

From: [Sara](#)
To: [PlanningAgency](#)
Cc: [Sheryl Bratton](#); [Jennifer Klein](#)
Subject: A Plea for Tree Sanity Plans
Date: November 03, 2021 1:27:02 PM

EXTERNAL

Hello to you all, Eric, Caitlin, Lawrence, Jacquelynne, Kevin, Sheryl, and Jennifer,

My husband and I live in the Green Valley Creek Watershed, in Forestville. He has lived here over 40 years and I have enjoyed this land for about 30 years, so as you can see, we are Elders who have invested deeply in our land and community over careers and now into retirement.

There is no shortage of science emerging about the incredible importance of trees to our entire well-being, on every level. Just cutting down a lot of trees does not reduce fire danger. That is simplistic thinking along the lines of the “If the only tool you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail” approach.

Large trees impart information to their offspring, provide habitat for many other creatures, absorb rainwater, prevent erosion, cool the surrounding areas sequester carbon, protect streams and water sources and have a right to stand just on their own terms. Plus, we all love to look at and walk with beautiful trees!

Many of us ordinary citizens have wanted to believe that Cal Fire and the Forest Service are looking out for trees, the environment, and us in an intelligent and scientific manner. However, it is becoming apparent that this is not necessarily so. We do appreciate how complex these issues are, but we also see many other interests gaining ground over sound decisions made to care for the earth, as the conditions change.

As taxpayers, we would like to add our voices to a request that a temporary time-out be called on removing any more of our woodlands until a truly visionary, science-informed, wise and comprehensive tree ordinance /policy is passed. Good decisions take time. Please align with the groups who have the passion and information you need to make this kind of wise policy. Keep working with the Community of Family Farmers, Forests Unlimited, Daily Acts, Protect our Working Woodlands, and others to design a policy that will truly become your inspired legacy to the earth and to all of us who live here.

You can make history as well as a huge contribution to your children and grandchildren.

Thanks for reading,
Sara Harris and Ken Smith
Forestville
under microscope

wood stem





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