

Merideth, Zoe

From: Laura Kindsvater <quercust@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 17, 2024 2:47 PM
To: Planning Division
Subject: Item 7-2 for January 17 Planning Commission meeting (PG&E Service Center proposal)

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Dear Planning Commissioners:

I would like to see more plant species that are native to Antioch incorporated into the PG&E Service Center project.

The project proposal states that the landscaping will consist of manzanita, oleander, New Zealand flax, hot lips sage, and sageleaf rockrose. And the trees that they will plant include crape myrtle, London plane tree, and coast live oak.

Coast live oak is native to Antioch and would be an excellent choice. Manzanitas that are native to Antioch or California would also be a good choice. But I would like to see the other plant choices improved.

As you know, pollinators are in trouble. And humans need pollinators to provide a lot of the food that we consume.

Wildlife in California has declined by 20 percent, and at least 600 species in California are endangered.

Two of the top reasons why pollinators and wildlife in general are in decline are habitat loss and pesticide use.

Keystone native plant species both feed pollinators and other wildlife and beautify an area too.

More information about keystone native plant species is available at <https://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/keystone-species-signs> and <https://www.bringingbackthenatives.net/douglas-tallamy-resources>.

Instead of oleander, which is poisonous to both wildlife and humans, why not plant a shrub that is native to Antioch or nearby, such as Ceanothus (California lilac), silver lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*), or California rose (*Rosa californica*)?

Instead of New Zealand flax, why not plant native grass species, like purple needle grass, nodding needle grass, or June grass? See www.calscape.org for more details.

Instead of hot lips sage, why not plant black sage, which is native to Antioch?

Instead of sage leaf rockrose, why not plant Ceanothus, California rose, manzanita, or bush monkey flower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*) species that are native to Antioch or nearby?

Instead of crape myrtle, how about creek dogwood (*Cornus sericea* ssp. *Sericea*), blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), or western redbud? Instead of London plane tree, how about valley oak or northern California black walnut (*Juglans hindsii*)?

Thank you.

Laura Kindsvater
Antioch resident