



June 2, 2023

San Rafael City Council
1400 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William Carney, President
Linda Jackson, Vice President
Stuart Siegel, Secretary
Arin Benavides
Greg Brockbank
Kay Karchevski
Kiki La Porta
Annika Osborn
Howard Schwartz

415.302.0110

RE: Tree Inventory in FY23-24 Budget Objectives

Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers,
Sustainable San Rafael welcomes the inclusion of a tree inventory in the Council's budget objectives for the coming fiscal year. We look forward to an inventory that includes sufficient data to support the remaining tree-related programs in General Plan 2040.

The inventory is a first step to implementing these programs in a comprehensive, cost-efficient, and timely manner:

1. Complete the Tree Inventory called for by this objective and the General Plan (CDP-3.5B).
2. Adopt the revised Tree Ordinance per last year's budget objectives, which we understand was placed on hold pending completion of the Tree Inventory.
3. Include Tree Preservation regulations in the Tree Ordinance as called for by the General Plan (C-1.17A).
4. Develop and adopt a Tree Master Plan as called for by the General Plan (CDP-3.5A).
5. Implement the remaining General Plan tree programs within the framework of the Tree Master Plan.

Since funding for a consultant to complete the Tree Master Plan may be available from State and/or Federal sources, we request that securing these funds be initiated in the coming year. Developing the scope for this work now would have the added benefit of assisting coordination of items 1, 2, and 3.

Proceeding with a comprehensive approach to caring for our trees is key to achieving San Rafael's climate goals. Trees cool our communities, reducing the impact of more severe heat waves. Trees sequester greenhouse gases, reducing the root cause of climate change as Marin moves towards zero net GHG emissions by 2045. And trees create a walkable environment, reducing driving, our single largest emitter of GHG.

For all these reasons and more, trees need our support now.

Sincerely,

William Carney, President