

Attention Hearing Examiner:

The below verbal comment presented at the Pulte Home (5 Degree project) Hearing dated January 18, 2022 is now designated Exhibit #26 by you.

Nancy Morris, Shoreline resident (Introduction).

In the near future the Shoreline community may lose many significant trees at the Pulte Home 5 Degree site unless an effort is made to design around the mature landscape as much as possible to save many more mature trees. If this effort is not taken, vast destruction of trees will take place while birds are still nesting and utilizing this urban forest habitat in critical times from February 1 to September 1. I do appreciate Director Markle's letter to the applicant Pulte Homes regards delaying or monitoring the cutting of trees used by Northwest bird species from February 1 until early August, but better yet to save more trees and stop all removal of trees until September 1. Spotting the bird species living in these mature conifers will be next to impossible and relocating nests is not a viable method to lower bird mortality.

There are native and migratory bird species coming to our area into increasingly hostile environments that can eventually lead to their extinction. And why is it important to care about our wildlife and birds? The Center For Biological Diversity states: "Birds occur in nearly every habitat on the planet and are often the most visible and familiar wildlife to people across the globe. As such, they provide an important bellwether for tracking changes to the biosphere. Declining bird populations across most to all habitats confirm that profound changes are occurring on our planet in response to human activities." To put it another way - as bird populations suffer and go extinct, so will humanity's own hubris finally come home to roost.

Given the present and increasing climate crisis already causing catastrophic damage, our future is looking seriously bleak if we don't change directions on how we interact with the biosphere in which we all live. Part of this is saving our urban forest canopy now – not 20 years from now, and NOT continue to adhere to old tree code standards.

I hope I live to see all policymakers and developers of the future recognize that we share the world with other species and will design developments accordingly. We need to change our building codes, side walk codes, protective tree codes to design with the landscape to preserve mature trees, and seriously address climate emergencies. We need these new standards of design now to support our biosphere, which in the end supports us.

Thank you.