
Public comment on non-agenda item

From Patrick Mulligan <muet171@gmail.com>

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To COB <COB@co.humboldt.ca.us>

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Supervisors,

This comment is regarding the recent controversial cutting of four old growth trees in Lower Redway using a 3-acre exemption CDF permit.

I am a California Registered Professional Forester. I went to Lower Redway on January 10th, before these trees were cut to assess the veracity of the Hazard Tree determination.

I did not see where any of these trees were in danger of falling over. They were all healthy, straight, sound large trees. The only hazard from them was falling branches.

Falling branches is not enough of a hazard to warrant taking entire old growth trees.

The Forester in this case abused the definition of hazard trees in order to justify taking large old growth trees in violation of section 1038.1(15) of the Forest Practice Rules, which prohibits using exemptions to take old growth trees.

I understand in this case the county deferred to CDF to avoid responsibility for exercising permitting authority for this action.

I believe the county should not have let this happen. I believe it has permitting authority that would have caused further scrutiny of this project and avoided an unneeded and illegal harvest of old growth trees.

I hope in the future the country will scrutinize exemptions in the Q zone to prevent this happening.

Thank you,
Patrick Mulligan
RPF 2829