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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Kathleen Russell Public Comment Amendment 9. PC 11-18

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(2-minutes)

Kathleen Russell
City of Shoreline
Tree Preservation Code Team Member

Amendment 9. Exception 20.50.310(B)(1). Significant Tree Retention

Amendment 9 is proposed by City Staff. This amendment adds one word to this code – the word “waive”. Per existing code, the Director already has the right to reduce the retention of trees in zones now requiring 20% Significant-tree retention. City Staff is proposing the Director’s authority be extended to “waive” the retention of any significant trees on residential, MUR-35’ and MUR-45’ properties. Staff noted this is necessary, quote: “there are rare times where a homeowner needs to remove a tree that is causing unusual damage to structures or utilities...”

Furthermore, Staff has stated in the Nov. 18 agenda memo “Staff is comfortable raising the minimum significant tree retention [to 25%] [in Amendment 8] if the Director has the increased flexibility to waive the minimum significant tree retention as proposed in Amendment 9.” The Code Team objects to and questions this recommendation.

The Code Team asks that this code be revised to **exclude** the authority of the Director to waive **or** reduce the required significant tree retention on these properties and language be provided to solve the concern when a homeowner needs to remove a tree due to unusual circumstances as cited above.

This code negates the code that retains 20% of trees on residential, MUR-35’ and MUR-45’ properties.

Thank you.