

Letter
149

From: Garden, Connessa
To: CAP
Subject: RE: COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (FDS2015-POD-15-002), GENERAL PLAN AMENDMENT (FDS2016-GPA-16-007), DRAFT SEIR (LOG NO. FDS2016-ER-16-00-003).
Date: Monday, September 18, 2017 9:40:16 AM

Maggie Soffel, Land Use/Environmental Planner
 Planning and Development Services
 5510 Overland Avenue, Suite 310,

San Diego, CA 92123

Dear Ms Maggie Soffel:

I heard from one of my environmentally-aware SD California Native Plant Society members at the County Climate Action meeting on Sept. 12, your committee talked about planting trees at every new construction site. This is a great step! As a member of the California Native Plant Society, I'd love to see more native trees be included in construction site planning.

I49-1

Eucalyptus trees were, apparently, suggested as the go-to species. And I hope you will re-consider this recommendation. Eucalyptus roots are shallow water-seeking and insatiable. Their root structures will penetrate sewage, wastewater systems, above ground planters, irrigation lines, while dropping leaf litter that inhibits other plants from growing underneath. In the past few years the tree have fallen on cars, during storms, in Balboa Park & killed at least one visitor in front of the SD Zoo.

I49-2

The [California Invasive Plant Council](#) asks us not to plant Eucalyptus in Southern California, due to fire considerations.

I49-3

In general, but especially in the shallow-soil conditions common to much of the San Diego area and our propensity for shallow irrigation, I am not in favor of tall trees in situations where when they fall they could cause damage, injury, or death(s).

I believe that any professional should always begin the process of selection with natives (*ipso facto*, they are best-suited to the places where they grow--where they evolved) on the basis of the "best fit" solution in the specific context, such as all project requirements, then proceed to preferences. Kinda like "form follows function."

I49-4

I would like to see the data that support the level of contribution that planting more trees will make to sequestering carbon. I certainly believe that it does happen, of course, but I fear that the amount may not offset the need for water that additional trees will require in order to grow (required for sequestration--

I49-5

Response to Comment Letter I49

Linda Aurora Espino
September 18, 2017

- I49-1** The County acknowledges support for planting native trees at construction site. Please see response to comment I5-2.
- I49-2** The County acknowledges concern for the planting of eucalyptus trees. Please see response to comment I5-2.
- I49-3** The County acknowledges an opinion regarding shallow-soil conditions and tall trees. Please see response to comment I5-2. T
- I49-4** The County acknowledges the opinion that native species should be selected first. Please see response to comment I5-2.
- I49-5** The comment requests data about how tree plantings will contribute to carbon sequestration. Please see Appendix C to the Draft CAP for calculations supporting the sequestration-related reductions from tree planting. Reductions are based on data published in support of the California Emissions Estimator Model that was developed for the California Air Pollution Officers Association (CAPCOA) in collaboration with the California Air Districts and is widely used to conduct air quality and GHG analyses in California.

note the thousands of trees we already have that have been under drought stress for decades) and that the amount of carbon taken from the air will be significant. I am not against planting trees, but I do believe that a scientifically comprehensive approach is the wisest approach to the various issues rather than popular presumptions. The Redwood forest area in Balboa Park was left by the Park & Recreation Department to die as they decided to not use water to water this grove!

I49-5
cont

Construction sites use lots of water as it is, surely a more suitable landscaping of California Native shrubs that will grow into small trees will beautify the sites, add the scent of California native plants back into our environment and add visual interest.

I49-6

Let's make CA look like CA again.

Best regards,

Linda Aurora Espino

2506 Horton Avenue

SD, CA 92101

I49-6 The County acknowledges the opinion that planting native trees is more suitable. Please see response to comment I5-2.