

Dear Mr. Jay and Planning Committee,

I am writing to express my substantial disagreement with the potential approval of removing ten trees in association with project number 2023-036. I own a popular business downtown Sebastopol that is frequented by many local residents and an extensive number of tourists. The number one complaint from tourists regarding Sebastopol is a lack of tree cover. They always mention the "lovely shady tree area of downtown Healdsburg, the wonderful trees in Occidental, the park in Cotati and more other very appealing tree dominated neighboring Cities. They would rather spend more time in Sebastopol but prefer the comfort of not being in the sun, so they make a quick pit stop and move on to somewhere else to spend the majority of their time and funds. The short Myrtles on Main Street unfortunately appear "scraggly" to most and do nothing to create an appealing aesthetic or shade.

I also consult regarding sustainability for the City of Santa Monica (for over twenty five years) and work with the Governor's Office in multiple areas of sustainability for the State. As is evidenced by the many news stories everyday that highlight the fact that the vast majority of the most credible climate scientists counsel that the most effective prevention of Cities overheating as climate change unfolds is to plant trees, I am surprised this is even being considered. An established large tree can not be replaced, especially a heritage tree. None of the dozens of Cities that I have worked with in California would allow the removal of so many trees for the expansion of a car wash. If you allow this, it be be a deeply regrettable breach of stewardship and an unwise decision for the health and well being of residents and businesses. Alternative technology vehicles are going to eventually be self-washing- this development is already in the pipeline. So you will have destroyed a non-replaceable extremely valuable asset with something that will no longer be relevant.

I hope that you will examine the genuine consequences of removing large established heritage trees (now priceless) for the purpose of expanding a car wash. Removal of the trees will make the City less valuable and less viable on every level and will further lead to future loss of revenue and quality of existence.

Thank you for your consideration,

Christine Dzilvelis