

Sophia Cassam

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Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 9:39 AM
To: Sophia Cassam
Subject: Annual Docket Initial Briefing - Tree Protection Code comment

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Hi Sophia,

Thanks for sending the information about the Planning Commission meeting this Friday to introduce the requests on the Docket Review. I wanted to call in during the Public Access Time, but I will be in the Land Bank Commission meeting held at the same time in my role as a commissioner.

In place of a phone call, I would like to reiterate the importance of expanding tree protection to land outside critical areas and the SMP. The county shoreline and existing critical areas cover a very small percentage of land with canopy cover. Conserving trees and canopy at a much broader scale is necessary to meet the long-term goals of the county, including climate resiliency and water security. A new section of code that could be adopted by 2024 would help achieve those goals and preserve the character of the islands.

I would also like to suggest the formation of a Tree Board at the county level that is composed of three to five volunteers with local expertise in tree and forested land management. The Tree Board would serve an advisory role to the Planning Commission and County Council during adoption of new code, as well as review updates and measure the efficacy of the code.

Thanks again for your consideration and cooperation.

Miles