

January 22, 2010

Marny Randall
909 Euclid Street, Suite 6
Santa Monica, CA 90403

RE: Whole Foods in the Park, Malibu California -- *Biological Inventory*

Dear Marny,

Whole Foods Plaza (5.88 acres comprised of APN 4458-022-001 and APN 4458-022-022) would be located at the corner of Cross Creek Road and Civic Center Way in the City of Malibu. The following Biological Inventory is required pursuant to the City of Malibu, Local Coastal Program, Local Implementation Plan, Section 13.6 (City of Malibu 2002).

Summary

A walk over of the property was conducted on January 6, 2010. No rare or sensitive plants were found or expected onsite. No rare or sensitive animals were found onsite. However, raptors may use the sycamore and eucalyptus for nesting. Great egrets have also been known to nest in trees along Cross Creek Road. A pre-construction survey will be required if construction begins during the nesting season. **Photographs** and a **Vegetation Map** of the site are attached.

Existing Conditions

The site is located in downtown Malibu, about 2,000 feet from the Pacific Ocean and the mouth of Malibu Creek. Shops and restaurants line the neighboring streets to the south and east. Immediately north is a small property owned by GTE California (Verizon), a stable and further a field, scattered residential development. To the west lies a small ranch, the Malibu Library and several undeveloped, cleared (grubbed) parcels.

The site is undeveloped, with the exception of a gravel parking lot and a skate board ramp situated along Cross Creek Road (See the attached Figure). The remaining area can be separated into two vegetation types: ruderal (weedy) and mixed woodland. These community names do not follow any commonly used format. Neither the California Department of Fish and Game (2003) nor the Sawyer and Keller-Wolf (1995) classification systems contain community descriptions that adequately portray the conditions onsite.

Dominate Species

The *ruderal plant community*, which also contains a gravel parking area, is generally located south of the paved skateboard ramp, on both sides of the gravel driveway and parking area (see Figure). Plant species are limited to common weeds with little wildlife habitat value. Dominant species include Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), Chinese caps (*Euphorbia crenulata*), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*) and cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*). Native species were limited to coyotebush (*Baccharis pilularis*), which often invades disturbed areas.

The *mixed woodland community* is located in the northern portion of the site. Trees that make up most of the woodland are non-native eucalyptus, with several palm and jacaranda. However, a number of native sycamores (*Platanus racemosa*) contribute to the aerial cover (See attached Figure and photographs). Other species present are common non-native grasses (*Avena*, *Bromus*). The woodland is limited in size and does not extend much past the property.

Presence of ESHA

The habitat on site and within 200 feet of the property would not fall under the category of Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area, as defined in the Malibu Local Coastal Program. Further biological analysis, other than a pre-project survey to protect any raptors or sea birds that may be nesting in the trees, is not recommended.

Wildlife Observed or Likely to Occur

Rodents common to urban areas are likely to frequent this property, including: gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), black rat (*Rattus rattus*), California mouse (*Peromyscus californicus*) and California pocket mouse (*Perognathus californicus*). Western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) and side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*) likely utilize the site. Birds expected to frequent the site include: red-tailed hawk, American kestrel, turkey vulture, California quail, Anna's hummingbird, great-horned owl, black phoebe, mockingbird, scrub jay, common raven, white-crowned sparrow, California towhee and lesser goldfinch. Striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), coyote (*Canis latrans*) and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) are also expected.

Please feel free to call with any questions.

Sincerely,

Rachel Tierney

attachments: Figure and Photographs

References

- California Department of Fish and Game. 2010. Special Lists: Plants, Animals, and Natural Communities. Available at the CDFG web site.
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/whdab/html/lists.html>
- _____. 2009. Biogeographic Data Branch, California Natural Diversity Database. Malibu, Point Dume Quads.
- _____. 2003. The Vegetation Classification and Mapping Program. List of California Terrestrial Natural Communities Recognized by the California Natural Diversity Database. September 2003 Edition.
- California Native Plant Society. 2010 Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California. Available at the CNPS web site.
www.cnps.org/rareplants/inventory/6thEdition.htm
- Hickman, J. 1993. The Jepson Manual; Higher Plants of California. University of California Press, Berkeley and Los Angeles.
- Holland, R. 2004 Preliminary Description of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California. Nongame Heritage Program, California Department of Fish and Game, Sacramento, California.
- Sawyer, J. and T. Keeler-Wolf. 1995. A Manual of California Vegetation. California Native Plant Society Publication.



PHOTO #1

Looking northeast, from southwestern corner of property to skate board ramp. Gravel parking lot in foreground. Mixed woodland in background.

PHOTO #2

View north along western fence line.

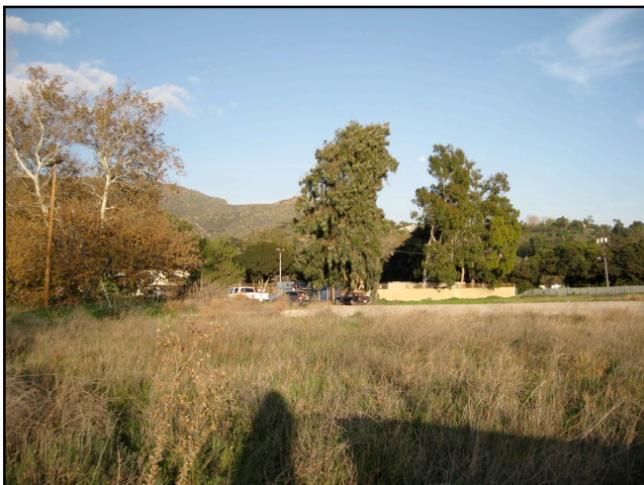


PHOTO #3

Photo taken midway along western fence line, looking east across property. Ruderal vegetation in foreground, mixed woodland in background.



PHOTO #4

View through center of property towards the east. Common non-native grasses in foreground.



PHOTO #5

View to the west across property from about midway along the eastern fence line. Ruderal vegetation in foreground.



PHOTO #6

Photo taken from southeastern property corner looking northwest across site. Ruderal vegetation in foreground. Mixed woodland in background.

