

**From:** [certifiedhypnotist](#)  
**To:** [Dave Pine](#); [Carole Groom](#); [Don Horsley](#); [Warren Slocum](#); [David Canepa](#); [CEO BoardFeedback](#)  
**Subject:** Independent oversight of the Sheriff  
**Date:** Sunday, December 4, 2022 6:13:49 PM

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To the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County  
From Gail Sredanovic

I am thankful that the board voted to create an independent body to oversee the Sheriff. Given the difficulty of replacing an incumbent Sheriff, this is essential and clearly needed in our county. I would like to be involved in helping to make this happen and to be effective.

Gail Sredanovic

**From:** [Susan Feist](#)  
**To:** [Dave Pine](#); [Carole Groom](#); [Don Horsley](#); [Warren Slocum](#); [David Canepa](#); [CEO BoardFeedback](#)  
**Subject:** Support strong independent oversight of the Sheriff  
**Date:** Monday, December 5, 2022 11:07:01 AM

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Dear Supervisors Pine, Groom, Horsley, Slocum, and Canepa,

As a member of SFPPP and Fixin San Mateo, I want to thank you for voting to support establishing civilian oversight of the Sheriff and I support Fixin San Mateo County to pass a strong ordinance for civilian oversight of the Sheriff's office.

Thank you,  
Susan Feist, San Carlos

**From:** [Karen Maki](#)  
**To:** [CEO BoardFeedback](#)  
**Cc:** [jennifernormoyle123@gmail.com](#); [kiwilliams2030@gmail.com](#); [kristendlee444@gmail.com](#); [Gladwyn D"Souza](#); [susanlessin@comcast.net](#)  
**Subject:** Feedback on 12/6/2022 Agenda Items 14A and 14B  
**Date:** Monday, December 5, 2022 2:40:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter Regarding Pescadero Creek County Park Climate and Habitat Resiliency Plan - Sups.pdf](#)

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Dear San Mateo County Board of Supervisors,

RE: 12/6/2022 Agenda items 14A and 14B

We appreciate the ability to comment on this plan.

We understand that the plan is general at this time, and it is written to provide maximal flexibility for projects to be defined more specifically at later dates. We also understand that it is likely to be approved this week.

Even if approved, we would like to request that you make some modifications to the plan as follows. We are sending a letter to the Board of Supervisors later today, and we will plan to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting tomorrow to discuss the following:

1. Add Goal for Carbon Storage and Sequestration in the Near Future:

We request that the plan add a goal for maintaining and increasing carbon sequestration within the park. Here is a suggested draft of the goal:

- Maintain and increase carbon storage and sequestration in the forest (in trees and soils) over the next 10 years. Continue to maintain and increase carbon in trees and soils.

The need to respond to climate change is urgent within the next 3 years, 10 years at most. It is not optional. More carbon in 100 years won't save us. Our global response must include both burning less fossil fuels, sequestering new carbon, and retaining as much previously sequestered carbon as possible. Locally, San Mateo County's largest county park is an important place to do this.

Adding a goal to specifically protect carbon storage and sequestration in the short term may complicate the plan's execution by requiring the county to consider and balance all objectives when developing project plans. Hopefully, the result will be to slow thinning, retain most dead trees, and eliminate the removal of large trees.

2. Remove Sub-Objective of "Promote carbon sequestration through stand thinning."

We suggest removing the sub-objective of "promote carbon sequestration through stand thinning."

Thinning always leads to carbon release in the short term, and even if it is replaced, it will take three decades or more to replace it. Carbon release occurs both from tree removal and from damage to the soil.

We understand that scientific research may be evolving on the topic of whether thinning may lead to longer term increases in tree girth, and therefore longer term increases in carbon sequestration. However, it is likely that this benefit may occur only in specific circumstances. For instance, it may only occur when thinning is light and if it takes place when all trees concerned are young. Further research may be needed to shed further light on this topic.

If thinning is to take place, the plan can acknowledge that it is being done for other reasons, and clarify that it is not likely to help with near-term carbon storage and sequestration within the next few decades.

3. Do Not Approve the Pescadero Creek County Park Trust Fund and Do Not Allow Commercial Logging

- Pescadero Park should not sell trees for money, under any circumstances.
- If Pescadero Park sells trees for money, a direct conflict of interest will result. Relationships would be cultivated with logging operations or commercial businesses who would benefit, regardless of whether money goes into a trust fund. Even diverting those funds to educational or other purposes would still create an incentive for feeding that funding stream.
- We advocate that all trees that are removed within the park be required to stay in the park, whether to be retained as habitat, chipped as ground cover, or used for benches, bridges, etc.
- There is no way to create adequate checks and balances that will ensure that a trust fund does not influence decisions about whether trees are logged.

4. We would also suggest that the plan be modified to include the following:

- Preserve carbon in the forest and soils:
  - Minimize and slow plans for thinning, to retain the maximal carbon (in line with objective #1 discussed above).
  - Limit thinning of live trees to small trees no larger than 12 inches in diameter, except for hazard trees.
  - Attempt to compensate for carbon loss by allowing enough remaining forest to grow to equal the carbon loss from thinning. Aim for zero loss of stored carbon over any 10 year period.
  - Leave burned or logged trees whole in the forest where possible. Only remove dead trees if they are hazardous to people or to the forest.
  - Background information:
    - Burned dead trees retain over 90% of the carbon sequestered by the live

tree. We must leave them in the park to continue to store the carbon and provide other valuable ecosystem services such as habitat, water absorption, flood and erosion control, and soil quality.

- If a logged tree is turned into a wood product, up to 80% of the carbon stored in the trees and soils may be emitted via harvesting, transporting and processing the tree into a product.
- Eliminate or restrict the use of glyphosate and other herbicides:
  - As you may know, glyphosate has been shown to harm soil/soil microorganisms, inhibit the future growth of native plants, and to harm human and forest health.
  - The plan stated that herbicides may be used to dry out plants prior to prescribed fire. This is concerning because this could subject large areas to herbicides.
  - The plan should eliminate the use of glyphosate and other herbicides or restrict it to small, targeted applications, where no other intervention will suffice to meet goals for reducing encroachment of harmful invasive species.
- Monitor carbon:
  - Measure carbon levels in the park before and after treatment. Adjust the amount of thinning and logging done to ensure that carbon levels don't drop from where they started.

Thank you very much for the opportunity for dialogue on this plan.

Sincerely,

Karen Maki, Jennifer Normoyle, Susan Lessin, Kristen Lee, Kimberley Williams  
Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter Forest Protection Committee



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Deputy Director  
Michael Kawalek, CFRE

Chief Financial Officer  
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Dan Martin  
Emily Thurber  
Cole Wilbur

December 2, 2022

County Board of Supervisors  
County of San Mateo  
400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

**Re: Board of Supervisors Agenda Item #10 - San Mateo County Parks Climate and Habitat Resiliency Plan for Pescadero Creek County Park**

To the County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing on behalf of Sempervirens Fund in support of the San Mateo County Parks Department's Climate and Habitat Resiliency Plan.

The Climate and Habitat Resiliency Plan seeks to promote the presence and enhancement of native species, habitats, and ecosystems in the Pescadero Creek County Park landscape that are resilient in the face of disturbance and climate change. In the wake of the 2020 CZU fire, land management agencies and organizations across the Santa Cruz Mountains are focusing their efforts to implement high-priority forest management activities that will improve forest conditions, promote growth of large diameter redwoods, reduce future risk of catastrophic, high-intensity fires and promote native ecosystems that are resilient in the face of climate change. This work also seeks to address legacy impacts of historic logging practices on the landscape and promote the trajectory for these forests to establish old growth characteristics over time. The Climate and Habitat Resiliency Plan takes a science-based approach to long-term forest management in the Santa Cruz mountains.

We feel that land management agencies need to take active and informed approaches to landscape level forest management and fire resiliency projects, which provide a suite of benefits for the ecosystem and improve forest resiliency to climate change and wildfires.

We know from experience the impact of catastrophic fires after the CZU Fire burned 95% of our conservation lands. Our staff responded to the natural disaster immediately, which included: documentation of new conditions, emergency repairs (culverts, bridges, roads), debris clean up, and hazardous tree removal. One stark new condition was the loss of mature habitats and species, like old-growth coast redwoods and Douglas fir trees, which we vow to protect.

The goals of the Climate and Habitat Resiliency Plan align with the values and needs that Sempervirens Fund also prioritizes for our forest habitats within this region. We strongly support the Climate and Habitat Resiliency Plan and recommend that the Board of Supervisors adopt this plan at the December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.



Thank you for your consideration of this important effort.

Sincerely,

Laura McLendon  
Director of Land Conservation  
Sempervirens Fund

Executive Director  
Sara Barth

Deputy Director  
Michael Kawalek, CFRE

Chief Financial Officer  
Patrick Gibbons

Chief of Philanthropy  
Julie Seelen, CFRE

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