

California Native Plant Society

Jeffery Szymanski
City of San Diego
Development Services Department
1222 First Ave MS 501
San Diego CA 92101
jszymanski@sandiego.gov

March 23, 2009

RE: Project No. 150839

Dear Mr. Szymanski:

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) is a statewide non-profit organization of amateurs and professionals with a common interest in California's native plants. The Society seeks to increase understanding of California's native flora and to preserve our rich botanical resources for future generations.

We have reviewed the Draft MND for the West Lewis and Falcon Mini-Park. We support the concept of creation of a mini-park that will allow greater appreciation of the canyon by the public.

We have concerns, however, about the plan. It would be easier to understand this project if a plan of the bridge and park had been included; we couldn't find this in either the MND or the environmental report. Consequently, it's not possible to tell where the limits of the 50-foot brush management zone are. Please amend the plan to show where the bridge or other structures will be placed.

In Part I, the MND states that brush management is impact neutral. The Department of Fish and Game, in a 2007 letter, states that brush management in new development should NOT be considered impact neutral, and should be mitigated at appropriate ratios. A copy of this document is included. Please amend the plan to include mitigation levels for the brush management zone.

Finally, we would appreciate an opportunity to review the plant palette that will be used for this project. We often find that generic landscapers do not know the locally native flora and make poor recommendations for our area. Please add a plant palette to the plan.

Thanks for your consideration and for the opportunity to review this document.

Sincerely,

Carrie Schneider, Conservation Chair
San Diego Chapter of the California Native Plant Society
P O Box 121390
San Diego CA 92112-1390
info@cnpssd.org



Dedicated to the preservation of California native flora