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**Appendix C-a**

**Entomological Report for the Mount Hermon June Beetle**

# Entomological Consulting Services, Ltd.

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15 September 2017

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CITY OF SCOTTS VALLEY

RE: APN 022-162-76, Oak Creek Park Project Site in Scotts Valley, CA  
Update on the Endangered Mount Hermon June Beetle

Dear Charlie:

During the summer of 2002, I conducted a three-night, presence-absence survey for the endangered Mount Hermon June beetle (MHJB) at the above-noted property, which is located at the intersection of Glen Canyon and Mount Hermon Roads in Scotts Valley (Santa Cruz County), CA. No MHJBs were observed during my surveys at this property. My survey was commissioned by Mr. Greg Eger of Granum Partners in Saratoga, CA.

I understand that a new project, known as Oak Creek Park, is proposed for construction at this 3.6-acre property. Even though my MHJB survey occurred 15 years ago, habitat conditions at this property have not changed and I do not anticipate that the beetle occurs there at this time, despite its occurrence at nearby properties. The remainder of this letter explains my reasoning to substantiate my conclusion.

The MHJB is usually observed in several native plant communities associated with Zayante sands. These native plant communities include: Silverleaf manzanita chaparral, Ponderosa pine forest, sand parkland, and mixed evergreen forest, plus intergradations between these communities. None of these native plant communities occur at this property. The lower portion of the property appears to have been partially graded at some time in the past, perhaps when the adjacent office building was built. Also, much of the vegetation growing at the property is non-native rather than characteristic of sandhills plant communities. Ruderal grassland and acacia trees are prevalent and indicative of some past ground disturbance that eliminated the native plant community(ies) that formerly occurred at this parcel.

According to Bowman and Estrada's (1980) Soil Survey of Santa Cruz County (USDA Soil Conservation Service), soils at this parcel are identified as Pfeiffer gravelly sandy loam, Elder sandy loam, and Danville loam. No Zayante sands were identified at this property. When I conducted my presence-absence survey in 2002, I placed my several of traps in portions of the site where the soils exhibited somewhat more sandy characteristics, but still did not observe any MHJB adults.

**Oak Creek Park Project Site in Scotts Valley, CA**  
**Update on the Endangered Mount Hermon June Beetle**  
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I am aware that Santa Cruz County has identified this parcel as sandhills habitat at its online GIS website. It is my understanding that the County generally considers all parcels characterized by Zayante sands as sandhills habitat, as well as immediately surrounding areas within a particular buffer distance. However, according Bowman and Estrada (1980) there are no Zayante sands at this property. For this reason, I suspect the parcel's recognition as sandhills habitat is because it occurs within the buffer area surrounding a nearby location with Zayante sands.

Habitat conditions at this parcel do not appear to have changed during the past 15 years since I completed my presence-absence survey and did not observe any individuals of the MHJB. For the aforementioned reasons I conclude that the parcel still does not provide suitable habitat to support the endangered MHJB.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Arnold, Ph.D.  
President