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415.457.7656

166 Greenwood Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

February 1, 2021

San Rafael City Council
1400 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

Re: Vegetation Management Ordinance Amendment

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,
Sustainable San Rafael supports applying the Vegetation Management Ordinance throughout San Rafael. However, we recommend that the following key items in the revised ordinance be clarified to avoid unnecessary removal of plants:

1. In item A4 the term “combustible vegetation” needs to be capitalized to indicate that it is a defined term in the definitions section of the underlying ordinance, and as such is limited to a few especially problematic plant species (like those listed in item B5). Otherwise, vast amounts of vegetation could mistakenly be removed, at great expense and with devastating impacts on the character and environmental quality of our city.
2. Item A5 should be simplified to “maintain vegetation to provide a minimum clearance of 13 feet six inches over all roadways.”
3. To avoid confusion, item B1 needs to include this language from the staff report: “Appropriate defensible space *does not require, or advocate, the clear cutting of trees and brush, but rather horizontal and vertical spacing and maintenance.* A continuous canopy of fire-resistant trees may be desirable in some Intermediate or Extended zones to create shade (sometimes referred to as a “shaded fuel-break”) which acts to suppress weeds and grasses (flash fuels) and help retain moisture.”

Since protecting homes and other buildings from the threat of wildfire is the primary purpose of the Wildfire Action Plan, we welcome the City’s intention to rapidly pursue adoption of the “home hardening” measures in the Plan. Such simple structural changes have proven more effective than vegetation management in protecting properties and avoiding release of the large amounts of carbon embedded in buildings.

We also suggest that the City work closely with the Ecologically Sound Practices Partnership and Marin Wildfire Protection Authority to develop and distribute materials to help homeowners maintain their properties in ways that foster fire safety along with ecological and climate benefits.

Thank you for your consideration of the key details listed above.

Sincerely,

William Carney
Board President

From: bonitamarmor [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 12:27 PM
To: Kate Colin <Kate.Colin@cityofsanrafael.org>
Cc: sasha w [REDACTED] Community Services
<Community.Services@cityofsanrafael.org>; City Manager's Office <city.manager@cityofsanrafael.org>;
contactus@peacockgaphoa.org <contactus@peacockgaphoa.org>; president@peacockgaphoa.org
<president@peacockgaphoa.org>; John Lenser [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]; rogerbyars [REDACTED] steve ziman
[REDACTED]; Lindsay Lara <Lindsay.Lara@cityofsanrafael.org>
Subject: Re: Marin wildfire agency invests in evacuation app

Dear Mayor Colin,

Thank you very much for your prompt response, your encouragement of public input, and for providing the details about the council meeting this evening.

Enthusiastically,

Bonnie

Bonnie Marmor
Co-President
Pt. San Pedro Road Coalition
<http://sprcoalition.org>

On Feb 1, 2021, at 9:34 AM, Kate Colin <Kate.Colin@cityofsanrafael.org> wrote:

Hello all - I encourage you to call/zoom in to tonight's council meeting so share your concerns publicly (although I've cc'd the City Clerk so your input will go to the entire Council). This is indeed an important issue for our community and I'm looking forward to working with SRFD and our residents to address is.

This is the item on tonight's agenda: a. **Amendment of the Current Vegetation Management Ordinance**

Introduction of an Ordinance Amending Sections 4.12.010 and 4.12.030 of the San Rafael Municipal Code to Establish Citywide Vegetation Management and Wildfire Mitigation Standards to Help Reduce the Risk of a Catastrophic Wildfire (FD)

Recommended Action – Pass Ordinance to print

Link to the 7pm meeting is

here: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaQDIHi5fD6sByZUw5FOg9A>

Meeting packet is here: <https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/meetings/city-council-february-1-2021/#/tab-agenda-packet>

Warmly,
Kate

Kate Colin
Mayor, City of San Rafael

<Outlook-xk24ucyn.png>

From: bonitamarmor [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 9:23 AM
To: sasha w [REDACTED]
Cc: Kate Colin <Kate.Colin@cityofsanrafael.org>; Community Services <Community.Services@cityofsanrafael.org>; City Manager's Office <city.manager@cityofsanrafael.org>; contactus@peacockgaphoa.org <contactus@peacockgaphoa.org>; president@peacockgaphoa.org <president@peacockgaphoa.org>; John Lenser [REDACTED] rogerbyars [REDACTED]; steve ziman [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Marin wildfire agency invests in evacuation app

Good morning Sasha,

You have raised some good questions! I'm adding John Lenser, PSPR Coalition's Disaster Preparedness Committee chair, and Quinn Gardner, San Rafael's Emergency Manager, as well as Glenwood HOA President Kevin Hagerty and Glenwood DP Committee leaders Roger Byars and Steve Ziman to the cc list. When we share information and ideas, we all benefit.

Thank you for writing about this important issue.

Best,

Bonnie Marmor

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Co-President
Pt. San Pedro Road Coalition
<http://sprcoalition.org>

On Feb 1, 2021, at 7:25 AM, sasha w <tuppersasha@hotmail.com> wrote:

Good February 1st Morning...

We hope that Peacock Gap evacuation problem will be addressed...

We have been isolated during past flooding w/ high tide & prevailing wind conditions on PSPR...could NOT get out on Peacock Drive or Glenwood or Riviera from McNear Drive. Cars kept speeding up and down our street trying to get out of the area with no place to go. We were stuck here for hours, but it could have been days. It was not a good feeling.

Can they look into opening the chains at Peacock Park so we could at least get to the Golf Club ...or unblocking the continuation of the road by Glenwood School so we could get to PSPRoad that way?

Thanks for your help,
Sasha Weinmann

Subject: Latest update: Marin wildfire agency invests in evacuation app

Marin Independent Journal

Latest Update

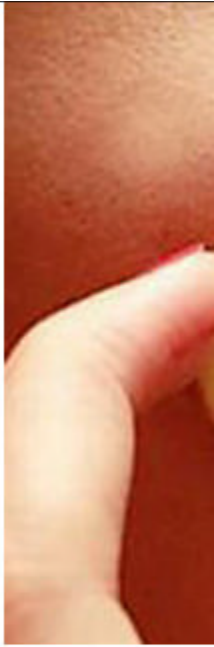


[Marin wildfire agency invests in evacuation app](#)

Emergency managers say a new cloud-based mapping tool called Zonehaven helps them plan for evacuations during wildfires and other disasters.

[READ STORY](#)

How To: Fix Dark Spots



Marin Independent Journal

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From: John Lenser [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 1, 2021 1:31 PM
To: Kate Colin <Kate.Colin@cityofsanrafael.org>; bonitamarmor [REDACTED] sasha w [REDACTED]
Cc: Community Services <Community.Services@cityofsanrafael.org>; City Manager's Office <city.manager@cityofsanrafael.org>; contactus@peacockgaphoa.org <contactus@peacockgaphoa.org>; president@peacockgaphoa.org <president@peacockgaphoa.org>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; rogerbyars [REDACTED]; steve ziman [REDACTED]; Lindsay Lara <Lindsay.Lara@cityofsanrafael.org>
Subject: Re: Marin wildfire agency invests in evacuation app

Kate,

Several members of the Point San Pedro Road Coalition's Disaster committee commented on the evacuation maps that Quinn Gardner sent to us for review. I believe that all of us expressed the same concern that in a fast moving fire that necessitated a rapid evacuation, Point San Pedro Road is not sufficient to handle the outflow of cars. The simple solution is to have several refuge sites on the south side of the Road to which residents could drive or walk. We have identified Dutra's Quarry, McNear Brickyard, Loch Lomond Marina, and the Marin Yacht Club. It is our intent to meet with each of these groups and sign formal letters of agreement for such use along with developing operational guidelines (who opens the gates, etc.). Quinn is aware of our concerns and intent. Obviously, the use of these sites in any actual incident would be at the direction of the SRFD.

At some point, it would be good to meet so that I can fill you in on other plans of our committee for meeting other disasters such as an earthquake.

Thanks much,

John Lenser
Chairperson
Disaster Preparation Committee
Point San Pedro Road Coalition
[REDACTED]

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Cc: Community Services <Community.Services@cityofsanrafael.org>, City Manager's Office <city.manager@cityofsanrafael.org>, "contactus@peacockgaphoa.org" <contactus@peacockgaphoa.org>, "president@peacockgaphoa.org" <president@peacockgaphoa.org>, John Lenser [REDACTED], [REDACTED], rogerbyars [REDACTED], steve ziman [REDACTED], Lindsay Lara <Lindsay.Lara@cityofsanrafael.org>
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