

From: wildflower@everyactioncustom.com <wildflower@everyactioncustom.com> on behalf of Karin Lease <wildflower@everyactioncustom.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 9:29 AM
To: Jacquelynn Ocana
Subject: I am writing to you today to urge you to protect Sonoma County trees and Forests

EXTERNAL

Dear 3rd District Jacquelynn Ocaña,

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, we have about ten years to radically change our practices in order to prevent dangerous temperature rises. New technologies are slowly emerging that have the potential to absorb carbon from the environment, but they are expensive, have their own carbon footprints, and raise numerous social equity issues.

The potential of woodlands to do the same work for free is now available and currently working today. If woodlands are cut down, replanting them reduces our ability to rapidly reduce carbon in our atmospheres within the time frames needed. The best "technology" we have today that can help on a wide scale is protecting our mature trees.

A recent study by scientists working for the Center for American Progress shows that almost 9,200 acres of natural lands were developed in Sonoma County between 2001 and 2011. Yet, we have NO tool to prevent or systematically track how much of this rapid development is a loss of our beloved Sonoma County oak and forests lands.

In light of these fact I am requesting that the County of Sonoma:

- Place an immediate, temporary halt to major tree removal approvals in Sonoma County until our Tree Protection Ordinance is updated to recognize the global importance of forest lands in climate mitigation;
- Keep allowances for removing trees for critical issues such as fire protection near houses and defensible community areas.
- Update the County Tree Protection Ordinance, based on the most up-to-date climate science and community input;
- Protect trees as a way of reducing the worst effects of climate change on vulnerable communities;
- Protect trees to help vulnerable populations contend with the worst impacts of climate change.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,
Karin Lease
6860 Evergreen Ave Sebastopol, CA 95472-4510

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