

31 December 2024

Carl Nadela, Principal Planner
Puente Whittier Development Services Section

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FOR PROJECT PRJ2023-003960-(1), OAK TREE PERMIT NO. RPPL2024001753

Oak Tree Permit No. RPPL2024001753 is scheduled for continued public hearing on 7 January 2025. After reviewing the current hearing package for the item, I have the following questions. Please be prepared to answer these questions at the hearing. I ask that you forward this memo to the applicant/owner and ensure this memo is posted on the public website for the item. It is possible that information presented at the hearing may prompt additional questions.

1. The 2 December Staff Report on page 3 states that the new (“Applegate”) oak tree report (“OTR”) had not been reviewed by the Staff Biologist or Forester. Has that review occurred? If so, did either have comments on the report which have been incorporated into the revised draft conditions?
2. The 2 December Staff Report on page 3 states that the Applegate OTR contains “deficiencies and lacks the information that [has] been requested by the Hearing Officer and staff.” Have those deficiencies and data gaps been resolved? Have the site plans and draft findings and conditions been revised to reflect any new information/corrections?
3. What is the status of the Emergency Oak Tree Permit issued to restore the slope under Oak Trees No. 2 and 3?
4. Please confirm whether Oak Tree No. 2 has been added to this request. Sheet A-1 Existing Site Plan & Proposed Site Plan shows the slope restoration impacting the protected zone (“PZ”) of Oak Tree No. 2.
5. Which OTR, the Applegate OTR or the earlier Veyna OTR, was used to prepare the draft findings and conditions?
6. Was Sheet A-1 reviewed by the Staff Biologist?
7. Sheet A-1 shows the proposed retaining wall at 95 feet eight inches long, but Sheet A-2 Existing and Proposed elevation shows the proposed retaining wall at 56 feet long. Which is correct?
8. Sheet A-1 shows a hatched area under Oak Trees No, 1, 3, and 5, labeled “LANDSCAPE”. What is the nature of the landscaping?
9. How was the determination made that the “Project Site is located within a moderately to severely degraded Oak Woodland,” and that proposed protective measures to mitigate past impacts to the trees would result in “no adverse significant impact” to the Oak Woodland?
10. As there will be no retaining wall within the PZ of Oak Trees No. 2 and 3, how will erosion of the restored slope there be prevented?

Sincerely,



Gina Natoli, MURP, AICP
Hearing Officer