From:	Gretchen Laustsen
To:	Bharat Singh
Subject:	10/14/2026 Planning Commission - Amendments to SMC LCP and Article 7 - Tree and Natural Resources Protection
Date:	Tuesday, October 13, 2026 5:08:51 PM
Attachments:	image001.png

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Hello Mr. Singh,

I'm reaching out from the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District regarding tomorrow's Planning Commission agenda item regarding a proposed amendment to the County's Local Coastal Program and Protected Tree Ordinance.

As an independent special district, Midpen has preserved more than 70,000 acres of public open space throughout the greater Santa Cruz Mountains, including San Mateo County. Midpen's mission is to acquire and preserve a regional greenbelt of open space land in perpetuity, protect and restore the natural environment, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education. On the San Mateo County Coast, Midpen has an expanded mission to acquire and preserve in perpetuity open space and agricultural land of regional significance, protect and restore the natural environment, preserve rural character, encourage viable agricultural use of land resources, and provide opportunities for ecologically sensitive public enjoyment and education.

With the proposed added protections placed on Douglas fir and redwoods over 18 inches, we'd like to understand the impacts on implementation of Midpen's forest health work when not completed under a Timber Harvest Plan. One suggestion is to consider adding Midpen to the list of exempt entities (Attachment D, #6 on page 45 of the staff report), or alternatively to include an exemption for forest health work completed under an approved forest management plan.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comment on these proposed revisions and would be happy to discuss them further. Please reach out to me if you have any questions about our comments.

Gretchen Laustsen

Gretchen Laustsen
Senior Planner

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