

**Gautho, Julia**

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**From:** Vanessa Hulgan <vanessahulgan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 8, 2025 6:29 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Public Comment 10/9/2025 on Park Ave Bluff Proposal (Application #25-0056)  
**Attachments:** park ave trees.HEIC

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

My name is Vanessa Hulgan. I am a local teacher and monarch docent, and I am writing to speak for those who cannot — our monarch butterflies.

The proposed Park Avenue Bluff project (Application #25-0056), which includes approximately 1,300 linear feet of fencing, is adjacent to a protected wildlife habitat recognized by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, located between Escalona Drive and Park Avenue. This area serves as an important overwintering site for monarch butterflies, providing the canopy cover, wind protection, and moisture balance they need to survive during migration.

The fencing installation will disrupt this critical habitat at a time when the Western Monarch population has already declined by more than 95% in recent decades. Even small disturbances such as grading, vegetation removal, or changes to canopy structure can alter the delicate microclimate monarchs depend on to survive the winter in Capitola.

I respectfully urge the City of Capitola to pause this proposal and consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife before moving forward. Additionally, I ask that the City protect the existing eucalyptus trees in this area — I recently observed six trees cut down on October 8, 2025 — as these trees are essential to the survival of overwintering monarchs.

Thank you for your time, attention, and commitment to protecting one of California's most iconic and threatened species.

Warm regards,  
**Vanessa Hulgan**  
Teacher & Monarch Docent  
507 Escalona Drive  
Capitola, CA 95010

Attached: a photo of new growth trees cut down 10/8

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