



SONOMA GROUP

Oct. 2, 2026

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing as a member of the Sierra Club Sonoma Group and as a volunteer on the Calder Creek Advisory Team to respectfully request that the Planning Commission deny the Sebastopol Rotary Club's centennial project application in its current location and configuration at Ives Park.

I support the Calder Creek restoration project that was unanimously approved by the Planning Commission and City Council in 2022. The proposed Rotary project, as currently designed, would place a substantial area of pavement on top of, and in conflict with, the approved creek restoration plan.

The 2022 restoration design was carefully developed to minimize sewer-line crossings, reduce impacts to the redwood trees at the eastern end of the park, and establish a stable stream planform that will help avoid future maintenance problems. The approved design also responds to the community's desire for cohesive open space that can accommodate concerts, gatherings, and other public events.

Importantly, the restoration project will remove fencing and a dangerous concrete ditch, creating a safer and more accessible, gently sloped lawn area for concert viewers and other park users. The project increases usable open space from approximately 42,000 to 45,000 square feet. From a conservation perspective, the restoration also offers an important opportunity to improve ecological conditions in the heart of Sebastopol.

As a Sierra Club member, I strongly value projects that restore natural systems while also creating meaningful public spaces. I want to see the Calder Creek restoration succeed and look forward to the many environmental and community benefits it can provide.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Planning Commission to recommend re-siting the Rotary Club's centennial project to a location and configuration that does not conflict with the previously approved Calder Creek restoration project.

Thank you for your consideration and for your commitment to protecting and enhancing Sebastopol's natural resources and public spaces.

Sincerely,

Shirley Johnson

Sierra Club Sonoma Group Chair & Calder Creek Advisory Team Volunteer