

**Archived:** Monday, August 9, 2021 11:34:35 AM

**From:** [Martha Diesner](#)

**Sent:** Monday, August 9, 2021 11:04:18 AM

**To:** [City Council](#); [Plancom](#)

**Cc:** [Rachael Markle](#); [Debbie Tarry](#)

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Aug 2nd Public Comment on the 198th Affordable Housing Project made at the City Council Meeting

**Response requested:** Yes

**Sensitivity:** Normal

**Attachments:**

[From Aurora looking E.jpg](#)  [198th looking NE.jpg](#) 

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of Shoreline. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Good morning,

"My name is Martha Diesner from Shoreline, WA speaking on behalf of the Echo Lake Waterfront Condominiums Homeowners Association.

I would like to comment about the 198<sup>th</sup> Affordable Housing Project which will be *adjacent* to our condominiums. The location is at the corner of Aurora and N 198<sup>th</sup> St, just South of Costco and Aurora Village. This project is a partnership between the City of Shoreline, King County and Catholic Community Services. The plan is to build 100 units of permanent supportive housing for people that have been homeless or are experiencing housing instability. This includes individuals dealing with chronic mental illness and Veterans.

I am painfully aware of the homeless crisis occurring in our area and *support this venture*, even though it is in my neighborhood AND backyard.

I've been a Shoreline resident for the past 16 years and am a Seattle native. One of the things I love about Shoreline are the big trees we have.

The Notice of Building Permit Application for this project came out this past Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup>. The developer has indicated that ALL mature trees should be removed, even the two that are not exempt from R-48 zoning.

These include a large madrone in one corner of the lot and a tall cedar at the northern edge of the lot. As I understand from the plans, these trees are near the parking area, so it seems that some minor adjustments could be made to accommodate [keeping] them.

In addition to the 2 non-exempt trees, there is a row of beautiful Douglas firs standing parallel to Aurora. I look at these trees every day from my kitchen and my home office, where I've been working during the pandemic. They epitomize the character of Shoreline and they are one of the reasons I enjoy my condo so much.

Having over 100 new next-door neighbors will be a major change in itself, but removing all of the trees will completely change the feel of our community and reduce the quality of life for us all. These big conifers provide shade to our condos, they act as a sound barrier to busy Aurora Avenue, and are also carbon storehouses.

Nearly 80% of the housing project's plan will be impervious surface. With the heavier, stronger rains brought on by climate change, keeping some of the large trees should be critical for drainage and run off plans. The property is on a significant slope,

and we all know that things roll downhill (and into the lake)!

The housing project has plans for a gazebo and an open area, and I fervently hope some kind of compromise can be made to incorporate some of these existing trees. They add so much intrinsic value and appeal to the property!

Shouldn't all of us, regardless of income, benefit from a home surrounded by natural beauty?

Thank you."

Sincerely,

Martha Diesner  
1138 N 198th St







