

CONSENT CALENDAR

Date:11 - 14 - 06

To: Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council

From: Councilmembers Spring and Olds

Subject: Resolution Against Destruction of Old Grow Oak Grove by UC

**RECOMMENDATION:** Pass the attached resolution supporting the protection of the oak woodland located just west of California Memorial Stadium, and opposing the plans of the University of California to cut down any of the trees in this grove. This urban woodland is an irreplaceable resource that contributes to the well-being of all Berkeley citizens; this resolution to be communicated to the UC Regents who are scheduled to approve the EIR on the Stadium expansion on November 15.

**BACKGROUND:** (see attached) to be delivered

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:** None

**CONTACT PERSON:** Councilmember Dona Spring, District 4, 981-7140

## **Resolution: Save the Oaks at the Stadium**

Whereas, the City of Berkeley is recognized nationwide as a leader in promoting sound environmental policy; and

Whereas, the City of Berkeley recognizes the importance of protecting open green space and tree's; and

Whereas, the City of Berkeley is currently involved in a comprehensive effort to institute practices that promote environmental sustainability; and

Whereas, the citizens of Berkeley have consistently demonstrated a resolve to protect mature trees in our city to enhance our quality of life; and

Whereas, the University of California has announced its plan to cut down many of the Coast Live Oaks and other mature trees in the oak woodland located just west of California Memorial Stadium; and

Whereas, all California Coast Live Oaks in the City of Berkeley with a trunk size greater than six inches in diameter are legally protected from destruction by Berkeley's "Coast Live Oak Moratorium"; and

Whereas, the California Coast Live Oak is currently threatened by development pressure resulting from the expansion of housing projects into previously natural areas; and

Whereas, the California Native Plant Society (East Bay Chapter) considers the oak woodland west of California Memorial Stadium to be "ecologically significant" and has stated its opinion that the specific trees in this grove have "great value as a gene bank for Coast Live Oak individuals native to the San Francisco Bay Area"; and

Whereas, the Sierra Club supports the protection this oak woodland; and

Whereas, this oak woodland is appreciated for its aesthetic beauty by thousands of Berkeley residents and visitors every day; and

Whereas, open green space contributes to the general well-being of our community by providing a location for peaceful reflection and spiritual regeneration; and

Whereas, urban woodlands help maintain our soil and preserve our watersheds; and

Whereas, urban woodlands help protect our storm drain system by limiting excess water runoff that can overwhelm the capacity of the system and result in increased erosion and water pollution; and

Whereas, the trees in urban woodlands help buffer the impacts of congested urban life by filtering pollutants out of our air and water; and

Whereas, the trees in urban woodlands contribute to our air quality by converting excess carbon dioxide to oxygen; and

Whereas, the trees in urban woodlands help maintain a tree canopy over the earth, which help counter the harmful “heat island” effect seen in many of our paved urban centers; and

Whereas, oak woodlands provide critical habitats for a wide variety of animal, bird, insect, and plant species; and

Whereas, the oak woodland west of California Memorial Stadium is a vibrant oasis of natural beauty that adds immeasurably to our urban experience; and

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,  
The City of Berkeley supports the protection of the oak woodland**

**located just west of California Memorial Stadium, and opposes the plans of the University of California to cut down any of the trees in this grove. This urban woodland is an irreplaceable resource that contributes to the well-being of all Berkeley citizens.**