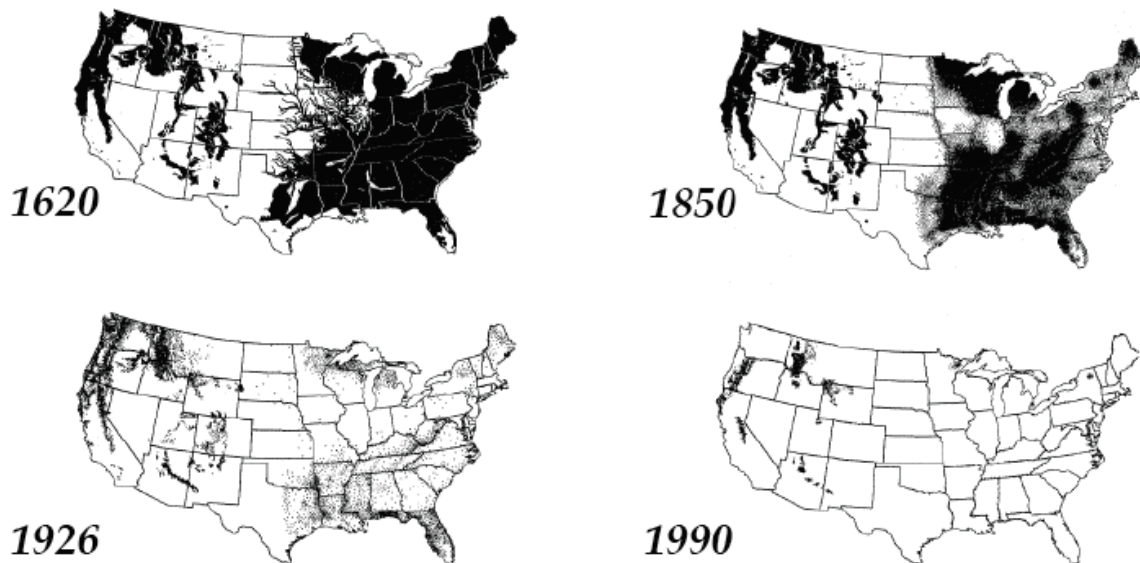


To: Cupertino Council, Mayor Barry Chang, and Manager David Brandt
Date; June 5, 2016
From: Gary Latshaw
Subject: Recommendation for a Resolution against Clear-cutting of Forests

I am recommending that the City pass a resolution on the banning of clear-cutting forests and send the resolution to our State Senator Jim Bealle, Assemblyperson Evan Lowe, and Governor Jerry Brown.

While most efforts to combat climate change focus on reducing and eventually eliminating the emissions of greenhouse gases, it is necessary to encourage “the other side of the equation” – in vegetation preservation and expansion, which absorbs carbon dioxide. Maintaining mature trees are one of the most effective means to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The diagram below graphically demonstrates how nearly unrestrained destruction of our forests has left us with only a small fraction of the original forests.

As a nation we have aggressively stolen from future generations.



Distribution of Forests in Continental United States

Nevertheless, harvesting forests for timber is currently an integral component of the developing our modern infrastructure. Many companies* profitably harvest forests in a manner that sustainably provides lumber and preserves the critical ecology of the forest with its myriad of insects, small animals, and foliage. Such methods are called selective logging in which a mixture of trees of different ages are harvested. This minimizes the disruption of the forest ecosystem and allows carbon contained in the soils to remain.

Several local cities have passed clear-cutting resolutions. I have included examples from Menlo Park, San Francisco, and Brisbane. Other cities have also passed resolutions. I believe Cupertino should similarly pass a resolution.

*Conservation Fund, Humboldt Redwood Company, Mendocino Redwood Company, Redwood Forest Foundation, Collins Pine, and Big Creek Lumber