Outlook

PROTECT the "Protected" Redwoods on Valentine Avenue

From [redacted]
Date Thu 10/29/2026 4:59 PM
To Eli Arreola <earreola@cityofsebastopol.gov>; Planning <planning@cityofsebastopol.gov>

Tree Board, DRB, City councilors:
RE: 8100 Valentine Avenue, the Church of Latter Day Saints to be demolished and 39 homes and ADU's (additional Dwelling Units) proposed to be built there.

According to the Sebastopol staff report, only **3** of 20 "protected" trees would remain under current layout, compared with **13 under the original plan.** Elsewhere, plan states 15 of 19 heritage redwoods are to be removed, leaving 4 trees.
The City Arborist counted 23 protected trees - the totals don't even match. **We are asking for a minimum of 13 trees to be saved**. Removing the ADU (additional dwelling unit) in the NE corner alone saves 4 redwood trees.

Unanswered questions emailed 10/28 to Sebastopol City Arborist, Ben Anderson:
Have you been given required reports re 8100 Valentine proposed project?
What is your count of the number of "protected trees" on this property?
What is your appraisal of protective distance from root disturbance to safeguard tree?
What is your assessment of appropriateness of replacing 30' tall trees with ones in 24"X24" boxes?
AND assessment of 5 year oversight of these planter boxes - to what height do these typically grow? species?
Trees, especially REDWOODS, will obviously never survive in boxes: Where is the d**emonstration of TREES SURVIVING in BOXES for 10+ years?**

This project wants to squeeze in more (chipboard/burnable) houses than this property should hold,
MAXIMIZING PROFIT by SACRIFICING TREES.

At the barest, most pathetic, minimum, the Council must **deny** Condition 4 **- accountability and care for the surviving trees with tree care plans in place.** ***Grupe (the developer) said that there is a tree care plan in place for the surviving trees (?!) but there is NO documentation about the tree plan, which is to be maintained by Sebastopol City Arborist (why?).***
If Condition 4 is approved, it allows Grupe to bypass the report/notifying the City Arborist of damaged/destroyed trees from the construction. The developer is trying to avoid the

City's Arborist - they never contacted him to present their tree care plan to the City which is still pending.

- A certified arborist prepares a tree protection plan, and the City Arborist must approve it before any grading permit is issued.
- Retained trees get Tree Protection Zones.
- Grupe offers that each (30 foot tall) removed tree is replaced with two trees in ***24-inch boxes*** (window box size, ludicrous) with five years of care (?) and penalties for violations (what peanuts penalties?).

Resistance to this developer and their projects in Stockton, Hollister and Sonoma should be a warning to Sebastopol.
Stop, investigate, disclose and consider everything BEFORE any further movement on Valentine.

And for God's sake, nature, and ours, leave 30-40 foot tall trees standing -
THAT IS WHY WE COME TO LIVE HERE - AND WOULD WANT TO STAY HERE.

Sincerely,
Judith Iam
Sebastopol