

For the record concerning the agenda item 5f) Discussion and Possible Action Including Direction to Staff Regarding for the meeting on March 9, 2021

I live in an oak woodland and have witnessed many of the benefits from our native oaks. Oaks are an essential part of a major ecosystem in California providing food for many mammals, reptiles, and insects. We saw firsthand in our oak woodland how oaks stabilize hillsides. We had a slide a few winters ago in an area where we have protected over 20 oak seedlings from deer and pigs until they were over 25 years old at the time. The slide stopped right where the biggest of our young trees were and just a few yards away from our tool shed and truck.

In the bigger picture growing oak trees sequester a lot of carbon, and help cool and humify the air in the summer. It is hard to quantify these advantages until they are gone especially when most arguments focus on profit/loss over short time frames. But I hope we have learned from the record of ecosystems wrecked due to short term gain to put strong protections in place in the Oak Ordinance and adequate enforcement of these protections to keep our oak woodlands a major feature of Mendocino County.

Thank you,
Diane Pepetone