

Delana Bradford

From: dbradford@cityofpetaluma.org
Subject: FW: Public Comment - Additional - Agenda Item 2

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From: susan kirks [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jun 19, 2024, 2:58 PM
Subject: Public Comment - Additional - Agenda Item 2
To: <parksnrec@cityofpetaluma.org>

Please provide this comment to Commissioners and post to the agenda.

Dear Commissioners,

Drew Halter responded to an email I sent to him, advising the presentation for this evening is now posted to the agenda on the website.

The presentation should have been posted with the agenda last week to give the public time to review and comment, not the day of the meeting.

My earlier comment stands. I have just taken time to review the presentation and am deeply concerned. This amphitheater project in that location is a take of habitat with unbelievably impactful and new human encroachment. It does not matter - AT ALL - that sustainable materials or scaled down sizes for seating are included.

The location will represent negative impacts to the environment. Please review my prior comment

I was described in a conversation the other day about this proposed project at this location as -

"You're like a dictator."

"You don't want any people to go to the park."

No, I was in the first graduating class of PWA Docents in 2006. I was an active Docent 2006-2008 before joining the Board of Directors of Madrone Audubon in 2008. I planted plants and hand carried buckets of water at Shollenberger Park.

And, as shared, the Petaluma Wetlands have the Ramsar Wetland of International Importance designation solely because of my guiding and sustaining the effort to attain that.

Please prioritize the environment and species of the Petaluma Wetlands. Nesting birds would be within 50 feet of this "amphitheater" with stage. That means this project and activity there would create disturbance and very likely cause displacement. What the actual heck?

My hope is your Commission will understand the concerns I have expressed and agree - a project such as this, for EDUCATIONAL purposes or any other use, could be located at the Ellis Creek WWTF grounds. That is the ONLY appropriate location.

If after all this time the grant is not realized, it will be because the project was completely inappropriate from the beginning and the species at Shollenberger Park were prioritized for protection. The other alternative suggested in my prior comment to enhance the existing picnic table area near the park entrance remains a possibility.

Sincerely,
Susan Kirks
President, Madrone Audubon
Naturalist, PLAN
