

Carla Hoekzema

From: Kathleen Russell <krussell@russell-gordon.com>
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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment to Planning Commission 10/7 - Amendment 9

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Kathleen Russell
Resident of Shoreline
Member of Tree Preservation Code Team

My comment is about Amendment 9, page 19, the single tree code amendment proposed by staff. This code adds one word to SMC Exception 20.50.350 B.1. – the word “waive”. This one word will give the Director the right to entirely waive the percentage of retention of trees in zones which now require 20% retention. The staff recommendation says “to facilitate” the preservation of a greater number of ... landmark trees, cluster of trees, etc., which is already part of this code. The Director can already reduce the minimum significant tree retention on Residential, MUR-35 and -45 zones. If this amendment is approved per staff recommendation, the 20% retention of trees is in jeopardy.

The fact that staff propose this revision to existing code to grant the Planning Director more authority in waiving tree retention is counterintuitive to the environmental solution we need.

All other proposed tree codes being presented have been submitted by the Tree Preservation Code Team, a group of Shoreline residents. Unfortunately, staff recommends you deny most of these tree code amendments. However, we are in an emergency situation and one of the solutions to this climate crisis is to protect trees for the benefits trees provide. Thank you.