

Katharine Defanti

From: Susan [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:39 AM
To: Katharine Defanti
Subject: Agenda Item 3 - North River Park Project - Tree Advisory Committee Meeting Nov. 15

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Hello Committee Members,

The area of Petaluma being considered for conservation is more of a wild area as compared to the downtown river area and south of downtown where marshes and wetlands are prominent.

A wildlife corridor connects this north river area to West Petaluma, over to Paula Lane and even south to Helen Putnam Regional Park, as one of six wildlife corridors in Petaluma Valley.

It might be beneficial to advise the FPR folks about this for inclusion in the public presentation of the proposed project. This corridor is part of my longstanding corridor mapping project for Sonoma and Marin Counties.

Also, I believe you may want to suggest a change in the City Manager's quote toward the end of the presentation where the term "lifeblood" is used. Perhaps an unconscious comment, or not, but in any event, given the industrial animal agriculture slaughter operation and the auction yard where animals are sold to be slaughtered are part of the mapped area, but appear to not be labeled similar to the Factory Outlet Malls area, that reference may better be "a central feature" or "a life-giving tidal slough" or something similar.

I encourage you as well as the proponents for this ambitious project to note that removing the industrial animal agriculture components from that area would inevitably lead to more birds and wildlife over time, and that might become a secondary goal of the proponents in order to heighten environmental sensitivity and also contribute to the comfort level of persons who may walk up into that area on the trails.

It is impressive that Friends of the Petaluma River has organized this large-scale possible acquisition, conservation easement and community effort.

I want to acknowledge the opponents of Sid Commons for the impetus to become more aware of the north river area and lands. This area has been an area of my observation for many years, affiliated with the badgers and wildlife movement in West and North Petaluma and other areas.

Thanks,
Susan Kirks
Petaluma