

Public Comment by Mary Rose Kaczorowski, Fort Bragg CA resident

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Community Development Committee Meeting Tuesday, January 24, 2023, at 3:00 PM PST

Public comment is in reference to:

AGENDA: Item 3.A January 2022 CBD Update and attachment

Central Business District Revitalization Toolkit

Planning for art pots, planters and wine barrels for bees?

While studying environmental sciences and intro to plant science and etc. when I was at College of The Redwoods and then studying at Mills College (B.A. Public Policy & Natural Resources Systems) I volunteered in their Botanical Gardens— ( I was President of Mills College Botanical Ecology Society) and while serving in AmeriCorps ( building school gardens) it was impressed upon us the important characteristics of pollinator habitat. I also completed an internship working with Scientists at PAN ( Pesticide Action Network-North America).

I wanted to point out that trees and plants in a pot even a wine barrel or planters and placing them through the Downtown is not as easy as it sounds and not the best solution to attract pollinators.

Scientific studies have shown that plant communities and ecosystems that support pollinators are hard to duplicate in potted containers.

I suggest a great way to increase the number of bees is to plant strips of bee gardens. Some of my supporting evidence is included as follows:

FYI and see attached and please consult: PDF produced by Northern California and Southern California UCB Research groups: **Gardening for Bees - Seasonal Recommended Plant Lists**

**Please see this important excerpt from this PDF that I wish to highlight FYI below:**

“For best results in bee gardening, we recommend that advanced planning takes place to ensure that continual bee floral food will be available for both Spring and Summer seasons.

There are distinct groups of bees present in Spring and in Summer; some groups can also be observed year-round. In our experimental gardens in the Bay Area we always plant a minimum of 10-15 diverse bee plants each season. Higher bee diversity and abundance occurs when gardens have a rich assortment of bee plants. It also appears that bees remain longer in a garden if plant diversity is high.

Finally, we find that patch size of about 1 meter in diameter or larger is best for keeping foraging bees visiting a given plant species or cultivar. **Smaller patch sizes, of usually attractive plants, will often be ignored.** (*Bold type and yellow highlight is my emphasis.*)

### **A good question to ask: Which Bees/pollinators are you supporting?**

FYI: <https://arboretum.ucdavis.edu/blog/beyond-honey-bee-learn-more-about-california-native-bees>

### **Building habitat is key to support pollinators.**

Each plant community needs the right environments. Some of our streets get a great deal of shade. Bees and other pollinators like to pollinate in warm sun.

Wild bees depend on a habitat to nest and forage and that is increasingly disappearing due to garden and farming practices and urbanization.

A potential mismatch in seasonal timing between when flowers produce pollen and when bees are ready to feed on that pollen can happen and could negatively affect bees' health, making them less resistant to predators and parasites and less likely to reproduce.

Another Resource: <http://www.helpabee.org/the-urban-california-native-bee-survey.html>