

PROPOSED UPDATE TO MITIGATION MEASURE IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS.

MM BR-3 Given the negative results of on-site surveys in and the available technical and peer reviewed literature, negative effects to the San Bernardino flying squirrel are not expected. However, because marginal foraging habitat was found on-site, the following mitigation measures will be implemented in the lots with densely forested areas and snags. These mitigation measures are to be implemented to avoid and minimize impacts to San Bernardino flying squirrels:

- The Project Applicant shall have a qualified biologist as a monitor just prior to and during all tree removal on-site.
- ~~Minimize~~ Prohibit the removal of large coarse woody debris (>10cm diameter), which provide microhabitat for the growth of hypogeous fungi.
- ~~Limit~~ Prohibit removal of standing snags (>25cm DBH) and large trees (>25cm DBH), which provide both structural complexity and potential nesting habitat.
- ~~Prioritize~~ Require the retention of large trees and snags with visible potential cavity nesting structures within building setbacks, which are associated with higher densities of northern flying squirrels.

~~Minimize the loss of continuous canopy closure, especially in the drainages, which provides protection for predators while foraging and may play an important role in maintaining habitat connectivity.~~

- Prohibit removal of trees located within property setbacks within 20 feet of identified drainage on site.
- Project must compensate for the removal of suitable habitat through construction and erection of two nest boxes and one aggregate box per snag removed.
- Project is required to provide homeowners with information on the biology of the flying squirrel and suggest steps that homeowners can take to reduce their urban-edge effects.
- All subsequent home developers must comply with these provisions which shall be enforced by the County of San Bernardino through implementation of the Mitigation Monitor Reporting Program as mandated by CEQA.

If the monitoring biologist observes a flying squirrel during pre-construction and/or construction monitoring, the biologist will immediately halt work until the occupied tree can be vacated prior to felling the tree; however, if the work is during the nesting season (generally March through May), when baby squirrels could be present, the nest will not be vacated until after the nesting season ends (June 1st), as cleared by the monitoring biologist.