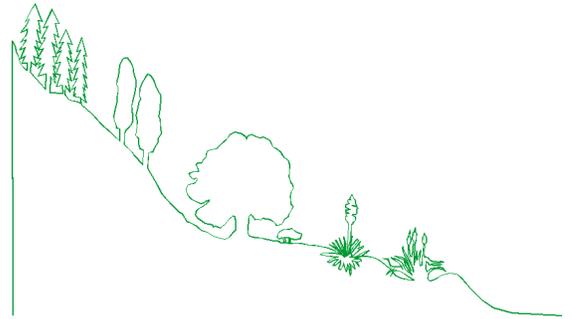


Appendix B

May 6, 2020

Ms. Wendy Lockwood
Sirius Environmental
1478 N Altadena Dr.
Pasadena, CA 91107
wl@siriusenvironmental.com
Transmitted Via E-mail



Biological Assessment Services

Subject: **Biological Resources Constraints Analysis** for your project at MacLaren Hall, 4024 Durfee Ave., El Monte CA.

Dear Ms. Lockwood:

Introduction

This letter reports on the biological conditions present at MacLaren Hall. A brief floral and faunal survey of the site was conducted on April 14, 2020. The purpose of the survey was to determine the general biologic character of the site and attempt to determine the potential for any significant biological impact resulting from change of use on the site. No attempt was made to thoroughly catalogue all of the species present on the property. The site was walked on foot and the entire site was accessible. The sky was clear and the weather mild, with temperature steady at around 73°F. The California Natural Diversity Database and the California Native Plant Society's lists of sensitive plants were accessed for the nine USGS quadrangle maps surrounding the site. The potential for the occurrence of any species found on these lists was evaluated.

Site Description

The approximately 13.6-acre property is located in the heart of the urbanized San Gabriel Valley. Nearly flat and level, the site averages 313 feet of elevation. Site acreage and elevation were derived from Google Earth. The property is occupied by several large buildings, smaller associated structures, parking lots, and large grassy lawns.

Vegetation

MacLaren Hall, in its current form, was developed in the 1970s and the entire site is occupied by structures, hardscape, or landscaped vegetation. There are no natural habitats on the property. The landscaping present consists entirely of perennial shrubs, subshrubs, lawns and mature trees. Annual weeds are present in the lawns and planted areas as is typical in southern California.

Among the shrubs and other low growing vegetation present were Indian hawthorne (*Raphiolepis indica*), Heavenly bamboo (*Nandina domestica*), Mexican sage (*Salvia leucantha*), African bush daisy (*Euryops* sp.), bottlebrush (*Callistemon* sp.), hibiscus (*Hybiscus* sp.), foxtail agave (*Agave attenuata*) and Mexican feather grass (*Stipa tenuissima*). All are common nonnative landscape species.

Based on size and placement in relation to the onsite infrastructure, most of the trees likely date to 1970s era site development and include the following:

| Common Name | Scientific Name | Common Name | Scientific Name |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Aleppo pine | <i>Pinus halepensis</i> | Am. sweet gum | <i>Liquidambar styraciflua</i> |
| Italian stone pine | <i>Pinus pinea</i> | Shamel ash | <i>Fraxinus uhdei</i> |
| Canary Island pine | <i>Pinus canariensis</i> | Indian fig | <i>Ficus nitida</i> |
| Norfolk Island pine | <i>Araucaria heterophylla</i> | loquat | <i>Eriobotrya japonica</i> |
| fern pine | <i>Podocarpus gracilior</i> | ornamental pear | <i>Pyrus</i> sp. |
| Brazilian pepper | <i>Schinus teribenthifolia</i> | unidentified citrus | <i>Citrus</i> sp. |
| Jacaranda | <i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i> | Mexican fan palm | <i>Washingtonia robusta</i> |
| carrotwood Tree | <i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i> | Spanish dagger | <i>Yucca gloriosa</i> |

Wildlife

The highly urbanized character of the site and surrounding area, in addition to the cursory nature of the site survey conducted in support of a constraints analysis, resulted in relatively few wildlife observations. Western fence lizard was the only reptile noted during the survey. Eastern fox squirrels (*Sciurus niger*) were the only mammal directly observed but sign (tracks, scat, burrows, etc.) of pocket gophers (*Thomomys bottae*) and Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) were also noted. Many other common urban mammals are also expected to use the property including raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), and coyote (*Canis latrans*).

An abundance of mature trees and open areas coupled with minimal human activity makes the site attractive to many bird species. The native bird species observed during the brief survey were black phoebe, lesser goldfinch, house finch, bush tit, Anna's hummingbird, Allen's hummingbird, northern mockingbird, mourning dove, dark-eyed junco, Audubon's warbler and common raven. European starlings were also present. Black phoebe nests were observed in several places in the buildings and house finch young could be heard calling from hidden nests within the structures.

There are undoubtedly many other avian species that utilize the site as residents or transients, the most common of which are likely California towhee, American crow, and Bewick's wren, among many others. None of these species are considered particularly sensitive and none are specifically protected by state or federal law. However, all bird species that occur on the site are protected from nest disturbance by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the California Fish and Game Code. These regulations prohibit the disturbance of nesting birds in any manner that may cause reproductive failure. In general, this means that land clearing must be accomplished during winter months while the birds are not nesting. If clearing cannot be accomplished during the non-nesting season (Currently considered to be from September 30 through January 1 per CDFW) nesting bird surveys must be conducted and any nests discovered must be avoided during construction. In general, nesting bird surveys are required for any construction that takes place between January 1 and September 30. Because the buffer distances recommended by CDFW (500 feet for raptors and 300 feet for all other species) extend far beyond the property limits in many cases, nest detection and avoidance may be difficult or impossible on adjacent private properties. In these cases,

appropriate nest avoidance strategies may be determined by a qualified biological monitor who is onsite if land clearance is scheduled during nesting season.

Sensitive Biological Resources

There are 155 biological resources listed as sensitive and reported in the 9-quad area surrounding the project site. Most of the species listed as protected and occurring in the region have very specific habitat types that do not, and never did, occur on the project site, such as marine aquatic, coastal salt marsh, or vernal pool. As such, these have been eliminated from further consideration. Several protected bird species, including several raptors, and numerous migratory songbirds, may fly over the site, and occasionally forage there, but would never reside on the property. These have also been eliminated from consideration.

Because the site is devoid of native plant species, and possesses no native habitat, it is concluded that no sensitive wildlife or plant species occur on the property.

Conclusion

Several native wildlife species were noted on the site, and the site may be adequate to support a few ground-dwelling mammals and reptiles. Birds are highly mobile, and the site does not completely support any bird species, though they may utilize portions of the site as part of their territory and even nest onsite. Others may use the property as transients during migration.

The MacLaren Hall project site does not support any Rare, Threatened or Endangered species or habitat that would support those species. No species listed as Rare, Threatened, or Endangered by the state or federal governments were found on the property or are thought likely to occur there. An analysis was made of the likelihood of listed species occurring there based on known range and habitat preferences of these species. Any birds that nest on the site are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the California Fish and Game Code.

There are no definable streamcourses or riparian habitat elements present. Therefore, no permits or interactions with the agencies that regulate impacts to jurisdictional waters of the U.S. or State are required.

It is a pleasure working with you and I look forward to the opportunity to continue assisting with this project if necessary.

Sincerely,
Biological Assessment Services



Ty M. Garrison
Principal