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June 5, 2020

Todd Fujinaga
Law Office of Todd Roger Fujinaga
158 Jackson Street
San Jose, CA 95112

Subject: Biological Evaluation E&C Winery, APNs 027-251-280 and 027-251-290, Solano County

Dear Mr. Fujinaga:

Jim Leland of the Solano County Department of Resource Management has requested that a biologist survey the site and report whether or not there are significant biological resources on the site or in close vicinity. This report addresses the potential for special-status species, sensitive biological communities, and wetlands and other waters under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and/or the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) that may require special attention due to the project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

E & C Winery, LLC proposes to develop a new winemaking and hospitality facility on two parcels totaling approximately 70 acres (APN 027-251-280 (20 acres) and 027-251-290 (49 acres)). These parcels front Rockville Road on the north and Russell Road on the east. The proposed winery will be built in 3 phases over approximately 10 years and have an initial production capacity of 125,000 gallons with an ultimate production capacity of 2,000,000 gallons subject to market demand. The facility will process grapes grown both onsite and from offsite sources. Onsite activities include receiving and crushing grapes, fermentation, processing grape juice into wine, bottling and cooperage, sales, hospitality and administration.

My assessment is based on review of the site plans prepared by Summit Engineering dated November 12, 2018.

METHODS

I visited the property on May 12 and 20, 2020 to identify potential wetlands or other state or federally regulated areas, or special status species habitats that may be present on or in the vicinity of the site. In addition, I reviewed the Solano Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) database (SCWA 2019), the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB; CDFW 2019) records, and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS 2019) rare plant database to locate records of special-status species and habitats known to occur on or near the property.

RESULTS

The property is cultivated for agricultural use although there are several oak trees and shrubs and ruderal grassy cover along field edges. At the time of my assessment a portion of the property bordering Russell Road supported a standing grain crop while the remainder of the property was fallow.

The majority of the special-status plant and animal species in Solano County are associated with specific habitat or edaphic conditions including salt and brackish marshes, vernal pools and other seasonal wetlands, serpentine soils, and creeks, ponds, and associated riparian habitats. I did not observe any evidence of these habitats that would support any special-status species that are known to be present in this portion of Solano County such as Contra Costa goldfields, saline clover, vernal pool fairy shrimp, salt marsh harvest mouse, Suisun Marsh aster, and foothill yellow-legged frog. I also did not observe any elderberry bushes on the property which are the obligate host plant for the threatened valley elderberry longhorn beetle.

The property is also substantially removed from areas known to support California red-legged frog and Calipee silverspot butterfly. These species are restricted to the hilly areas west of Green Valley and I-680.

I also did not find any evidence of nesting activity on the property by more broadly distributed species such as Swainson's hawk and burrowing owl although both could forage on the property. Based on protocol level surveys LSA is currently conducting for the City of Fairfield stream maintenance program, we have identified three active Swainson's hawk nests within 3 miles of the property. The closest active nest is approximately 2.25 miles southwest of the property.

During my assessment I observed a pair of red-tailed hawks foraging on and around the property. I identified an active nest in a large tree along Suisun Creek adjacent to the subdivision on Willotta Drive approximately one-quarter mile from the proposed project. I also observed nesting activity at a known egret rookery that is also located in the Willotta subdivision.

Based on the intervening ongoing agricultural uses and urban uses in proximity/location of these identified nest sites, I would not expect the project to have any effect on egret colony, red-tailed hawk nest, or Swainson's hawk nests in the area.

If you or Jim Leland have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me (email: steve.foreman@lsa.net or phone: 510 (236-6810).

Sincerely,

LSA Associates, Inc.



Steve Foreman
Principal/Wildlife Biologist