

Dear GPAC,

I am writing to share public comments for the November GPAC Meeting on November 18, 2021. Please find comments below and 4 attachments for review. This compilation contains additional documents that came through tomorrow before the meeting deadline.

Complete Public Comment Received Prior to the Meeting

1. David Powers
2. Susan Kirks
3. O'Meara Cover
4. Beverly Shore
5. Carin Jacobs
6. Susan Kirks
 - a. Comment Attachment (Attachment)
 - b. ArcGIS - We Are all Connected (Attachment)
7. Wendy Krupnik
 - a. CAFF Sonoma County
 - b. CAFF VIP Tour

For your convenience, I am providing the Zoom link for tomorrow's session at 6:30 PM: <https://zoom.us/j/91211018537>.

Kind regards,

David

David Powers <powers.davidf@gmail.com>

Thu 11/18/2021 9:26 AM

Heather and David,

Please include these remarks in the agenda for tonight's meeting the General Plan Advisory Committee.

Thanks very much,
David Powers

11/17/21

Members of the General Plan Advisory Committee—

I am concerned that the upcoming meeting of the GPAC will be moving into a "Visioning" phase of the General Plan process at a point when not all the Existing Condition Reports (ECR) have been completed.

I have two major concerns about the process to this point:

First, ReLeaf Petaluma has been involved in making our case for the inclusion of an assessment of the current condition of our Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) within the Existing Conditions Reports to establish a baseline for future tree planting activities. We have participated in conversations with City staff and have made presentations to pertinent Commissions and Committees. A tree assessment uses existing and available maps to create an estimate of the number of trees in the UTC and is not to be equated with a tree inventory which can take much longer to complete. An assessment paints a picture of size and location, while an inventory drills down into the specific species, specific GPS location, and specific condition of each tree in the UTC. This is a fundamental building block for creating a healthy urban canopy.

Second, there is not a single General Plan Topic of Concern under examination or analysis which is not impacted positively by an expanded UTC. Including a strategy for tree planting in each of the Topics of Concern areas will embed within the General Plan a path forward for our community. This will allow us to reap the significant benefits trees bring to environmental and social equity (think heat islands), green infrastructure (think storm water management), and carbon sequestration (think GHG reduction).

The surveys conducted by GP consultant team highlight that the community thinks the issue of climate change is a major concern—for them personally and for their community. In your positions as advisors to the process, ReLeaf Petaluma requests that you make every effort to shine a light on this fundamental omission to the current General Plan process and work to include language about the impact of strategic expansion of the UTC in each section of the GP.

Sincerely,

David Powers

Susan Kirks <susankirks@sbcglobal.net>
Thu 11/18/2021 12:51 PM
To: Hines, Heather <hhines@cityofpetaluma.org>

Comment for 11/18/2021 GPAC meeting.

(I also sent a review of the Existing Conditions info I provided to the Climate Action Commission to the City Clerk, requesting that also be distributed to GPAC members. I did not receive confirmation that occurred, so please provide this comment along with the attachments to GPAC members.

Susan Kirks

Agenda Item 5A.

3. Preserve and enhance Petaluma's distinct urban edge, surrounding open spaces and natural environment.

It's interesting participants in workshops do not refer to wildlife, birds and living creatures of the natural environment.

A significant emphasis throughout is noted on tree planting with climate-action related and community benefits. Tree planting is a relatively straightforward concept to grasp. The broader meaning of adding trees to our landscapes, carefully selected to also create habitat, would be advisable to share. This supports enhanced awareness of sensitivity to our natural environment.

The GPAC has an opportunity in your work to emphasize equity as a priority in all considerations as well as learning about and being sensitive to, supporting and appreciating all facets of our Natural Environment.

Please see comments I provided to the Climate Action Commission on Existing Conditions - Issues and Opportunities - presentation the GPAC also received. I request your support for expanded and accurate information about our Natural Environment, Biological Resources, Special Status Species, and Wildlife Corridors. For east-west connections, wildlife corridors are a natural way to understand connections between West and East Petaluma, as well as areas of Highway 101 that need to be modified to accommodate opening those connections and preserving them.

Susan Kirks

O'Meara Haake Cover <omearacover@gmail.com>

Thu 11/18/2021 2:24 PM

Dear GPAC,

I urge you to add Creativity as a pillar and guiding principle to the general plan.

While serving on the advisory board of [Creative Sonoma](#), which is dedicated to advancing and supporting the creative community in the county, I have seen the [power of the arts](#) to create social cohesion, stimulate community engagement, empower students, and act as an economic driver.

Working in collaboration with creatives can help the city of Petaluma achieve its goals. The arts have the power to transcend economic and social divides and further enhance our wonderful city. I for one want to live in a place where the arts are woven into the fabric of our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

O'Meara Cover
Foundry Wharf Properties, Partner
Creative Sonoma, Advisory Board
Sonoma County Arts Education Alliance, Steering Committee

Beverly Schor <beverlyschor@gmail.com>

Tue 11/16/2021 10:54 AM

As a former member of the Petaluma Public Art Committee, I have experienced the reticence of our City staff and Council to actually support the Arts though all acknowledge the importance and contribution of the arts in our community. As a City, we take pride in the number of artists and art related businesses in our city, but we do precious little to foster them.

I believe an umbrella group of people and organizations supporting art, culture and design in our community will make Petaluma more cohesive and more vital. As a foundation, I propose that one of the Pillars of the General Plan be Creativity and Innovation.

In addition, I propose that the City create and hire a Cultural Arts Director as a permanent City staff position. This position would initiate and champion coherent, actionable policies and programs providing art, culture and design in our community and community spaces. PPAC should be placed under this Directorship.

Art helps unite our community. Art helps break down barriers by providing a voice to our differences in a creative rather than adversarial way.

We need Art. We need a strong Cultural Arts Director to champion Art in all its diversity in our community.

Thank you,

Beverly Schor

Carin Jacobs <carin@petalumaartscenter.org>

Mon 11/15/2021 11:13 AM

Dear Heather and David,

As the (relatively) new Executive Director and a former board member of Petaluma Arts Center (PAC), I am writing in support of adding a Creativity and Innovation Pillar to the General Plan rubric. Since moving to Petaluma eight years ago, I have witnessed the variety and breadth of creative capital stemming from our community. One of our goals at PAC is to harness that energy, and to become a clearinghouse for all things creative in town. It seems that both Petaluma and the County at large suffer from siloed arts and culture nodes, rather than creating a web in which the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. It is that connective tissue that should be our focus now, and the City's involvement at this level would be a concrete step in the right direction.

I am grateful to call Petaluma my home, and would identify the collective arts and culture ethos here as an important part of our sense of place. Thank you for considering how we can strengthen that facet of our identity going forward.

Best,

Carin

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Carin Jacobs
Executive Director
Petaluma Arts Center
carin@petalumaartscenter.org
707-762-5600

From: Susan Kirks <susankirks@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, November 16, 2021 1:22 PM
To: -- City Clerk <CityClerk@cityofpetaluma.org>
Subject: request to provide information to GPAC members

Hello,

I provided these comments for the Climate Action Commission's meeting tonight, reviewing Existing Conditions for the GPAC update.

Could you ensure these comments, with the wildlife corridors and crossings mapping, are provided to all GPAC members?

We are deficient in reporting biological resources, natural resources, special status species, and issues and opportunities.

It's odd that the Existing Conditions document includes that Petaluma is adjacent to the Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor.

I've offered to give a presentation on wildlife corridors and crossings for Petaluma and our area, and I believe that would be beneficial, as there is clearly a misunderstanding with inaccurate information, based on what I've reviewed.

The Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor is actually a wildlife movement area specific to the Sonoma and Sonoma Valley area. We in Petaluma have our own corridors as well as areas where crossings over Hwy 101 need to be considered for modification.

I believe the misunderstanding derives from not knowing what the Critical Linkages regional mapping project entails. Critical Linkages is a macro regional mapping, using vegetation types and known or anticipated wildlife species throughout the Bay Area. It is Critical Linkages to which the smaller Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor connects. The Petaluma area also connects to critical linkages, and Petaluma is actually a primary area for wildlife movement connecting to Marin County, inland and coast, as well as the Sonoma County coast, and movement east to Sonoma and Sonoma Valley as well as east to Sonoma Mountain and Penngrove, along with northward to Sebastopol and Santa Rosa.

Petaluma represents an important connecting location for wildlife and is the connecting area from Marin County over to Sonoma.

I would be happy to give the presentation (20-25 minutes) to the GPAC or other Commissions and Committees to facilitate an understanding of this.

Our wildlife corridors and crossings, a project I completed as a Naturalist, supported by the conservation org, Paula Lane Action Network, need to be included in the Petaluma GPAC update. The Sonoma Valley Wildlife Corridor could be mentioned as connecting to Petaluma's southeast movement area, but Critical Linkages is the actual macro regional mapping that should be included and discussed. (It is featured on the Petaluma wildlife corridors and crossings mapping to illustrate the connection to the regional mapping project).

Thanks for providing this to GPAC members.

Susan Kirks
707-241-5548

From: Wendy Krupnick <wlk@sonic.net>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 9:16 PM
Subject: CAFF VIP tour - Event summary & resources

Many thanks to those of you who attended the CAFF Sonoma County 2021 VIP Tour Oct. 29, and we missed those of you who did not join us!

Our volunteer team has put together a [summary of the event](#) which, along with the [resource Handout](#) we created, we hope will be helpful in shaping city and County policies in the months and years ahead. These documents are posted on our [Chapter web page](#) and are attached here.

Some cities in our county are undergoing General Plan updates now and the County will be updating the Housing Element next year. The value of urban agriculture is receiving increased recognition and support around the country. We ask you, our decision makers and leaders, to join in the efforts to increase the health of our residents, our economy and our environment by helping create the Urban Foodbelt in all of its forms.

Thank you for your service to our region and for your attention to these issues.

With best wishes,

Wendy Krupnick
Vice president, CAFF Sonoma County