



timothy krantz environmental consulting

November 11, 2020

Subject: Stone Oak Manor Bed & Breakfast Application
Burrowing Owl Survey

Dear Mr. DeLuca:

Please accept this letter for your records regarding a survey for burrowing owls on the Stone Oak Manor property in the community of Oak Glen, California. No burrowing owls were identified on site and no suitable habitat for burrowing owls exists on site.

My name is Dr. Tim Krantz. I am a professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Redlands, where I teach a wide range of courses, including Ornithology. I have worked on rare plant and wildlife surveys, with a particular area expertise in the San Bernardino Mountains, for more than 40 years. I am a resident of the community of Oak Glen, where I am the Botanical Garden Director at the Oak Glen Preserve, just about a mile from the Stone Oak Manor property. I am very familiar with the local avifauna there, including the owl species that occur in the area.

Burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) are listed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as a Species of Special Concern, defined as “those species, subspecies, or distinct populations of native birds that currently satisfy one or more criteria on populations size and trend, range size and trend, threats, and population concentration.” Burrowing owls have been declining throughout their range in California as a result of urbanization and agricultural development.

Burrowing owls nest primarily in the burrows of ground squirrels or other rodents, although they are capable of excavating their own dens. They prefer open cut-banks or raised dirt mounds or hills, where they can see and forage for their prey, consisting of small rodents, insects, frogs and small birds.

The Stone Oak Manor improved property includes the primary and secondary residences, garages and other outbuildings near the front of the lot. The vacant areas either side of the structures contained a high density of ground squirrel burrows, but no evidence of burrowing owls was found there, and no burrowing owls are expected to occur on site. The remainder of the unimproved portion of the property is comprised of dense scrub oak and chaparral on the lower portion of the property, ranging up to black oak and big cone spruce woodlands on the north-facing slopes of Pisgah Peak at the rear of the property.

No burrowing owl nest sites were identified on the property; nor does the property represent suitable habitat for the species. If you have any further questions in these regards, please do not hesitate to contact me at (909)705-6707 or my work email, tim_krantz@redlands.edu.

Sincerely,