



December 26, 2012

Cay C. Goude  
Assistant Field Supervisor  
Endangered Species Program  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Scott Wilson  
Acting Regional Manager  
California Department of Fish and Game  
Bay Delta Region  
7329 Silverado Trail  
Napa, CA 94558

RE: 08ESMF00-2013-TA-0068

Dear Ms. Goude/Mr. Wilson:

Thank you for your letter of November 13, 2012, advising the City of Sunnyvale of the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan (SCVHP) as a model for streamlining the mitigation of nitrogen deposition on special-status plants and wildlife and impacts on the burrowing owl population and habitat.

The City of Sunnyvale is proud of its role in promoting sustainable and balanced infill development to reduce the pressures for urban sprawl in Santa Clara County, which understandably has a deleterious effect on sensitive plant and wildlife habitats. All development in Sunnyvale involves redeveloping previously urbanized or disturbed sites where potential biological impacts are minimal or non-existent. This differs significantly from the area covered under the SCVHP where development includes greenfield sites and the cumulative environmental impacts on biological resources can be significant.

The City promotes a responsible jobs/housing balance and targets new housing and employment growth at locations with excellent transit access (e.g. ABAG's recognized Priority Development Areas and Employment Investment Areas). These strategies serve to promote shorter commutes and significantly reduce vehicular trips and auto emissions. Additionally, the City requires major employers to adopt ambitious transportation demand management plans to promote alternative and more efficient modes of transportation. These local policies fully conform with SB 375 and the draft ABAG/MTC Jobs-Housing Connection Strategy (Bay Area version of Sustainable Communities Strategy) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while meeting the Bay Area's regional housing needs and economic development goals.

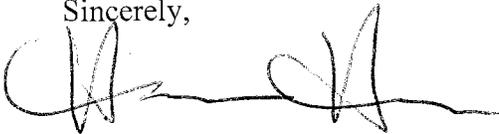
The City of Sunnyvale continues to adhere to all adopted protocols and accepted methods for evaluating air quality and wildlife impacts in its environmental documents that are prepared for proposed plans and developments. The assessment of nitrogen disposition appears to be a

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relatively new area for environmental assessment so we will alert our environmental consultant of this issue for future environmental documents. When applicable for a particular site, we will also alert our consultants of the possible changing mitigation measures for burrowing owls. Referrals to the California Department of Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will continue on all matters under the jurisdiction of both agencies. We appreciate you informing us of these issues and the SCVHP as a potential mitigation method for streamlining compliance with environmental regulations. We also look forward to information on future workshops on this subject as noted in your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hanson Hom', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hanson Hom  
Director of Community Development

Cc: Gary Luebbers, City Manager