

From: [Kathleen Russell](#)
To: [Keith Scully](#); [Betsy Robertson](#); [Laura Mork](#); [Doris McConnell](#); [Eben Pobee](#); [John Ramsdell](#); [Chris Roberts](#)
Cc: [City Council](#); [Cameron Reed](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request related to Res 494 Climate Emergency - item 8(a) Council Meeting 8/1/22
Date: Thursday, July 28, 2022 11:33:30 AM
Attachments: [Letter to Council - Resolution 494 Climate Emergency.docx](#)

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To Council: Attached is a letter from Save Shoreline Trees Advisory Board related to study item 8(a) before Council on Monday, August 1, 2022.

Thank you for your time in reading this letter and your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Russell
Save Shoreline Trees/Communications



Date: July 28, 2022

To: City of Shoreline, City Council
Mayor Scully, Deputy Mayor Robertson, Councilmember McConnell, Councilmember Mork,
Councilmember Pobee, Councilmember Ramsdell, Councilmember Roberts

cc: Cameron Reed, Environmental Services Program Manager

Re: Resolution 494 Climate Emergency

From: Save Shoreline Trees Advisory Board

Following the review of three City documents: (a) the [2021 Sustainability Report](#), (b) the [Staff Study](#) for 8/1/22, and (c) the [Resolution 494 Climate Emergency](#) (scroll down to Attachment B), we first acknowledge the work done by Cameron Reed and Environmental Services in the extensive preparation and compilation of the 2021 Sustainability Report and the ensuing Staff Study (Item 8a, 8/1/22 Agenda), and the draft of Resolution 494 Climate Emergency.

While we understand the City and Council look to transportation as the key solution to greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), Save Shoreline Trees calls Council's attention to the importance of the tree canopy as a vital element to climate resiliency. This is supported by reputable scientists.¹ However, the tree canopy is not specifically mentioned in the proposed Resolution 494 re Climate Emergency.

Staff Report Acknowledges the Importance of the Tree Canopy

As published in advance of the City Council meeting for August 1, 2022: the [Staff Study, Item 8\(a\)](#), under "Actions to reduce emissions...", page 8a-7, bullet 4, states: "Maintaining and improving the health of local ecosystems including urban forests and waterways." The urban forest, as defined by the City of Shoreline, includes all trees in the tree canopy i.e., neighborhood trees, park trees, and right-of-way street trees.

ICLEI Focuses on Electrification and Reduction of Community Vehicle Travel

The [Staff Study, page 8a-6](#): "Accelerated Action to Address Climate Change" recommends the "High Impact Action Analysis provided by [ICLEI](#) [Local Governments for Sustainability] for the City [which] demonstrates that achieving the 2030 target is possible but will require significant, accelerated electrification of new and existing buildings and significant reductions in community-wide vehicle miles travelled."

Shoreline's Tree Canopy is *One Solution to CO2*

"Trees and a healthy urban canopy are an important tool in our toolbox", as reported by Nature Conservancy.² Yet, there is no specific mention of the preservation of the tree canopy as one of the solutions to the current climate crisis despite City confirmation that Shoreline's tree canopy "collects 13,000 to 15,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year".³ In addition, trees cool deadly heat islands, remove pollution particulates from air, provide habitat, and filter stormwater.

The Tree Canopy Fulfills ICLEI 5 Pathways

ICLEI is guided by five pathways as follows: (1) low emission, (2) nature-based, (3) equitable, (4) resilient, and (5) circular development which when combined "create a systemic change". *"The pathways provide a framework for designing integrated solutions that balance the patterns of human life and the built and natural environments."*⁴ We believe our existing trees, whether growing in private or public settings, fulfill the five pathways.

Request: Add "established trees" to Resolution 494

Specifically in the [Resolution 494 Climate Emergency](#): Attachment B, page 8a-44, "**Section 2. City Department Directive**", we ask Council to insert the underscored language in "Ecosystems" as follows:

Ecosystems: protecting and restoring the health and functioning of local ecosystems by incorporating green infrastructure in community design, protecting established trees as natural assets, and, actively restoring damaged ecosystems to maximize biodiversity, stormwater management; and carbon sequestration

It is confirmed by City Staff that "natural assets" refers to "trees". Save Shoreline Trees asks Council to include the words referring to established trees as part of "natural assets", which will acknowledge the importance of the tree canopy as one solution to our climate crisis.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Save Shoreline Trees Advisory Board

Melody Fosmore
Kathleen Russell
Susanne Tsoming
Kathy Kaye
Claudia Turner

References:

¹ [Letter from 134 Scientists to President Biden, April 20, 2022](#)

² [City of Shoreline Q&A](#) page 4: According to the City, Shoreline's tree canopy currently "collects 13,000 to 15,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year".

³ [Washington: Urban Trees and Climate Change](#)

⁴ [ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability: Five Pathways](#)