

Charles A. Patterson
PLANT ECOLOGIST

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February 27, 2017

Steven Sharpe & Associates
818 College Avenue, Suite E
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Re: Biological Update for 201 Farmers Lane ("Senior Housing Project"), Santa Rosa

Dear Steven:

I am writing to document my recent visit to the 1.2 acre site located at 201 Farmers Lane in Santa Rosa, Sonoma County. I had conducted detailed investigations of the property in 2008, and had prepared a summary biological report dated September 17, 2008.

I have again examined the site on February 10, 2017, at which time I walked the property noting current conditions and looking for any features or species of note, or any significant changes that might have occurred since I last walked it. Ample rainfall had occurred to date prior to my site visit, so the ground (and any wetlands or channels in the vicinity) were completely charged hydrologically; wetland areas would have been relatively obvious.

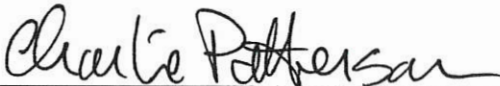
Based on this recent examination, the site's conditions remain largely as they were observed and described in 2008. The site is relatively level, but with no depressional areas or drainage routes, and with considerable scattered gravel. There are a few large old oak trees (*Quercus agrifolia* and *Q. lobata*), but little other remaining native vegetation. There is extensive ivy and Himalaya blackberry, but no natural plant communities or habitats. The site contains no wetlands or other unusual or sensitive habitats or species, and while the northern frontage along Santa Rosa Creek is generically significant (and has some riparian habitat value), even it is also highly degraded, squeezed and fragmented by the surrounding urban landscape, and significantly invaded by non-native species (ivy, blackberry, wild anis). It is presumed that this entire riparian corridor is to be avoided by the project, thereby avoiding any need for agency permits or coordination regarding "Wetlands" (none present) and/or "Other Waters" (creek zone to be avoided).

I have also reviewed the current proposal to construct a "Senior Housing Project", and assessed what impacts this could have on biotic resources. Since the site supports quite minimal natural resources, however, biotic impacts from the project are likely to be limited to the removal of whichever trees are so proposed. Botanically, there would be insignificant effect from tree removal as well as overall site development, and it is assumed here that local tree ordinances will be applied to address any tree removal.

Based on the lack of such habitats onsite, the project need not procure any wetland permits, and with an appropriate set-back and use of standard BMPs, the adjacent creek zone would be adequately protected.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Patterson

City of Santa Rosa

MAR 08 2017

Planning & Economic
Development Department

Charles A. Patterson
Plant Ecologist
1806 Ivanhoe Avenue, Lafayette, CA 94549
ph: (925) 938 - 5263 fax: (925) 938 - 7723

September 17, 2008

Bruce Shimizu
Clearwater Housing
P.O. Box 1874
Windsor, CA 95492

Re: Biotic survey of 201 Farmer's Lane, Santa Rosa

Dear Bruce:

I am writing to document my investigation of the small urban site at 201 Farmer's Lane in southeastern Santa Rosa. I conducted a series of site investigations over the course of the winter and spring of 2008, noting the site's existing conditions and looking for any species, habitats, or biotic features that might be of interest or regulatory concern. I walked the site and observed the vegetation in detail each time, seeking any indications of natural habitats, sensitive features (such as and specifically including "wetlands"), or any other biological aspects of the site that might warrant planning consideration or agency approval. I also examined the onsite reach of Santa Rosa Creek and evaluated that as a potentially significant resource area, and whether or not any special precautions or conditions might be warranted to protect it.

The site currently has minimal improvements (i.e., no buildings, pavement, debris), but there are several large planted (ornamental) trees and an old home was probably once present (here or nearby). The site occurs in a relatively built-out residential and commercial part of the city near the northern end of Farmer's Lane. The overall site has a very slight slope to the northwest (to the creek), but drains via broad ill defined sheet flow, with no other channels, swales, or other discernible drainages. There has been considerable soil disturbance by past and ongoing uses, and no portion of the site is undisturbed. The site occurs on a small localized floodplain associated with the creek, and as such has a relatively coarse, well-drained soil. The periphery of the site, including mostly offsite parcels, has scattered planted and 'volunteer' trees and shrubs (redwoods, pines, eucalyptus, olives, Himalaya blackberry, etc.) and a few native oaks.

The vegetation throughout the site (except for the creek corridor) is highly disturbed, reflecting past agricultural and rural uses, and is dominated by non-native grasses (*Lolium*, *Bromus*, *Avena*, *Vulpia*, *Phalaris*, *Festuca arundinacea*, *Hordeum*), common herbs (*Erodium*, *Geranium*, *Vicia*, *Anagallis*, *Hypochoeris*, *Plantago*), and numerous weeds (*Cirsium*, *Carduus*, *Foeniculum*, *Picris*, *Medicago*, *Raphanus*, *Rumex*, *Lactuca*). There are also a number of old planted landscaping trees around the periphery (generally offsite). Onsite trees include one large valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) and about eight saplings, three large coast live oaks (*Q. agrifolia*), one California bay (*Umbellularia*), and one Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga*

menziesii). There is no significant brush onsite, and in general, native plants are almost completely lacking.

The northern edge of the site fronts on Santa Rosa Creek which supports a relatively dense riparian woodland of oaks, willows (*Salix lasiolepis*), native maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), and abundant undergrowth of poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), other minor shrubs, and the non-native and highly invasive Himalaya blackberry (*Rubus discolor*). While this section of creek is significant and supports a native riparian woodland, it has been at least moderately compromised over the years by general tree removal and clearing outward away from the immediate corridor, invasion by non-native species (ivy, *Vinca*, *Rubus*), and general encroachment and dewatering from long term human activities on neighboring parcels. This section of creek has some generic habitat value, but because of its urban setting and nearby disturbances, has lost much of its natural value for wildlife. Because of the creek's generally ephemeral character, fisheries (and other sensitive aquatic species) do not appear to be an issue here.

During my surveys, I sought any conditions that might qualify as "wetland" habitat potentially subject to the jurisdiction of and/or regulation by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Applying the Corps' 1987 wetland delineation guidelines, I determined that the site (aside from the creekbed) supports no hydrophytic vegetation, nor any surface indicators of prolonged hydrology. Further, the soils appear to be well drained and there is no localized topography (i.e., no depressions, no swales) that would tend to foster surface ponding or persistent saturation. Spring surveys confirmed the lack of any "wet" habitats, the absence of any saturated soil, and the lack of any hydrophytic ("wetland") vegetation. Based on these findings, it is my conclusion that the majority of the site contains no jurisdictional wetlands. The creekbed, however, contains both small pockets of jurisdictional wetland (vegetated) as well as a general "bed" (scour zone) that is jurisdictional as "Other Waters of the U. S.". For purposes of this investigation, the creek corridor has been assumed to be outside any development footprint (i.e., to be avoided), and has not been surveyed or mapped in great detail.

With regard to sensitive species, the site has little or no suitable habitat for any such species, plants or wildlife. Most regionally known rare plants occur in habitats that are at least somewhat unusual (e.g., wetlands, rock outcrops, serpentine), and no such habitat conditions occur here. None of the site (aside from the creekbed) represents natural habitat, and there are no unusual soils, rocks, or other growing conditions present. Based on the commonness (plus the high degree of disturbance) of the local soil, combined with the lack of any suitable habitats, this site has extremely low probability of supporting any sensitive plants. One full spring season of botanical surveys has corroborated the presence here of only common, predominantly non-native annual grasses and weeds, and a nearly complete lack of native species altogether. The site contains no vernal pools or other seasonal wetlands, nor does it have any dense clay soil that might support the regionally known endemic species.

With regard to sensitive wildlife species, the site has no suitable breeding habitat (pools) for the California tiger salamander (CTS), and based on regional mapping prepared by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), appears to be in an area where no CTS have been found. Formal clearance for this species, however, may be required directly from the FWS. Based

on all the foregoing information and the site's relatively urban setting, it is my conclusion that the site supports no rare, endangered, or otherwise sensitive plants or animals.

In summary, based on my surveys, the site contains no unusual habitats or vegetation, nor does it support any wetlands or other sensitive habitats. There are no uncommon species or soils present, and all vegetation observed was typical and common to the region. No rare, endangered, or otherwise sensitive species were encountered, and none have been historically reported from this location or anywhere close by (California Natural Diversity Data Base, 2005). There is no suitable habitat for such species here, and based on the highly degraded and relatively dry habitats present, no such species are expected here. Further, the only significant natural resource feature on adjoining lands is the local reach of Santa Rosa Creek. With adequate protection of the creek, development of the site should result in no significant onsite or offsite (i.e., indirect) impacts to biological resources of interest or concern.

I hope this letter provides you with the information you need for this project. Please call or fax me if you have any questions or need anything further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles A. Patterson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Charles A. Patterson

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