

From: [Julia Menapace](#)
To: [John Leong](#); [tpw-bridges](#)
Subject: Freestone Flat Road Bridge replacement, comments for Landmarks meeting re. BIO-9 and BIO-13
Date: Friday, September 3, 2021 2:33:31 PM
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[1 \(4\).jpeg](#)

EXTERNAL

These concerns may not pertain to landmarks status directly but I would like to draw attention to the project's permanent scenic and environmental impact on the vicinity. According to the notice of the upcoming Landmarks Commission Meeting all of my project concerns should be documented in written form prior to, or raised during, the meeting.

Although the MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION / INITIAL STUDY AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM includes: **Mitigation Measure BIO-9: Riparian Mitigation and Monitoring Plan** and **Mitigation Measure BIO-13: Tree Replacement and Monitoring Plan** it seems unlikely that either of these measures will actually be carried out.

The project calls for cutting down 34 trees, most of which can not be replaced on site due to proximity to the new bridge, road and power lines. Of these 11 are Oaks between 8 and 18 inches in diameter and 3 are Bay trees up to 18" in diameter. Two of the trees to be cut are 18 and 24 inch cypress trees that stand as sentinels near the existing bridge and are paired with two redwoods of the same age and stature on the opposite side of the road.

The Sonoma County Tree protection ordinance referred to in **BIO-13** calls for replacing non-native trees 1:1, native riparian trees 3:1, and oaks 4:1 to 10:1 depending upon diameter. However during the environmental review meeting on March 23 of this year Rich Stabler, Senior Environmental Scientist for Sonoma County opined that the tree protection ordinance typically doesn't apply to county projects.

I have yet to see a Riparian Mitigation and Monitoring Plan, **BIO-9**. The best information I have been able to obtain is that trees will be cut flush with stumps left in the ground, and fill areas bridging the new road surface with the natural profile of the land will be hydro-seeded. During the same March 23rd meeting Sonoma County planner Gary Helfrich said that a mitigation monitoring program is not provided for.

Also during the March 23rd environmental review meeting environmental consultant Rita Wilke from Panorama Consulting said that mitigation measures could be applied instead to a county owned parcel of land just upstream of the existing bridge, once the site of the previous Freestone Flat Road Bridge. The problem with this assertion is that this land is already heavily wooded and steeply sloped. Existing vegetation in the riparian corridor (including mature trees) would have to be removed to plant anything else on this parcel.

As the majority of the trees to be cut are located on the proposed right of way as it transects Assessor Parcel Number 017-100-016 I propose compensating the property owner to plant and monitor trees on the rest of the parcel not surrendered to eminent domain. I am that person and will need to plant trees to recover, although not in my lifetime, the privacy and aesthetic qualities now afforded by the trees to be cut.





All of the trees to the left of the Japanese Maple, Weeping Birch and Incense Cedar (circled), between my driveway and the existing road and bridge are slated to be cut.

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