

From: [Chase Martin](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [John Knox White](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Trish Spencer](#)
Cc: [City Clerk](#); [Danielle Mieler](#); [Manager Manager](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Links to local tree protection ordinances mentioned in letter regarding Urban Forest Plan
Date: Tuesday, July 5, 2022 11:55:58 AM

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council,

Unfortunately, the links at the bottom of the previously emailed letter were deactivated when it was converted to pdf form.

Please see the functioning links below.

Thank you.

Chase Martin

[City of Lafayette](#)

[City of Palo Alto](#)

[City of Walnut Creek](#)

[City of Concord](#)

On Mon, Jul 4, 2022 at 10:01 PM Chase Martin <chasermartin@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

Please see the letter attached with a request to include improved tree protection in Alameda's Urban Forest Plan.

Sincerely,

Chase R. Martin
1423 Walnut St, Alameda, CA 94501

From: [Dodi Kelleher](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [John Knox White](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Trish Spencer](#)
Cc: [Lara Weisiger](#); [City Clerk](#); [Manager Manager](#); [Danielle Mieler](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: July 5th City Council Meeting- public comment request to improve tree protection as part of the Urban Forest Plan
Date: Tuesday, July 5, 2022 10:58:16 AM

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I am writing in support of the letter and upcoming oral communication by Chase Martin, a local environmental advocate and organizer of the Thursday Beach Cleanup. Her request for the City Council to direct staff to consider improving the tree protection ordinance as part of the upcoming Urban Forest Plan is accompanied by her very detailed and very well thought out letter. Our trees are an important element in a robust and sustainable environmental strategy, as well as part of Alameda's unique charm and habitability. Protection, preservation, and improved maintenance of our trees has become ever more important given the increasing stress of drought, winds and other negative environmental impacts.

Sincerely,

Dolores Kelleher

From: [Chase Martin](#)
To: [Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft](#); [John Knox White](#); [Tony Daysog](#); [Malia Vella](#); [Trish Spencer](#)
Cc: [Manager Manager](#); [Danielle Mieler](#); [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request to include improved tree protection ordinance in Urban Forest Plan
Date: Monday, July 4, 2022 10:02:10 PM
Attachments: [We sent you safe versions of your files.msg](#)
[Request to include improved tree protection ordinance in Urban Forest Plan.pdf](#)

Mimecast Attachment Protection has deemed this file to be safe, but always exercise caution when opening files.

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

Please see the letter attached with a request to include improved tree protection in Alameda's Urban Forest Plan.

Sincerely,

Chase R. Martin
1423 Walnut St, Alameda, CA 94501

Chase R. Martin
1423 Walnut Street
Alameda CA

Alameda Mayor and City Council
2263 Santa Clara Ave # 320
Alameda, CA 94501

Via email

July 4, 2022

RE: Request to include improved tree protection ordinance in Urban Forest Plan

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

The City of Alameda should improve its tree protection ordinance. This could probably be most easily done as part of the upcoming Urban Forest Plan, since the plan is amply funded. We are therefore asking you to direct staff to consider inclusion of an improved tree protection ordinance as part of the Urban Forest Plan.

According to the City of Alameda's website, "Alameda has set an ambitious goal of reducing emissions by 50% below 2005 levels by 2030 and becoming carbon neutral as soon as possible." Ensuring the expanded protection of trees in the scope of the Urban Forest Plan would help ensure the City meets these goals.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection informs us that "trees provide energy conservation, reduction of storm-water runoff, extend the life of surface streets, improve local air, soil and water quality, reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide, improve public health, provide wildlife habitat and increase property values. In short, they improve the quality of life in our urban environments which, increasingly, are where Californians live, work, and play." Disturbingly, according to American Forests, the US has lost 16 percent of its tree cover from 2001 to 2021.

Trees act as a carbon dioxide sink by sequestering carbon dioxide during photosynthesis and decreasing its concentration in the atmosphere. According to the US Forest Service, an average-size tree can store hundreds of pounds of CO₂ over its lifetime. They also reduce energy use by making neighborhoods up to 6-10 degrees cooler and thereby saving residents up to 30% of energy use. The City's 2019 Climate Action Plan calls for increasing our urban forest as an action item, and we were happy to see that as part of this action the City has released an RFP for the development of Alameda's Urban Forest Plan.

Currently the trees protected in Alameda's current Tree Protection Ordinance that are not on public right of ways are mostly coast live oaks. A Certificate of Approval is required to remove any when they are ten inches or greater in diameter when measured four and a half feet (4.5') above ground. Without greater protection, many trees in Alameda will be lost during

development, negatively impacting our environment and quality of life. Replacing trees should be a last resort solution since older trees are better at absorbing carbon, according to a University of Hamburg study. Their research suggests that almost 70 percent of carbon stored in trees is accumulated in the last half of their lives.

Alameda leaders can take their inspiration from nearby cities that have taken action to address this issue. The City of Lafayette requires a Tree Permit to remove any indigenous trees with a diameter of 12" and more, any trees of 6" diameter or more on undeveloped property and any trees on commercial properties or public right of ways. They also require plans to ensure tree preservation and protection by all construction crews. On June 8th, the City of Palo Alto voted to triple the number of "protected" trees in their City. Now seven native species will be included when they are only 11.5 in trunk diameter. In addition, most other trees at least 15 inches in trunk diameter would also be protected, with redwood trees included at 18 inches. Walnut Creek and Concord also have good ordinances that could be models for Alameda. It is particularly important to prioritize the protection of native and drought tolerant trees, and tree species that sequester a relatively large amount of carbon.

With a denser urban environment than these cities, Alameda should be even more protective of our existing tree canopy. While we look forward to the results of the Urban Forest planning process, and given the pace of development in our city we believe that it is imperative to increase the protection of existing trees as soon as possible.

We can't afford to lose trees with so much at stake. Now is the time to ensure their expanded protection. The following organizations support my letter in concept:

100K Trees for Humanity
Sierra Club
Golden Gate Audubon Society

Sincerely,

Chase R. Martin
Environmental advocate and organizer of Thursday 11am Alameda Beach Cleanup

For your reference, here are links to local tree protection ordinances referenced above:

[City of Lafayette](#)
[City of Palo Alto](#)
[City of Walnut Creek](#)
[City of Concord](#)