



H. T. HARVEY & ASSOCIATES

Ecological Consultants

June 14, 2026

Akoni Danielsen
David J. Powers & Associates, Inc.
1871 The Alameda, Suite 200
San José, CA 95126

RE: Mills Peninsula Medical Center Project – Assessment of Helipad Use Impacts on Birds (HTH #5093-01)

Dear Akoni Danielsen:

Per your request, H. T. Harvey & Associates has conducted an assessment of avian impacts to assist David J. Powers & Associates, Inc. (DJP&A) with environmental review for a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) addendum for the Mills Peninsula Medical Center project in Burlingame, California. We understand that the City of Burlingame certified an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in 2004 for a hospital replacement project that included demolition of the existing hospital building; construction of a new main hospital building, a medical office building, a freestanding, parking garage, and surface parking; and relocation of the existing helipad to its current location. Since certification of the EIR, the approved project was constructed and has since been in operation.

The use of the existing helipad is regulated by Caltrans under a heliport permit, and by the Federal Aviation Administration. The Caltrans heliport permit does not regulate the number of helicopter trips per year. The certified EIR evaluated up to six helicopter trips per year to the facility; however actual usage of the helipad ranges between 79 to 117 trips annually. As part of the CEQA addendum, the City has asked DJP&A to evaluate the effects of the increased (actual) use of the helipad, particularly on birds.

H. T. Harvey & Associates wildlife ecologist Zach Hampson, B.A., visited the project site on May 28, 2026 to evaluate existing use of the site and surrounding areas by birds. Zach conducted a pedestrian survey of the project site itself, as well as adjacent areas within approximately ¼-mile, to evaluate existing and anticipated bird use during all seasons. His assessment took into account the heavily urbanized nature of the project vicinity but also included areas with more natural vegetation to the southwest and northwest of the site. He identified bird species present within that area at the time of his site visit and, based on thousands of hours of avian surveys conducted in the San Francisco Bay area as an ecological consultant, he evaluated the potential for other species to occur at other times of year (e.g., during migration and in winter) and evaluated the relative abundance (both observed and expected) of birds in the project vicinity based on habitat conditions. He considered potential flight paths of birds in the project vicinity and assessed the potential effects of helicopter flights to and from Mills Peninsula Medical Center on birds.

Zach detected 10 bird species within ¼-mile of the new helipad. These species included the dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), house finch (*Haemorrhous mexicanus*), chestnut-backed chickadee (*Poecile rufescens*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*), bushtit (*Psaltiriparus minimus*), lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), and Bewick's wren (*Thryomanes bewickii*). He detected an inactive house finch nest from earlier this year on the underside of the helipad and an American crow nest with one nestling on the outside of the hospital structure, facing the helipad. Most species were observed using the landscaped vegetation immediately adjacent to the helipad as refugia and foraging habitat due to the variety of plant species in that area. Surrounding areas and neighboring properties are dominated by existing structures and roads. There are two, less-developed parcels within ¼-mile of the helipad, but these parcels are dominated by nonnative grasses and various species of eucalyptus trees, providing poor quality foraging and nesting habitat for native bird species.

The Mills Peninsula Medical Center and surrounding area are heavily urbanized. As a result, relatively few bird species are expected to occur in the vicinity, and such species would occur in low abundance. The majority of bird species occurring in the project vicinity at any time of year are common, widespread, urban-adapted species. Although landscape vegetation and park-like areas to the southwest and northwest of the site support somewhat higher bird diversity and abundance, and could occasionally support migrant birds that are not necessarily "urban-adapted", the nonnative vegetation dominating the study area and the limited habitat diversity and extent in the study area limit bird diversity and abundance. Even during migration, no sensitive or special-status bird species are expected to occur in the project vicinity.

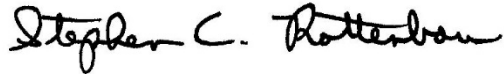
As helicopters fly to and from the helipad at Mills Peninsula Medical Center, the noise and movement of the helicopters are expected to disturb birds in the vicinity to some extent. Such noise may temporarily disrupt birds' foraging, resting, nest-building, and other behaviors. However, such impacts would be temporary and short-term, occurring primarily when a helicopter first appears, and bird behavior would return to normal quickly. Given the high levels of noise and human activity from traffic, residential activities, schools, railyards, and other land uses in the immediate vicinity of the helipad, birds in the project vicinity are already habituated to such disturbance to the point that no birds are expected to permanently leave the area, abandon their nests, or suffer injury or mortality as a result of the disturbance. The presence of existing house finch and American crow nests very close to the helipad, as mentioned above, indicates the tolerance of urban-adapted birds to helicopter activity at this location. Further, birds would be able to see and hear the helicopter approaching from a distance and move out of the way so that no injury or mortality associated with collision with the helicopter would occur.

Use of the helipad by 79-117 annual helicopter visits would have greater disturbance on nesting, foraging, roosting, and resting birds than the six helicopter visits per year evaluated for the certified EIR. However, such disturbance would be short-term; would not result in substantial changes in bird behavior (e.g., sufficient to cause the abandonment of active bird nests); would affect low numbers of bird species and individuals, given the low bird diversity and abundance in the project vicinity; and would primarily affect species that are common and widespread. As a result, the increased number of helicopter visits would not have any measurable effect on

regional populations of any bird species, or on the diversity of the bird community in the project vicinity. Such an impact would therefore be less than significant, as evaluated relative to CEQA guidelines, in our opinion.

Please feel free to contact me at (408) 722-0931 or srottenborn@harveyecology.com with any questions you may have regarding our survey results or conclusions. Thank you very much for contacting H. T. Harvey & Associates regarding this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen C. Rottenborn". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen C. Rottenborn, Ph.D.
Vice President – Wildlife Ecologist