



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

To: Stacie Henderson, Senior Project Manager
CAJA Environmental Services, LLC
9410 Topanga Canyon Boulevard, Suite 101
Chatsworth, CA 91311

From: Jackie Worden, Lead Biologist

Date: January 30, 20223

Re: Chaminade High School Expansion / SWCA Project No. 67816

INTRODUCTION

The proposed Chaminade High School Expansion Project (Project), located in the West Hills neighborhood of the city of Los Angeles, California, proposes to update and expand the Chaminade High School campus within existing developed areas. The Project on the Main Campus will include two new quads, a new administrative office building, updates to existing classrooms and offices, two new sports fields, and temporary portable buildings. Project development on the North Campus includes a new surface parking lot, two sports fields and a pool. A new pedestrian bridge across Saticoy Street is proposed to connect the Main Campus and the North Campus.

The Project site on the Main campus is located entirely within developed areas, including multi-story academic and administrative buildings, sports fields, and facilities. The Project site on the North Campus is currently developed with a one-story multi-tenant mini shopping center and surface parking lot, built between 1962 and 1964. The surrounding area is fully urbanized and is characterized primarily by residential properties.

Project Location

The Project site is composed of four parcels:

- Main Campus: 7500 Chaminade Avenue (assessor parcel number [APN] 2027-005-009);
- North Campus:
 - o 23255 Saticoy Street, 7629 Woodlake Avenue, 7621 Woodlake Avenue (APNs 2027-005-005, 2027-005-006, and 2027-005-007).

The Project is situated in Section 35 of Township 2 North, Range 17 West on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) *Calabasas* 7.5 minute quadrangle.

The attached figures illustrate the regional and vicinity location and the boundaries of the Project.

PURPOSE & SCOPE

We understand the City of Los Angeles requires completion of the Biologist's Statement of Biological Resources form for this project. The completed form is attached.

The first item on the form is the date of the field survey. Based on our professional experience and knowledge of the project site and vicinity, we believe a sufficient biological review can be completed through a desktop analysis of aerial photos and published data. This recommendation is based on the following factors:

- The subject property is fully developed and lacks natural habitats.
- The site is surrounded by urban development.
- No trees would be removed.
- No protected trees are present.
 - An arborist report is under preparation by The Tree Resource (Lisa Smith, Registered Consulting Arborist #464)
- There are no water resources on the site.
- There are no records in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) of sensitive or special status species within the Calabasas United States Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle and/or within a 0.25-mile radius of the project site.

REGULATORY SUMMARY

Nesting Birds

The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits any person, unless permitted by regulations, to "...pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture or kill, possess, offer for sale, sell, offer to purchase, purchase, deliver for shipment, ship, cause to be shipped, deliver for transportation, transport, cause to be transported, carry, or cause to be carried by any means whatsoever, receive for shipment, transportation or carriage, or export, at any time, or in any manner, any migratory bird, included in the terms of this Convention ... for the protection of migratory birds ... or any part, nest, or egg of any such bird." (16 United States Code (USC) 703).

Section 3503 of the State of California Fish and Game Code states that it is unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation made pursuant thereto. Section 3503.5 provides protection for all birds of prey, including their eggs and nests. Take or possession of any migratory non-game bird as designated in the MBTA is prohibited by Section 3513 of the Fish and Game Code.

Protected Tree and Shrub Relocation and Preservation Ordinance

Section 46.00 of the City's Municipal Code and Ordinance Number 186,873 (City of Los Angeles 2021) define 'protected tree or shrub' to include the Southern California indigenous tree and shrub species listed below which measure four inches or more in cumulative diameter, four and one-half feet above ground level. Oak tree including valley oak (*Quercus lobata*) and California live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), or any other tree of the oak genus indigenous to California but excluding the scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*).

- Southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica*)
- Western (California) sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*)
- California bay (*Umbellularia californica*)
- Mexican elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*) [also called blue elderberry, *Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*]
- Toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*)

A permit is required from the Board of Public Works (or designee) to relocate or remove any protected tree or shrub. Mitigation requirements are replacement within the same property boundaries at a minimum ratio of 4 to 1. Protected trees shall only be mitigated with trees (not shrubs) from the above list; protected shrubs shall be mitigated only by shrubs (not trees) from this list. Replacement trees shall be at least 15-gallon, measure 1 inch or great diameter at 1 foot above the base, and be no less than 7 feet in height, measured from the base.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Potential adverse impacts to biological resources are limited to short-term construction impacts, such as noise, dust and increased human activity. Active nesting birds could be affected during construction. Although no trees are proposed for removal, active nests adjacent to construction could be disturbed.

The arborist report under preparation will confirm the absence of protected trees or shrubs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Nesting Bird Protection

Potentially suitable nesting habitat is present on the Project Site in the mature trees and shrubs. If activities associated with construction, or grading are planned during the bird nesting/breeding season (generally 15 January through 31 August), it is recommended that a qualified biologist conduct surveys for active nests in accordance with the following procedures:

1. A qualified biologist shall conduct weekly nesting bird surveys within the Project Site and adjacent properties commencing no more than 3 days prior to the initiation of any ground-disturbing activities including grubbing, site clearance, movement of equipment and/or vehicles onto Project Site and/or construction work.
2. If an active nest of a protected native bird is found, the Applicant shall delay all project-related work as described in item #1 above until August 31.

3. Alternatively, the qualified biologist could continue weekly surveys to monitor nest(s) activity until the nest is vacated, juveniles have fledged, and there is no evidence of a second nesting attempt.
 - a) The biologist shall establish a protective buffer zone around the nest(s) to be marked in the field with flagging, stakes and/or temporary exclusionary fencing (to be installed by the applicant at the direction of the biologist). The size of the buffer shall be determined by the biologist based on the species of nesting bird and stage of nesting (25-50 feet for songbirds; 100 feet for raptors).
 - b) Construction personnel shall be instructed to avoid the buffer zone, the reasons for the buffer zone, and laws protecting active nesting.
 - c) The biologist shall provide the Applicant with a technical memorandum describing the methods and results of these protective, to be submitted to the City of Los Angeles.



Figure 1. Vicinity Map.

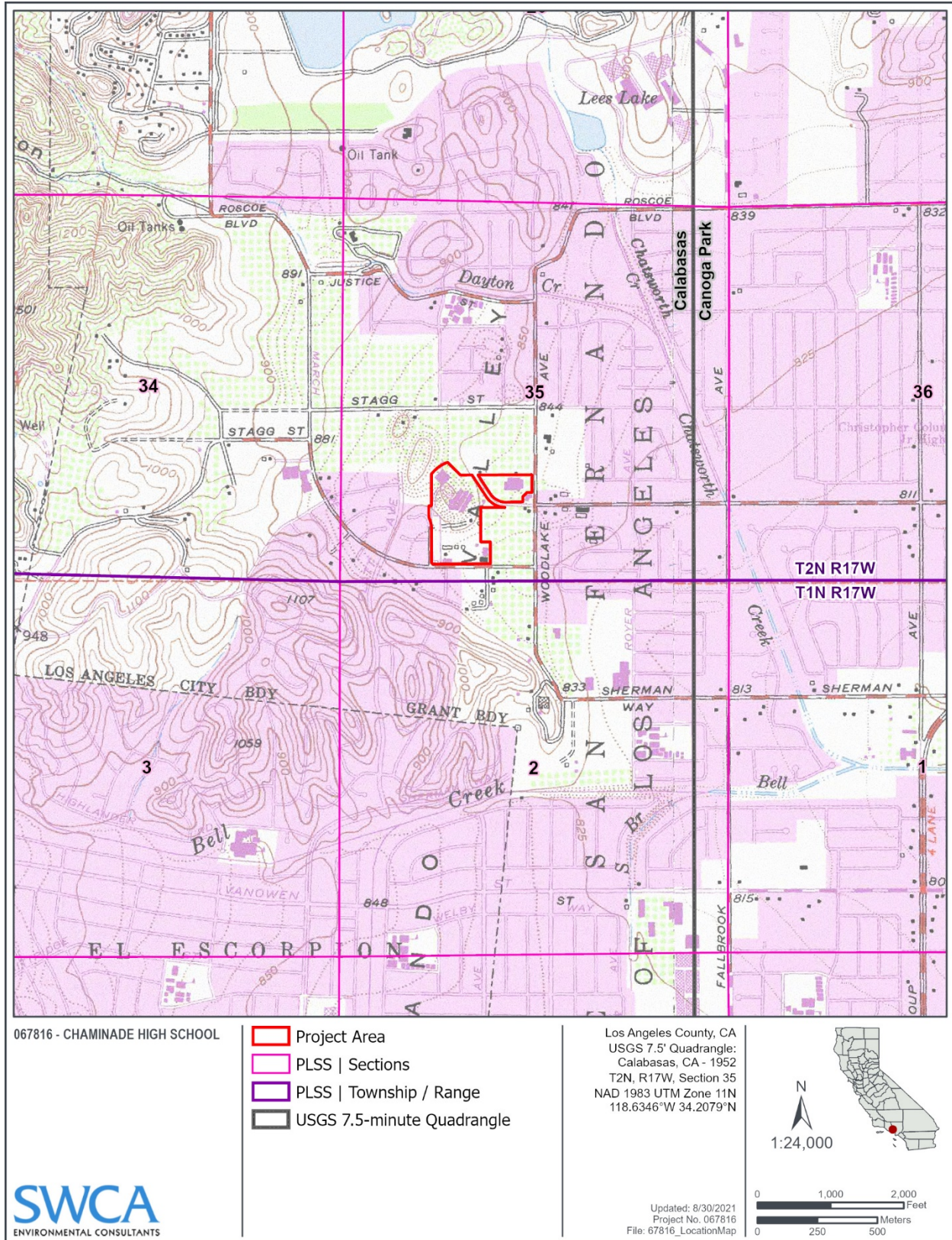


Figure 2. Topographic Location.



Figure 3. Aerial Map.



Figure 4. Project site.