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San Mateo County
Planning Division

Biological Site Assessment

Site:

Ms. Toni Cupal
Healing Cultures, Inc.
10707 La Honda Road
Woodside, CA 94062
Assessor's Parcel 078-190-210

Prepared for:

Ms. Toni Cupal
Healing Cultures, Inc.
10707 La Honda Road
Woodside, CA 94062

Project:

Biological Site Assessment

Prepared by:

Daniel Edelstein
Environmental Scientist, Consulting Biologist*,
Avian Biologist & Certified Wildlife Biologist Asc.
(* = Federal US Fish & Wildlife Service
10(a)1(A) Permit Holder #TE-1017403-4
valid through March, 2024)

Submitted on:

March 14, 2023

DANIEL EDELSTEIN, CONSULTING BIOLOGIST

March 14, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I. Introduction And Summary

On behalf of Ms. Toni Cupal (Owner), the following Biological Site Assessment report (Report) is submitted to satisfy an advisory from the San Mateo County Planning and Building Department (Department) to the Owner in relation to her application for three permits* related to a proposed Project (Project)* at Healing Cultures, Inc., 10707 La Honda Road, Woodside, CA 94062 (Assessor's Parcel (078-190-210) (Site).

(* = 1) Resource Management Permit; 2) Use Permit; and 3) Grading Permit)

(See below for a description of the Project. Related figures in appear in Appendix A and photos in Appendix B, below.)

The Project on the 11.4-acre Site¹ involves replacement of the existing driveway and retaining walls, and the addition of a fire truck turn-around on the lower area of the driveway where it ends on the Site. In addition, there will be a remote parking area,

¹ See: Arborist Report — *Evaluation and Request for Removal Permits for 19 Trees Located at 10707 La Honda Road, Woodside, CA*, Paul McGuire, McGuire Tree Care, May 18, 2022

approximately 900' to the southwest, with a new nature path connecting it to the building site. The existing house will be re-used, and a new 2nd floor will be added atop an existing one-story garage on the Site.

The scope of the analysis that follows provides analysis of Project details related to the following answers to assessment questions that form the basis of this Report and address the Department's guidelines for the format required by it²:

1. "No, the project will not adversely affect riparian lands, wetlands, marshes, and other significant, rare, special-status wildlife habitats at the Site.

Specific to the parcel, both an unnamed slough/culvert watercourse (Culvert) and La Honda Creek shown in the *County of San Mateo Planning and Building Map Viewer*³ (Map Viewer) were assessed during my February 22, 2023 Site survey (Survey) (See Photo 6 in Appendix A.) The prime purpose for assessing the Site's two watercourses is because their location is near a Project element related to the expansion of the driveway turnaround area.

In turn, details below discuss how the Culvert transports water runoff through a black pipe and corridor that does not host wetland/riparian vegetation nor does its top of bank area that is near where three trees are scheduled to be removed as part of the Project.

Recommended avoidance measures and Best Management Practices related to the removal of the three trees are highlighted below in the *Conclusions and Recommendations* section.

² See: <https://www.smcgov.org/planning/biological-impact>

³ See:

https://gis.smcgov.org/Html5Viewer/Index.html?configBase=https://gis.smcgov.org/Geocortex/Essentials/REST/sites/publicplanning_sql/viewers/HTML52110/virtualdirectory/Resources/Config/Default

2. No,” the project will not substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of any rare, endangered or threatened plant and wildlife species. Similarly, the Project will not result in any potentially significant adverse biological impacts to the environment, including the plant and wildlife species that occur at the Site and nearby it⁴.

3. No,” the project will not cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels.

Sections beyond this *Introduction* elaborate on the three above conclusions, in addition to noting avoidance measures the Owner will implement to ensure no significant negative impacts will result upon the Site’s biological and wetland resources and, thus, ensure the Owner satisfies regulatory measures (Regulatory Measures). The last section, below, *Conclusions and Recommendations*, lists recommended avoidance measures.

In specific, Regulatory Measures assessed in this Report analyze whether the Project would result in potentially significant negative biological impacts pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

My analysis included:

(1) a review of the vegetation habitat(s) on the Site, with focus upon the potential for rare, special-status plant and wildlife species to exist on the parcel.

(2) a review of the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB)⁵ to determine if any populations of endangered, threatened, or rare species have occurred historically or are currently known to exist in the Site’s vicinity.

(As background, the CNDDDB is organized into map areas based on 7.5-minute topographic maps produced by the US Geological Survey. All

⁴ California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) search occurred on February 21, 2023 within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute La Honda quadrangle and surrounding area.

⁵ California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) search occurred on February 21, 2023 within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute La Honda quadrangle and surrounding area.

known observations of rare, special-status species and rare, sensitive habitat communities are mapped on the quadrangle maps. The database features information for each species' reported occurrence, including specific location of an individual plant or wildlife sighting or rare, sensitive habitat.

The Site is within the La Honda 7.5-minute quadrangle. A search of the CNDDDB for records of occurrence of special status animals and plants and natural communities within this quadrangle and surrounding areas listed a variety of rare, special-status species present near the Site, but none were reported to occur on the parcel. See below within the *Existing Setting and Biological Conditions at the Site* section for more details about its potential to host rare, special-status plant and wildlife species.

(3) details in the below *Conclusions and Recommendations* as to whether the proposed Project has the potential to result in negative impacts to sensitive habitats or to rare, special-status species.

Note my biological survey experience for more than twenty years as a Consulting Biologist has included field survey assessments among the nine San Francisco Bay Area counties, including several in the past within San Mateo County, in addition to preparing diverse regulatory compliance reports, including Biological Assessments, Initial Studies, Mitigated Negative Declarations, etc.

2. Proposed Project Action Description

The Project seeks to a) modify and widen an existing driveway to accommodate emergency vehicle access; b) modify and expand a turn-about at the southern endpoint of the driveway; c) add a second floor to an existing one-story garage; and d) remove 19 trees to accommodate the implementation of #a-#c, above.

3. Existing Setting and Biological Conditions at the Site

3.1 Site

Situated in a rural, secluded portion of Woodside, California, the Site is already developed and hosts several structures that serve as a classroom, kitchen, office space, and maintenance/garage facilities.

The Site is not located in the California Coastal Zone because it is too far inland (east of the Pacific Ocean coastline)⁶.

The Site is surrounded on all sides by forested, private parcels of varying sizes, some of which host residence and others that remain undeveloped.

According to the Map Viewer for the Site⁷, La Honda Creek flows west toward the community of La Honda and, afterward, toward the Pacific Ocean. During the Survey, La Honda Creek hosted a robust flow of water that ranged from six inches to two-feet deep at different stretches where it occurs on the Site. See below for further details related to La Honda Creek and the gulch that flows into it (See Photo 6, below.)

3.2 Vegetation

A description of the vegetation habitat and plant species on the Site appears below in the *Survey Results and Analysis of the Project's Potential Negative Impacts Upon Special-status Plant and Wildlife Species*.

The Site's vegetation communities and habitats were assessed via the aforementioned Survey according to the *List of Vegetation Alliances and Associations (or Natural*

⁶ See: <https://databasin.org/datasets/ece6ae2d026b43959cfa11cceb2c07ac/>

⁷ See:

https://gis.smcgov.org/Html5Viewer/Index.html?configBase=https://gis.smcgov.org/Geocortex/Essentials/REST/sites/publicplanning_sql/viewers/HTML52110/virtualdirectory/Resources/Config/Default

Communities List) (California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) 2010) (List).

This List is based on *A Manual of California Vegetation*, Second Edition (Sawyer et al 2009), which is the National Vegetation Classification applied to California.

As for the Site's vegetation, cultivated, non-native plant species associated with the parcel's developed portions (e.g., building and driveway/entrance/parking areas) adjacent to three natural vegetation communities according to the aforementioned *A Manual of California Vegetation*: a) upland, Non-native Grassland; 2 Coast Live Oak-California Bay; and b) Coastal Redwood Forest — with the latter habitat adjacent to La Honda Creek that partially flows into two different portions of the Site⁸.

A list of the Site's vegetation observed during the Survey appears in Appendix D, below.

None of them are designated rare, special-status plant species based on the above botanical resources and a query of both the *California Natural Diversity Database* (CNDDDB) and *California Native Plant Society* (Society) database for the Site's location within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute La Honda quadrangle⁹. No suitable habitat occurs on the Site to potentially host one or more of the 14 rare, special-status plant species listed by the Society within the La Honda quadrangle and all its surrounding USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles.

⁸ Holland, Robert F. 1986. *Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California*, California Dept. of Fish and Game, Sacramento, CA

⁹ See: California Native Plant Society,
<https://rareplants.cnps.org/Search/result?frm=T&ccl=SMT&sl=1&quad=3712233:&elev=:m:o>

3.3 Wildlife

The Site's habitat conditions mentioned support diverse wildlife species, primarily common species occurring in both natural, undeveloped forested areas of San Mateo County and cultivated/disturbed forested areas adjacent to developed residences such as the Site's setting.

The Site's habitats provide sheltering, roosting, foraging, and nesting sites for diverse species birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Mature Coast Live Oak, Coastal Redwood, and California Bay trees host both foraging and nesting bird species. These same trees also serve as overwintering and maternal breeding colonies for bat species.

Several common wildlife species were detected during the Survey and appear in the Appendix D list, below.

3.4 Wetlands, Including A Culvert And La Honda Creek

The Site hosts a Culvert that does not contain water because a large-diameter, black pipe carries above runoff water downward toward La Honda Creek (See Appendix A, Photo 6).

Note the Culvert and its top of bank do not host any wetland/riparian plant species.

Beyond La Honda Creek that occurs on the Site in two separate portions where it crosses within the parcel's boundaries, no other wetland resources occur on the parcel.

See below for a description of plant species observed during the Survey and Appendix D.

Based on the above information and other details that follow, the *Conclusions and Recommendations* section advises regulatory compliance avoidance measures (Avoidance Measures) that the

Owner should implement to satisfy the Department's setback buffer zone minimum requirements, given the Project includes removal of one tree (Tree #11) closer than 25 feet to the gulch's top of bank habitat^{10 11}.

No hydric or wetland soils are present where the Project activities noted above are proposed to occur¹².

3.5 Rare, Sensitive Habitats

Note the Survey included assessing the Site for the previously mentioned wetland resources and other "waters of the U.S." potentially subject to federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act or state or local jurisdiction under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. The review included an investigation of existing landforms, vegetation, hydrology, and soil conditions that are conditions that may qualify them as sensitive habitats according to CDFW.

Based on the Survey that included consulting a CNDDDB report for the Site before it occurred, no rare, sensitive habitat exists at the Site.

Nonetheless, the aforementioned Culvert and La Honda Creek are regulated by the Corps of Engineers as a water of the U.S. under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act or by the SFBRWQCB as a water of the state of California under the Porter-Cologne Act. In addition, both the Culvert and La Honda Creek are likely subject to the jurisdiction of the CDFW pursuant to its Section 1602 regulations.

¹⁰ See: <https://www.smcgov.org/media/101461/download?inline=>

¹¹ See: https://www.woodsides town.org/sites/default/files/fileattachments/planning/page/4191/2017-589_-_chapter_153_-_zoning.pdf

¹² See: <http://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>

3.6 Rare, Special-status Species

For the Survey, I prepared for assessing the Site's potential to host rare, special-status species by consulting the most current CNDDDB list of rare, special-status species that occur in the Woodside region within which the Site occurs¹³.

As background, the CNDDDB is organized into map areas based on 7.5-minute topographic maps produced by the US Geological Survey. All known occurrences of sensitive species and important natural communities are mapped on the quadrangle maps. The database gives further detailed information on each occurrence, including specific location of the individual, population, or habitat (if possible) and the presumed current state of the population or habitat. The project site is located on the La Honda 7.5-minute quadrangle. A search of the CNDDDB for records of occurrence of rare, special-status wildlife and plants and natural communities within this quadrangle and surrounding areas indicated that a number of rare, special-status species have occurred in the project vicinity.

Rare, Special-status Plant Species at the Site. Regarding assessment of rare, status-plant species at the Site, ones I evaluated for their absence or presence at the Site includes: a) species that are listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act; (b) species that are listed, or proposed for listing by the state of California as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act; (c) plants considered by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) to be rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; and (iv) plant species that meet the definition of rare or endangered under CEQA.

¹³ California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) search occurred on February 21, 2023 within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute La Honda quadrangle and surrounding area

A list of special status plants with potential to occur on the property was developed from the CDFW's California Natural Diversity Data Base. A complete list of special status plant species occurring in the vicinity of the property is included in Table 1. The Appendix C table, below, includes all species mentioned in the CNDDDB within approximately five miles of the site. The table includes an evaluation of the potential for rare, sensitive plant species to occur at the Site. None of the ones present on the Appendix C list below are judged to have potential for occurrence at the Site.

Given the CNDDDB result and based on the habitat conditions at the Site, species with potential for occurrence in the Appendix C list are the San Francisco Dusky-footed Woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes annectens*), California Red-legged Frog (*Rana draytonii*), and Foothill Yellow-legged Frog (*Rana boylei*). Assessment* for the above three sensitive wildlife species and their potential for occurrence at the Site are noted below. (* = None of the three species is likely to be negatively impacted by the Project, given these species were not noted during the Survey upon the Site and its habitat is not suitable for successful breeding by the two frog species.)

Rare, Special-status Wildlife at the Site

San Francisco Dusky-footed Woodrat. Designated a California Species of Special Concern by the CDFW, the San Francisco Dusky-footed Woodrat is one of eleven subspecies (or races) of the Dusky-footed Woodrat. As a species, it occurs in diverse habitats within San Francisco Bay counties south through the Santa Cruz Mountains to Elkhorn Slough and inland to the Mount Diablo area. The species is most abundant in riparian, oak woodland, and scrub habitats. It usually employs sticks and branches to construct conical-shaped nests either on the ground or in tree branches, often placed in lowland areas such as the Site's Culver area and along La Honda Creek. The nests are used for rearing newborns and sheltering, among other uses.

However, during the Survey no Dusky-footed Woodrat nests or individuals were seen. As a result, no additional pre-construction survey for this mammal species is advised.

California Red-legged Frog. Primarily occurring in natural aquatic habitats — ponds, lakes, marshes, placid year-round/perennial watercourses, and other permanent sources of water — and human-made reservoirs, stock pond-like settings (e.g., agricultural ponds) upon developed parcels, this federally endangered amphibian is the largest native frog in the western United States.

Adult females are larger than males at approximately 5.4 inches in length. Males reach 4.5 inches. This federally threatened species thrives best where year-round, permanent water habitat occurs. Crucial to its presence or absence is its need for shorelines with extensive vegetation along with standing water during its prime breeding spectrum from January through July in northern California such as where the Site resides.

More specific, this four- to six-inch frog, requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development and requires access to aestivation habitat (i.e., summer habitat after it has completed its breeding cycle)¹⁴.

Based on the Site's conditions, the California Red-legged Frog is unlikely to occur on the Site during the breeding season or as a dispersal corridor for adults that wander onto the parcel from adjacent habitat, especially the La Honda Creek corridor.

Its low to no potential for occurrence on the Site within its Culver or La Honda Creek is due to the absence of water in the Culver and because the fast-flowing La Honda Creek (when water is present, such as during winter) does not

¹⁴ See: <https://www.fws.gov/species/california-red-legged-frog-rana-draytonii>

offer the placid pond-like setting California Red-legged Frog requires for ideal breeding conditions.

Assessment of the Site's location prior to the Survey indicated it does not occur within US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) critical habitat designated for this species. Consequently, it is not surprising that no California Red-legged Frog were seen during the Survey. In turn, it is judged that the Project will result in less than significant negative impacts upon this species.

Foothill Yellow-legged Frog. As a California Species of Special Concern, this amphibian occurs in variety of habitat types, but always requires partly-shaded shallow streams with turbid riffles amid rocky substrate. For egg-laying, this frog species requires cobble-sized substrate. The larvae require 15 or more weeks to develop.

As noted above, the Culver on the Site does not host flowing water, so it will not host this species. Related, note La Honda Creek does not have rocky substrate nor extensive riffle activity, especially during the prime breeding season period for Foothill Yellow-legged Frog (March through early June for the Site's location). These two habitat elements are essential to attract and assist successful breeding for this species.

Given the above information, the Site's watercourses should not be considered suitable habitat to support this species. Consequently, the Project will not result in negative impacts upon this amphibian species.

4. Regulatory Background

The following provides regulatory background information regarding special status species and sensitive habitats:

4.1 Sensitive Habitats

Sensitive habitats are those habitats which have been identified by local, state, or federal agencies as areas which provided special functions or values. These habitats are subject to regulation under various local, state, and federal regulations such as the following:

The following provides regulatory background information regarding special status species and sensitive habitats:

4.1 Sensitive Habitats

Sensitive habitats are those habitats which have been identified by local, state, or federal agencies as areas which provided special functions or values. These habitats are subject to regulation under various local, state, and federal regulations such as the following:

City or County Tree Ordinances	The California Endangered Species Act
City or County General Plan Land Use Areas	The Federal Clean Water Act
City, County, State, or Federal Special Habitat Management Areas	The Federal Endangered Species Act (listed species or critical habitat)
The California Porter-Cologne Act	The Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act
The California Coastal Act	The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)	The National Environmental Protection Act
Habitats such as serpentine soils or vernal pools supporting plant species on California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Lists 1 and 2 which are considered special status habitats under CEQA.	The Federal Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
The California Department of Fish and Wildlife Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement Program	The Federal Coastal Zone Management Act

Sensitive habitats potentially found within the Project Area include:

Waters of the United States. The Department of the Army, acting through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), has the authority to permit the discharge of dredge or fill material in waters of the U.S. under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Waters of the U.S. include both wetlands and “other waters of the U.S.” Wetlands and other waters of the U.S. are described by U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency (US EPA) and USACE regulations (40 CFR § 230.3(s) and 33 CFR § 328.3(a), respectively). US EPA and the USACE define wetlands as “...those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions” (US EPA regulations at 40 CFR § 230.3(t); USACE regulations at 33 CFR § 328.3(b)). Both natural and manmade wetlands and other waters (not vegetated by a dominance of rooted emergent vegetation) are subject to regulation.

The geographic extent of wetlands is defined by the collective presence of a dominance of wetland vegetation, wetland hydrology conditions, and wetland soil conditions as determined following the USACE’s *1987 Wetlands Delineation Manual* (1987 Manual); the USACE’ *2008 Regional Supplement to Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West, Version 2.0* (Arid West Regional Supplement); and supporting guidance documents. The geographic extent of other waters of the U.S. is defined by an ordinary high water mark (OHWM) in non-tidal waters (33 CFR. §328.3(e)) and by the High Tide Line within tidal waters (33 CFR. §328.3(d)).

Navigable Waters Protection Rule. In 2020, the federal administration obtained approval of the Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR) that altered the reach of the nation’s Clean Water Act. The NWPR has four categories of jurisdictional waters and twelve categories of excluded waters/features. There is no standalone interstate waters category and no case-specific significant nexus analysis. Key changes were made for defining tributary, adjacent wetland, ditches, lakes, ponds, and impoundments, and new definitions for defining typical year versus normal, perennial, intermittent, ephemeral, snowpack, and ditches were created. No change was made to the definition of wetlands or the methodology for defining wetlands. Under the NWPR, WOTUS includes 1) territorial seas and traditional navigable waters; 2) tributaries; 3) lakes and ponds, and impoundments of jurisdictional waters; and 4) adjacent wetlands.

Waters of the State. Waters of the State are defined more broadly than “waters of the US” to mean “any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state” (Water Code section 13050(e)). Examples include, but are not limited to, rivers, streams, lakes, bays, marshes, mudflats, unvegetated seasonally ponded areas, drainage swales, sloughs, wet meadows, natural ponds, vernal pools, diked baylands, seasonal wetlands, and riparian woodlands. Waters of the State include all waters within the state’s boundaries, whether private or public, including waters in both natural and artificial channels. They include all “waters of the United States”; all surface waters that are not “waters of the United States, e.g., non-jurisdictional wetlands, groundwater, and the territorial seas.

The State Water Quality Control Board (SWQCB) and its Regional Boards, including the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (SFBRWQCB), routinely rely on the USACE/USEPA jurisdictional determinations as the Water Boards have no adopted methodology for the identification and delineation of wetlands or other waters of the State. However, as a matter of policy, the SWQCB/SFBRWQCB consider wetlands and waters determined non-jurisdictional by the USACE/USEPA under SWANCC or Rapanos guidance to remain jurisdictional as waters of the State subject to SWQCB/SFBRWQCB jurisdiction. Similarly, the SWQCB/SFBRWQCB typically takes jurisdiction over wetlands and other waters where the USACE/USEPA has determined that a wetland or other water of the US is exempted or excluded from jurisdiction or where the USACE/USEPA determines that the proposed project activity is exempt from regulation.

Lakes, Streams, Riparian Habitats, Sensitive Plant Communities. CDFW regulates lakes and streams under its Section 1602. In so doing, this agency’s jurisdiction constitutes “all rivers, streams, lakes, and streambeds in the State of California, including all rivers, streams and streambeds which have intermittent flows of water.” (Title 14 *California Code of Regulations* [CCR] § 720). The CDFW takes jurisdiction under its Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement Program for any work undertaken in or near a river, stream, or lake that flows at least

intermittently through a bed or channel. This includes ephemeral streams, desert washes, and watercourses with a subsurface flow. It may also apply to work undertaken within the flood plain of a body of water.

The CDFW does not have a methodology for the identification and delineation of the jurisdictional limits of streams except for the general guidance provided in *A Field Guide to Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreements, Section 1600-1607 California Fish and Game Code* (CDFG 1994). In making jurisdictional determinations, CDFW staff typically rely on field observation of physical features that provide evidence of water flow through a bed and channel such as observed flowing water, sediment deposits and drift deposits, and that the stream supports fish or other aquatic life. Riparian habitat is not specifically defined by the Fish and Game Code but CDFW takes jurisdiction over areas within the flood plain of a body of water where the vegetation (grass, sedges, rushes, forbs, shrubs, and trees) is supported by the surface or subsurface flow.

Sensitive plant communities are those natural plant communities identified in local or regional plans, policies, ordinances, regulations, or by the CDFW which provide special functions or values. The CDFW natural plant communities considered sensitive are those that CDFW ranks as sensitive communities that are 'threatened' or 'very threatened' and keeps records of their occurrences in its California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB). All known occurrences of sensitive habitats are mapped onto 7.5-minute USGS topographic quadrangle maps maintained by the CNDDDB. Sensitive plant communities are also identified by CDFW on their List of California Natural Communities Recognized by the CNDDDB. Impacts to sensitive natural communities must be considered and evaluated under CEQA.

4.2 Rare, Special-status Species

Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA). The FESA is intended to help protect the ecosystems upon which endangered and threatened species depend. The FESA establishes an official listing process for plants and animals considered to be in danger of extinction; requires development of specific plans of action for the recovery of listed species; and restricts activities perceived to harm or kill listed species or affect critical habitat. The FESA prohibits the “take” of endangered or threatened wildlife species. “Take” can be defined as any act that kills or injures a federally listed species, including significant habitat modification or degradation. The FESA also requires federal agencies to ensure that their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or adversely modify critical habitat, and to accomplish this in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) pursuant to Section 7 of the FESA. If formal consultation is required, USFWS or NMFS will issue a biological opinion stating whether the permit action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the listed species, recommending reasonable and prudent measures to ensure the continued existence of the species, establishing terms and conditions under which the project may proceed, and authorizing incidental take of the species.

California Endangered Species Act (CESA). CDFW administers the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). CESA directs agencies to consult with CDFW on projects or actions that could affect state listed species, directs CDFW to determine whether jeopardy would occur, and allows CDFW to identify “reasonable and prudent alternatives” to the project consistent with conserving the species. The CESA prohibits the taking of state-listed endangered or threatened plant and wildlife species. CDFW exercises authority over mitigation projects involving state-listed species, including those resulting from CEQA mitigation requirements. CDFW ma

authorize taking if an approved habitat management plan or management agreement that avoids or compensates for possible jeopardy is implemented. CDFW requires preparation of mitigation plans in accordance with published guidelines.

California Environmental Quality Act Review. Special status species to be evaluated in reviews pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) include those species listed by the federal and state governments as endangered, threatened, or rare or candidate species for these lists. Endangered or threatened species are protected by the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 as amended, the California Native Plant Protection Act of 1977, and the California Endangered Species Act of 1970.

The aforementioned California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provides additional protection for unlisted species that meet the “rare” or “endangered” criteria defined in Title 14, California Code of Regulations Section 15380. Special status species also include those species listed by CDFW as Species of Concern (species that face extirpation in California if current population and habitat trends continue), those listed as Fully Protected by CDFW (a designation that provides additional protection to those animals that were rare or faced possible extinction), and bird species designated as Bird Species of Conservation Concern by the USFWS. These state and federal Species of Concern must be evaluated in the context of evaluation under CEQA.

Special status species included in CEQA review also include bat species protected by the California Fish and Game Code and that have been designated with conservation priority by the Western Bat Working Group. CEQA also requires evaluation of impacts to plant species on California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Lists 1 and 2.

4.3 Protections for Migratory Birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) implements international treaties devised to protect migratory birds and any of their parts, eggs, and nests from activities such as hunting, pursuing, capturing, killing, selling, and shipping, unless expressly authorized in the regulations or by permit. On December 22, 2017, the U.S. Department of Interior's Office of the Solicitor issued Memorandum M-37050, which states an interpretation that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act does not prohibit the accidental or "incidental" taking or killing of migratory birds. In response to the Trump Administration's attempted changes to the MBTA, eight states, including California, filed suit in September of 2018, arguing that the new interpretation inappropriately narrows the MBTA and should be vacated. On August 11, 2020, the Southern District of New York ruled in favor of the long-standing interpretation of the MBTA to protect migratory birds, reinstating the historical ban on incidental take. Just days before leaving office, the previous federal administration to the current Joe Biden presidency finalized its pullback of MBTA regulations, despite the ruling of the federal court. On his first day in office, new President Joe Biden placed Trump's changes to the MBTA on hold, pending further review.

The State of California also incorporates the protection of nongame birds and birds of prey, including their nests, in Sections 3800, 3513, 3503, and 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game (CFG) Code. Section 3503 of the Fish and Game Code makes it unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nests or eggs of any bird. Section 3503.5 makes it unlawful to take or possess birds of prey (hawks, eagles, vultures, owls) or destroy their nests or eggs. In December of 2018, California issued new guidance specifying that state law includes "a prohibition on incidental take of migratory birds, notwithstanding any federal reinterpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act" by the Department of Interior.

To ensure compliance with the above regulations, bird nesting surveys are generally required if construction work requires vegetation removal during the bird nesting season. CDFW generally considers the nesting season to be from February 1 to August 31 for most bird species.

Required setbacks to protect active nests from construction activity are usually in the order of about 250 feet for passerines (songbirds) and 500 feet or more for raptors (birds of prey).

4.4 Protection for Bat Populations

Bats in this region use a wide variety of roosts, including man-made roosts such as buildings, bridges and Culvers; they also use trees that contain suitable roost habitat. Bats are nocturnal, and select day roosts for rest, protection, pup-rearing and overwintering, and night roosts during seasonal periods of activity during foraging flights. Often, the same day roost provides night roost habitat. Colonial bats roost in groups ranging from several to thousands of individuals. Bats in this region of California are not active year-round. Bats are particularly vulnerable to loss or disturbance of their day roosts, especially during pup-rearing during the summer when bats are not volant (not flying) and during winter months when bats are in torpor or hibernation.

Bats and other non-game mammals are protected in California under the State Fish and Game Code. Protections are necessary for maternity roosts (those that are occupied by pregnant females or females with non-flying young) and non-breeding roosts or day roosts without pregnant females or non-flying young. Significant impacts to bats could result from (i) destruction of an occupied, non-breeding bat roost, resulting in the death of bats; (ii) disturbance that causes the

loss of a maternity colony of bats (resulting in the death of young); or (iii) destruction of hibernacula. This may occur through direct disturbance from destruction of a roost site during structure removal or an indirect disturbance causing behavioral alterations due to construction noise or vibration, or increased human activity in the area.

Bats may be safely evicted in this region during seasonal periods of bat activity; specifically, between March 1, or when evening temperatures are above 45F and rainfall less than ½” in 24 hours occurs, and April 15, or between September 1 through about October 15, or prior to evening temperatures dropping below 45° F and onset of rainfall greater than ½” in 24 hours.

5. Method For The Survey

To assess the Project based on the Department’s advisory, I visited the Site on the aforementioned February 22, 2023 date, to conduct the Survey.

In so doing, I walked the entire Site, focusing on the previously-noted areas slated for modification/development (See Appendix B, Photos). My assessment while walking this route documented all vegetation species within La Honda Creek’s bed and top of bank.

{Below in the *Survey Results* section, I note: a) no wetland/riparian vegetation species occurred in an unnamed gulch/ephemeral watercourse that flows north to south downward into La Honda Creek (See Appendix B, Photo 6.).

The Survey also included assessing the reputed watercourse and the entire Site for its potential to host rare, special-status plant species (including wetland/riparian plant species) and wildlife species.

In this regard, background research was conducted before my Survey at the Site via a report query at the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) rare, special-status plant and wildlife species know to occur in the Site's area¹⁵.

More detailed related to this dynamic appear in discussion below with the *Survey Results and Analysis of the Project's Potential Negative Impacts Upon Special-status Plant and Wildlife Species* section.

Bird species assessed during the Survey, early-nesting bird species with potential to occur during the Survey date were limited to Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*), Anna's Hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), and Allen's Hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*). See below in the *Survey Results* section to note that none of these bird species or their nests were observed the Survey.

In addition, the CNDDDB query indicated the region has the potential to attract Hoary Bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), Townsend's Big-eared Bat (*Coerynorhinus townsendii*), and Pallid Bat (*Astrozous pallidus*), so the Survey included assessing whether the Site hosted over-wintering, roosting individuals of these flying mammal species¹⁶.

For the above bat species, tree cavities were checked for the potential presence of roosting bats along with the potential presence of their signs, such as feces/guano (on tree bark and the ground below trees) and body oil/urine stains (on tree bark).

To monitor for the potential presence of the aforementioned bird species, the Survey included checking for feathers, pellets,

¹⁵ California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) search occurred on February 21, 2023 within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5 minute La Honda quadrangle and surrounding area.

¹⁶ California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) search occurred on February 15, 2023 within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute La Honda quadrangle and surrounding area.

and whitewash excrement on vegetation and on the ground. High-powered 10 x 42 Swarovski binoculars were employed.

As for rare, special-status amphibian species potentially on the Site (and, especially) within or near the reputed watercourse, the CNDDDB listed the previously-noted California Red-legged Frog and Foothill Yellow-legged Frog in the region. See below for Survey details that note the absence of these two amphibian species on the Site or nearby it in La Honda Creek.

6. Survey Results and Analysis

No rare, special-status plant or wildlife species were observed during the Survey. Likewise, no wetland/riparian plant species were observed during the Survey, including an absence of riparian plant species within the gulch hosting a black pipe (that carries water downward on the Site to a portion of La Honda Creek that is off the Site) (See Appendix B, Photo 6). Likewise, no wetland/riparian plant species occur at the gulch's top of bank or anywhere else on the Site.

Common plant species observed during the Survey among the Site's natural areas included California Bay (*Umbellularia californica*), Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), Coastal Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), Western Sword Fern (*Polystichum munitum*), Wood Fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), Common Yellow Woodsorrell (*Oxalis stricta*), Bedstraw (*Galium aparine*), French Broom (*Genista monspessulana*), Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus discolor*), English Ivy (*Hedera helix*), German Ivy (*Delairea odorata*), and Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*).

Together, the above plant species form a California Bay-Coast Live Oak vegetation habitat complex that is typical for moist, forested Mill Valley parcels such as the one on the Site and in

the region¹⁷. This kind of habitat is especially common in central and northern California where north-facing slopes similar to the Site's exist.

None of the above plant species on the above list is considered a rare, special-status species based on designations developed by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and via a query of its web site for the region within which the Site occurs, including the La Honda 7.5-minute United States Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle and all of its surrounding quadrangles¹⁸.

Before the Survey occurred, a list of the region's rare, special-status plant species candidates for the Site were noted during an online search via the CNPS web site¹⁹. (See Appendix C, below.)

None of the candidate species obtained from the online search at the CNPS web site were seen during the Survey.

A list of plant species observed during the Survey is present in Appendix D, below. Appendix C lists rare, special-status wildlife species that have potential to occur in the region within which the Site exists.

¹⁷ Holland, Robert F. 1986. *Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California*, page 87, Element Code 81310, California Dept. of Fish and Game, Sacramento, CA

¹⁸ See the California Native Plant Society list for the La Honda 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle within which the Site occurs (along with all of its surrounding quadrangles):
<https://rareplants.cnps.org/Search/result?frm=T&crpr=1A:1B:2A:2B&ccl=SMT&sl=1&quad=3712233:3712223:3712234:3712243:3712242:3712222:3712232:&elev=:m:o>

¹⁹ Ibid.

Note the plant identification portion of the Survey occurred outside the period for the majority of potential rare, special-status plant species potentially present on the Site. Even during the optimum, typical plant species blooming period on the Site (March through June, annually), rare, special-status plant species would not be expected to occur on the Site due to competition from invasive, non-native plant species already present and, in addition, due to periodic human disturbance on the Site.

As for wildlife species on the Survey, no common or rare, special-status species were observed so none appear in the Appendix D list. Appendix C hosts rare, special-status wildlife species that have potential to occur in the region within which the Site exists.

The two previously mentioned raptors— Red-shouldered Hawk and Great Horned Owl — were not present during the Survey nor were their nests. The absence of these two common raptor species is not surprising, given they often prefer either larger parcels than the Site's and less close proximity to residential houses and associated periodic human disturbance. In addition, evidence of past raptor nests was not seen during the Survey on the Site.

Likewise, Anna's Hummingbird individuals were not seen during the Survey and none of this species nests were observed during the Survey.

7. Conclusions And Recommendations

As mentioned above in the *Introduction*, the Project actions are not expected to result in negative impacts upon the Site's watercourses and any rare, special-status plant and wildlife species. Likewise, the Culver watercourse does host wetland, riparian plant species nor does its top of bank.

Significant to the Project method prescription, note how several avoidance measure design elements will be implemented to avoid silt runoff and erosion effects that could potentially occur during the construction of the aforementioned turnaround and the removal of the three trees.

Among the 19 trees scheduled for removal, none are designated heritage trees by the Department because non exceed 48 inches or more Diameter Breast Height (DBH). As a result, no mitigation is necessary for this dynamic, in terms of replacement trees for those scheduled for removal.

As for the design elements related adding barricades adjacent to the turnaround area immediately adjacent to its turnaround endpoint (i.e., south-southeast portion of driveway), note the Owner is advised to ensure workers adhere to the following avoidance measures (i.e., Best Management Practices):

- **Habitat Protection:** Disturbance and removal of vegetation on the Site and adjacent to the a) turnaround; b) driveway barricade; and c) and other barricades added to the Site during the Project will not exceed the minimum necessary to complete the Project.

- **Wildlife Protection Actions:** At the end of each work day, all trenches and holes greater than one-foot deep will be covered to prevent wildlife from entering. When trenches cannot be fully covered, an escape ramp will be placed at each end of any constructed open trench to allow wildlife that may have become entrapped in the trench to climb out overnight.

The ramp will be constructed with wood planking or other suitable material that is placed at an angle not greater than 30 degrees. Daily before construction begins, all construction pipes or similar structures greater than two inches in diameter stored nightly at the Site shall be inspected for wildlife before the pipe or similar structure is buried, capped, used, or moved.

- **Prevention Actions:** All tools, boots, and other project-related equipment will be inspected daily in the morning before construction begins for the potential presence of common and rare, special-status wildlife species.

To ensure the Site does not attract additional common and rare, special-status wildlife species during construction, all loose plant materials and wildlife remnants will be removed daily by workers before work begins at the Site.

In addition, all pipes, hoses, or similar structures fewer than 12 inches in diameter will be closed or covered at the end of each work day to prevent wildlife entry.

- **Erosion And Sediment Control:** Other BMPs that will be employed during the Project will include those related to erosion and sediment control. For example, as an erosion control action, no soil runoff will be allowed to enter the culvert. Prevention of soil sediment runoff will include

Project design elements such as a) the addition of a barricade immediately south-southeast of the turnaround; and b) the placement of straw wattle at the south and south-southeast end of the turnaround where potential for runoff could occur during Project activities when rain events occur.

- **Rare, Special-Status Wildlife Species Encountered During Project Work:** If rare, special-status wildlife species are encountered during the Project, it will be suspended until guidance from a professional Biologist results. This action will result from the construction supervisor immediately contacting the Biologist so that s/he can determine action to prevent harassment and/or mortality for any encounters rare, special-status wildlife species. Until the encountered wildlife species is/are determined safe by the Biologist's actions, the Project will cease.

In relation to the above bullet point avoidance measure, the following rare, special-status species assessed above are addressed below in terms of advisory guidelines the Owner should execute, if necessary, to ensure compliance with Regulatory Measures corresponding to each species:

San Francisco Dusky-footed Woodrat. Given the Site has the potential to attract San Francisco dusky-footed Woodrat amid forested portions of the property, impacts to this species are possible.

In response as an avoidance measure, it is advised the Owner in the future shall have a qualified Wildlife Biologist conduct a survey of all potentially affected forested areas for potential presence of San Francisco Dusky-footed Woodrat nest houses, especially amid habitat near the turnaround area. The surveyed area should extend beyond forested areas on the Site where one or more of the 19 trees are scheduled for removal, and extend

up to 100 feet from each tree that occurs amid or adjacent to forest habitat.

If one or more woodrat nests are found during the future survey, then a management plan strategy will be developed to either protect the nest house in place with appropriate buffer zones or to relocate a nest house(s) based on the plan's approval after it is reviewed by CDFW.

Nesting and Migratory Birds. Removal of the 19 trees could potentially negatively impact suitable ground layer habitat for nesting by several bird species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (a federal law) and two bird nest protection regulatory codes enforced by the CDFW.

For this reason, a future nesting bird survey should be conducted on the Site amid the 19 trees, in addition to buffer zone in all directions from each of the 19 trees (50 feet for songbird species and 250 feet for raptor species). This survey action is a normal, standard method that will ensure compliance with the aforementioned federal and state active nest protection regulatory measures that are valid from February 1 to August 31, annually.

If active bird nests are found during a future survey, appropriate buffer zones should be established around all active nests to protect nesting adults and their young from direct or indirect impacts related to Project construction disturbance (i.e., 50 feet buffer zone in every direction from an active songbird nest and 250 feet in every direction from an active raptor nest). Buffer zones should be maintained until it can be documented that either the nest has failed or newborns have left a nest (i.e., fledged).

Potential Bat Roosts. Noting the Project has the potential to negatively impact rare, special-status bat species (noted above) that could potentially roost in tree cavities or their exfoliated bark, a future bat survey should be conducted by a qualified Wildlife Biologist.

A survey is required because CDFW regulation code prohibits the disruption of an occupied non-breeding bat roost or the loss of a maternity colony of bats. This kind of harassment or mortality upon bats could potentially occur from Project activities that destruct a roost site during removal of one or more of the 19 trees. If the bat survey results in the observation of roosting or maternal bat colonies, then avoidance measure strategies should be developed, reviewed and approved after submittal to CDFW.

(Note the bat survey should be conducted to coincide with the seasonal periods of active bat presence: May-September to monitor for the presence/absence of maternal bat colonies and from October-April for “over-wintering,” roosting bats.

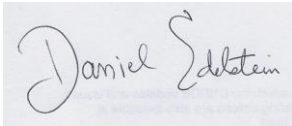
In summary, based on information discussed above, I believe the Owner’s Project should receive the Department’s approval to proceed without delay with the provision that the future San Francisco Dusky-footed Woodrat; nesting bird survey; and bat survey occur 14 days or fewer prior to the initiation of Project activities.

Consequently, based on the above information and my Survey, I conclude the Site should qualify for ministerial approval of an application by the Owner to split their parcel lot.

Please let me know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Daniel Edelstein

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature reads "Daniel Edelstein" in a cursive script. The name "Daniel" is written in a larger, more prominent font than "Edelstein".

Consulting Biologist & Certified Wildlife Biologist Asc.

WarblerWatch.com

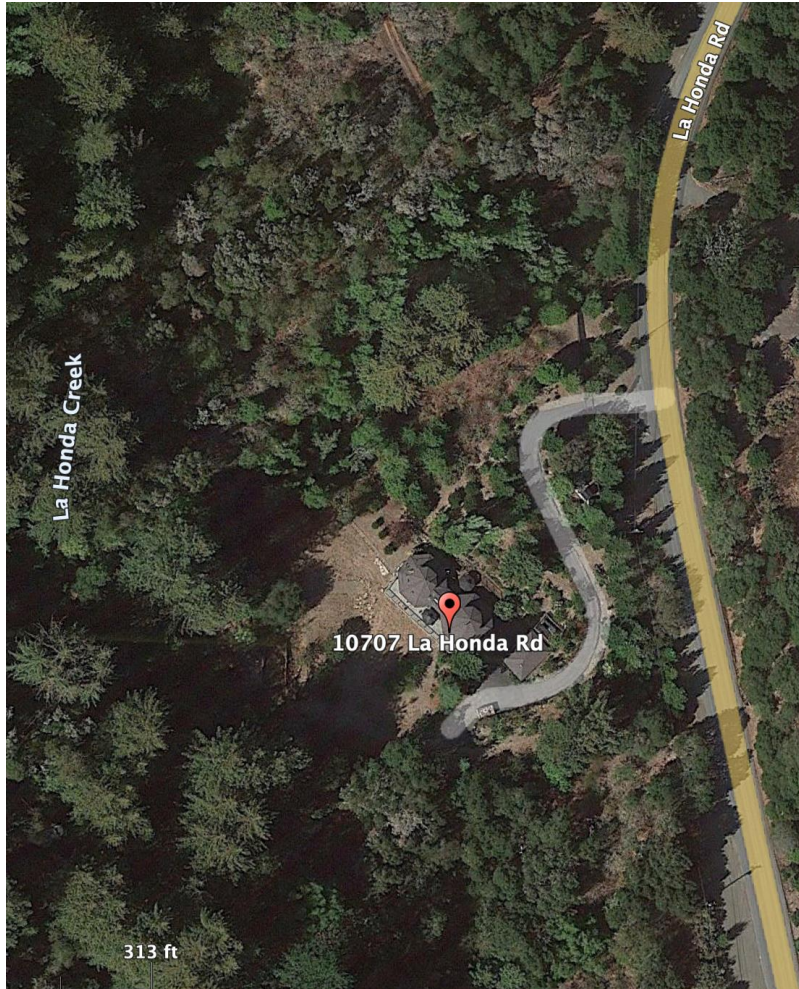
APPENDIX A

FIGURES



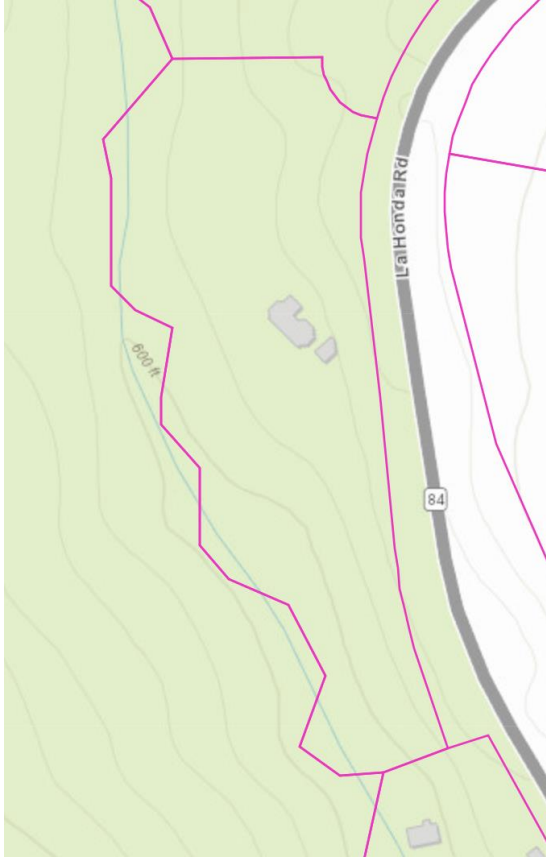
Area Map — The Site at 10707 La Honda Road, Woodside, CA 94062 (red teardrop symbol, above) (San Mateo County) (Assessor's Parcel 078-190-210) is 6.26 miles south-southwest miles of downtown Woodside.

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Site Map — The Site at 10707 La Honda Road, Woodside, CA 94062 (San Mateo County) (Assessor's Parcel 078-190-210) is 2.5 acres, a portion of which hosts the perennial watercourse La Honda Creek (top left) that flows north-south through the parcel.

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Parcel Map — The 11.5-acre 10707 La Honda Road, Woodside, CA 94062 (San Mateo County) (Assessor's Parcel 078-190-210) parcel hosts a perennial watercourse (La Honda Creek) that enters the Site at two different portions while flowing from north to south.

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APPENDIX B

PHOTOS



Photo 1 — The name plate address at the front entrance of residence 10707 La Honda Road, Woodside, CA 94062 (San Mateo County) (Assessor's Parcel 078-190-210)

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Photo 2 — Looking north and upslope the entrance at 10707 La Honda Road, Woodside, CA 94062 (San Mateo County) (Assessor's Parcel 078-190-210), the wood retaining wall (right side of photo) will be replaced after the driveway is widened as part of the Project.

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Photo 3 — Looking north-northeast, another view of the retaining wall that will be replaced on the east side of the driveway after it is widened at at 10707 La Honda Road, Woodside, CA 94062 (San Mateo County) (Assessor's Parcel 078-190-210).

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Photo 4 — Looking north-northwest, the garage is shown on the Site at 10707 La Honda Road, Woodside, CA 94062 (San Mateo County) (Assessor's Parcel 078-190-210). As part of the Project, a second-story will be added to it.

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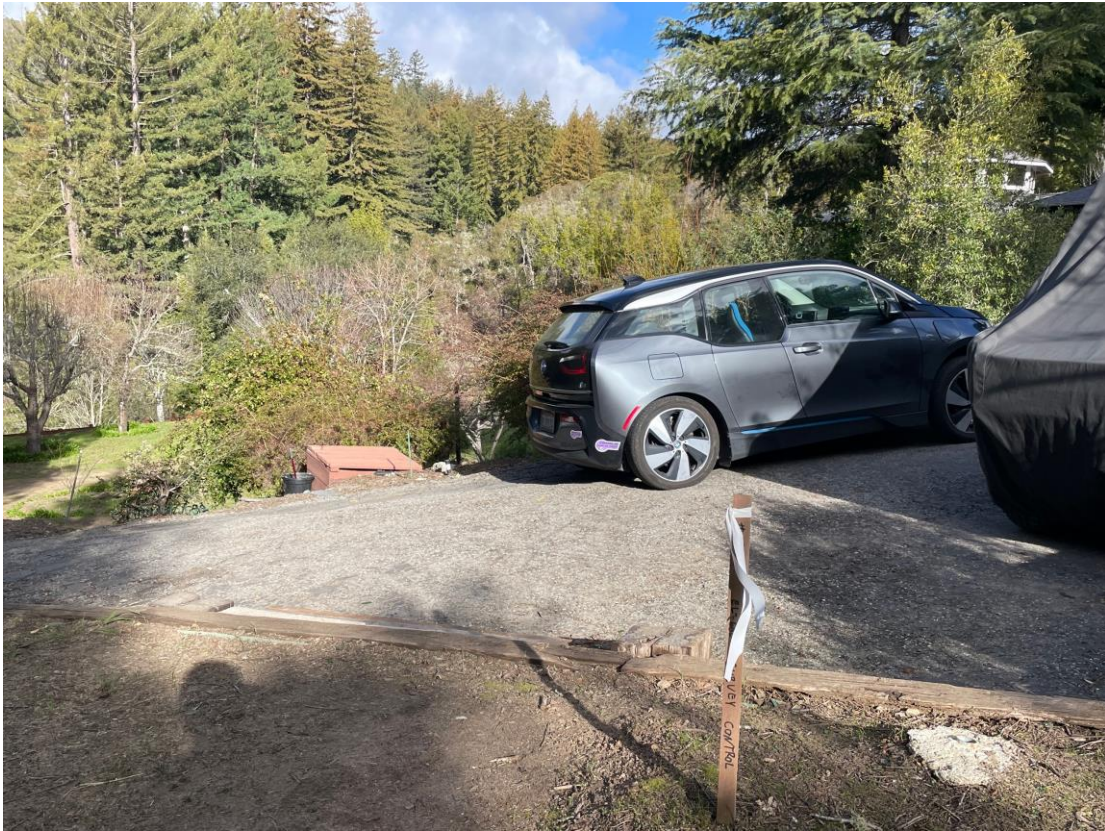


Photo 5 — Looking west-northwest, the bottom portion of the current driveway and parking area is shown at 10707 La Honda Road, Woodside, CA 94062 (San Mateo County) (Assessor’s Parcel 078-190-210). This area will be expanded as a turn-around area as part of the Project.

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Photo 6 — Looking southwest, a Culver contains a black pipe that flows into La Honda Creek that occurs downslope from the scene at 10707 La Honda Road, Woodside, CA 94062 (San Mateo County) (Assessor's Parcel 078-190-210). As mentioned in the text above, the Culver's bed and top of banks do not host wetland/riparian plant species.

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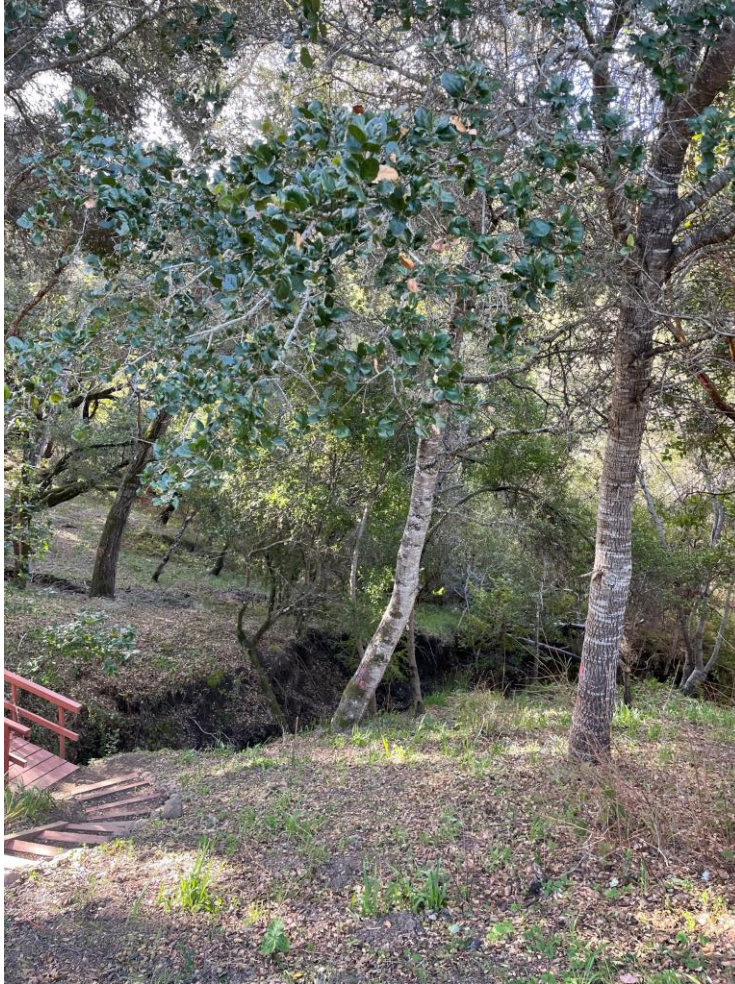


Photo 7 — Looking southeast toward the Culver (See above Photo 6), two trees scheduled for removal are shown (center and center-right in photo) at 10707 La Honda Road, Woodside, CA 94062 (San Mateo County) (Assessor's Parcel 078-190-210). Avoidance measures to prevent negative impacts upon the nearby Culver's bed and top of bank are noted in the above text, based on the scheduled removal of these two trees.

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Photo 8 — Looking southeast and upward from a bridge that goes over the Culver shown in Photo 6, above, tree #11 is shown as one that will be removed as part of the Project at 10707 La Honda Road, Woodside, CA 94062 (San Mateo County) (Assessor's Parcel 078-190-210).

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Appendix C

**Rare, Special Status Plant Species Documented
to Exist in the Vicinity of the Project Area, San Mateo County, California**

SPECIES ¹	STATUS ² FED/STATE/CNPS	HABITAT/RANGE	OCCURRENCE
San Mateo thorn-mint (<i>Acanthomintha duttonii</i>)	FE/CE/1B. 1	Chaparral, valley and foothill coastal scrub, vernal pools. Endemic from very uncommon San Mateo serpentine vertisol clays. 50-200m.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
Franciscan onion (<i>Allium peninsulare franciscanum</i>)	-/-/1B.2	Found in cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grassland in clay soils and serpentine on dry hillsides. 100-300m.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
Bent-flowered fiddleneck (<i>Amsinckia lunaris</i>)	--/--/1B.2	Cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland. 5-500m	Not present. Suitable habitat is not found at the site.
Kings Mountain manzanita (<i>Arctostaphylos regismontana</i>)	-/-/1B.2	Broadleaved upland forest, chaparral, North Coast coniferous forest, on granitic or sandstone outcrops. 305-730m.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
Coastal marsh milk-vetch (<i>Astragalus pycnostachyus</i> var. <i>pycnostachyus</i>)	-/-/1B.2	Found in mesic sites in dunes or along streams in coastal dunes and coastal salt marshes. 0-30m.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
Points Reyes salty bird's beak (<i>Chloropyron maritimum</i> ssp. <i>palustre</i>)	-/-/1A	Usually in coastal salt marsh with Salicornia, Distichlis, Jaumea, Spartina, etc. 0-15m.	Not present. Suitable habitat is not found at the site.
Fountain thistle (<i>Cirsium fontinale fontinale</i>)	-/-/1B.2	Endemic to serpentine seeps in valley and foothill grassland and chaparral in San Mateo County. 90-180m.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
San Francisco collinsia (<i>Collinsia multicolor</i>)	FE/CE/1B. 1	Found in closed-cone coniferous forest and coastal scrub. Usually on decomposed mudstone shale mixed with humus. 30-250m.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
Western leatherwood (<i>Dirca occidentalis</i>)	-/-/1B.2	On brushy slopes and mesic sites mostly in mixed evergreen and foothill woodland communities. 30-550m.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.

SPECIES ¹	STATUS ² FED/STATE/CNPS	HABITAT/RANGE	OCCURRENCE
San Mateo woolly sunflower (<i>Eriophyllum latilobum</i>)	-/-1B.2	Endemic to cismontane woodland in San Mateo County, often on roadcuts and serpentine. 45-150m.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
Hillsborough chocolate lily (<i>Fritillaria biflora ineziana</i>)	FE/CE/1B. 1	Endemic to serpentine cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland of San Mateo County. Known from Hillsborough.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
Fragrant fritillary (<i>Fritillaria liliacea</i>)	-/-1B.1	Coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, coastal prairie, often on ultramafic soils. 3-410m.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
Short-leaved evax (<i>Hesperevax sparsiflora</i> var. <i>brevifolia</i>)	-/-1B.2	Sandy bluffs and flats in Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes. 0-200M.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
Marin western flax (<i>Hesperolinon congestum</i>)	FT/CT/1B. 1	Chaparral, valley and foothill grassland. Found in serpentine barrens and serpentine grassland and chaparral. 30-365 m.	Not present. Suitable habitat is not found at the site.
Crystal Springs lessingia (<i>Lessingia arachnoidea</i>)	-/-1B.2	Grassy slopes, roadsides in serpentine soils of coastal sage scrub, valley and foothill grassland and cismontane woodland. 60-200m.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
Arcuate bush mallow (<i>Malacothamnus arcuatus</i>)	-/-1B.2	Found in gravelly alluvium in chaparral. 80-355m.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
Woodland woollythreads (<i>Monolopia gracilens</i>)	-/-1B.2	Chaparral, valley and foothill grasslands (serpentine), cismontane woodland, broadleaved upland forests, North Coast coniferous forest. Found in grassy sites in openings in sandy to rocky soils. Often seen on serpentine after burns but may have only weak affinity to serpentine. 100-1200m.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
White-rayed pentachaeta (<i>Pentachaeta bellidiflora</i>)	FE/CE/1B. 1	Mostly on soils derived from serpentine bedrock or open, dry rocky slopes and grassy areas of valley and foothill grassland. 35-620m.	Not present. Suitable habitat is not found at the site.

SPECIES ¹	STATUS ² FED/STATE/CNPS	HABITAT/RANGE	OCCURRENCE
Choris's popcornflower (<i>Plagiobothrys chorisianus</i>)	--/--/1B.2	Grassy and moist places, coastal scrub, chaparral; < 100m.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
Chaparral ragwort (<i>Senecio aphanactis</i>)	B/B/1B.2	Known from foothill woodland and chaparral habitats.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
San Francisco campion (<i>Silene verecunda veracunda</i>)	-/-/2B.2	Often on mudstone or shale in coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland, coastal bluff scrub, chaparral and coastal prairie.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
Saline clover (<i>Trifolium depauperatum</i> var. <i>hydrophilum</i>)	-/-/1B.2	Found in mesic alkaline sites in marshes and swamps, valley and foothill grassland and vernal pools. 0-300m.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
San Francisco owl's clover (<i>Triphysaria floribunda</i>)	-/-/1B.2	Coastal prairie, valley and foothill grassland, on both serpentine and non-serpentine. 10-160m.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.

1. Source: California Natural Diversity Data Base, Natural Heritage Division, California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the La Honda 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map and surrounding areas, February 21, 2023 query.

2. Status Codes:

FE	Federally listed Endangered
FT	Federally listed Threatened
FPE	Federally Proposed Endangered
FPT	Federally Proposed Threatened
CE	California State-listed Endangered
CT	California State-listed Threatened
CR	California Rare
FP	California Fully Protected
CSC	California Species of Special Concern

California Rare Plant Rank 1A: Plants presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere.

California Rare Plant Rank 1B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.

California Rare Plant Rank 2A: Plants presumed extirpated in California, but more common elsewhere.

California Rare Plant Rank 2B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more numerous elsewhere.

California Rare Plant Rank 3: Plants about which more information is needed – a review list.

California Rare Plant Rank 4: Plants of limited distribution – a watch list.

CNPS Threat Ranks

0.1-Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)

0.2-Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)

0.3-Not very threatened in California (<20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

**Rare, Special Status Wildlife Species Documented
to Exist in the Vicinity of the Project Area, San Mateo County, California**

SPECIES ¹	STATUS ² FED/STATE	HABITAT	OCCURRENCE ON THE PROJECT SITE
WILDLIFE			
Invertebrates			
Edgewood blind harvestman (<i>Calicina minor</i>)	--/--	Found in open grassland in areas of serpentine bedrock; found on the underside of moist serpentine rocks near permanent springs.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found at the site.
Edgewood Park micro-blind harvestman (<i>Microcina edgewoodensis</i>)	--/--	Open grassland in xeric environments. Found beneath serpentine rocks in grassland adjacent to scrub oaks.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found at the site.
Ricksecker's water scavenger beetle (<i>Hydrochara rickseckeri</i>)	-/--	Known from aquatic habitats in the San Francisco Bay Area.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found at the site.
San Francisco Fork-tailed damselfly (<i>Ischnura gemina</i>)	--/--	Inhabits small, marshy ponds and ditches with emergent and floating aquatic vegetation. Endemic to the San Francisco Bay Area.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found at the site.
Obscure Bumble bee (<i>Bombus caliginosus</i>)	--/--	Found in Coastal areas from Santa Barbara County north to Washington State. Food plant genera include Baccharis, Cirsium, Lupinus, Lotus, Grindelia and Phacelia.	This uncommon species could occur almost anywhere in the general area of the site and is included in the CNDDDB due to a general decline in bee populations in recent years.
Western Bumble bee (<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>)	--/--	This species was once common and widespread, but the species has declined precipitously from Central California to Southern British Columbia, perhaps from disease.	This widespread and once common species could occur almost anywhere in the general area of the site and is included in the CNDDDB due to a general decline in bee populations in recent years.

SPECIES ¹	STATUS ² FED/STATE	HABITAT	OCCURRENCE ON THE PROJECT SITE
Myrtle's silverspot (<i>Speyeria zerene myrtleae</i>)	FE/--	Restricted to foggy, coastal dunes and hills of Point Reyes Peninsula. Larval food plant is <i>Viola adunca</i> . Thought to be extirpated from San Mateo County.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found at the site.
Bay checkerspot butterfly (<i>Euphydryas editha bayensis</i>)	FT/-	Restricted to native grasslands on outcrops of serpentine soil in the vicinity of San Francisco Bay. <i>Plantago erecta</i> is the primary host plant; <i>Orthocarpus densiflorus</i> and <i>O. purpurascens</i> are the secondary host plants.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found at the site.
Fish			
Steelhead – Central CA Coast ESU (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>)	FT/CSC	Well-oxygenated streams with riffles; loose, silt-free gravel substrate Pine Gulch Creek to the north.	Not present. Suitable habitat is not found at the site.
Longfin Smelt (<i>Spirinchus thaleichthys</i>)	FC/CT, CSC	In California, Longfin Smelt have been commonly collected from San Francisco Bay, Eel River, Humboldt Bay and Klamath River. In fall, adults found throughout San Francisco Bay migrate to brackish or freshwater in Suisun Bay, and the lower reaches of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. Spawning probably takes place in freshwater.	Not present. Suitable habitat is not found at the site.
Amphibians			
California red-legged frog (<i>Rana draytonii</i>)	FT/CSC	Mostly found in lowlands and foothills in/near permanent sources of deep water but will disperse far during and after rain. Prefers shorelines with extensive vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development and requires access to aestivation habitat.	Not present. Suitable habitat is not found at the site.

SPECIES ¹	STATUS ² FED/STATE	HABITAT	OCCURRENCE ON THE PROJECT SITE
Foothill Yellow-legged frog (<i>Rana boylei</i>)	--/CSC	Partly-shaded, shallow streams and riffles with a rocky substrate in a variety of habitats. Need at least some cobble-sized substrate for egg-laying; larvae need at least 15 weeks to attain metamorphosis.	Not present. Suitable habitat is not found at the site.
Reptiles			
Western Pond turtle (<i>Emys marmorata</i>)	--/CSC	Aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams, and irrigation ditches with aquatic vegetation. Needs basking sites and suitable upland habitat for egg-laying (sandy banks or grassy open fields). Not documented from the project area.	Not present. Suitable habitat is not found at the site.
San Francisco garter snake (<i>Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia</i>)	FE/CE,FP	Found in vicinity of freshwater marshes, ponds and slow moving streams in San Mateo County and extreme northern Santa Cruz County. Prefers dense cover and water depths of at least one foot. Also requires uplands near aquatic habitats.	Not present. Suitable habitat is not found at the site.
Birds			
Double-crested cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>) [rookery site]	-/WL	Colonial nester on coastal cliffs and offshore islands and along lake margins in the interior of the state. Nests along coast on sequestered islets, usually on ground with sloping surface, or in tall trees along lake margins. Nearest nesting colony is on utility poles next to San Mateo-Hayward Bridge.	Not present. Suitable nesting habitat for a rookery not found on site.

SPECIES ¹	STATUS ² FED/STATE	HABITAT	OCCURRENCE ON THE PROJECT SITE
Great Blue heron (<i>Ardea herodias</i>) [Nesting]	-/-	Colonial nester in tall trees, cliffsides, and sequestered spots on marshes. Rookery sites are in close proximity to foraging areas such as marshes, lake margins, tide-flats, rivers and streams, wet meadows.	Not present. Suitable habitat for a rookery is not found at the site.
Northern harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [Nesting]	-/CSC	Coastal salt marsh and freshwater marsh; nests and forages in grasslands; nests on ground in shrubby vegetation, usually at marsh edge. Has nested at Bair Island.	Not present. Suitable nesting habitat not found on site.
White-tailed Kite (<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>) [nesting]	-/CFP	Open grassland and agricultural areas throughout Central California.	Not present. Suitable nesting habitat is not found at the site.
Cooper's hawk (<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>) [nesting]	-/WL	Nests primarily in deciduous riparian forests; forages in open woodlands.	Not present. Suitable nesting habitat is not found on site. Species likely forages on or near the site, especially in winter.
Sharp-shinned hawk (<i>Accipiter striatus</i>) [nesting]	--/WL	Breeds in ponderosa pine, black oak, riparian deciduous, mixed conifer, and Jeffrey pine habitats. Prefers, but not restricted to, riparian habitats. All habitats except alpine, open prairie, and bare desert used in winter.	Not present. Suitable nesting habitat is not found on site. May forage during the winter.
Golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>) [nesting and wintering]	BCC/FP, WL	Typically frequents rolling foothills, mountain areas, sage-juniper flats, and desert.	Not present. Suitable habitat is not found at the site.
American peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>) [nesting]	BCC/FP	Inhabits open wetlands near cliffs, also occurs in some cities where nests on buildings and bridges.	Not present. Suitable nesting habitat not found on site. May forage in the project area.

SPECIES ¹	STATUS ² FED/STATE	HABITAT	OCCURRENCE ON THE PROJECT SITE
Burrowing owl (<i>Athene cunicularia</i>)	BCC/CSC	Found in open dry annual or perennial grasslands, deserts and scrublands characterized by low growing vegetation. This species is a subterranean nester, dependent upon burrowing mammals, most notably the California ground squirrel.	Not present. Suitable habitat is not found at the site.
California Ridgway's rail (<i>Rallus obsoletus obsoletus</i>)	FE/CE, FP	Found in saltwater marshes traversed by tidal sloughs in the vicinity of San Francisco Bay; associated with abundant growths of pickleweed; feeds on mollusks obtained from mud bottomed sloughs.	Not present. Suitable habitat is not found at the site.
California black rail (<i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i>)	BCC/CT, FP	Mainly inhabits salt-marshes bordering larger bays. Occurs in tidal salt marsh with dense growths of pickleweed; also occurs in freshwater and brackish marshes.	Not present. Suitable habitat is not found at the site.
Yellow rail (<i>Coturnicops noveboracensis</i>)	BCC/CSC	Found in freshwater marshes. Summer resident in the eastern Sierra and Modoc County.	Not present. Suitable habitat is not found at the site.
Western snowy plover (<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>) [nesting]	FT, BCC/CSC	Found on sandy beaches or marine and estuarine shores; also salt pond levees and shores of large alkali lakes; requires sandy, gravelly or friable soil substrate for nesting. Has been observed at Bair Island.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
California least tern (<i>Sterna antillarum browni</i>) [Nesting]	FE/CE, FP	Nests along the coast from San Francisco Bay south to northern Baja, California; a colonial breeder on bare or sparsely vegetated substrates; sandy beaches, alkali flats, landfills, or paved areas. Nearby nesting has occurred at Bair Island (most recently in 1982),	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.

SPECIES ¹	STATUS ² FED/STATE	HABITAT	OCCURRENCE ON THE PROJECT SITE
Marbled murrelet (<i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>) (nesting)	FT/CE	Nests inland along the coast from Eureka to Oregon border and from Half Moon Bay to Santa Cruz in old growth redwood dominated forests, often in Douglas fir, up to six miles inland. Feeds on the ocean near shore.	Marbled Murrelets breed in forests in the San Francisco Watershed.
Short-eared owl (<i>Asio flammeus</i>) [Nesting]	-/CSC	Found in marshes, both freshwater and salt; lowland meadows; irrigated alfalfa fields. Tule patches/full grass needed for nesting and daytime seclusion. Nests on dry ground in a depression concealed in vegetation. Has nested on Bair Island.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
Yellow warbler (<i>Dendroica petechia</i>) [nesting]	BCC/CSC	Breeds in deciduous riparian woodlands, widespread during fall migration.	Not present. Suitable habitat is not found at the site. May be present during fall migration.
Saltmarsh common yellowthroat (<i>Geothlypis trichas sinuosa</i>)	BCC/CSC	Requires thick continuous cover down to water surface for foraging; tall grasses, tule patches, willows for nesting.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
Alameda song sparrow (<i>Melospiza melodia pusillula</i>)	BCC/CSC	Resident of salt marshes bordering south arm of San Francisco Bay.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
Mammals			
Pallid bat (<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>)	--/CSC	Roosts primarily in oak woodland and ponderosa pine habitats; forages in open areas.	Unlikely. A preconstruction Bat Habitat Assessment will ensure that mitigation strategies to protect bat populations can be implemented.
Hoary bat (<i>Lasurus cinereus</i>)	--/--	Prefers open habitats with access to trees for cover and open areas or habitat edges for feeding. Roosts in dense foliage of medium to large trees.	Unlikely. A preconstruction Bat Habitat Assessment will ensure that mitigation strategies to protect bat populations can be implemented.

SPECIES ¹	STATUS ² FED/STATE	HABITAT	OCCURRENCE ON THE PROJECT SITE
Salt marsh harvest mouse (<i>Reithrodontomys raviventris</i>)	FE/CE, FP	Inhabits saline emergent wetlands in the San Francisco Bay and its tributaries. Pickleweed is the primary habitat.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
Santa Cruz kangaroo rat (<i>Dipodomys venustus venustus</i>)	-/-	Found in silverleaf manzanita mixed chaparral in the Zayante Sand Hills of the Santa Cruz Mountains.	Not present. Suitable habitat not found on site.
San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat (<i>Neotoma fuscipes annectens</i>)	-/CSC	Found in forested habitats of moderate canopy and moderate to dense understory.	Possible. Nest structures for this species occur in forested portions of the site.
American badger (<i>Taxidea taxus</i>)	--/CSC	Drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats; needs sufficient food, friable soils and open, uncultivated ground.	Not present. Suitable habitat is not found at the site.

Source: California Natural Diversity Data Base, Natural Heritage Division, California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the La Honda 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map and surrounding areas, February 21, 2023 query.

1. Status Codes:

FE: Federally listed Endangered; FT: Federally listed Threatened

FPE: Federally Proposed Endangered; FPT: Federally Proposed Threatened

BCC: USFWS Bird Species of Conservation Concern; CE: California State-listed Endangered;

CT: California State-listed Threatened CR California Rare; FP: California Fully Protected;

CSC: CDFW Species of Special Concern; WL: CDFW Watch List Species

2. Status Codes:

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FP: California Fully Protected; CSC: CDFW Species of Special Concern;

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APPENDIX B

List of Wildlife and Plant Species Observed During The Survey On The Site

Birds Detected On The Site:

Common Name	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Stellar's Jay	<i>Cyanocitta stelleri</i>
Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>
Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>
Chestnut-backed Chickadee	<i>Poecile rufescens</i>
Oak Titmouse	<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>
House finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>

Plants Observed Within Natural Habitat On The Site:

Common Name	<i>Scientific Name</i>
Coast Live Oak	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>
California Bay	<i>Umbellularia californica</i>
Madrone	<i>Arbutus menziesii</i>
Coastal Redwood	<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>
Poison Oak	<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>
Himalayan Blackberry	<i>Rubus discolor</i>
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i>
German Ivy	<i>Delairea odorata</i>
French Broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>
Wood Fern	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>

Western Swordfern	<i>Polystichum munitum</i>
Bedstraw	<i>Galium aparine</i>
Coffeeberry	<i>Rhamnus californica</i>
Cow Parsnip	<i>Heracleum lanatum</i>
Common Yellow Woodsorrell	<i>Oxalis stricta</i>