

Bridgeton

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

SAVE BRIDGETON'S TREES!

The drainage district is planning on removing over 150 trees on Bridgeton Road starting September 4th. We adamantly oppose and will not accept this damaging action. In order to protect our neighborhood our Board has authorized our consultation with an attorney, arborist and structural engineer.

VOLUNTEERS TO SAVE OUR TREES ARE NEEDED NOW!

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SAVE OUR TREES ARE NEEDED NOW!

Email Bridgeton.neighborhood@comcast.net

Send contributions to Bridgeton NA, 417 N. Bridgeton Road 97217.

Following are the major reasons we believe the decision to remove Bridgeton neighborhood's tree cover is wrong:

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- **Removal is unnecessary.** The commanding officer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) for the Sacramento River/Central California area has granted an exception for the Sacramento area districts. Why hasn't Penn2 requested an exception?
- **It is not supported by science.** Tree removal ignores recent scientific studies that indicate tree and shrub cover on levees strengthen levees and tree removal may actually weaken the levee.
- **Recent studies contravene this decision.** New scientific studies show that the FEMA/COE assumption that tree roots conduct water and weaken levees during high water events is false.
- **The Army Corps of Engineers does not require it.** Penn2 misread of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) June 11, 2007 letter requesting removal of trees is contrary to COE Encroachment Standards.
- **Penn 2's own 2006 landscape plan is being ignored.** The large scale tree removal in Bridgeton ignores the new Levee Landscape Guidelines developed by a Penn2 committee and adopted by the Penn2 Board in 2006.
- **Bridgeton Road is unique.** The urban built up nature of Bridgeton Road provides additional structural strengthening to the levee not foreseen by FEMA and COE guidelines.
- **No Environmental Assessment has been conducted of this riparian area.** There is a

total lack of any NEPA required Environmental Assessment of the impact of tree cutting on the rich wildlife and human environment here.

- **No adequate notice to landowners & residents.** There has been insufficient notification of affected landowners and residents. All of the trees are on private land.
- **Devastating and irreversible impact.** Your proposed blanket tree removal will have a major negative impact on the health and livability of the Bridgeton neighborhood.
- **Negative impact on habitat.** Tree removal will have a negative impact on the environment and riparian habitat along a two mile stretch of the Columbia River.
- **Negative impact on home values.** Tree removal will have a major negative impact on Bridgeton home and land values, and therefore impact the very tax base Penn2 relies on for funding its operations.
- **Disregard of Corp's revised guidelines.** Tree removal ignores a current and ongoing major rewrite of COE levee landscaping and encroachment guidelines expected by early 2008.
- **Long history of Corp's highest certification with existing trees.** The Bridgeton levee with its existing tree cover has always received the highest COE certification and safety ranking throughout the districts 90 year history. Nothing structurally has changed on the Bridgeton levee to warrant the wide scale removal of trees.
- **Bridgeton Levee has been reality tested.** The Bridgeton levee with its current tree cover also received certification by an authority higher than FEMA and the COE, having been tested by the two 100 year flood events of 1996 as well as lesser flood events in prior years.
- **Bridgeton residential owners' interests are ignored.** Ornamental tree and garden shrub removal according to COE guidelines is designed to make it easier for COE and Penn2 to make levee inspections by air or vehicle. This simply makes no sense and does not apply in a built up urban neighborhood environment.

For a fuller explanation of our objections to the drainage district's plan please see www.bridgetonpdx.com.