

Letter
I5

From: Susan Krzywicki
To: CAP
Subject: Planting of Trees at new Construction sites
Date: Friday, September 15, 2017 10:31:02 AM

Hello Committee Members;

I heard from one of my environmentally-aware associates that, 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.

I5-1

Eucalyptus trees were, apparently, suggested as the go-to species. And I hope you will reconsider 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.

I5-2

The California Invasive Plant Council asks us not to plant Eucalyptus in Southern California, due to fire considerations.

No single tree species is perfect for all conditions, so I am not offering up a specific solution. I would suggest that, if you are looking for better alternatives, there are several people within the California Native Plant Society that can help. If you'd like to connect with someone who can help on this issue, please reply to his message and I can link you up with several experts.

Regards,

Susan Krzywicki
susan.krzywicki@mac.com
www.susankrzywicki.com
 (619) 318-4590
[California Native Plant Society, Ocean Friendly Gardens](http://CaliforniaNativePlantSociety.OceanFriendlyGardens)

Response to Comment Letter I5

Susan Krzywicki
August 15, 2017

I5-1 The comment states a desire to see more native tree plantings at construction sites. The County acknowledges this comment. The comment will be included in the Final EIR and made available to the decision makers prior to a final decision on the project.

I5-2 The County acknowledges concern regarding planting of eucalyptus trees. The Draft CAP has two measures related to the planting of trees—one requiring new residential development to plant trees and one requiring the County to plant trees. Both measures would require that drought-tolerant, native trees be used.

As detailed in GHG Reduction Measure A-2.1: Increase Residential Tree Planting, the County would require trees be planted for every new residential dwelling unit constructed in the unincorporated county at a rate of two trees per new dwelling unit. The ordinance would include water conservation strategies to minimize water use, which could include planting drought-tolerant and native trees and prioritizing tree plantings in areas served by recycled water and greywater infrastructure.

As detailed in GHG Reduction Measure A-2.2: Increase County Tree Planting, the County would prepare and adopt a tree planting program for the unincorporated county to plant a minimum of 3,500 trees annually starting in 2017. It should be noted that the County's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) currently plants trees within the unincorporated county. DPR only plants drought tolerant or native plant species. During the first year of the establishment period, water is needed to keep these 3,500 trees alive. Once they are established, little or no irrigation is required. In high access zones (picnic areas, campgrounds, playgrounds, staging areas, main trailheads, community parks), where irrigation

systems are present, DPR keeps sprinkler heads vertical and at the correct height for maximum coverage keeping the spray pattern uniform. DPR specifies landscape designs that minimize run-off. For example, landscapes that allow for the use of drip or bubbler irrigation versus overhead spray systems. In using drip emitters, the water is distributed very accurately at the root zone of the tree. DPR currently uses Calsense controllers for flow monitoring, water management, detection of breaks, and collect and analyze data. If necessary, DPR uses multiple stop/start irrigation settings to allow sufficient soak-in time. DPR complies with the CA Water Code's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. DPR uses landscape mulch or landscape fabric to minimize evaporation. Drip irrigation in conjunction with mulch is optimum when drought tolerant plant palette is used. DPR uses canopies and shading elements to reduce heat gain and minimize evapotranspiration. DPR also improves soils to absorb and retain more water, replace irrigated landscapes with rock gardens or other non-irrigated components.