

From: [Laura Avalos](#)
To: [PlanningAgency](#)
Subject: Woodland/trees, item number 2 and ORD21-0001.
Date: November 04, 2021 8:52:40 AM

EXTERNAL

Dear Sonoma County Commissioners and Staff,

Tomorrow is your meeting to discuss **woodland/trees, item number 2 and ORD21-0001**. At this point, a tree protection ordinance is of utmost priority and importance to me as your constituent.

I would like to put my vote in and demand you put a TIME OUT to Tree Removal in Sonoma County, most especially for new "land development." It is time the Planning Commissioners create a strong and expansive ordinance for tree & forest protection and create an extensive plan for ecological security. It is of utmost importance to place our future generations ahead of human profit, which includes clean air, soil, and water. In order to do so, the protection of trees, including woodlands and trees growing in Sonoma County (and beyond) need to be protected. First, they provide carbon sequestering properties which affects our ecosystem. Articles citing this value below. Second, these trees and their ecosystems are not easily replaceable, often taking decades if not centuries to regrow. The older the trees are, the more robust carbon sequestration. Carbon sequestration has a direct impact on climate change.

If, in partnership with our indigenous communities such as the Coast Miwok or Pomo - it is determined that calculated burns are essential for the well being of our community for fire protection - and these indigenous peoples are partnered with fairly, prioritizing their knowledge and compensating them equitably in order for a process like this to occur, I approve. However, if tree removal is in essence for "land development," I am strongly opposed.

We must take all the actions necessary at this time to protect our planet from prioritizing human profit over the well being of our forests, waters, and air.

I CALL FOR A TIME OUT OF TREE REMOVAL, AND FOR GETTING AN ORDINANCE ON YOUR AGENDA RIGHT AWAY.

Please email me if you would like to discuss this further. I have worked with children and families as a mental health therapist and outdoor educator for more than a decade, am a mother of a three year old in Sonoma County, and know how important it is to make decisions now and swiftly that will affect our land and water for generations to come.

All of our actions count and will make a difference.
Please prioritize our future generations and all of our relations.

Best,

Laura Avalos
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Sebastopol

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2016-2-march-april/ask-mr-green/how-much-carbon-do-trees-really-store>

<https://environment-review.yale.edu/carbon-capture-tree-size-matters-0>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/04/planting-billions-trees-best-tackle-climate-crisis-scientists-canopy-emissions>

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"Ojalá te aventuras y te sucedan cosas en la vida que las labores y riegues con tus lágrimas y con tu risa hasta que florezcan" - Clarissa Pinkola Estés

"May you have adventures, and may things happen in your life that call for a deeper knowing, may you water these with your tears and with your laughter until they flower."

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