

Communication from Public

Name:

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Comments for Public Posting: I am an Ecological Landscape Professional. I hold degrees in environmental biology, horticulture and arboriculture science. I live on Laurelcrest Drive in Studio City and have been providing professional ecological landscape services in this neighborhood for over a decade, so I am deeply familiar with the landscape of the neighborhood. My profession requires that I be proficient in identifying plant communities and their associated wildlife. I have worked in landscapes around and adjacent to 11472 Laurelcrest Drive and I have visited 11472 Laurelcrest Drive. In my professional opinion, 11472 Laurelcrest Drive is a Coast Live Oak California Walnut woodland. It holds all the characteristics of a Coast Live Oak California Walnut woodland including the associated wildlife - Bobcat, deer, coyote, oak titmouse, cooper's hawk. All of which, I have personally observed over the years. The loss of this habitat will be an adverse impact on the wildlife. Urban woodlands are complex ecosystems that provide much, if not all, of the same services provided by forests; that is, they function as important wildlife habitat, improve water quality, cool and clean the air, serve as carbon sinks, provide habitat for wildlife, provide stop over sites for migratory birds, and can serve as biodiversity hot-spots. The fact that this urban woodland is surrounded by development makes it even more significant to the local environment or raises its ecological value, so it is even more important that this urban woodland not be categorically exempt from CEQA. Lastly, I completely agree with the findings in the reports from the science experts at Cooper Ecological and Land Protection Partners. I also agree with the letter from California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Specifically, in its letter on file, CNPS is correct to point out that Oak Woodlands cannot be recreated. Sincerely, Diana Nicole HP, OLC Ecological Landscape Professional