

MEMORANDUM

To: Heusch INC
From: Great Ecology
Date: April 10, 2023
Project: 2424 N Briarcrest - Biological Resources Survey Report
Subject: Phase II - Report Revisions

Heusch INC and Mr. Paul Fitzpatrick reengaged Great Ecology on February 24, 2023, to respond to comments from the Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council (BABCNC), and to update the biological resources survey report from August 2022. This memorandum provides a high-level overview of the revisions made throughout the report and highlights new key information for the client's consideration.

SUMMARY

The revised report addresses and acknowledges the following comments made by BABCNC:

- Evaluation of the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Natural Resource Protection Plan (ESMM – NRPP);
- The Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Habitat Linkage Map (ESMM); and
- Expanding the avoidance and minimization measures of the report (found in section 5 of the report).

Great Ecology's revisions focus on the Environmental Setting (Section 4), and the Avoidance and Minimization Measures (Section 5). We have amended our conclusions to include:

- 1) An evaluation of the ESMM habitat linkage map, which designates special status wildlife species corridors passing through the property boundary;
- 2) A description of up-to-date wildlife movement corridors in the proposed project's regional vicinity;
- 3) An analysis of appropriate and practical alternatives is recommended to the project applicant in Section 5. Recommendations should be considered to manage the project's impact on biological resources; and
- 4) Additional regulatory context (Section 2) on the Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy, The Eastern Santa Monica Mountains Natural Resource Protection Plan, the County of Los Angeles Significant Ecological Area Program, and the Bel Air – Beverley Crest Community Plan.

The Briarcrest property intersects with wildlife corridors outlined by the Eastern Santa Monica Mountains linkage map. As a result, there is a potential that the City of Los Angeles (the City) will require further California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review for this project.

LIMITATIONS / ASSUMPTIONS

The following limitations and assumptions are applicable to the report:

- Great Ecology recommends measures to minimize potential project impacts to sensitive biological resources in Section 5. These measures are intended to serve as a general framework to guide the project applicant in avoiding impacts. However, additional avoidance and minimization measures are under the purview of state and federal agencies with regulatory authority over the project.
- Great Ecology's analysis identified three protected habitats onsite. These habitats are protected as CDFW sensitive natural community list and under the City's Significant Ecological Area (SEA) Program; the site is not currently located within the SEA Program boundaries. Removal of any of the CDFW designated sensitive plant species or vegetation communities would result in project impacts and would require permits from CDFW.

Our classification of these sensitive communities was predicated on protected tree species observed onsite. Precise locations and final determinations of any protected trees, or more specific project impacts on those individuals can be found in a Protected Tree Survey Report prepared for this proposed project.

- Specific impacts to the vegetation communities as they concern protected trees should be addressed in greater detail in a Protected Tree Report prepared by a certified arborist for the proposed project. The findings in this report should include potential impacts to these species and provide avoidance and minimization measures to avoid significance of these impacts.
- Unofficial figures created for the client showing approximate protected tree locations are not included in this report as this is an out-of-scope request that does not align with this report's conclusions.