



**Julia Michalak** (Position #1 – Wildlife Biologist), Co-chair  
**Joshua Morris** (Position #7 – NGO), Co-Chair  
**Elby Jones** (Position #2 – Urban Ecologist - ISA) • **Weston Brinkley** (Position #3 – University)  
**Stuart Niven** (Position #5 – Arborist – ISA) • **David Moehring** (Position # 8 – Development)  
**Blake Voorhees** (Position # 9 – Realtor) • **Jessica Hernandez** (Position #11 – Environmental Justice)  
**Jessica Jones** (Position # 12 – Public Health)

February 2, 2022

Emily Lofstedt and Christy Carr  
Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections  
700 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98104

RE: SDCI 2021 Omnibus Code Corrections Presentation

Dear Emily and Christy,

Duwamish Lands (Seattle, WA) – Thank you for your presentation to the Urban Forestry Commission (UFC) on January 12<sup>th</sup>. The UFC appreciates you taking the time to discuss with us the specifics about the clarifications being made to 25.09.070, as well as the general process and schedule for code corrections.

The UFC also wants to thank you for the opportunity to provide input, past the formal January 27<sup>th</sup> end of the comment period, and provide the below input to the process:

- Given that there has been a large uptick in hazard trees being removed, especially in Environmentally Critical Areas (ECA)<sup>1</sup>, it is especially important that code adequately protect trees in ECAs. The UFC is supportive of the clarifications made to subsections D., E., and F. of 25.09.070 as described in the presentation.
- The UFC recommends that materials on code corrections provide more detail on the potential impact of these clarifications, and perhaps some examples on how such changes would lead to different outcomes with the current code. As currently provided, webpages such as: <https://www.seattle.gov/sdci/codes/changes-to-code/code-corrections/project-documents> do not provide adequate information for a member of the public to understand the impact of what is taking place.


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<sup>1</sup> Tree Regulations Research Project Final Report, March 2017.  
[https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/UrbanForestryCommission/Resources/Final%20Report\\_Tree%20Regulation%20Research%20ProjectPahsell\\_31MAR2017\\_final.pdf](https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/UrbanForestryCommission/Resources/Final%20Report_Tree%20Regulation%20Research%20ProjectPahsell_31MAR2017_final.pdf)

- The UFC questions the removal of existing mitigation subsection 25.09.070 G. This appears to be a substantial adjustment in the way the code is presented, with potential substantive impact in the way trees and vegetation on ECAs are managed. The **UFC would appreciate an email response as soon as possible from SDCI** on why this section was removed or where it was moved elsewhere in the SMC, and also welcome you to discuss with the UFC in person if appropriate. You mentioned in the meeting that you would look at this mitigation section and get back to us.

The UFC welcomes SDCI back at any time to present updates and changes to code. The UFC looks forward to hearing about future code changes. Specifically, **the UFC requests that SDCI present to the UFC again when TIPS are updated related to trees and vegetation, and for the new TIPS related to heron habitat and riparian management areas.**

Sincerely,



Julia Michalak, Co-Chair



Josh Morris, Co-Chair



Weston Brinkley, past Chair

cc: Mayor Bruce Harrell, Council President Deborah Juarez, CM Lisa Herbold, CM Andrew Lewis, CM Tammy Morales, CM Teresa Mosqueda, CM Sara Nelson, CM Alex Pedersen, CM Kshama Sawant, CM Dan Strauss, Michelle Caulfield, Sharon Lerman, Urban Forestry Management Team, Urban Forestry Core Team, Dave Van Skike - SDCI

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