



*Inspiring people to protect
Bay Area birds since 1917*

October 31, 2019

Emeryville City Council
1333 Park Avenue
Emeryville, CA 94608

Re: November 5, 2019 Emeryville Planning Commission Bird Safe Building Standards

Dear City Council Members;

Birds provide valuable and important ecological services and are appreciated by residents and visitors with over 46 million bird watchers representing an \$80 Billion industry in the US. Over 185 bird species have been documented in Emeryville. Recently you may have read about the study that reported over the past 50 years revealing a dramatic loss of at least 3 Billion birds in the US and Canada. ¹ The Emeryville staff report references the US Fish and Wildlife Service report that states a million birds die each day as a result of bird-building collisions. Birds do not recognize glass as a solid to avoid but there are many solutions. Other cities have implemented bird safe building ordinances and this has not been a problem. On September 12 of this year Berkeley's Community Environmental Advisory Commission approved a bird safe building and dark skies ordinance and it is going to their City Council. This is a call to action for you today. There is positive action to prevent bird-building collisions and many of the solutions are energy efficient.

Over a year ago Emeryville City Council requested Planning evaluate bird safe building design guidelines. The staff report provides information on this issue, peer-reviewed scientific studies on the issue of bird building collisions and negative impacts from artificial night lighting. Golden Gate Audubon offers free professional-level bird friendly building design courses at local architect offices, providing them with an American Institute of Architects Continuing Education Unit. Architects are creative problem solvers and there are many solutions. Many of these solutions also save money and natural resources through their thermal regulating qualities. Effective solutions can vary from fritted or UV treated glass to louvers to insect screens, artistic etching, marketing films, grillwork and more. The Emeryville bird safety ordinance with a dark skies ordinance amending the Planning Regulations and applying city wide will save natural resources and birds.

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Thank you for taking strong and positive action in support of the Bird Safety and Dark Skies Ordinance for all of Emeryville. **Golden Gate Audubon strongly supports an amendment to the Planning Regulations which would apply city wide as an ordinance.** Bird Safe Building Standards would bolster Emeryville's goals of sustainability and design excellence.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on bird safe buildings.

Sincerely,

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Noreen Weeden

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ⁱ Decline of the North American avifauna Kenneth V. Rosenberg^{1,2*}, Adriaan M. Dokter¹, Peter J. Blancher³, John R. Sauer⁴, Adam C. Smith⁵, Paul A. Smith³, Jessica C. Stanton⁶, Arvind Panjabi⁷, Laura Helft¹, Michael Parr², Peter P. Marra⁸ † See <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2019/09/three-billion-north-american-birds-have-vanished-1970-surveys-show>