

FW: 52 54 Fremont/Marquard Project

Leslie Mendez <Leslie.Mendez@cityofsanrafael.org>

Tue 11/16/2021 2:46 PM

To: Lindsay Lara <Lindsay.Lara@cityofsanrafael.org>; Dave Hogan <Dave.Hogan@cityofsanrafael.org>

From: Sunrise Movement Marin <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 2:41 PM

To: Leslie Mendez <Leslie.Mendez@cityofsanrafael.org>

Subject: 52-54 Fremont/Marquard Project

To the Design Review Board, Leslie Mendez, Planning Manager, Lindsay Lara, City Clerk, and David Hogan, Project Planner

Please have my attached letter included in correspondence for 52-54 Fremont/Marquard Project scheduled for Design Review Board hearing on Nov 16, 2021.

Would you please send me verification of receipt?

Thank you,

Hayley Ballard

Mayor Collins and City Council Members:

First of all, I want to say you are not giving your citizens enough time to make a cohesive statement in 2 or 3 minutes, that is not enough time. We need to have 5 minutes at the least. You wouldn't be able to make your comments in 2-3 min so why the double standards? San Rafael needs to have reciprocity and equality in the public city sessions.

The Climate Clock is ticking. IPCC and COP26 has declared that we have 8 years to try to turn things around. Money and old political paradigms can no longer be the bottom line.

You need to Walk your Talk San Rafael: You have a General Plan and a Climate Action Declaration- you must stick to it.

Where is your EIR on this? Has a current survey for the presence of Northern Spotted Owls been done since the one done a while ago? We have Pileated Woodpeckers nesting in the redwoods nearby, how will that affect them?

How can San Rafael call itself a Tree City? If you would consider allowing a for-profit private developer to cut down a grove of 9 mature and healthy Coastal Redwoods to build a spec house that will also disrupt the neighborhood for several years?

If you allow 9 trees of this grove of sister Redwoods to be cut down, you will destroy them all, because their root system is interconnected.

Replacement trees would take 50 years to even begin doing what these mature Redwoods are doing for us now. There are NO other trees that even come close to being of equal value.

I beg you to love these trees and nature and our future more than you love revenue and out of date ways of thinking. These trees are our protectors – We need to be their protectors too. Nature doesn't have the time for San Rafael to get educated. Where do you stand? ...with Nature, with your Climate Action Plan or with a destructive private profiteer's plan? Set a precedent now with these trees!

I created a Change.org petition that so far has 613 signatures on it to demand that these trees be saved. Signatures range from San Rafael, to county, to state, to US and to people internationally as well. And I will be getting back to them after this meeting. The whole world is watching you San Rafael to see what decision you will make for these trees. Your reputation is in full global view! Please choose well!

Thank you,

Susan Bradford

San Rafael



Marin Audubon Society

P.O. Box 599 | MILL VALLEY, CA 94942-0599 | MARINAUDUBON.ORG

November 16, 2021

Design Review Board
City of San Rafael
1400 Fourth Street
San Rafael, CA 94901
Dave.Hogan@cityofsanrafael.org
Planningpubliccomment@cityofsanrafael.org

RE: Resident at 52 Fremont Road

Dear Members of the Board,

The Marin Audubon Society appreciates this opportunity to comment on the Fremont project. We understand the purpose of this meeting is to consider options to mitigate the loss of native redwoods trees due to the design of the project. Our preferred alternative is to retain the existing trees. They are native to the area, they are established and we know they do well here, and they provide habitat for native species. They also moderate climate and sequester carbon at high rate. If it is impossible for the Redwood trees to be retained, replacement trees should be planted. As stated in earlier correspondence, we recommended replacement at a ratio of 3 replacements for each native plant lost.

We have reviewed the report submitted by the applicant's arborist and we have the following comments:

The purpose and goal of mitigation is to replace habitat that is destroyed by development. In our years of reviewing and commenting on development projects, we have never known a standard for tree mitigation to be plant as many trees on the site as possible.

Redwood trees grow in locations that are moist, north sides of hills from southern Marin to San Rafael, in West Marin and a few locations elsewhere. Redwood trees generally do not need any watering. They actually absorb moisture from the atmosphere. Redwoods would benefit from watering for the first year or two, as any newly installed plant, but after that would not need any watering (I have lived for 40+ on the north side of the Larkspur hills with many redwoods on my property. I have never watered any redwood).

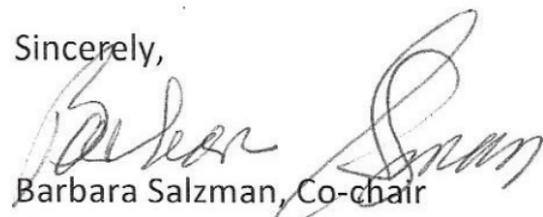
As noted above, the calculation of watering needs for the project need not consider any watering of Redwoods or any other plant that is planted for that matter. That is because the water district now maintains a recycled water facility that can be used by the project landscaper to water any or all plants that need water.

The Balcerak Design report describes Redwood's as being large at maturity. Redwood's grow tall, but It is not clear why that is a problem.

Redwood trees provide habitat for Northern Spotted Owls, many other native birds and other native wildlife and should be retained or replaced in-kind. Hazelnut is a perfectly fine native tree or shrub that would be perfect to replace the loss of hazelnuts plants, but not to replace Redwoods or oaks.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,



Barbara Salzman, Co-chair
Conservation Committee