

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Katharine Defanti](#)
Subject: Fwd: Public Comment - General
Date: Wednesday, June 19, 2024 2:01:45 PM

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Please replace my earlier comment with this comment, which I believe is clearer. Thank you.

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From: **susan kirks** [REDACTED] >
Date: Wed, Jun 19, 2024, 11:57 AM
Subject: Public Comment - General
To: <kdefanti@cityofpetaluma.org>

I want to thank your Committee members, especially Darren and Taryn, for comments on the Natural Environment section of the General Plan Update

Also, I just read about the grant application described in ReLeaf's general public comment.

The group, ReLeaf, posts on social media and recently posted about how much ReLeaf cares about biodiversity, attempting to cite statewide sensitive environmental information to try and relate this to ReLeaf in Petaluma.

As a person representing bird and wildlife nonprofit organizations, where ecosystems important for species survival and sustenance are critically important, the ReLeaf broad claims are very concerning.

I find no positive meaning in an art display of large potted trees at the Petaluma Fairgrounds, described in ReLeaf's general public comment for you for today's meeting. Why subject trees, living systems, to such objectification and really unneeded activity for "art?"

The City of Petaluma does not maintain or provide care for existing trees. This is of deep concern for many. Also, Petaluma Valley is open grassland in many areas and should remain as such. The intensive program of ReLeaf planting large numbers of trees and celebrating these numbers, is a top-down, bureaucratic approach the electeds and City Management may celebrate and publicize, but, in truth, the approach is less sensitive to actual local surroundings and existing local areas that may not receive benefit at all from this approach.

Thank you for accepting this comment.

Susan Kirks