Letter I31

From: Kay
To: cnpssd-l@ucsd.edu
Subject: Many native trees are preferable to eucalyptus trees
Date: Saturday, September 16, 2017 7:07:01 PM

Dear Members of the Climate Action Plan planning group:

I am a licensed landscape architect, with a practice since 1989. I have provided professional services to hundreds of public and private projects since then. Before then, I was a biotech with the US Forest Service, where I worked analyzing impacts of timber sales and reforestation to other forest resources. In short, I have the ability to critique suggestions about planting trees to combat global climate change. I31-1

I agree that tree planting is necessary in our urban environment, to contribute to carbon sequestration, as well as for the other benefits that trees provide to urban and suburban life. What kind to plant is the question.

According to a colleague, at the Sept. 12 meeting of CAP, someone suggested that the Climate Action Plan recommend planting eucalyptus. This idea needs to be thought about carefully. There are around ten species of eucalyptus that are planted in our region, with different size ranges for each species. Some max out at 30' high and others at 150' high, with many species maxing out at heights between these extremes. Although a few species of Eucalypus are quite desirable (Euc. ficifolia is one that I think is a wonderful tree in our region, for instance) I hope that after thinking about it, you will conclude that native trees would be better than most Eucalyptus species. I31-2

For instance, Euc. camaldulensis and E. cladocalyx, the largest eucalyptus species commonly grown here, drop combustible litter by the ton, and are planted in soil that doesn't allow deep rooting, so high winds topple them. Eucalyptus globulus (Blue Gum) has viscous nectar that traps small native songbirds (bushtits, wrens and others), and they die. Some of the other smaller Eucalyptus are less offensive, but why should we plant them when we could plant native tree species that serve the wildlife better while achieving our own goals?

Here are ten native evergreen trees that grow well in our City, with less water than many species of exotic evergreen trees of similar size. They are listed from largest to smallest. They all grow fast and will support native birds and other wildlife: I31-3

1. Coast Live Oak (Quercus agrifolia)
2. Torrey Pine (Pinus torreyana)
3. Engelmann Oak (Q. engelmannii)
4. Island Oak (Q. tomentella)
5. Fernleaf Catalina Ironwood (Lyonothamnus floribundus asplinifolius)
6. Tecate cypress (Hesperocyparis forbesii)
7. Cuyamaca cypress (Hesperocyparis stephensonii)
8. Toyon (Heteromeles arbutifolia)
9. Catalina Cherry (Prunus lyonnii)
10. Scrub Oak species (Quercus dumosa, berberidifolia, acutidans, etc.)

There are also deciduous species of native trees that are very lovely in our

Response to Comment Letter I31

Kay Stewart
September 16, 2017

I31-1 The comment provides introductory remarks and states that tree planting is important for carbon sequestration. The County recognizes this is an important component of the measure, as detailed in the Draft CAP. As detailed therein, increased carbon sequestration and new tree plantings would also improve air quality through the capture of air pollutants, water quality through reduced erosion, biological resources by providing additional habitat and improved water quality, and community and public health through the provision of shade and positive impacts on overall wellbeing.

I31-2 The County acknowledges concern about planting eucalyptus in development projects. Please see response to comment I5-2.

I31-3 The comment provides a list of California native tree species that may be a good choice for use in the county. Please see response to comment I5-2.

region.
If you want more suggestions please contact me.

Sincerely,

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