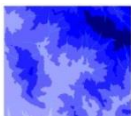


Appendix C-1

Biological Resources

Tree Assessment

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City of Goleta

Attn: Ms. Claudia Dato
130 Cremona Drive, Suite B
Goleta, CA 93117

February 9, 2017

RE: Evaluation of Dead and Structurally Compromised Tree Removal - Fire Station No. 10 Site

Dear Claudia,

This letter contains the results of a tree survey I performed at the Fire Station No. 10 project site located at 7952 Hollister Avenue (APN: 079-210-048) on January 4, 2017 with the City’s planning consultant, Laura Bridley. We walked the site and visually inspected all the trees on the property. We found 6 dead bluegum eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*) trees (see photographs) located in the northeastern portion of the property (previously described as Area 4 by City Arborist Robert Muraoka). I measured the diameter at breast height (DBH) of these trees using a forester’s trunk diameter measuring tape. I attached an aluminum identification tag to each tree and spray-painted an orange “X” on the trunk to indicate that it will be removed. The table below provides a summary of the size of the 6 dead trees (see photographs 1-3).

Table 1. Dead Trees on the Fire Station 10 Property

ID No.	Species	Approximate Height (ft.)	DBH (inches)
1	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	50	24.0
2	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	45	18.0
3	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	40	8.2
4	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	40	18.4
5	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	40	9.5
6	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	25	7.3

Each of the trees that I identified as dead has no leaves or living branches, and no basal sprouts. The trees appear to have been dead for quite some time. The cause is unknown, but most likely is due to a combination of drought-induced stress and insect damage. Additionally, there are several bluegum eucalyptus trees in the southeast corner of the site (previously described as Area 1 by City Arborist Robert Muraoka) that are severely leaning and structurally compromised that pose a threat to public safety because the trees that are leaning to the north are a ladder fuel fire hazard and the trees leaning to the south overhang the traffic lanes of Hollister Avenue and could fall on passing vehicles (see photographs 4 and 5).

**Evaluation of Dead and Structurally Compromised Trees
Fire Station No. 10, Goleta, CA**

As part of my tree assessment, I examined the dead trees and adjacent trees for bird nests and tree cavities that could be used by cavity-nesting birds. The California Department of Fish & Wildlife considers the bird nesting season in the Santa Barbara/Goleta area to begin on February 1 and to end on September 1, with the peak nesting period occurring between March and May. At the time of this survey, I did not find any active or inactive bird nests, nor did I observe any communal bird roosting. During this survey, I also examined the dead trees and the adjacent live trees for monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) winter roosting activity, but did not observe any monarchs roosting in any of the trees on the property. While there are several well-documented monarch butterfly winter aggregation sites at the nearby Ellwood Mesa, the trees on and adjacent to the Fire Station 10 property are not dense enough to provide the shelter from the wind needed by monarch butterflies to roost.

It is my professional opinion that the removal of these 6 dead trees and removal of structurally compromised leaning trees that are a safety hazard will not impact any sensitive wildlife species. However, I recommend that the trees be removed as soon as possible to avoid the peak bird nesting season. I also recommend that a biologist perform a bird nesting survey one or two days prior to the tree removal work to ensure that there is no new nesting activity.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, or need any additional information, please give me a call at (805) 729-1070.

Sincerely,



Mark de la Garza
President, Watershed Environmental, Inc.

cc: Laura Bridley

**Evaluation of Dead and Structurally Compromised Trees
Fire Station No. 10, Goleta, CA**

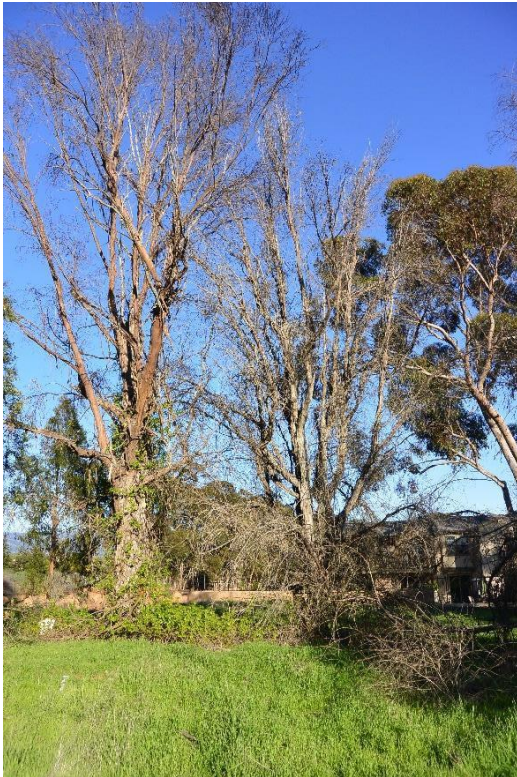


Photo 1. Tree No. 1 (left), Tree No. 2 (right)

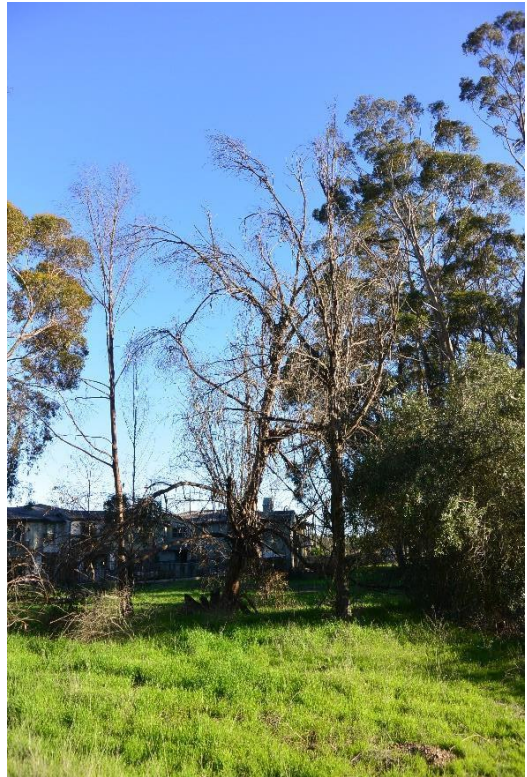


Photo 2. Trees No. 3, 4, and 5 (left to right)

**Evaluation of Dead and Structurally Compromised Trees
Fire Station No. 10, Goleta, CA**



Photo 3. Tree No. 6

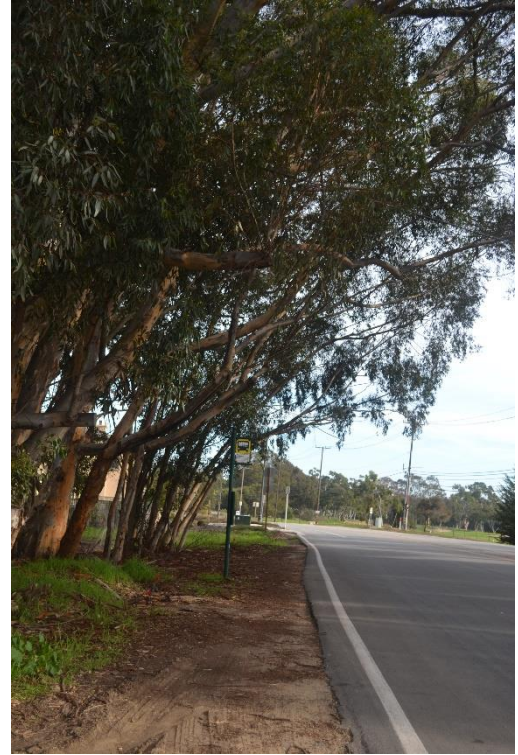


Photo 4. Trees Leaning Over Hollister Ave.



Photo 5. Trees Leaning to the North