



STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor  
MEGHAN HERTEL, Director

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May 21, 2026

Magda Gonzalez, Contract Senior Planner  
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**Subject: Meridian Village Subdivision and Multifamily Development (Project)  
Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)  
SCH No.: 2025121246**

Dear Magda Gonzalez:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) received a DEIR from City of Hollister for the above-referenced Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines.<sup>1</sup>

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding those activities involved in the Project that may affect California fish and wildlife. Likewise, CDFW appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding those aspects of the Project that CDFW, by law, may be required to carry out or approve through the exercise of its own regulatory authority under Fish and Game Code.

CDFW originally submitted comments to the City of Hollister for the Project Notice of Preparation (NOP) on February 9, 2026, and provided recommendations pertaining to a habitat assessment and surveys for Crotch's bumble bee (*Bombus crotchii*; CBB). CDFW also recommended the special-status bat measures from the Project's rescinded Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) be included in the DEIR to mitigate for potential impacts to special-status bats. After a review of the DEIR, CDFW acknowledges the results of the CBB habitat assessment and survey and determination in the DEIR that CBB are absent from the Project site, and appreciates the inclusion of mitigation

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<sup>1</sup> CEQA is codified in the California Public Resources Code in section 21000 et seq. The "CEQA Guidelines" are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with section 15000.

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measures for special-status bats in the DEIR. CDFW has no additional comments at this time.

## ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

CEQA requires that information developed in environmental impact reports and negative declarations be incorporated into a database, which may be used to make subsequent or supplemental environmental determinations (Pub. Resources Code, § 21003, subd. (e)). Accordingly, please report any special-status species and natural communities detected during Project surveys to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). The CNDDDB field survey form can be found at the following link: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Submitting-Data>. The completed form can be mailed electronically to CNDDDB at the following email address: [CNDDDB@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:CNDDDB@wildlife.ca.gov). The types of information reported to CNDDDB can be found at the following link: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Plants-and-Animals>.

## FILING FEES

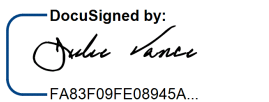
The Project, as proposed, would have an impact on fish and/or wildlife, and assessment of filing fees is necessary. Fees are payable upon filing of the Notice of Determination by the Lead Agency and serve to help defray the cost of environmental review by CDFW. Payment of the fee is required in order for the underlying project approval to be operative, vested, and final (Cal. Code Regs, tit. 14, § 753.5; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4; Pub. Resources Code, § 21089).

## CONCLUSION

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the DEIR to assist City of Hollister in identifying and mitigating this Project's impacts on biological resources.

More information on survey and monitoring protocols for sensitive species can be found at CDFW's website (<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Survey-Protocols>). Questions regarding this letter or further coordination should be directed to Evelyn Barajas-Perez, Environmental Scientist, at (805) 503-5738 or [evelyn.barajas-perez@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:evelyn.barajas-perez@wildlife.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

  
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Julie A. Vance  
Regional Manager

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