1. When you prioritize the Board's Calendar of Significant Agenda Items on Tuesday, January 23rd (Item 28), please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium.
2. As a separate item, please also calendar and approve, as soon as possible, the Tree Protection Ordinance.

Protecting trees and oak woodlands in our area ensures that we will all continue to benefit from these natural assets. They are valuable to the watershed we all depend upon, to agriculture that hinges on healthy watersheds, and to other businesses that rely on consistent resources. Preserving the functionality of our trees and woodlands will safeguard the inter-related networks of life that include people, plants, insects, fish, birds, and animals throughout the region. Individuals and businesses in our county will thrive as we continue to enjoy our hillsides and valleys with plenty of healthy trees and woodlands.

Thanks in advance for taking immediate action on these ordinances!

Best wishes,  
Catherine Lipson  
Sebastopol, CA

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**From:** [Evelyn White](#)  
**To:** [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [BOS](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [Robert Aquero](#)  
**Subject:** Prioritize Woodland Protections  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 1:20:49 PM

---

## EXTERNAL

Dear Board Member,

I'm deeply concerned about your delay in passing rules and regulations regarding protections for our forests, woodlands, and open spaces in our beautiful Sonoma County. I've lived and worked in Sonoma County since 1989 and would never consider living anywhere else in the United States. Please, please, please....

1. Schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance before the expiration of the Emergency Moratorium. Please make this a priority on your calendar of Significant Agenda Items when you meet on Tuesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

2. The Tree Protection Ordinance also needs to be calendared and approved immediately.

We have some of the most beautiful and healthy woodland and forest areas in the state. Let's do everything in our power to keep them that way. We all need places we can escape to for our mental and physical health.

Respectfully,

Evelyn White

1200 Eleanor Avenue

Rohnert Park, CA 94928

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**From:** [Claire Pavelka](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Protect our native trees and forests in Sonoma County!  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 8:44:48 AM

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## EXTERNAL

To all,

As an individual who was born and raised in Sonoma County, I urge you to do all that you can to protect our native trees and forests. These resources are invaluable for our community members – both human and non-human and will help our area be resilient with changes in climate. As a resident of Sonoma County, I urge you to protect our native trees and forests!!

Specifically, I urge you to schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to the expiration of the Emergency Moratorium and the Tree Protection Ordinance. Growing up in the Oak woodlands as a young child changed my life and helped me become an advocate for protecting our natural resources. Please do all you can to ensure that forests and trees that make Sonoma County beautiful remain protected for generations to come.

Best,  
Claire

### Claire Pavelka

Ecologist I

#### PCI ecological design & planning

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

Cell: 707.396.8307 | Direct: 707.827.8913

[claire@pcz.com](mailto:claire@pcz.com) | [www.pcz.com](http://www.pcz.com)

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**From:** [Debra Knowles](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#)  
**Cc:** [Chris Coursey](#); [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Protect Our Trees!  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 3:52:09 PM

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## EXTERNAL

To the Board of Supervisors,

I'm writing to request that at your meeting on January 23, you schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to the expiration of the Emergency Moratorium. Also, as a separate item, please calendar and approve the Tree Protection Ordinance without delay. It is critical to preserve what remains of Sonoma's woodlands and forests for the survival of the myriad of species dependent on these vital diverse ecosystems.

Sincerely,  
Debra Knowles  
Sonoma, CA 95476

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**From:** [Jennifer Wheeler](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Protect our Trees  
**Date:** Saturday, January 20, 2024 12:41:57 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance before the Emergency Moratorium expires.

The Tree Protection Ordinance - please put on the calendar and approve.

Petaluma, like the rest of Sonoma county, has seen so much building in wooded areas and sensitive habitats. Our woodlands are precious and need protecting. I walk in a small woodland park in Petaluma, Mannion Knoll, which has many oaks including a black oak - but what is to protect our remaining oaks and other flora from being destroyed? There is one Valley Oak at the outlet mall. Where are the others? Our native plants deserve to be treasured and protected. The pressures from development will always be there but we can help our California Native trees to be protected.

Thank you,  
Jennifer Wheeler  
Elm Drive  
Petaluma

1. When you prioritize the Board's Calendar of Significant Agenda Items on Tuesday, January 23rd (Item 28), please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium.
2. As a separate item, please also calendar and approve, as soon as possible, the Tree Protection Ordinance.
3. [Say why you care about protecting trees and oak woodlands—use reasons that are personal, planetary, biological, aesthetic, or all of the above]

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**From:** [felicia\\_matto-shepard](mailto:felicia_matto-shepard)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Protect Sonoma County trees  
**Date:** Sunday, January 21, 2024 3:44:01 PM

---

## EXTERNAL

Dear Board Members,

I'm writing to express my disappointment that you have decided to delay passing rules to protect Sonoma County's Oak Woodlands and other important Tree Species. I am urging you to schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance before the emergency moratorium runs out. I am also urging you to calender and approve the Tree Protection Ordinance. Protecting our natural resources and taking measures to restore what we have destroyed in the name of profit and progress is very very important to me.

Sincerely,

Felicia Matto-Shepard

Petaluma, CA

**Felicia Matto-Shepard**

**[feliciamattoshepard.com](http://feliciamattoshepard.com)**

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**From:** [Katja Svendsen](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [david.rabbit@sonoma-county.org](mailto:david.rabbit@sonoma-county.org); [James Gore](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Protect Sonoma County's trees today!!  
**Date:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 7:32:53 PM

---

## EXTERNAL

1. When you prioritize the Board's Calendar of Significant Agenda Items on Tuesday, January 23rd (Item 28), please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium.
2. As a separate item, please also calendar and approve, as soon as possible, the Tree Protection Ordinance.
3. Sonoma County's oak woodlands and forests are what make this ecosystem special and unique. If there is an ordinance passed to be able to relax the protection of the oaks, who then will take care to love and protect Sonoma County's ecosystems including all different kinds of ecosystems throughout the county. Our job as human beings are to steward these lands and to make them better for our children so they can see these ecosystems as we see and experience them. Let's be better caretakers of the land around us as we navigate hotter temperatures and erratic weather.

Thank you,  
Katja Svendsen

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**From:** [Lorie Silver](#)  
**To:** [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [BOS](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Protect Sonoma County's Trees Today!  
**Date:** Saturday, January 20, 2024 12:26:07 PM

---

## EXTERNAL

I'm writing to request that at your meeting on January 23, you schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to the expiration of the Emergency Moratorium. Also, as a separate item, please calendar and approve the Tree Protection Ordinance without delay. It is critical to preserve what remains of Sonoma's woodlands and forests for the survival of the myriad of species dependent on these vital diverse ecosystems.

Many thanks,  
Lorie Silver  
Sebastopol

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**From:** [Betsy Livingstone](#)  
**To:** [Lynda Hopkins](#)  
**Cc:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [James Gore](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Protect the trees!  
**Date:** Saturday, January 20, 2024 7:29:04 PM

---

EXTERNAL

Hello,

Sorry I missed the comments deadline but I want to urge you all to approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance before the expiration of the emergency moratorium!

Also, I hope you'll soon schedule and approve the Tree Protection Ordinance.

We need them both. We need our trees; the air needs our trees; Sonoma County economy needs the trees; our home needs our trees.

Please.

Betsy Livingstone  
Forestville

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**From:** [rockyann614@comcast.net](mailto:rockyann614@comcast.net)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aquero](#)  
**Subject:** protecting Sonoma County woodlands  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 4:47:58 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Greetings

Re Oak woodland and Tree Protection ordinances.

Please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance on Tuesday, January 23rd (Item 28), prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium.

Please also calendar and approve, as soon as possible, the Tree Protection Ordinance.

Our woodlands, forests and native plants and habitats are so important to our county, our environment, themselves, weather, wildlife, artists, hikers, botanists, children and many others.

Please keep protecting them!

Best,  
Clair Etienne

Claire Etienne  
707-235-1520  
[www.huerapple.com](http://www.huerapple.com)  
<https://www.sonomafridayart.com/>

-

*Accumulated small positive acts can turn a tide.*

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**From:** [Leslie Comrack](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Protection of our forests  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 12:04:01 PM

---

## EXTERNAL

I am a resident of Sonoma County for over 35 years, I am a retired Deputy Sheriff, and I am a member of the California Native Plant Society and Audubon Society, because I know and understand the value of nurturing and protecting our native habitats and species. This isn't a concept that requires explanation or education; finally, wise humans are taking stock (and some responsibility) for what our impact has wrought on our home turf, the lovely planet Earth. Just one aspect is climate change, and we as a county have certainly been front and center to those devastating effects. However, I would rather focus on what can be done to mitigate some of our human interference, and celebrate the magnificence of our natural environment.

I have chosen to live in the north county because I can look out my door and windows daily, and still see swaths of the forests that existed in Sonoma County, prior to its development. I can point out the trees where hawks and eagles prefer to roost, or declare their territories, raise their young. I keep lists of the birds that travel through my neighborhood through the seasons. I have been able to depend on an ancient live oak to be my natural air conditioner in the summer, as my home is in its shadow. That tree demonstrates the delicate, and practically magical timing of Spring, when oak worms emerge just as Warblers and songbirds are migrating north, requiring fuel to continue their journey. It's a perfect symbiosis that is thrilling to witness, and miraculous at the same time. The balance that has evolved in nature is perfect, and mysteriously beautiful. The interconnection is undeniable, with each facet fitting into a niche that benefits the whole. If one of the components is removed, the system loses balance, to the detriment of its entirety. So it is that I am writing as a supporter and protector of our native forests and oak woodlands, which is a topic that requires your attention as the Board of Supervisors.

When you prioritize the Board's Calendar of Significant Agenda Items on January 23 (item 28), please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium. As a separate item, please also calendar and approve, as soon as possible, the Tree Protection Ordinance.

To quote author Edward Abbey, the Earth needs no defense, only more defenders. I urge you to consider yourselves defenders, and think to the long term health of our county and ALL its living occupants.

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**From:** [Rebecca Shirley](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Protection of Sonoma County Trees  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 12:12:11 PM

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## EXTERNAL

To Whom It May Concern:

As a resident of Sonoma County for over 10 years, I am writing to you regarding the protection of one of our greatest assets - the trees. I am writing to ask that when you prioritize the Board's Calendar of Significant Agenda Items on Tuesday, January 23rd (Item 28), please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium.

I am fortunate to live near an open space that is graced with beautiful and vital woodlands. If you have spent any time among the oaks and other woodland species, you must be aware of the gifts they provide to us, as well as all the living creatures within their habitats. If you are concerned about our rapidly and unnaturally changing climate, you must be aware of their benefits to the absorption of carbon and the cleaning of our air. Science has taught us much about trees and their ecosystems, and to ignore the research would be ignorant and irresponsible. The time is overdue to make decisions based on future impacts, rather than immediate so-called needs. Again, I ask that the Oak Woodland Ordinance be approved.

I also ask that you please calendar and approve, as soon as possible, the Tree Protection Ordinance, for all of the reasons stated above. Many of these trees are older than we are, and we need to finally acknowledge that as humans, we are only beginning to understand the importance and lessons of the natural world.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Shirley  
1106 Crest Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

650-303-8803

--

"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children."  
Native American Proverb

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**From:** [Lucille DancingWind](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#)  
**Cc:** [Chris Coursey](#); [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** re: Support of the Tree Protection & Oak Woodland Ordinances  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 3:44:57 PM  
**Importance:** High

---

## EXTERNAL

To the Members of the Board of Sonoma County,

I'm writing to you on behalf of myself and my husband Michael. He was born and raised in southern California, in a multi-generational California family, and we've been living in Sonoma County since 2018. We're continuously exploring the amazingly diverse and beautiful ecosystems that Sonoma County is so abundantly blessed for, as we have with the rest of the state as well.

It has come to our attention that the Sonoma County Board is delaying passing crucial ordinances to protect our uniquely beautiful forests and woodlands.

It always so greatly disappoints and alarms us, when we hear such things occurring in the state of California, of all places – a state that has had a reputation for championing environmentally-sound solutions, protecting parks and preserving nature's biodiversity, as a shining example for other places (not just for other states in the USA, but other countries as well)! Each and every county in California has unique ecosystems and shares a great individual responsibility in this, and together, the counties should always prioritize and protect what California has been known for and should continue modeling for others. California and Sonoma County are known for being so beautiful, because of individual champions coming together to protect its invaluable and irreplaceable natural beauty. No other place on Earth is home to such an incredible diversity of tree species, including the oldest, tallest and largest – and Sonoma County itself is home to so many!

We urge you to be a responsible voice for Sonoma County's unique nature, specifically the trees in this case, and for the people who live in and visit this county, and value its uniquely natural beauty – by doing the following:

1. When you prioritize the Board's Calendar of Significant Agenda Items on Tuesday, January 23rd (Item 28), please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium.
2. As a separate item, please also calendar and approve, as soon as possible, the Tree Protection Ordinance.

Over the span of over five decades, my husband Michael has seen an alarming degradation of nature ecosystems throughout California, and the most visible being the loss of significant trees and various forests including oak woodlands, to be replaced with more parking lots, shopping malls, resorts, housing developments, vineyards, freeways, roads, etc. So many old and ancient trees, as well as forests, which are irreplaceable in their own value, have been lost for short-term profits.

Just one tree is an entire ecosystem in itself, supporting countless lives and life

forms: by providing food, shelter and homes for countless species above and under ground (wildlife, plant life, beneficial fungi, etc.; and human with their fruits, nuts, spices, resins, medicinal components, etc.); creating breathable oxygen while absorbing carbon; purifying the air we all breathe in urban and rural locations; preventing the erosion of soils and the vulnerable banks of all water bodies; increasing the beauty and value of any and every type of landscape; as well as supporting the well-being of our bodies on all levels (physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, etc.). Together as forests, trees support even more lives and life forms as mentioned, while also maintaining the biodiversity of regions, along with the sensitive balance of what allows life to thrive in those areas (nature and human); while also minimizing the effects of extreme weather.

Each and every tree is invaluable and should be seen as such with the highest form of protection possible.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to voice our great concerns about this matter.

Most sincerely,

*Lucille DancingWind & Michael Rockwell*

\*

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**From:** [Penny Fink](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Rules to protect oak woodlands  
**Date:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 8:10:04 PM

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## EXTERNAL

1. We cannot afford to delay putting legislation into place to protect our oak woodlands. When you prioritize the Board's Calendar of Significant Agenda Items on Tuesday, January 23rd (Item 28), please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium.
2. But there are other trees that need protection also, so, as a separate item, please also calendar and approve, as soon as possible, the Tree Protection Ordinance.
3. These trees were here before we were, they are appropriate for our environment, and they are a major part of the history of our area. They are beautiful. They feed our souls. They are historic. They belong here. We need to protect them for our sake as well as theirs.

Penelope Fink  
Occidental

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**From:** [Bodega Bay Sailing](#)  
**To:** [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Save the oak trees!!  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 3:42:54 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Save the oak trees! These beautiful trees are why people love to come to visit/live in Sonoma county. Some of the trees in my neighborhood are older than Sonoma county!! I hear legislation coming up regarding the protection of these trees. I urge you to channel your in druid!!

As the Lorax once said " Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, Nothing is going to get better, it's not."

Thank you,  
Rich Crumley

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**From:** [Judy Hoaglund](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Sonoma County Trees  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 9:10:23 AM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Board Members,

Sonoma County is, as you know, a unique spot on this earth. Our oak woodlands, as well as all trees in the county, are vital parts of our ecosystem, underpinning more than just the beauty we enjoy every day. Trees are critical to our planet, supplying much of the oxygen we breathe. They help to mitigate the increasingly damaging effects of climate change. They are the ecosystems that support the splendid diversity of wildlife we have here. Trees and the natural landscape are a source of renewal, recreation and mental health for the humans who live here. With these irreplaceable benefits that trees provide in mind, I urge you to schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance now. Don't allow it to expire!

Additionally, please schedule and approve the Tree Protection Ordinance ASAP. Mature, older trees are impossible to replace once they are removed, disfigured or poisoned by humans. We must do all we can to protect these valuable denizens of our county. Please do the right thing for current and future generations!

Thank you,  
Judith Hoaglund

1553 Laguna Rd.  
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

"A human being is a part of a whole, called by us 'universe', a part limited in time and space. He experiences himself, his thoughts and feelings as something separated from the rest... a kind of optical delusion of his consciousness. Our task must be to free ourselves from this prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty." Albert Einstein

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**From:** [Franny Minervini-Zick](#)  
**To:** [Susan Gorin](#)  
**Subject:** Tree Ordinances  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 8:18:05 AM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear County Supervisors

Please schedule and approve the Oak woodland Ordinance and please also calendar and approve, as soon as possible, the Tree Protection Ordinance.

As a docent for the Laguna Foundation and member of the Milo Baker chapter of CNPS (California Native Plant Society), I understand the importance of these keystone species in our county. The majestic oaks provide habitat for so many, even as “snags” or logs on the ground, beauty, shade and valuable food for humans too!

Thank you for all you do to protect our beautiful county!

Peace and Love, Franny  
[Tuleweaver.wordpress.com](http://Tuleweaver.wordpress.com)

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**From:** [Deb Dobish](#)  
**To:** [Lynda Hopkins](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** tree ordinances  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 12:53:24 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisor,

I am very concerned about the disposition of the Oak Woodland Ordinance and the Tree Protection Ordinance, as I see that they are on the agenda for January 23, when you prioritize the calendar of significant items.

As I wrote before the last meeting, where the board discussed these two items in December, these ordinances have been in the pipeline for years. In December you did not seem to have significant objections to the Oak Woodland Ordinance. There seems to be no reason to delay further and I urge and hope that you will support its passage on January 23. Otherwise, can it be put on the calendar for a vote before the moratorium expires?

I hope that your objections to the Tree Protection Ordinance have been addressed by now. You were very concerned about burdens on homeowners, such as myself! At the time, I thought that the exceptions written into the legislation would protect us. What do we have to worry about? Trees too close to the house; trees potentially blocking driveways; trees roots in the septic system, installation of a septic system, etc. The ordinance allows for these types of removals.

Please, keep in mind that many tree problems that homeowners face are caused by non-native trees, which are not affected by the ordinance. Liquid Ambers are well known for invading septic systems. Acacias are brittle and fire prone and should be removed wherever they are. So should Eucalyptus (often at great expense, unfortunately) Also, note that the ordinance does not cover Doug Firs.

If I were to look at the hazards in my neighborhood, I would list them as 1. Humongous Eucalyptus two parcels down the street that would send ashes and sparks all over the place. 2. All the Acacias along Hurlbut Ave. 3. All the Cape and English Ivy draped everywhere, (except my yard.) I could go on. The point is that the many oaks in the neighborhood are not in the same category.

Had the ordinance been in place 10 years ago, the lovely mature grove of *Quercus garryana* (Oregon Oak) next door would have been conserved. The owner would have still been able to build on the 2 acre parcel, but the mansion sprawl would have been contained somewhat. It was a recharge area and would have created contiguous saplings.

However, I diligently collected acorns and checked for volunteers so that there are now many young Oregon Oaks and Live Oaks on my property. I also planted Valley Oak acorns from nearby parcels. This required my intervention to mitigate, so to speak, the fragmentation of the oaks next door. Since the grove was pulled apart I no longer see pileated woodpeckers, for example.

I have designed my yard to be a native plant habitat. In a sense the Tree Protection Ordinance offers me some assurance that a future owner has to be judicious about removals and maintenance activities. And my neighbors have to be more judicious about removing perimeter trees that are contiguous to the trees on my parcel.

So, I am one of the "little old ladies" you mentioned and I have actually removed hazards. I don't think the ordinance would have prevented me from doing the work that I did.

I can't think of any other concerns that would stand in the way of approving both ordinances. But, if you still have some, why not pass the Oak Woodland Ordinance? Then put the Tree Protection Ordinance on the calendar for priority consideration, so that the year after year, and month after month delay does not continue.

I was hoping to attend the BOS meeting on January 23. Unfortunately, I have been injured and am on crutches. I will watch it online though.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Dobish  
1495 Hurlbut Lane  
707 823-8836

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**Warning:** If you don't know this email sender or the email is unexpected, **do not** click any web links, attachments, and **never** give out your user ID or password.

**From:** [Wendy Krupnick](#)  
**To:** [Lynda Hopkins](#); [James Gore](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#); [Scott Orr](#); [Tennis Wick](#)  
**Subject:** Tree Protection & Oak Woodland Ordinances  
**Date:** Sunday, January 21, 2024 1:04:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [Tree Protection January 2024.pdf](#)

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Sonoma County Supervisors,

Please see the attached letter thanking you all for hosting and including CAFF in the Tree Protection Field Trip on January 16 and requesting that the Tree Protection and Oak Woodland Protection Ordinances be placed on your March 5, 2024 agenda for approval.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Wendy Krupnick Vice President, CAFF Sonoma County

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**From:** [Gregg Weber](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [David Rabbitt](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Tree Protection Ordinance (TPO) (Section 26-88-080(M))  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 2:29:24 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Board members,

I would like to see the TPO put on the agenda soon, and passed.

Also, it would be nice to explicitly mention some of Sonoma County's more ecologically important trees in the TPO,

ie, *Calocedrus decurrens* (incense cedar), *Torreya californica* (California nutmeg), all *Arctostaphylos* (Manzanita) species, *Myrica californica* (California wax myrtle).

On another note, I would like to see more science based forest and fire management rules, and PG&E project rules, instead of Lumber industry and Cal-fire so called "best practices" that have an unnecessary negative impact on Sonoma county's resources, and are not giving our residents the best protection from fires.

Thank you.

- Gregg Weber

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**From:** [Carol Carr](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#)  
**Cc:** [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Robert Aguero](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#)  
**Subject:** Tree Protection Ordinance and Oak Woodland Ordinance  
**Date:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 6:04:36 PM

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EXTERNAL

>

> I am a concerned Sonoma County resident writing to strongly urge you to approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance before the emergency moratorium expires, and to ask you please to approve as soon as possible the Tree Protection Ordinance. Surely, I do not need to convince any of you that Sonoma county needs our trees, that climate change is real, that preservation of our natural habitat is preeminantly important to the sustainability, economy, and quality of life in Sonoma County, and that the residents of Sonoma County value habitat protection and pay attention to which officials don't.

> thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

> carol carr, RN

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**From:** [Lynne Lyle](#)  
**To:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** Tree protection Ordinance  
**Date:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 7:32:54 PM

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**EXTERNAL**

Dear Mr. Aguero,

Please consider the following at your upcoming board January 23 board meeting.

Please prioritize to schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium.

Please also calendar and approve, as soon as possible, the Tree Protection Ordinance.

We are so fortunate to have amazing and diverse tree populations in our county. Recently, 4 non native oaks were removed from our neighborhood, and after the loss of this type of wildlife habit especially for owls, we saw an increase in rats in the neighborhood. No new trees were planted either native or otherwise. 6 50 year redwoods were also removed and no new trees were planted. Allowing any trees removed makes an impact on air, wildlife and humans in ways many do not know about. Our drought tolerant native trees take a long time to establish. Please protect what we have in whatever way you can.

Sincerely,  
Lynne Lyle  
Rohnert Park

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**From:** [Angelica Jochim](#)  
**To:** [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#)  
**Cc:** [BOS](#); [Robert Aquero](#)  
**Subject:** Trees!  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 4:45:05 PM

---

EXTERNAL

Please approve the Oak Woodland ordinance ( before the end of the moratorium)and the Tree Protection Ordinance ASAP!

Thank you!

Angelica Jochim  
8690 Marianna Dr  
Forestville

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**From:** [girfie@earthlink.net](mailto:girfie@earthlink.net)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#)  
**Cc:** [Robert Aguero](#)  
**Subject:** TREES: Protect them!  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 8:53:39 AM

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## EXTERNAL

I am writing to urge you to protect our TREES! I live near a 28 acre parcel which was sold a few years ago to a vineyard. Where there used to be a hillside of young and mature oaks + a diverse ecosystem, there is now money. I am an accountant, I get it. Money does not grow on trees and we all need money. But when does it stop. YOU HAVE TO LEAD!

Northern Californian, of all places, should be leading the charge to protect nature, not replace it for taxes and profit. I rarely, maybe once, write to my supervisors or get involved in this type of thing, but I am appalled and it actually makes me cry to think about the diversity in plant and animal life that trees support. We have seen and hear SO MANY FEWER birds and insects even in just the past three years due to the destruction of all that woodland. Plus, we see more predators on our own property, endangering small animals and children.

**\*Expletive\*** lead the way, Sonoma County. Do something! That's why I voted for some of you. Your children and grandchildren and their offspring will look back at your support for natural recourses and thank you. Or wonder why you didn't do something when you had the power to do so.

Thank you,  
Lisa Fiorelli  
Sebastopol, CA

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**From:** [sheiladundon@comcast.net](mailto:sheiladundon@comcast.net)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#); [Chris Coursey](#); [Robert Aquero](#)  
**Cc:** [sheiladundon@comcast.net](mailto:sheiladundon@comcast.net); [Robert Aquero](#)  
**Subject:** upcoming Board agenda items important to me  
**Date:** Friday, January 19, 2024 4:58:18 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Sonoma County Board,

I moved to Sebastopol, Sonoma County 4 years ago because of the natural beauty and the access to it. I am writing to you specifically about 2 ordinances:

1. When you prioritize the Board's Calendar of Significant Agenda Items on Tuesday, January 23rd (Item 28), I am asking you to please schedule and approve the Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to expiration of the Emergency Moratorium.
2. As a separate item, I am also asking you to please calendar and approve, as soon as possible, the Tree Protection Ordinance.

I believe it is essential for our environment to preserve and protect our Woodlands and our trees. They provide us with so much beauty and clean air. Please do the right thing for our environment.

Best,  
Sheila Dundon

**Sheila Dundon**  
**831-601-1112**  
**[sheiladundon@comcast.net](mailto:sheiladundon@comcast.net)**

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**Warning:** If you don't know this email sender or the email is unexpected, **do not** click any web links, attachments, and **never** give out your user ID or password.

**From:** [Antje Kann](#)  
**To:** [BOS](#); [Susan Gorin](#); [David Rabbitt](#); [James Gore](#); [Lynda Hopkins](#)  
**Cc:** [Chris Coursey](#); [Robert Aquero](#)  
**Subject:** Urgent: Oak Woodland Ordinance!  
**Date:** Thursday, January 18, 2024 7:26:22 PM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear supervisors,

I am urgently asking you to schedule and approve and Oak Woodland Ordinance prior to the expiration of the Emergency Moratorium, on January 23rd (Item 28). Please also add approve the Tree Protection Ordinance.

As a landscape architect, I am highly aware of the importance of oaks and mature trees to biodiversity. Oaks sustain a complex web of wildlife and are crucial to supporting insects (please read [Douglas Talamy's The Nature of Oaks](#)). Our entire web of ecology depends on these trees.

With the exemptions in the ordinances, the tree ordinances allow for appropriate tree work that's relevant for fire safety and other hazards.

Thank you in advance!

Antje Kann  
18701 Fitzpatrick Lane  
Occidental, CA

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