

30 June 2016

Mr. Dennis Madison
Vice President – Environmental Compliance
Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Association
1712 South Glendale Avenue
Glendale, California 91205

RE: FOREST LAWN MEMORIAL – PARK, GLENDALE – SUNSET GROVE GARDENS

Dear Mr. Madison:

TERACOR Resource Management (“TERACOR”) was asked to provide a summary evaluation of the Sunset Grove project site at Forest Lawn Memorial-Park, Glendale. The purpose of the evaluation was to identify vegetation and wildlife found within the 0.7 acre project area and associated 0.8 acre slope natural buffer area and determine whether sensitive or protected resources other than the known coast live oak trees (*Quercus agrifolia*) are present within the described project zone.

To achieve the foregoing, TERACOR Principal Biologist, S. Reed, investigated the project area along with D. Madison, Vice President - Environmental Compliance, **Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Association** (“Forest Lawn”) on 21 June 2016. Mr. Madison provided topographic mapping of the project area, as well as site planning documents for the Sunset Grove project. All native plant species detected were recorded to the species level. Non-native ornamental and invasive vegetation considered low in biological value was recorded by common name and/or genus level nomenclature.

SUMMARY

The 0.7 acre project site is a disturbed, bowl-shaped area in a northwest facing slope located at a northwest portion of the existing Glendale cemetery. This bowl-shaped area, which presumably was created decades ago using tractors or similar type equipment, lacks a natural intact soil profile but has been present long enough for non-native weedy and grassy vegetation to become established. This area is considered very low in biological value in a manner that would be consistent with a vacant lot. Around the perimeter of the bowl-shaped area, where some native substrate remained in a disturbed condition, some younger coast live oak trees and a few common native pioneer shrubs like deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*) and California brickellbush (*Brickellia californica*) have become established within a largely non-native matrix of hedge species like *Myoporum* and oleander (*Nerium oleander*).

FIELD CONDITIONS OBSERVED

During the afternoon site visit, twelve (12) bird species common to urban parks and fringe native environments were detected, such as red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), California towhee (*Melospiza crissalis*), spotted towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*), Anna's (*Calypte anna*) and black-chinned hummingbirds (*Archilochus alexandri*), lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), and bushtit (*Psaltiriparus minimus*). No nests were observed on site. The

birds were active and some territory defense behaviors were noted; it is possible that there may be some unobserved nesting on-site or, more likely, in the immediate area. No mammals were noted. The only reptile species detected was western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*). Additionally, piles of concrete and stone debris were present, which might provide limited refuge for common snake species like southern Pacific rattlesnake (*Crotalus oreganus helleri*), California kingsnake (*Lampropeltis californiae*), gophersnake (*Pituophis catenifer*), and chaparral whipsnake (*Masticophis lateralis lateralis*). The lack of a natural soil profile is, however, likely to preclude presence of more sensitive organisms like legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*), or California mountain kingsnake (*Lampropeltis zonata*) as these organisms generally require a higher quality habitat structure that would be comprised of deep leaf and forest litter underlain by organic soils with an adequate prey base. The site lacks these characteristics.

Below the 0.7 acre project area is another 0.8 acre zone identified as natural buffer area. Most of this zone is highly disturbed and invaded with non-native shrubs and trees, particular the westerly portion of the slope where oak trees are largely absent. Forest Lawn proposes to remove invasive, non-native species such as Eucalyptus, elm and pine trees, and shrubs like oleander, *Pittosporum*, and *Xylosma*, mustard species, brome and similar non-native invasive grasses in this area. Following the clean-up of the natural buffer area, replacement oak trees will be planted and maintained in accordance with requirements of the City of Glendale.

A small portion of the northeast slope of the natural buffer area contains a stronger element of native plants and trees, and soils appeared to be more intact suggesting less historic disturbance. This small area was difficult to access due to slope steepness and vegetative density; it did not appear to need extensive clean-up and/or replanting. However, this easterly slope appears to be small in extent and largely isolated between the existing cemetery and adjoining private residences and local streets and development. The overall value to this small, remnant area, therefore, would be considered low.

RECOMMENDATIONS

While the general condition of the site is low in biological value, TERACOR recommends the following steps:

1. Prior to site clearing, have a qualified biologist confirm no nesting is occurring on the site. If any nesting is observed, have a qualified biologist tape off the nesting area and no clearance activity should occur with 50 feet of any active bird nest.
2. Arrange for a qualified biological monitor to be present during vegetation clearance and clean-up of the site to reduce potential impacts to animal life during site clearing. Particular attention should be given to rock and debris piles, oak trees slated for removal, and native shrubs. Following clearance of the site, there is no need for a monitor to be present given the overall low value biological conditions of the property at this location.

Thank you for the opportunity to evaluate this site. If you have any questions regarding the foregoing, you may contact our office either via telephone at 951-694-8000 or email at sam@teracor.net.

Dennis Madison
Forest Lawn Memorial-Park Association

30 June 2016

Respectfully,

TERACOR Resource Management



Samuel Reed
Principal

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