

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Ryan Safty](#)
Subject: LRCC-Tree Removal
Date: Monday, March 31, 2025 11:07:21 PM

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

My concern regarding the Re-design of the La Rinconada CC is both the removal of 200 Trees as well as, the omissions & misleading approach by the Re-design Committtee who failed to mention the tree removals, until I asked at a membership meeting, how many trees were going to be removed. Sadly, this project is being told/sold to the citizens of Los Gatos as an Eco-Friendly project when in reality it is a project that is removing over 200 trees which is NOT necessary to save water (the eco-friendly angle). When the Committee was asked if the members could vote on more than 1 option: total golf course Re-design, or Option 2: install a new irrigation system and improved grass (less water requirement) the Golf Course Re-design committee generally said, No, this is our opportunity to improve this Golf Course and keep up with the other premier courses on the Peninsula/Bay Area. Because there has been some member push back, the Re-design Committee contacted: The Los Gatan, The Patch & The Mercury News and gave them the "Eco-Friendly angle, in an attempt to get community support. I have considered responding to their articles but am fearful that I will receive retribution at the club. As you may know, the club removed 12 healthy Redwoods with diameters of 4-5 feet without a LG Town permit (received a fine about \$750- a small fine to pay for a \$42 Million project) because the Committee said they were preventing grass from growing near the trees and Redwoods use a lot of water. However, Arborist, Rob Moulden whom I imagine you know, said that Redwoods in this area survive because we are in the Coastal Fog Line... I have Redwood trees on my property which I don't water...

My hope is that the LG Planning Commission when considering this project will follow the Tree Protection Ordinance (Sections 29.10.0950-29.10.0985) policies on removal of trees especially Redwoods that are 60-80 years old and have become integral to the ecosystem of the neighborhood and town. LRCC is the largest Open Space in the town and has been in existence for over 100 years. These mature trees provide invaluable benefits, including air purification habitat for wildlife, and erosion control. Their absence will have a significant lasting impact on our local environment and alters the visual landscape that many residents cherish. These mature trees also offer a sound barrier to highway 85 for the communities of Los Gatos & Monte Sereno. There is a plan to replace some of the removed trees but with much smaller 24-48 inch box tress which will take decades to grow to the size of the removed trees. Thus, I urge the Planning Commission to seek alternative solutions that will preserve the healthy existing trees. Please notify me if and when this project will be placed on the Calendar for discussion by the Town Council..

Thanks for listening,

Lisa Sieber

From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 11:33 AM

To: Planning <Planning@losgatosca.gov>

Subject: Online Form Submission #15935 for Community Development Contact Form

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Community Development Contact Form

First Name	Lisa
Last Name	Sieber
Email Address (Required)	
Phone Number	
Tell Us About Your Inquiry (Required)	Comment Regarding A Planning Project
Address/APN you are inquiring About (Required)	14702 La Rinconada Dr., Los Gatos, CA 95032
Message (Required)	This is NOT an ECO-FRIENDLY Project as reported... La Rinconada CC is the largest Open Space in the Town of Los Gatos and therefore should be on the Council Agenda so neighbors and Town residents may voice an opinion about the removal of 207 Mature, Healthy, Native Trees. Please provide me with the status of this project?

From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 2:52 PM

To: Planning <Planning@losgatosca.gov>

Subject: Online Form Submission #15938 for Community Development Contact Form

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Community Development Contact Form

First Name	Ron
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Last Name	Laugesen
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Email Address (Required)	
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Phone Number	
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Tell Us About Your Inquiry (Required)	General Planning Inquiry
--	--------------------------

Address/APN you are inquiring About (Required)	17400Wedgewood and 17445 Zena Ave
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Message (Required)	Concerned that there are many large trees which could be removed, impacting the visual scene of the area, a major reduction in CO2 capture and major increase in noise, particularly from 85 and 17 freeways. Also substantial dust in the air while this project is in progress.
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Add An Attachment if applicable	<i>Field not completed.</i>
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From: noreply@civicplus.com <noreply@civicplus.com>

Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 4:13 PM

To: Planning <Planning@losgatosca.gov>

Subject: Online Form Submission #15939 for Community Development Contact Form

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Community Development Contact Form

First Name Judith

Last Name Marlin

Email Address
(Required)

[REDACTED]

Phone Number *Field not completed.*

Tell Us About Your
Inquiry (Required) Comment Regarding A Planning Project

Address/APN you are
inquiring About
(Required) 17400 Wedgewood

Message (Required) 170 trees to be removed? When Inhas to remove a tree from my property I has to replace it either or my property or elsewhere in town. But how does one replace 170 MATURE trees? Surely this huge number is not necessary. Loss of the O2 and CO2 exchange is HUGE, not to mention their purpose as wikdlife habitats. This seems entirely,y too extreme.

Add An Attachment if
applicable *Field not completed.*



July 13, 2025

The Honorable Members of the Los Gatos Town Council
Town of Los Gatos
110 East Main Street
Los Gatos, CA 95030
(via email: council@losgatosca.gov)

RE: Our Support for La Rinconada Country Club's Golf Course Modernization and Sustainability Project

Dear Mayor Hudes & Councilmembers,

We are long-time members of La Rinconada Country Club and also neighbors who live near the golf course. We are joining together to let the Town's leaders know of our early and strong support for the Club's proposed modernization and sustainability project which we understand will come before the Planning Commission for consideration later this summer. These progressive improvements will make the golf course more playable, sustainable and safer for future generations and are important to the entire community.

La Rinconada is one of the most time-honored organizations in Town, which was founded almost 100 years ago, and we want the Club to continue for another century. The course modernization project is an important step toward ensuring the Club's long-term viability, and it has overwhelming support of Club members who will be paying for the \$21 million cost through special assessments.

The plan is about more than just enhancing the golfing experience; it's about securing a sustainable future for the course and community and deepening the Club's commitment to environmental stewardship. At the heart of this initiative is an ambitious goal to reduce overall water consumption by 30%. This is a direct response to the Club's responsibility to conserve precious resources and contribute positively to regional water sustainability efforts, saving more than 30 million gallons of water per year.

Beyond state-of-the-art irrigation technology and new drought-tolerant turfgrass, the plan also addresses the crucial role of landscaping in water conservation and ecological health. To truly maximize water savings and enhance the course's natural resilience, the plan includes the strategic removal of many non-native trees that are simply not drought tolerant. These trees, while often beautiful, require significant water resources that are unsustainable in our environment over the long term. This isn't a decision to be made lightly, but it's essential for long-term water conservation and overall safety and is coupled with an extensive and ambitious replanting initiative focused on native, drought-tolerant trees and plants.

This will not only dramatically reduce the course's water needs but also create a more ecologically balanced and resilient landscape that thrives naturally in our climate. Many golf courses in the region have gone through similar sustainability initiatives in past years, including new drought tolerant grass, water reduction, tree removal and replanting, with the support of their local government, and we hope Los Gatos will do the same.

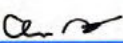
The Club's leadership has maintained a great relationship with its neighbors over many decades and has worked hard to share information about this proposed modernization plan, contacting more than 800 nearby homes by letter early in the process, holding a half dozen open houses, and meeting one-on-one with many neighbors.

The Club's membership includes over 250 families who live in Los Gatos and another 100 in nearby Monte Sereno. We understand communications from a couple neighbors have been submitted to the Town which do not express the wishes of the vast majority of Club members, nor most of our neighbors. They have also engaged in circulating inaccurate information about the Club's proposal.

We ask Town leaders to focus on the facts and benefits of the modernization and sustainability plan for the Club and our Town. We also hope you will take note that the many families signing this letter represent even more members of our community who overwhelmingly support the Club's proposal to tee up a greener future for golf in Los Gatos!

Sincerely,

MEMBERS AND NEIGHBORS OF LA RINCONADA COUNTRY CLUB

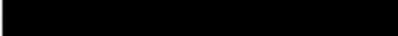
Signed by: 
Chris Ray (Jul 14, 2025 09:51 PDT)

Name: Chris Ray

Street Address: 

Signed by: 
William Evans (Jul 14, 2025 09:51 PDT)


Name: William Evans

Street Address: 


Signed by: 
Steve Rice (Jul 14, 2025 09:51 PDT)

Name: Steve Rice

Street Address:

Signed by: 
David Schwartz (Jul 14, 2025 09:53 PDT)

Name: David Schwartz

Street Address: 

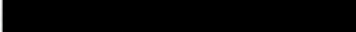
Signed by: 
Edward T Baumuller (Jul 14, 2025 09:53 PDT)

Name: Edward T Baumuller

Street Address: 

Signed by: 
Romy Zeid (Jul 14, 2025 09:58 PDT)

Name: Romy Zeid

Street Address: 

Signed by: 
Brett Hooper (Jul 14, 2025 09:59 PDT)

Name: Brett Hooper

Street Address: 

Signed by: 
RONNIE EKELUND (Jul 14, 2025 10:01 PDT)

Name: RONNIE EKELUND

Street Address: 

Signed by: Kristin A Lamson
Kristin A Lamson (Jul 14, 2025 10:01 PDT)

Name: Kristin A Lamson

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Jeff Gallinat
Jeff Gallinat (Jul 14, 2025 10:03 PDT)

Name: Jeff Gallinat

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Joel & Andrea Rubnitz
Joel & Andrea Rubnitz (Jul 14, 2025 10:06 PDT)

Name: Joel & Andrea Rubnitz

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Eric M. Hoffman
Eric M. Hoffman (Jul 14, 2025 10:10 PDT)

Name: Eric M. Hoffman

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Jessica Stockwell
Jessica Stockwell (Jul 14, 2025 10:13 PDT)

Name: Jessica Stockwell

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Robert T. Caruso, Jr.
Robert T. Caruso, Jr. (Jul 14, 2025 10:13 PDT)

Name: Robert T. Caruso, Jr.

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: James Judson
James Judson (Jul 14, 2025 10:14 PDT)

Name: James Judson

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Steven Chang
Steven Chang (Jul 14, 2025 10:16 PDT)

Name: Steven Chang

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Donald Drexel
Donald Drexel (Jul 14, 2025 10:16 PDT)

Name: Donald Drexel

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Shawn Rao
Shawn Rao (Jul 14, 2025 10:16 PDT)

Name: Shawn Rao

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Jason Merrick
Jason Merrick (Jul 14, 2025 10:18 PDT)

Name: Jason Merrick

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Patricia Hooper
Patricia Hooper (Jul 14, 2025 10:20 PDT)

Name: Patricia Hooper

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: James P Bolen
James P Bolen (Jul 14, 2025 07:24 HST)

Name: James P Bolen

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Dana Krouskup
Dana Krouskup (Jul 14, 2025 10:29 PDT)

Name: Dana Krouskup

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Bob Steinbock
Bob Steinbock (Jul 14, 2025 10:34 PDT)

Name: Bob Steinbock

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: John Schweitzer
John Schweitzer (Jul 14, 2025 13:38 EDT)

Name: John Schweitzer

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: BB
BB (Jul 14, 2025 10:44 PDT)

Name: BB

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Eric Sindelar
Eric Sindelar (Jul 14, 2025 10:46 PDT)

Name: Eric Sindelar

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Gregory Burnett
Gregory Burnett (Jul 14, 2025 10:49 PDT)

Name: Gregory Burnett

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Sam Stockwell
Sam Stockwell (Jul 14, 2025 10:49 PDT)

Name: Sam Stockwell

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Todd Teresi
Todd Teresi (Jul 14, 2025 08:11 HST)

Name: Todd Teresi

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Vincent N. Baxter
Vincent N. Baxter (Jul 14, 2025 11:13 PDT)

Name: Vincent N. Baxter

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: M. Brennan
M. Brennan (Jul 14, 2025 13:15 CDT)

Name: M. Brennan

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Eric Fox
Eric Fox (Jul 14, 2025 11:33 PDT)

Name: Eric Fox

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Christine Schweitzer
Christine Schweitzer (Jul 14, 2025 11:48 PDT)

Name: Christine Schweitzer

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Michael Halloran
Michael Halloran (Jul 14, 2025 11:56 PDT)

Name: Michael Halloran

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: John Reid
John Reid (Jul 14, 2025 11:57 PDT)

Name: John Reid

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Michelle Greenberg
Michelle Greenberg (Jul 14, 2025 13:00 MDT)

Name: Michelle Greenberg

Street Address:

Signed by: Melissa Schwartz
Melissa Schwartz (Jul 14, 2025 12:11 PDT)

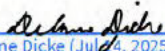
Name: Melissa Schwartz

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: James Rees
James Rees (Jul 14, 2025 12:11 PDT)

Name: James Rees

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: 
DeAnne Dicke (Jul 14, 2025 15:52 EDT)

Name: DeAnne Dicke

Street Address: 

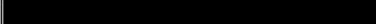
Signed by: 
Eric Cutting (Jul 14, 2025 12:53 PDT)

Name: Eric Cutting

Street Address: 

Signed by: 
Marianne Nelson (Jul 14, 2025 12:17 PDT)

Name: Marianne Nelson

Street Address: 

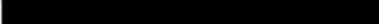
Signed by: 
Danielle Hinsche (Jul 14, 2025 12:56 PDT)

Name: Danielle Hinsche

Street Address: 

Signed by: 
Roger Dicke (Jul 14, 2025 15:45 EDT)

Name: Roger Dicke

Street Address: 

Signed by: 
Lisa Simpson (Jul 14, 2025 13:23 PDT)

Name: Lisa Simpson

Street Address: 

Signed by: 
Brad W. Krouskup (Jul 14, 2025 13:14 PDT)

Name: Brad W. Krouskup

Street Address: 

Signed by: 
David Long (Jul 14, 2025 14:21 PDT)

Name: David Long

Street Address: 

Signed by: 
Steven Gomo (Jul 14, 2025 14:21 PDT)


Name: Steven Gomo

Street Address: 

Signed by: 
Biren Sood (Jul 14, 2025 14:34 PDT)

Name: Biren Sood

Street Address: 

Signed by:  Diane Judson (Jul 14, 2025 14:45 PDT)

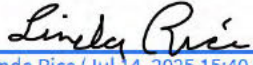
Name: Diane Judson

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Signed by:  Vincent R. Baxter (Jul 14, 2025 14:49 PDT)

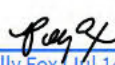
Name: Vincent R. Baxter

Street Address: 

Signed by:  Linda Rice (Jul 14, 2025 15:40 PDT)

Name: Linda Rice

Street Address: 

Signed by:  Polly Fox (Jul 14, 2025 14:25 HST)

Name: Polly Fox

Street Address: 

Signed by:  Kyle Meeske (Jul 14, 2025 17:55 PDT)

Name: Kyle Meeske

Street Address: 

Signed by:  Kim Worsencroft (Jul 14, 2025 18:34 PDT)

Name: Kim Worsencroft

Street Address: 

Signed by:  Cameron Peach (Jul 14, 2025 20:01 PDT)

Name: Cameron Peach

Street Address: 

Signed by:  Andrew Bader (Jul 14, 2025 21:02 PDT)

Name: Andrew Bader

Street Address: 

Signed by:  Jon Sweedler (Jul 14, 2025 21:43 PDT)

Name: Jon Sweedler

Street Address: 

Signed by:  Susan Sweedler (Jul 14, 2025 22:09 PDT)

Name: Susan Sweedler

Street Address: 

Signed by: *Dennis McEvoy*
Dennis McEvoy (Jul 14, 2025 23:29 PDT)

Name: Dennis McEvoy

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: *Dono*
Dono Goudy DDS (Jul 15, 2025 07:08 PDT)

Name: Dono Goudy DDS

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: *Brad*
Brad Holmgren (Jul 15, 2025 07:21 PDT)

Name: Brad Holmgren

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: *john f schirmer*
john f schirmer (Jul 15, 2025 10:26 PDT)

Name: john f schirmer

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: *Grady Hinsche*
Grady Hinsche (Jul 15, 2025 10:46 PDT)

Name: Grady Hinsche

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: *David Lazares*
David Lazares (Jul 15, 2025 11:34 PDT)

Name: David Lazares

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: *Amanda Wayman*
Amanda Wayman (Jul 15, 2025 11:35 PDT)

Name: Amanda Wayman

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: *Joseph A. McCarthy Jr*
Joseph A. McCarthy Jr (Jul 15, 2025 11:36 PDT)

Name: Joseph A. McCarthy Jr

Street Address: [REDACTED]

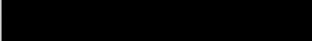
Signed by: 
Paul F. Gentzkow (Jul 15, 2025 11:36 PDT)


Name: Paul F. Gentzkow

Street Address: 

Signed by: 
Lorena Chiu (Jul 15, 2025 13:17 PDT)

Name: Lorena Chiu

Street Address: 

Signed by: 
Max Duganne (Jul 15, 2025 13:50 PDT)

Name: Max Duganne

Street Address: 

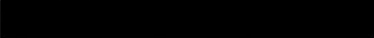
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Mike Byrd (Jul 15, 2025 14:34 PDT)

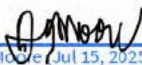
Name: Mike Byrd

Street Address: 

Signed by: 
W. Scott Lamson (Jul 15, 2025 15:13 PDT)

Name: W. Scott Lamson

Street Address: 

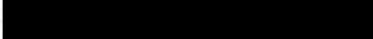
Signed by: 
John Moore (Jul 15, 2025 16:14 PDT)

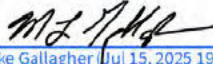
Name: John Moore

Street Address: 


Signed by: 
James Nelson (Jul 15, 2025 17:36 PDT)


Name: James Nelson

Street Address: 

Signed by: 
Mike Gallagher (Jul 15, 2025 19:56 PDT)

Name: Mike Gallagher

Street Address: 

Signed by: 
Ken Rizvi (Jul 15, 2025 20:26 PDT)

Name: Ken Rizvi

Street Address: 

Signed by: 
Brian Belchers (Jul 16, 2025 10:57 GMT+2)

Name: Brian Belchers

Street Address: 

Signed by: Tod R.
Tod R. (Jul 16, 2025 07:29 PDT)

Name: Tod R.

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Scott Trobbe
Scott Trobbe (Jul 16, 2025 11:00 PDT)

Name: Scott Trobbe

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Sean Sullivan
Sean Sullivan (Jul 16, 2025 11:33 PDT)

Name: Sean Sullivan

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Bret and Amy Guenther
Bret and Amy Guenther (Jul 16, 2025 13:42 PDT)

Name: Bret and Amy Guenther

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Linda D. Gallagher
Linda Gallagher (Jul 16, 2025 13:53 PDT)

Name: Linda Gallagher

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Shaun Del Grande
Shaun Del Grande (Jul 16, 2025 16:02 PDT)

Name: Shaun Del Grande

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Doreen Nelsen
Doreen Nelsen (Jul 16, 2025 22:29 PDT)

Name: Doreen Nelsen

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: John and Raquel Connolly
John and Raquel Connolly (Jul 18, 2025 11:21 PDT)

Name: John and Raquel Connolly

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: *Dion D Campisi*
Dion D Campisi (Jul 18, 2025 11:21 PDT)

Name: Dion D Campisi

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: *David Cormier*
David Cormier (Jul 18, 2025 11:27 PDT)

Name: David Cormier

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: *Stephanie Massei*
Stephanie Massei (Jul 18, 2025 11:34 PDT)

Name: Stephanie Massei

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: *Michael Filice*
Michael Filice (Jul 18, 2025 13:49 CDT)

Name: Michael Filice

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: *Anthony Reynolds*
Anthony Reynolds (Jul 18, 2025 11:50 PDT)

Name: Anthony Reynolds

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: *Herb Cross*
Herb Cross (Jul 18, 2025 11:51 PDT)

Name: Herb Cross

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: *SHANNON CONNELLY*
SHANNON CONNELLY (Jul 18, 2025 12:05 PDT)

Name: SHANNON CONNELLY

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: *Derek J Bell*
Derek J Bell (Jul 18, 2025 12:19 PDT)

Name: Derek J Bell

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: *Matthew Filice*
Matthew Filice (Jul 18, 2025 12:20 PDT)

Name: Matthew Filice

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Michael A. Ballou
Michael A. Ballou (Jul 18, 2025 13:34 PDT)

Name: Michael A. Ballou

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Ann Beverly
Ann Beverly (Jul 18, 2025 13:41 PDT)

Name: Ann Beverly

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: George Montanari
George Montanari (Jul 18, 2025 14:38 PDT)

Name: George Montanari

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Jerome Bellotti
Jerome Bellotti (Jul 18, 2025 14:47 PDT)

Name: Jerome Bellotti

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Bryan McLaughlin
Bryan McLaughlin (Jul 18, 2025 15:35 PDT)

Name: Bryan McLaughlin

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: B. Black
Bruce Black (Jul 18, 2025 17:30 MDT)

Name: Bruce Black

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Brandon and Leslie Valenzuela
Brandon and Leslie Valenzuela (Jul 18, 2025 16:59 PDT)


Name: Brandon and Leslie Valenzuela

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by: Matthew Filice
Matthew Filice (Jul 18, 2025 12:20 PDT)

Name: Matthew Filice

Street Address: [REDACTED]

Signed by:  Hilary Schneider (Jul 31, 2025 09:08:30 PDT)

Name: Hilary Schneider



Signed by:  James Heerwagen (Jul 31, 2025 09:05:50 PDT)

Name: James Heerwagen



Signed by:  Allan Walsworth (Jul 22, 2025 19:44:05 PDT)

Name: Allan Walsworth



Signed by:  Joey Fulcher (Jul 21, 2025 06:45 PDT)

Name: Joey Fulcher



Signed by:  Jason Khalipa (Jul 29, 2025 07:15 PDT)

Name: Jason Khalipa



Signed by:  Debra McLaughlin (Jul 18, 2025 17:27 PDT)

Name: Debra McLaughlin



Signed by:  Elizabeth White Baumuller (Aug 6, 2025 21:20:13 PDT)

Name: Elizabeth White Baumuller



Stephen M. Rice

Los Gatos, CA 95030-7131

Planning Commission

Town of Los Gatos

110 E. Main Street

Los Gatos, CA 950390

Re: Application S-25-005 – La Rinconada Country Club Renovation Project

Commissioners:

I am a former Planning Commissioner, Council Member and Mayor. I am also a member of La Rinconada and serve on the committee for this project. I have been playing golf at La Rinconada since the 1960's and have seen the club and course go through many changes.

It is my belief that this project epitomizes the Town's sustainability initiatives and benefits the Town in many ways. The application is completely in line with the Town's tree protection policies as I applied those policies when I served on the Commission and Council.

There has been limited and isolated concerns expressed about the reforestation portion of the application. The independent Arborist's report demonstrates that La Rinconada took a very cautious and conservative approach to this particular area. In the plan, the club proposes the removal of several Eucalyptus trees and non-native Redwood trees. With a planned significant reduction of irrigation, these trees, if not removed, will present a danger to players and employees and present a fire danger to the community at large. The vast majority of these trees will be replaced with large, mature native species – primarily native oak trees – and an additional contribution to the Town's Urban Reforestation program.

The golf course renovation plan will include turf-grass replacement, which will replace the current grasses with drought-tolerant grasses, requiring 30% - 40% less water than is used currently. A state-of-the-art irrigation system will allow for more precise watering patterns, further saving this precious resource. Many other clubs in the area have undergone similar turf-grass replacement with significant decreases in potable water use. The new grass is also more tolerant of salt and other contaminants present in recycled water, should that become available for use in the future.

The club has taken great care to engage the community and other stakeholders in the process of planning the project. Special measures have been taken to minimize, or even eliminate, impacts on the surrounding neighborhoods during construction.

With the strong arguments that favor the approval of this application, I ask that you support the La Rinconada renovation project.

Respectfully Submitted,

Steve Rice

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Urgent Request: Add Petition to Agenda – Protection of 287 Mature Trees at LRCC in Los Gatos
Date: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 2:05:03 PM
Attachments: [save-240-mature-trees-in-los-gatos-monte-sereno-help-protect-the-largest-open-space-in-los-gatos \(1\).pdf](#)
[signatures-20250806.csv](#)

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Dear Members of the Los Gatos Town Council and Town Clerk,

On behalf of a growing group of concerned Los Gatos residents, I am submitting the attached petition titled “**Stop the Irreversible Destruction of 240 Mature Trees in Los Gatos**”, along with a list of resident signatures collected in support of this effort.

We respectfully request that this matter be added as an urgent item for public discussion at the **next Town Council meeting**, and that time be allotted for a representative of the petition to **speak on behalf of the signatories**. The matter is time-sensitive, as the plan by La Rinconada Country Club to remove 240 mature trees is already in advanced stages, and **the full environmental impact has not been adequately addressed or disclosed to the public**.

We are particularly concerned that the ecological report submitted by La Rinconada Country Club contains **misleading and potentially false representations** regarding the health, species, and condition of the trees proposed for removal. Our own observations and those of local environmental professionals indicate that **many of these trees are in good condition and pose no imminent safety risk**. The justification for removal appears to be driven primarily by a **design initiative and water conservation**, rather than ecological necessity or public safety.

We are formally requesting that the **Town of Los Gatos commission an independent, third-party environmental assessment** to verify the actual condition of the trees and assess the broader environmental implications of this proposal. An impartial evaluation is essential before any irreversible action is taken that would permanently alter our community’s landscape, air quality, wildlife habitat, and character.

Further, we note that La Rinconada Country Club has previously engaged in **unauthorized tree removals without permits**, and failed to disclose such actions to the Town. This pattern of **non-compliance and lack of transparency raises serious concerns** about the integrity of the current proposal and the credibility of their reporting.

Additional points of concern include:

- **Misidentification of tree species**, including incorrect classification of healthy native trees as non-native or invasive (e.g., eucalyptus).
- **Unsubstantiated claims of storm damage**, with no supporting evidence or

public record of fallen or hazardous trees.

- A lack of clear **disclosure of the long-term environmental and community impact** of this large-scale removal.

Given the scale of this proposed removal and the Town's stated commitment to environmental stewardship, climate resilience, and community involvement, we urge you to take this petition seriously and act swiftly to **pause any approvals** until independent findings can be reviewed in a public forum.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent and deeply impactful matter. We look forward to your confirmation that this item will be added to the upcoming Town Council agenda and that an opportunity to speak will be granted.

Sincerely,

Lisa Sieber



On behalf of the petitioners of “Stop the Irreversible Destruction of 240 Mature Trees in Los Gatos”

Attachments:

- Stop_the_Irreversible_Destruction_of_240_Mature_Trees_Petition.pdf
- List_of_Supporting_Signatures.csv

□ Stop the Irreversible Destruction of 240 Mature Trees in Los Gatos

To: La Rinconada Country Club members, Los Gatos Residents, arborists, naturalists, and conservationists

The proposed removal of 240 mature trees is not just a landscaping decision — it is an environmental threat with lasting consequences for the entire community. These trees are a living infrastructure that support ecological balance, climate stability, and public health.

Scientific and Environmental Impact:

1. **Loss of Tree Canopy** – These trees purify air, sequester carbon, reduce noise, and provide essential shade. Their removal will measurably increase air pollutants and heat levels.
2. **Wildlife Displacement** – Birds, pollinators, and small mammals rely on this established habitat. Destroying it means mass displacement and ecological disruption.
3. **Increased Fire Risk & Heat** – Mature trees act as a buffer against climate extremes. Their removal will elevate local fire risk and contribute to the urban heat island effect.
4. **Soil Degradation & Runoff** – Removing deep-rooted trees will destabilize soil, leading to erosion, increased runoff, and waterway pollution.
5. **Public Health Consequences** – Trees improve mental health, lower stress, and are vital to respiratory health — particularly for children, seniors, and those with asthma or COPD.

Why is this important?

La Rinconada Country Club and Los Gatos City Council - This is not just a golf course issue. These trees are part of our town's ecological fabric and legacy. Removing them undermines decades of environmental growth and community investment.

□ We Demand Immediate Action:

1. A full pause on all tree removals pending review.
2. A second, independent arborist report to verify the necessity of removals.
3. Transparent public consultation before any further action is taken.
4. Alternatives to tree removal that prioritize sustainability and long-term environmental health.

We acknowledge the need to modernize irrigation and reduce water use, but replacing 240 trees — many over 60 years old — with grass is not an ecological solution. It's a short-sighted tradeoff with permanent consequences.

□ Sign the petition now to protect our community's green lungs.

Together, we must demand transparency, science-based decisions, and responsible stewardship of our shared environment. Every signature counts.

Signed by 109 people:

id	first_name	last_name	postcode	comment
325288954	lisa	sieber	95032	
325290518	Lisa	Sieber	95032	
325344349	Mags	McInerney	95030	
325426283	Cathy	Call	95030	
325602244	Tiffany	Sieber	95030	
325605697	Dean	Tajik	95032	
325635688	Teresa	Lasaga	95032	
325641468	cassandra	joseph	95032	
325648441	sunny	hernandez	95032	
325655549	Barbara	Meyer	95125	
325664206	Anne	Plane	95030	
325664790	Penny	Alexa	95035	
325665246	Megan	McNally	95032	
325720682	Margaret	Williams	95125	
325725896	Yu Ting	Huang	95039	
325738948	Jason	Atchison	94024	
325834357	Glynn	Lewis	95032	
325843323	Kylie	Hall	80132	
325851832	Ujjal	Kohli	95070	
325851896	Paige	Shand	95030	
325851939	Cheri	Johnson	95030	
325852003	Phil	Arney	95030	
325852011	Laura	Tillett	95070	
325852072	KELLY	ARONICA	95008	
325852087	David	Rivas	94086	
325852163	Lotus	Mahon	95032-1146	
325852224	Barbara	Stake	95125	
325852231	Leslie	Matteoni	95128	
325853559	Roger	Milton	95030	
325853692	Jill	Milton	95030	
325853777	Daniela	Rogers	95032	
325854793	Minio	Bakke	95070	
325856597	Jennifer	Liu	95030	
325866604	Ryan	Greco	95032	
325869473	Elizabeth	Twaddell	95030	
325871090	Sue	Nystrom Walsh	95030	
325871327	Lucille	Switzer	95032	
325871543	Martin	Saso	95117	
325872805	Tessa	Arguijo	95030	
325872891	Allen	Arguijo	95030	
325877278	John	Hogan	95030	
325883031	Bradley	Jennings	95008	
325883470	Gary	McNeal	95032	

325883765	Maureen Howard	95066
325884447	Patrice Flageollet	95032
325897851	Cliff Geddes	95030
325899821	jeff hopkins	95032
325901799	Sharon Elder	95032
325902109	Aubrie Avina	95033
325954782	Kirsten Franz	95032
326074783	Michelle Collins	6517
326164600	Scott Eschen	95030
326207108	Shamita Pisal	95032
326300382	Jennifer Almaneih	95030
326475219	Timothy Lundell	95030
326475315	Justin Sieber	95032
326480097	Keo King	95032
326480335	Ginger McDonald	95032
326484464	Ann Rice	95030
326487140	Miriam Brody	95030
326487183	susana craig	95030
326487444	Larisa Dorfman	95032
326487565	Judith Marlin	95032
326494064	Isabella Rennie	95030
326539829	scott caplener	95030
326547611	Paulette DAVIS	95124
326565384	Bruce Wayne	95051
326565424	Sadie Hawkins	95111
326565711	Jeanette Belser	95032
326565858	Amrito Chaube	98125-3826
326567026	Alison Walton	95032
326591659	Melany Moore	95030
326597710	Lorraine Lawson	95008
326598611	Dan Lawson	95008
326599485	Cindy Simon	95003
326599504	Vickie Menkemeller	95128
326620341	Harry Dunn	43123
326626155	darrell monda	95032
326626180	Ted Striker	90045
326627956	Anita Robin Streicker	95030
326659351	Kevin Camara	95030-3235
326681808	Wendy Novakovich	95070
326847403	shannon mcelyea	95070
326847638	JoAn Smith	95032
326847665	Pamela Ross	95032
326847798	Michael Egleston	95130
326847943	Michael Hyman	95030

326848070	Joe	Pirzynski	95032
326860143	Alice	Chan	95070
326888908	Stephen	Guruwaiya	95126
327013192	Teri	Christensen	95030
327192524	Barbara	Alford	95030
327199150	Lorena	Stepp	96793-9666
327201822	Alison	Haazer	94019
327208085	Irene	Rhodeman	92869
327208186	Anela	Rhodeman	92869
327208315	Shirley	Gines	96797
327208353	Tim	Cox	94062
327211111	Matt	Vaughan	95128
327221125	Carol	Waitte	95030
327221308	Carol	Braham	95030
327225028	Maureen	Cappon-Javey	95030
327228291	Sarah	Zweng	95030
327228317	Shannon	Susick	95030
327228471	Ann	Wilson	95030
327247994	Nancy	Lee	95030
327273949	Homer	Simpson	90010
327328666	Lynn	RAMIREZ	94566
327347020	Werner	Frei	95030

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 7, 2025 6:27 PM
To: Planning <Planning@losgatosca.gov>
Subject: Tree removal by La Rinconada CC

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Please look into this.

Darrell

[REDACTED]

Darrell Monda

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, August 7, 2025 6:27 PM
To: Planning <Planning@losgatosca.gov>
Subject: La Rinconada plan to cut down trees

[EXTERNAL SENDER]
Please review and see if this can be stopped.
Darrell

[REDACTED]

Darrell Monda

[REDACTED]

From: Andrew Quan [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, August 8, 2025 10:52 AM
To: Planning <Planning@losgatosca.gov>
Cc: Lisa Brancatelli [REDACTED]
Subject: Valley Water Comments re: Redevelopment of the La Rinconada Golf Course

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Hi Ryan Safty,

Valley Water has reviewed the mailed plans for the consideration of approval of a grading permit and removal of large protected trees associated with a comprehensive redevelopment of the La Rinconada Golf Course located in the Town of Los Gatos, received on August 4, 2025. Per our review, we have the following comment:

1. Please note that there appears to be proposed improvements within Valley Water's easement for our Rinconada Force Main and possibly within Valley Water's fee title property consisting of our Vasona Canal. Said improvements include, but may not be limited to, a 6-inch storm drain line, a rock headwall and outfall, and two 12-inch RCP culverts with concrete case.

Therefore, in accordance with Valley Water's Water Resources Protection Ordinance, a Valley Water encroachment permit is required for the proposed improvements and plans must be submitted for permit review and issuance. The encroachment permit application can be found here: <https://www.valleywater.org/contractors/doing-businesses-with-the-district/permits-working-district-land-or-easement/encroachment-permits>.

Please forward the completed permit application and construction plans for the project to Valley Water at CPRU@valleywater.org for review. For the to-be-submitted construction plans, please clearly delineate and label Valley Water's easement and fee title property, the Vasona Canal, and the Rinconada Force Main. Additionally, please clearly identify any proposed improvements crossing or adjacent to Valley Water's facilities, fee, and easement.

2. Please note that grading on the project site needs to be designed in such a way that drainage is directed away from Valley Water's easement, fee title property, and Smith Creek. Runoff from the site needs to be directed to the Town of Los Gatos' storm drain system, not to the creek by overland or through a new outfall.

3. Valley Water records indicate that 3 active wells are located on the subject property. If the wells will continue to be used following permitted activity, they must be protected so that they do not become lost or damaged during completion of permitted activity. If the wells will not be used following permitted activity, they must be properly destroyed under permit from Valley Water.

While Valley Water has records for most wells located in the County, it is always possible that a well exists that is not in Valley Water's records. If previously unknown wells are found on the subject property during development, they must be properly destroyed under permit from Valley Water or registered with Valley Water and protected from damage. For more information, please call Valley Water's Well Ordinance Program Hotline at 408-630-2660.

For any questions, please contact me at [REDACTED] or at [REDACTED]. For any future correspondence, please reference File No. 22077.

Thank you,

ANDREW QUAN

ASSISTANT ENGINEER II - CIVIL

Community Projects Review Unit

Santa Clara Valley Water District is now known as:



Clean Water • Healthy Environment • Flood Protection

VALLEY WATER

5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose CA 95118

www.valleywater.org