



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Bay Delta Region
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GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



Governor's Office of Planning & Research

July 10, 2020

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STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Ms. Lindy Chan, Acting Planning Manager
City of Redwood City, Planning Services
1017 Middlefield Road
Redwood City, CA 94063
Lchan@redwoodcity.org

Subject: South Main Mixed-Use Project, Draft Environmental Impact Report,
SCH No. 2019070208, City of Redwood City, San Mateo County

Dear Ms. Chan:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has reviewed the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared by the City of Redwood City for the proposed South Main Mixed-use Project (Project) located in the City of Redwood City, San Mateo County. CDFW is submitting comments regarding potential impacts to biological resources associated with the proposed Project.

CDFW is a Trustee Agency with responsibility under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15386 for commenting on projects that could impact fish, plant, and wildlife resources. CDFW is also considered a Responsible Agency if a project would require discretionary approval, such as permits issued under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), the Native Plant Protection Act, the Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) Program, and other provisions of the Fish and Game Code that afford protection to the State's fish and wildlife trust resources.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The proposed Project area is located at the edge of Redwood City's Downtown core and is comprised of five contiguous blocks and one separate block.

The revised proposed Project includes the development of 570 residential units, approximately 530,000 square feet of office space, an 8,400-square-foot childcare facility, and 29,000 square feet of retail space.

COMMENT

Issue: Project construction could result in disturbance to nesting birds.

Evidence the impact would be significant: Noise can impact bird behavior by masking signals used for bird communication, mating, and hunting (Bottalico et al. 2015). Birds hearing can also be damaged from noise and impair the ability of birds to find or attract a mate and prevent parents from hearing calling young (Ortega 2012).

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To evaluate and avoid for potential impacts to nesting bird species, CDFW recommends incorporating the following mitigation measures into the Project's EIR, and that these measures be made conditions of approval for the Project.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 1: Nesting Bird Surveys

To maximize the probability that nests that could potentially be impacted are detected, CDFW recommends that a qualified wildlife biologist conduct pre-activity surveys for active nests no more than seven (7) days prior to the start of ground or vegetation disturbance, if disturbance occurs within the nesting bird season (January through early-September). CDFW also recommends that surveys cover a sufficient area around the Project site to identify nests and determine their status. A sufficient area means any area potentially affected by the Project.

FILING FEES

CDFW anticipates that the Project will have an impact on fish and/or wildlife, and assessment of filing fees is necessary (Fish and Game Code Section 711.4; Pub. Resources Code, section 21089). Fees are payable upon filing of the Notice of Determination by the Lead Agency and serve to help defray the cost of environmental review by CDFW.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Project's draft EIR. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Monica Oey, Environmental Scientist at (707) 428-2088 or monica.oey@wildlife.ca.gov; or Ms. Randi Adair, Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory), at randi.adair@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Gregg Erickson
Regional Manager
Bay Delta Region

cc: State Clearinghouse #2019070208

REFERENCES

Bottalico, Pasquale & Spoglianti, Dorina & Bertetti, Carlo & Falossi, Marco. 2015. Effect of noise generated by construction sites on birds, paper presented at Internoise 2015, International Congress and Exposition on Noise Control Engineering.

Ortega, C. P. 2012. Chapter 2: Effects of noise pollution on birds: A brief review of our knowledge. Ornithological Monographs 47: 6-22.