

**From:** [Charles Little](#)  
**To:** [PlanningAgency](#)  
**Subject:** Time-Out for Tree Ordinance  
**Date:** November 01, 2021 11:49:23 AM

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## EXTERNAL

Dear Sonoma County Planning Agency Members,

I am writing to encourage you to order a hiatus in tree removals in the county while a new tree and woodland protection ordinance is being considered. As I'm sure you are aware, trees play a variety of critical roles in Sonoma County, and the world, the most critical these days being the carbon they absorb and capture. In addition, as Margaret Renkl pointed out in the "New York Times" on September 20<sup>th</sup> of this year:

"Trees absorb rainwater, prevent soil erosion, filter greenhouse gases from the air, cool the surrounding area, provide both habitat and food for wildlife, and improve the quality of life for human beings. Trees are also at the center of efforts to promote environmental justice within cities by making their allocation of green space more equitable. For now, it's still possible to measure the relative wealth of an urban neighborhood [simply by counting its trees.](#)"

Given the enormous value to Sonoma County, and all people, of living trees, I would ask that during a pause in tree removals you consider the following:

1. Design the new ordinance so that it is built on science, not politics.
2. Protect mature trees as they are the ones that sequester the most carbon.
3. Strongly consider the impacts of tree removals on communities, particularly lower income neighborhoods, which already have fewer cooling, shade-giving, and simply life-enhancing trees.

Thanks for your attention to my concerns,

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*"...I do not think I know when I do not know." (Socrates, Apologia.)*

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