

## **County considers new tree ordinance**

Last week, the San Mateo County Planning Commission held a public meeting to consider a new “protected tree ordinance” that would replace the county’s current tree removal regulations.

County officials said that the proposed ordinance would increase the protection of indigenous species, streamline the permitting process for removing trees that qualify as invasive species and retain the protection requirements of both current ordinances.

The ordinance would also create a new “heritage tree” designation process for trees considered unique and important to the community, such as any tree that is among the largest, or oldest, in San Mateo County.

The ordinance will be formally considered by the Planning Commission early next year.

***--HMB Review***