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Testimony to the Planning and Sustainability Commission on the Floodplain Resilience Plan, Proposed Draft

Floodplains and wetlands are hands-down one of the greatest assets a city can maintain against climate change. Sure, we know we need to keep carbon out of the atmosphere. But what's the second biggest threat to a stable climate? LOSS of WATER from the landscape. Drainage, clearing, development, anything that shunts water into the rivers and oceans leaving the land high and dry exacerbates heat and drought. Our water cycles must be healthy: collecting, absorbing, and SLOWING the flow of water back to the ocean. Otherwise rain evaporated from the ocean just drenches, floods, and runs quickly back to sea, raising sea levels, unable to be absorbed to nourish cooling trees and vegetation. And it's now known that the presence of healthy forests actually helps rain clouds form above them. Seventy-five percent of our nation's wetlands are gone. Most floodplains have been changed to tight, fast-drain channels. Please don't contribute to more of the same. A planet in peril can't afford even one more short term profit scheme. We must move in the opposite direction.... Now.

Testimony is presented without formatting.