



August 28, 2018

To: Pete Calarco, Assistant Director, Development Services, Butte County

From: Janet Cobb and Angela Moskow, California Wildlife Foundation/California Oaks

RE: Draft Butte County Oak Woodland Mitigation Ordinance and Oak Woodlands Technical Manual

Thank you for your communications with California Wildlife Foundation/California Oaks, as well as local stakeholders, during the development of the Oak Woodland Mitigation Ordinance and Oak Woodlands Technical Manual. This memo provides feedback on the draft ordinance that will be considered at the meeting on August 29.

XX-8 Exemptions. C. Conversion of oak woodlands on agricultural lands: We refer you to our memos of August 9 and July 26 stating that the ordinance should apply to agricultural lands because California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires the analysis and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions associated with proposed oak woodland or oak forest conversions.

The inclusion of language that references the grading permit [Butte County Code Chapter 13-14 (c)] is an improvement to the ordinance.

XX-11 Oak Canopy Impacts: The new language that states the following is an improvement to the ordinance: *Subsequent discretionary projects filed within a project approved under this ordinance are subject to these thresholds and shall not be used as a means to cumulatively exceed the thresholds.*

We refer you to our memo of August 9 on this section, formerly XX-10.

XX-13 Oak Canopy Replacement Ratio: California Oaks concurs with local representatives who suggest that oak replanting requires much higher replacement ratios. We also agree that conservation of an oak woodland of like size of the woodland that is impacted still results in degradation of the county's oak resources such that impacts remain significant. Thus a more rigorous metric is needed for this calculation as well. That said, we recognize that the revisions to the draft ordinance are reflective of input gathered from the community in that the replacement ratio for 10.1-50% removal is now 2:1 rather than 1:1 and 50.1-70% is now 3:1 rather than 2:1. However, we object to the provision that the calculations are less ten percent of the impact.

We appreciate your consideration and review of our comments.