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MEMORANDUM

To: Glenn Michitsch
From: Michael Cady–Senior Biologist
Subject: First Review: Peer-Review of the Biological Assessment for 23616 Valley View Road
Date: February 16, 2024

This memorandum provides the results of a third-party peer review of the Biological Assessment (BA) (dated November 30, 2023) prepared by CJ Biomonitoring. The property is located at 23616 Valley View Road in Calabasas, California. The BA was prepared in support of a new single-family residence (project) proposed for the property. A site visit was conducted by Dudek biologist Ryan Stanley on February 13, 2024. Based up the site visit and review of the BA, the report provides an adequate analysis of the biological resources and potential impacts that would incur by Project construction.

1 Dudek's Literature Search

The following data sources were reviewed to assist with peer-review efforts:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CDFW 2024a);
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (USFWS 2024a);
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CNPS 2024);
- California Sensitive Natural Communities (CDFW 2024b);
- National Wetlands Inventory (USFWS 2024b);
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Watershed Boundary Dataset and National Hydrography Dataset (USGS 2024); and
- Web Soil Survey (USDA 2024).

2 Peer-Review

Peer-Review of Property and Survey Description

Project Description: The location and setting description are correct.

Topography, Microclimate and Soils: Dudek's desktop review confirmed the environmental setting description found in this section, including elevation and soils.

Existing Construction: Dudek’s site visit has confirmed no development has occurred on the site. Some activity has occurred on the project site and has resulted in tall posts being driven and erected with wiring supports and suspended orange safety netting suspended between posts.

Peer-Review of Methods

Methodology is standard for the industry.

Peer-Review of Biological Characteristics of Site

Flora: The analysis is sufficient

Wildlife/Wildlife Movement: Additional wildlife and evidence of wildlife (burrows) were observed directly on-site during Dudek’s field review, including desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), three slender salamander individuals (*Batrachoseps spp.*), and two burrows approximately 5 inches in diameter.

Wildfire: This analysis is sufficient.

Peer-Review of Sensitive Biological Resources

Special-Status Species-Plants: The assessment of the potential of occurrence is sufficient.

Special-Status Species-Plant Communities: The assessment of potential of occurrence is sufficient.

Special-Status Species-Wildlife: Three additional special-status wildlife species appeared in Dudek’s 9-quad CNDDDB search including Southern California ringtail (*Bassariscus astutus octavus*), southern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris nereis*), and Crotch bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*). All three species are not expected to occur due to lack of suitable habitat, as well as the absence of suitable food plants for the Crotch bumble bee.

Critical Habitat: It is correct.

Jurisdictional Wetlands and Waters: It is correct.

Oak/Native Trees: The assessment of the coast live oaks present on the project site is sufficient.

Peer-Review of Impact Analysis

Summary of Impacts: The impact analysis is sufficient.

Recommendations: The recommendations are adequate to avoid and minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources.

3 References

Calflora. 2024. Observation Search for *Quercus berberidifolia*. <https://www.calflora.org/entry/observ.html?track=m#srch=t&lpcli=t&taxon=Quercus+berberidifolia&chk=t&cch=t&cnabh=t&inat=r&cc=LAX>

- CDFW (California Department of Fish and Wildlife). 2024a. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). RareFind 5.2.14 (Commercial Subscription). Sacramento, California: CDFW, Biogeographic Data Branch. Accessed February 2024. <https://map.dfg.ca.gov/rarefind/view/RareFind.aspx>.
- CDFW. 2024b. California Natural Community list. Sacramento, California: CDFW. August 18, 2021. Accessed February 2024. <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=153398&inline>.
- CNPS (California Native Plant Society). 2023. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (online edition, v8-03 0.45). Sacramento, California: California Native Plant Society. Accessed February 2024. www.rareplants.cnps.org.
- Shump, K.A., Jr. and A.U. Shump. 1982. "*Lasiurus borealis*." American Society of Mammalogists. Mammalian Species 183:1–6.
- USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture). 2024. Web Soil Survey. USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Accessed February 2024. <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov>.
- USFWS (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service). 2024a. Environmental Conservation Online System Information, Planning, and Conservation System (IPaC). Accessed February 2024. <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>.
- USFWS. 2024b. National Wetlands Inventory website. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. Accessed February 2024. <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/>.
- USGS. 2023. National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) and Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD), Digital Spatial Data Sets, U.S. Department of the Interior, USGS. Last modified January 16, 2020. Accessed February 2024. <https://water.usgs.gov/GIS/huc.html>.