

APPENDIX C.3

Special-Status Plant Survey

October 20, 2017

Olga Sciorelli
Land Development Manager
K. Hovnanian Homes
3721 Douglas Boulevard, Suite 150
Roseville, CA 95661

RE: Special-Status Plant Survey for The Ranch (Jaeger 530) Project located in the City of Rancho Cordova, Sacramento County, California

Dear Ms. Sciorelli:

This report summarizes the results of the focused botanical survey for special-status plant species on The Ranch Project (aka Jaeger 530) (Project Site), located in Sacramento County, California. The survey was conducted in accordance with and subject to guidelines provided by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). The purpose of the survey was to determine whether three special-status plants, Sacramento Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia viscida*), slender Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia tenuis*), and Boggs lake hedge-hyssop (*Gratiola heterosepala*), occur within the Project Site.

LOCATION

The Project Site is located in southeastern Sacramento County, approximately five miles south of U.S. Highway 50, immediately east of Rancho Cordova Parkway, and north of Jackson Road (Highway 16) within the City of Rancho Cordova. The Project Site is located in Township 8 North, Range 7 East, Section 16 within the 7.5-minute USGS *Buffalo Creek, California* quadrangle (**Figure 1**).

METHODOLOGY

Two Foothill Associates' biologists conducted a focused botanical survey within the evident and identifiable blooming period of the potentially occurring special-status species listed in this letter on June 12 and 13, 2017.

Transects were systematically walked throughout the whole of the Project Site, with special attention paid to areas that contained suitable habitat for the special-status plant species. In this case, five-foot transects were walked throughout each vernal pool on the Project Site and all riverine wetland features were surveyed.

The survey was conducted by two biologists with the following qualifications: experience with conducting floristic surveys; intimate knowledge of plant taxonomy and plant community ecology and classification; familiarity with the plants of the area, including special-status and locally significant plants; familiarity with the appropriate State and federal statutes related to plants and plant collecting; and experience with analyzing impacts of project activities on native plants and plant communities.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Project Site consists of approximately 530 acres of land that comprises non-native annual grassland as well as 21.42 acres of various wetland features including: vernal pools (15.39 acres), depressional seasonal wetlands (2.80 acres), riverine seasonal wetlands (1.68 acres), and intermittent drainages (1.55 acres). The general topography of the Project Site is gently sloping from approximately 176 feet above mean sea level (MSL) in the southwest corner to 192 feet above MSL in the northeast corner of the Project Site (54 to 59 meters). The majority of the Project Site (approximately 356 acres) is proposed for development including residential housing, parks, a shopping center, and detention basins. Approximately 174 acres will be preserved in perpetuity.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

Although the Project Site contains potential habitat for three special-status plant species, these species were not observed during the botanical survey. One *Gratiola* species was observed and identified to species (*Gratiola ebracteata*), a common gratiola. Dominant plant species observed in the uplands on the Project Site include: medusahead rye (*Elymus caput-medusae*), Italian rye grass (*Festuca perennis*), rattail sixweeks grass (*Festuca myuros*), barley (*Hordeum murinum*), oat (*Avena* sp.), wild rye (*Elymus* sp.), spikeweed (*Centromadia fitchii*), rose clover (*Trifolium hirtum*), and long-beaked filaree (*Erodium botrys*). Dominant species observed within the wetland features on the Project Site include: coyote thistle (*Eryngium vaseyi*), spikerush (*Eleocharis macrostachya*), seaside barley (*Hordeum marinum*), woolly marbles (*Psilocarpus brevissimus*), hyssop loosestrife (*Lythrum hyssopifolium*), rabbitsfoot grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis*), Fremont's goldfields (*Lasthenia fremontii*), and toad rush (*Juncus bufonius*). A complete list of plants observed within the Project Site is enclosed as **Attachment A** of this report.

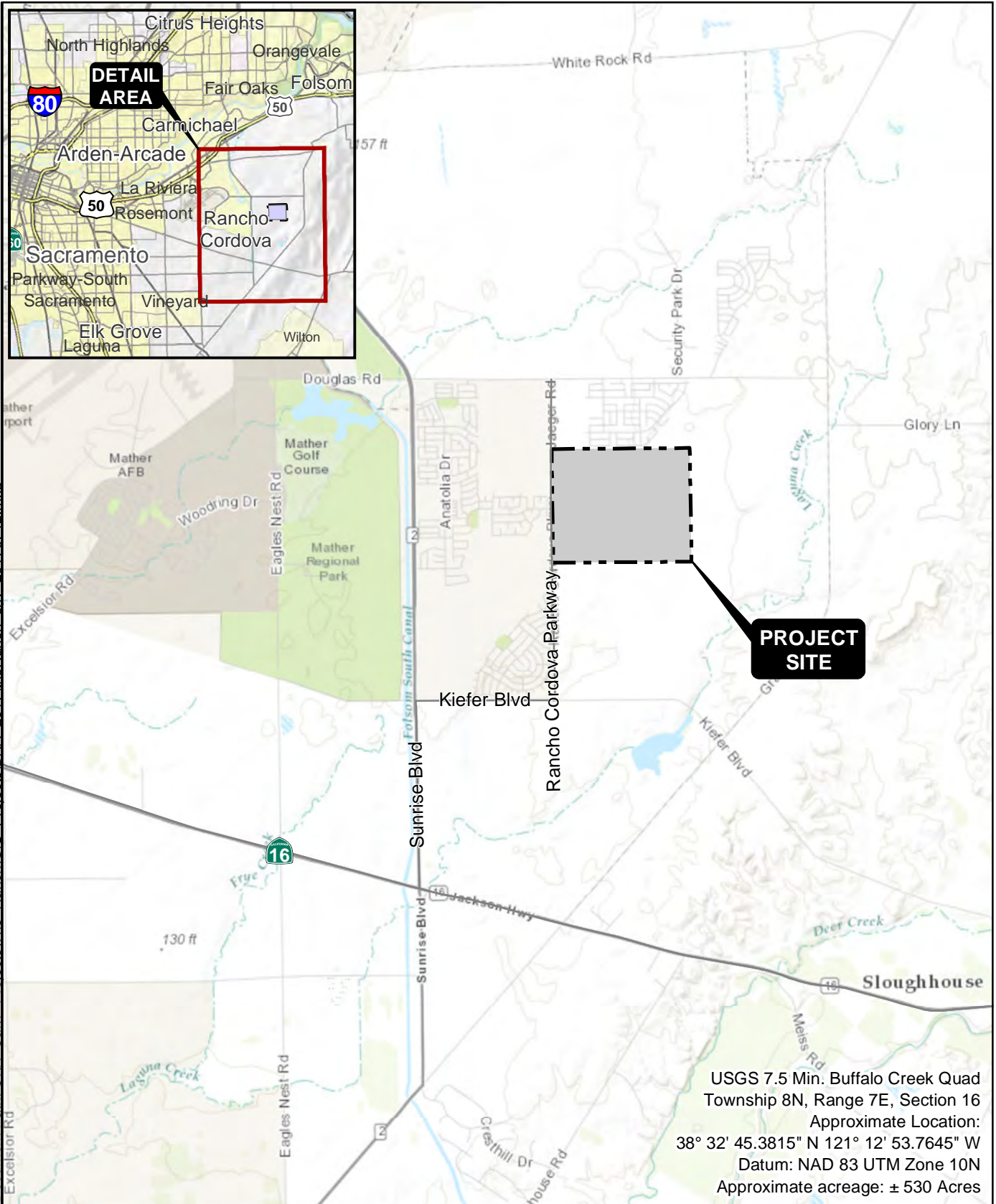
If you have any questions please contact me at your earliest convenience at (916) 435-1202 or via email at zneider@foothill.com.

Sincerely,

Zachary Neider
Biologist

Enclosures (2)

Document Path: O:\N CalT Projects\The Ranch\GIS Projects\BRA_2017\theRanch_snv_20170712.mxd



USGS 7.5 Min. Buffalo Creek Quad
 Township 8N, Range 7E, Section 16
 Approximate Location:
 38° 32' 45.3815" N 121° 12' 53.7645" W
 Datum: NAD 83 UTM Zone 10N
 Approximate acreage: ± 530 Acres

SITE AND VICINITY

FOOTHILL ASSOCIATES
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0 0.5 1
 Miles
 1 in = 1 miles

Drawn By: JFI
 QA/QC: AMP
 Date: 07/27/2017

FIGURE 1

Attachment A
Plant Species Observed within the Study Area

Family	Scientific Name	Common Name	Native or Invasive
Apiaceae	<i>Eryngium vaseyi</i>	Coyote-thistle	N
Asteraceae	<i>Psilocarphus brevissimus</i>	Woolly-marbles, woollyheads	N
Asteraceae	<i>Centromadia fitchii</i>	Spikeweed	N
Asteraceae	<i>Lasthenia fremontii</i>	Fremont's goldfields	N
Asteraceae	<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	Hairy hawkbit	I
Asteraceae	<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>	Brass-buttons	I
Boraginaceae	<i>Plagiobothrys stipitatus</i>	Great Valley popcornflower	N
Brassicaceae	<i>Raphanus</i> sp.	Radish	I
Convolvulaceae	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Bindweed, orchard morning-glory	I
Crassulaceae	<i>Crassula aquatica</i>	Crassula	N
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Croton</i> sp.	Croton	N
Geraniaceae	<i>Erodium botrys</i>	Storksbill, filaree	I
Juncaceae	<i>Juncus bufonius</i>	Toad rush	N
Lamiaceae	<i>Trichostema lanceolatum</i>	Vinegar weed	N
Lamiaceae	<i>Pogogyne zizyphoroides</i>	Sacramento beardstyle	N
Lythraceae	<i>Lythrum hyssopifolia</i>	Loosestrife	I
Onagraceae	<i>Epilobium</i> sp.	Willowherb	--
Orobanchaceae	<i>Parentucellia viscosa</i>	Parentucellia	I
Plantaginaceae	<i>Gratiola ebracteata</i>	Bractless hedge-hyssop	N
Poaceae	<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>	Annual beard grass, rabbitfoot grass	I
Poaceae	<i>Hordeum marinum</i> ssp. <i>gussoneanum</i>	Mediterranean barley	I
Poaceae	<i>Elymus caput-medusae</i>	Medusa head	I
Poaceae	<i>Festuca perennis</i>	Rye grass	I
Poaceae	<i>Festuca myuros</i>	Rattail sixweeks grass	I
Poaceae	<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft chess	I
Poaceae	<i>Avena fatua</i>	Wild oat	I
Poaceae	<i>Aegilops triuncialis</i>	Barbed goat grass	I
Polygonaceae	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curly dock	I
Ranunculaceae	<i>Ranunculus bonariensis</i> var. <i>trisepalus</i>	Buttercup	N
Rosaceae	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	Himalayan blackberry	I
Rubiaceae	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Goose grass	N
Themidaceae	<i>Brodiaea elegans</i> ssp. <i>elegans</i>	Harvest brodiaea	N