June 5, 2017

TO: Gina Natoli, Hearing Officer

FROM: Lynda Hikichi  
Land Divisions Section

SUBJECT: RESPONSES TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FOR AGENDA ITEM 8, PROJECT NO. 99-239-(5), OAK TREE PERMIT (OTP) RPPL 2017005567

1. **Confirmation of the actual number of oaks already removed.**
   To date, the applicant has removed a total of 55 oak trees (22 per OTP 201200001 and 33 per OTP 2016003378). However, the applicant did accidentally remove two oak trees in December 2016 in addition to the 55 oak trees. There is one oak tree approved for removal that has not been removed yet.

   The Deerlake Ranch project has four previously approved oak tree permits. The most recent oak tree permit approved in 2016 consolidated the total number of removals and encroachments for the Deerlake Ranch project. The 2016 OTP incorporated the 22 oak trees already removed per OTP 201200001 plus the additional 34 proposed removals, and authorized a total of 56 removals.

   The two retroactive oak tree removals and one additional encroachment proposed in the current oak tree permit are in addition to the total removals and encroachments approved per OTP 2016003378.

2. **Protective fencing requirement.**
   The current oak tree permit (OTP 2016003378) requires the installation of temporary chain-link fencing “to secure the protected zone of all remaining Oak trees on site as necessary.” Fencing is not required for trees to be encroached upon. Per the Forestry Division, Forestry did inspect the fencing prior to the commencement of grading.

3. **Monitoring requirement.**
   The current oak tree permit (OTP 2016003378) requires that “the permittee shall arrange for the consulting arborist or a similarly qualified person to maintain all remaining Oak trees on the subject property that are within the zone of impact...” This requirement does not specify that an onsite monitor be present during all oak tree removal or site preparation activities.
4. **Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) acceptance of additional mitigation trees.**

   Per conversation with Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority, MRCA is open to accepting additional mitigation trees.

If you need further information, please contact Lynda Hikichi at (213) 974-6433 or lhikichi@planning.lacounty.gov. Department office hours are Monday through Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Department is closed on Fridays.

KKS:LKH