



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
 DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 Inland Deserts Region
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 Ontario, CA 91764
 www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
 CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



December 12, 2019

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

DEC 13 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Jeff Benson
 Management Analyst II
 City of Rancho Cucamonga
 Community Service Department
 10500 Civic Center Drive
 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Subject: Comments on the Notice of Preparation Central Park Master Plan Update reVISION Project, City of Rancho Cucamonga, SCH 2019110342

Dear Mr. Benson:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) received a Notice of Preparation (NOP) from the City of Rancho Cucamonga (City) as lead agency for the Proposed Central Park Master Plan Update reVISION Project (Project) pursuant the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines.¹

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding those activities involved in the Project that may affect California fish and wildlife resources. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments regarding those aspects of the Project that CDFW may be required to carry out or approve through the exercise of its own regulatory authority under the Fish and Game Code or through public trust.

CDFW ROLE

CDFW is California's Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources and holds those resources in trust by statute for all the people of the State. (Fish & G. Code, §§ 711.7, subd. (a) & 1802; Pub. Resources Code, § 21070; CEQA Guidelines § 15386, subd. (a).) CDFW, in its trustee capacity, has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species. (*Id.*, § 1802.) Similarly, for purposes of CEQA, CDFW is charged by law to provide, as available, biological expertise during public agency environmental review efforts, focusing specifically on projects and related activities that have the potential to adversely affect fish and wildlife resources. This includes impacts that are subject to CDFW's lake and streambed alteration regulatory authority (Fish & G. Code, § 1600 et seq.), CDFW will also submit comments as a Responsible Agency under CEQA. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21069; CEQA Guidelines, § 15381.)

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¹ CEQA is codified in the California Public Resources Code in section 21000 et seq. The "CEQA Guidelines" are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with section 15000.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Project will include the development of 11.1 acres of undeveloped land into a park with a variety of both active and passive zones and uses.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CDFW offers the comments and recommendations below to assist the City in adequately identifying and/or mitigating the Project's significant, or potentially significant, direct and indirect impacts on fish and wildlife (biological) resources. CDFW recommends that focused biological assessments and surveys be conducted throughout the Project site, including appropriate focused special-status species surveys (e.g., coast horned lizard, Los Angeles pocket mouse, Parry's spineflower). Also, please be aware that the presence of scalebroom (*Lepidospartum squamatum*) onsite may indicate that the site supports a state designated S3 sensitive natural community, *Lepidospartum* alliance (scale broom scrub). If this vegetation community is present, adequate avoidance and minimization measures should be proposed and implemented. If unavoidable impacts will occur, appropriate, feasible mitigation should be included to compensate for this loss.

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

CEQA requires that information developed in environmental impact reports and negative declarations be incorporated into a database which may be used to make subsequent or supplemental environmental determinations. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21003, subd. (e).) Accordingly, please report any special status species and natural communities detected during Project surveys to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). The CNDDDB field survey form can be found at the following link: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/pdfs/CNDDDB_FieldSurveyForm.pdf. The completed form can be mailed electronically to CNDDDB at the following email address: CNDDDB@wildlife.ca.gov. The types of information reported to CNDDDB can be found at the following link: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/plants_and_animals.asp.

FILING FEES

The Project, as proposed, would have an impact on fish and/or wildlife, and assessment of filing fees is necessary. 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. Payment of the fee is required in order for the underlying project approval to be operative, vested, and final. (Cal. Code Regs, tit. 14, § 753.5; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4; Pub. Resources Code, § 21089.)

CONCLUSION

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the NOP to assist the City in identifying and mitigating Project impacts on biological resources.

Jeff Benson, Management Analyst II
City of Rancho Cucamonga
December 12, 2019
Page 3

Questions regarding this letter or further coordination should be directed to Kimberly Romich, Senior Environmental Scientist at (909) 980-3818 or Kimberly.Romich@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Scott Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

Scott Wilson
Environmental Program Manager

cc: Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse, Sacramento