

# Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

Tree Ordinance  
Informational Workshop 5/18/21

Staff:

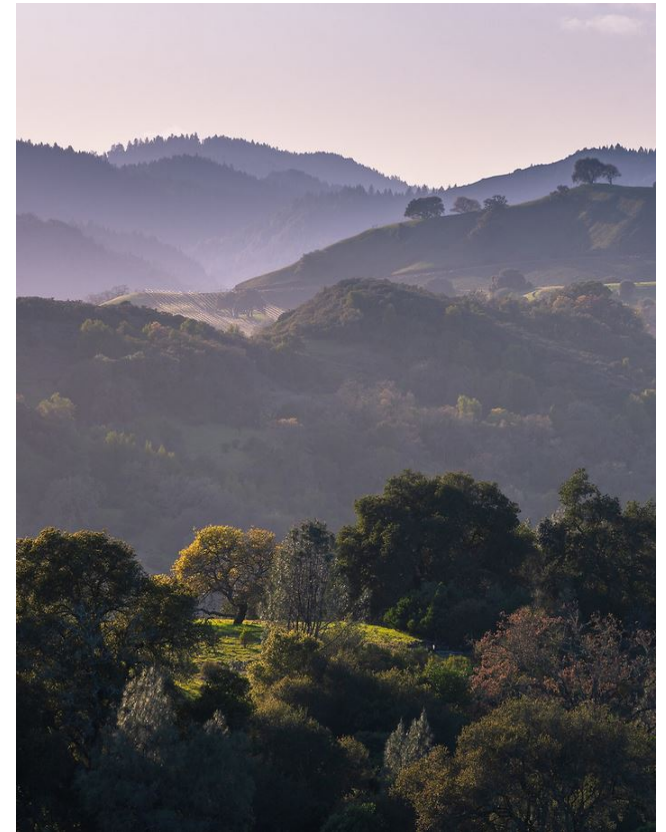
Doug Bush

Robert Aguero



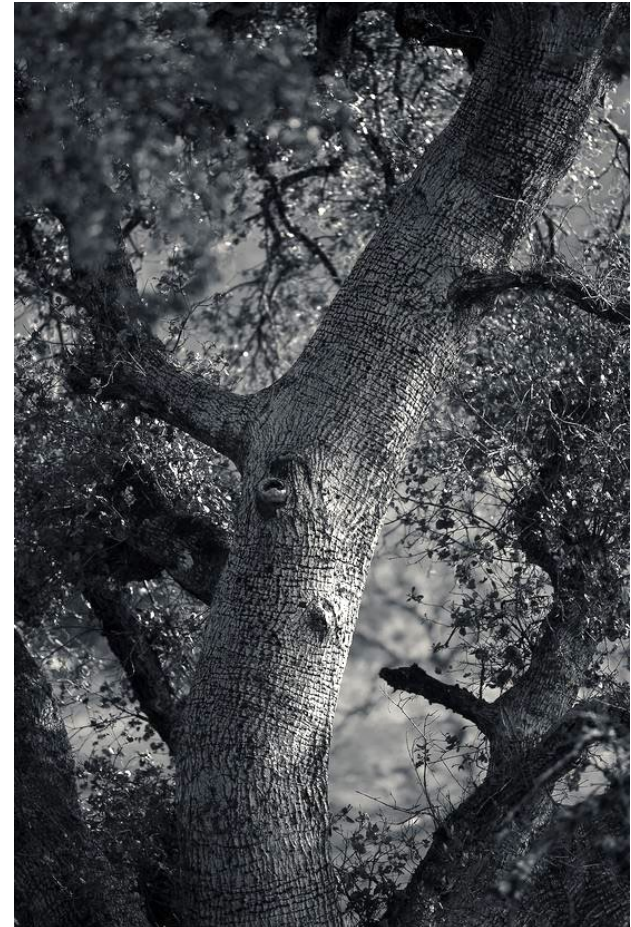
# Summary

- This project will:
  - ▣ Evaluate and update regulations concerning management of trees
  - ▣ Implement the General Plan
- This workshop will:
  - ▣ Highlight existing policy direction
  - ▣ Describe existing regulations
  - ▣ Identify project timeline
  - ▣ Support discussion



# Project Objectives

- Identify existing conditions to track efficacy
- Reevaluate current regulations relative to General Plan
- Update current regulations to implement the General Plan
- Facilitate compliance through education and outreach with UC Cooperative Extension
- Follow up by monitoring, learning and adapting



# General Plan Direction

- Protect and enhance the County's natural habitats and diverse plant and animal communities.
- Establish standards and programs to protect native trees and plant communities.
  - ▣ Require the identification, preservation and protection of native trees and woodlands in the design of discretionary projects...
  - ▣ Identify important oak woodlands, assess current protection, identify options to provide greater protection...
  - ▣ Identify and consider designation of old growth Redwood and Douglas Fir as sensitive natural communities...

# Current Regulations

- Tree Protection Ordinance
- Valley Oak Habitat Combining Zone
- Heritage and Landmark Tree Ordinance
- Riparian Corridor Combining Zone
- Also:
  - Timberland Production Zones
  - Timberland Conversion Permits
  - Vineyard and Orchard Development and Agricultural Grading and Drainage



# Work Plan

Step	Task	Anticipated Date
1. Goal Setting	1a. Identify existing regulations, policies and practices	BOS Workshop May 18, 2021
	1b. Receive direction from Board of Supervisors	
	1c. Identify community goals and objectives (workshop and outreach)	Spring 2021
2. Baseline Conditions	2a. Identify metrics for measuring current tree conditions	Summer 2021
	2b. Identify current tree conditions for reference baseline and monitoring	
3. Ordinance Updates	3a. Evaluate existing regulations relative to goals and objectives	BOS Workshop October 26, 2021
	3b. Develop draft approaches to achieve project objectives, including public workshops	
4. Adoption	4a. Planning Commission hearing	Winter/Spring 2021
	4b. Board of Supervisors hearing	
5. Implementation, Education and Evaluation	5a. Education and Best Practices	Ongoing in partnership with UCCE
	5b. Monitor progress and report back	Ongoing

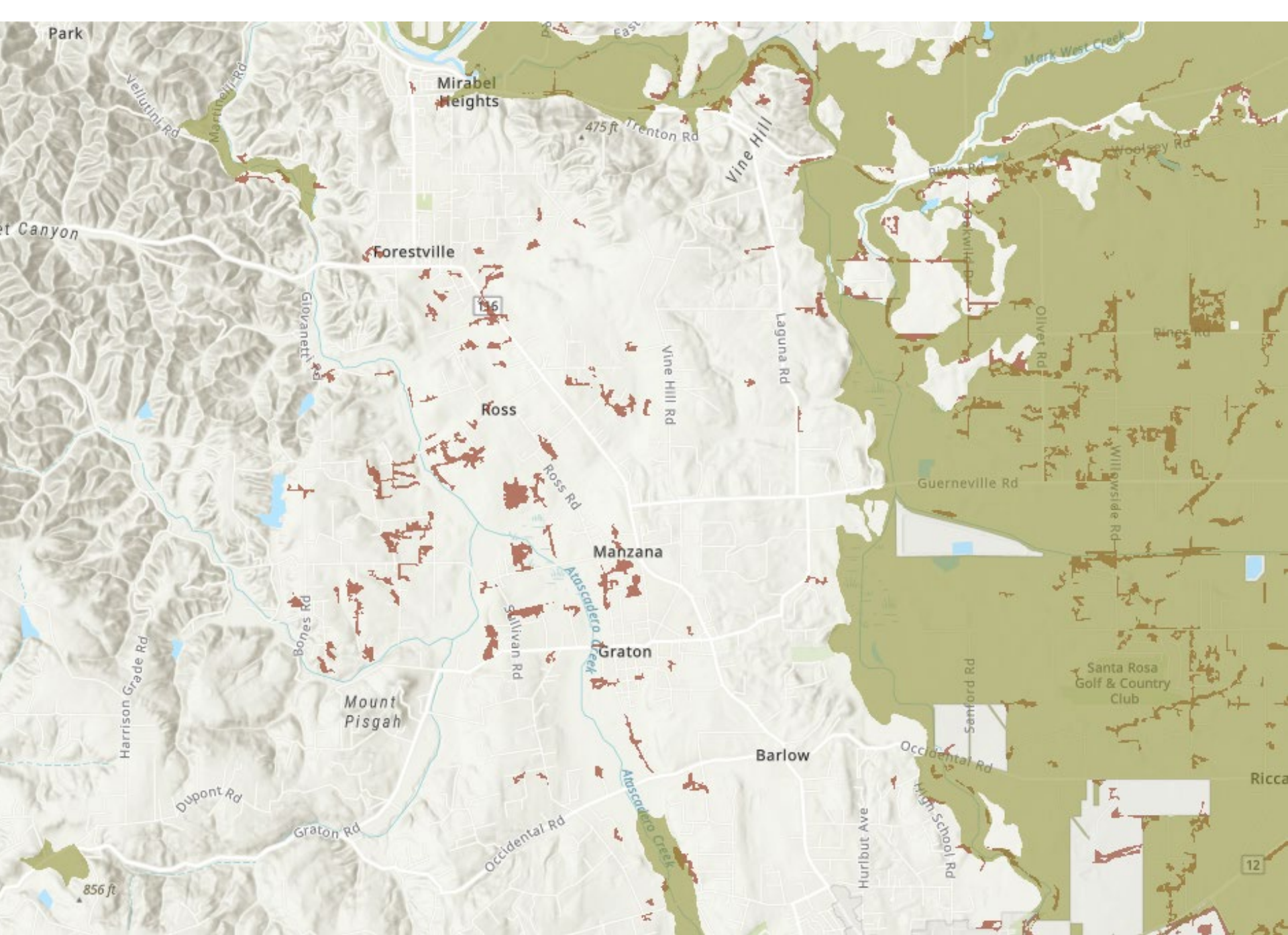


End

# Potential Approaches

- Evaluate current exemptions and ordinance applicability
- Evaluate current mitigation options in the Zoning Code relative to modern best practices
- Refine application of Valley Oak Habitat zoning
- Identify native trees of special concern including rare and locally important species and make recommendations concerning protected tree species
- Clarify how tree protections apply in scenic resource areas





# Questions

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- Are there additional objectives the County should set, beyond those identified in the General Plan?
- When evaluating current regulations, are there certain aspects that should be given special attention?
- How should the County define success for this project?