



April 25, 2023

Chair KumKum Gupta, and Commissioners
San Mateo County Planning Commission
400 County Center, 2nd Floor
Redwood City, CA 94063

Re: Item #2 on the April 26, 2023 Agenda: PLN2022-00109 (Gwise/Zaheidi/Payrovi). Construction of a new 7,534 sq. ft. three-story single-family residence on a 3.1-acre parcel at 12,400 Skyline Boulevard, North Skyline; access to the site is from Misty Ridge Road. Project involves 1,320 cubic yards of grading for site work and landscaping. APN: 067-250-030

Dear Chair Gupta and Commissioners,

On behalf of Green Foothills, I write regarding the potential for the proposed new residence to adversely impact avian species. Specifically, the proposed design of the residence includes very large areas of glass on all of the exterior walls, which pose a significant, avoidable impact to many bird species.

Glass collisions take a staggering toll on birds each year, and threaten common and rare species alike. Birds collide with glass because they see their surroundings differently than people do. Collisions with glass kill up to 1 billion birds each year in the United States, according to the American Bird Conservancy. <https://abcbirds.org/glass-collisions/>

This is a largely avoidable problem, as there are solutions that are aesthetic, flexible, and are synergistic with sustainability goals. Not only are birds protected, but also energy savings are increased, disruptive glare is decreased, and light pollution is minimized.

Many migrating birds on the Pacific Flyway stop along San Mateo County's Skyline area, finding places of refuge where they refuel on their journey; some may stay for a season. In summer, neotropical migrants may nest in areas of mixed forest, chaparral and grasslands in the Skyline area as well.

Birds benefit our environment, providing an important service in insect and rodent control as well as hours of enjoyment by people. Science has demonstrated that exposure to birds and nature lifts the human spirit and improves cognition, creativity and well-being.

The County General Plan Vegetative, Water, Fish and Wildlife Resources Policy 1.1 calls for protection of the County's wildlife resources, including bird species.



Accordingly, we request that a new Condition of Approval be added that requires incorporation of Bird Safe Design into the proposed residence, see: https://abcbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Bird-friendly-Building-Guide_2015.pdf

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lennie Roberts".

Lennie Roberts, Legislative Advocate, Green Foothills

cc: Alice Kaufman, Policy and Advocacy Director, Green Foothills

