

Rebuttal to Argument in Favor of Measure FF

Climate change is causing terrifying wildfires across the world. According to fire research, vegetation management near housing is wise, but the benefits of thinning forests in distant areas, away from housing, are unproven. Even within “defensible space” (within 100 feet of structures,) cutting *all* trees is inadvisable. And yet we’ve observed East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD) destroying entire groves of “non-native” species. This irresponsible approach scapegoats trees, creates a false sense of security, and *worsens* climate change!

Extreme fires are primarily driven by temperature, moisture content and wind, not a particular tree species. Attempts to control nature by eradicating a species that has demonstrated remarkable climate-resilience (unlike many “native” species) is foolhardy. Fire scientists advocate tackling wildfires by constructing homes of ignition-resistant materials.

Use of pesticides to solve perceived ecological imbalances is particularly problematic. EBRPD has even employed aerial spraying to eradicate “non-native” plants. Do you really want YOUR parks poisoned, using YOUR tax dollars? EBRPD’s “Integrated Pest Management” is a positive small step, but we call for a bolder approach: no pesticides! If organic farmers can do it, so can EBRPD!

In truth, we champion most of Measure FF’s intended purposes. We love our parks and want to protect them—from poisons and unnecessary tree-cutting. The Measure promises “environmental and community leader input,” but over the years we’ve steadfastly provided community input, to no avail.

Please join Forest Action Brigade, East Bay Pesticide Alert, Save The East Bay Hills, San Francisco Forest Alliance, fire survivors, cancer survivors, environmentalists, park lovers, dog walkers, water drinkers, and air breathers. Vote NO on Measure FF.

Signed:

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