

1 9. **Are you familiar with the proposed development plans for the Pu'unene Heavy**
2 **Industrial Subdivision ("Project") and the Petition Area?**

3 Yes. I understand that approximately 86 acre Petition Area located in Pulehunui,
4 Wailuku, Maui, at tax map parcel number (2) 3-8-008: 019, is proposed to be developed as a
5 heavy industrial subdivision.

6 10. **Are you familiar with the botanical resources within and around the Petition Area?**

7 Yes.

8 11. **How did you familiarize yourself with the Project and botanical resources in and**
9 **around the Project?**

10 My firm, LeGrande Biological Surveys Inc., was retained by Petitioner CMBY 2011
11 Investment, LLC to prepare a study titled "Botanical Resource Assessment for the Proposed
12 Puunene Heavy Industrial Subdivision, Pu'unene, Maui, Hawaii" dated August 2011, a copy of
13 which was included as Appendix E of the Environmental Assessment that was prepared by Chris
14 Hart & Partners, which I understand was filed as Petitioner's Exhibit 1.

15 12. **Please describe the scope of your Assessment.**

16 I conducted a two day field survey of the 86-acre Petition Area on August 16 and 17,
17 2011. I also surveyed two easement areas; a 56-foot wide roadway easement along Kama'aina
18 Road (the "**Lower Easement**"), and a 56-foot wide roadway easement that runs around the
19 reservoir located north of the Petition Area (the "**Upper Easement**").

20 The primary objectives of the field study was to: 1) inventory the flora; 2) provide a
21 general description of the vegetation; 3) search for threatened and endangered species as well as
22 species of concern; and 4) provide recommendations regarding potential impacts to the biological
23 resources of the area in light of the proposed development of the Project.

24 13. **What methodology did you use to conduct your study?**

25 Prior to walking through the survey areas to conduct visual observations, I searched
26 pertinent literature to familiarize myself with any other biological surveys/studies that had been
27 done for the Petition Area, or in the vicinity of the Petition Area. Topographic maps were
28 examined to determine terrain characteristics, access, boundaries, and reference points.

1 During the walk through survey, notes were made on the plant associations and
2 distributions, ground disturbance, topography, substrate types, exposure and drainage. Plants that
3 could not be identified in the field were photographed and described in order to be identified later.

4 14. **Is that methodology consistent with generally accepted industry practices?**

5 Yes.

6 15. **What botanical resources did you observe during the survey?**

7 There were a total of 50 plant species observed within the survey sites. 44 (88%) are alien
8 and 6 (12%) are indigenous ('ilima, 'uhaloa, popolo, hala, milo, and 'ae'ae).

9 The dominant onsite vegetation is Dry Kiawe/Bufelgrass (*Prosopis pallida*)/(*Cenchrus*
10 *ciliaris*), which is an alien species. Koa haole (*Leucaena leucocephala*), another alien species, is
11 located along the southern boundary of the Petition Area. Several other weedy native species
12 were observed throughout the Petition Area.

13 Similar vegetation was observed within the Upper and Lower Easements, with
14 Monkeypod (*Samanea saman*) and Siris (*Albizia lebeck*) being dominant tree species in the
15 north area of the Upper Easement.

16 16. **Did you observe any threatened or endangered botanical resources or plant species**
17 **within the Petition Area?**

18 No. None of the plants observed are listed as threatened or endangered species, nor are
19 they listed as species of concern.

20 17. **Did you encounter any wetlands during the survey?**

21 No. Furthermore, none of the three essential criteria for defining a federally recognized
22 wetland were present. Those three features being hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils and
23 wetland hydrology.

24 18. **Did you rely on any other studies or consultations in drawing your conclusions and**
25 **making your assessment of the Project?**

26 Yes, and those studies are listed as "Literature Cited."

27 19. **Did you read the letter dated June 3, 2013, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**
28 **raising concerns about the potential for various endangered species to be located within the**

1 **Petition Area, a copy of such letter was included as Attachment B to the Office of Planning's**
2 **Statement of Position, filed on July 18, 2013?**

3 Yes, I have read the letter and will address those aspects that are relevant to my study.
4 The Service stated that the Petition Area should be re-surveyed during the rainy season to confirm
5 that no host plants for the Blackburn's sphinx moth are found.

6 20. **What is your opinion as to the likelihood of there being host plants for the**
7 **Blackburn's Sphinx Moth within the Petition Area?**

8 The Blackburn's Sphinx Moth host plant tree tobacco was infrequently observed during
9 the survey. Only a few small plants were seen over the entire subject property. In contrast,
10 surrounding areas in Kihei and along the Mokulele Highway had an abundance of tree tobacco at
11 the time of this survey. In my professional opinion, the Petition Area does not appear to be an
12 optimum area for BSM host plants, and a follow up survey in the spring is not warranted under
13 the circumstances.

14 21. **In your professional opinion, will the development of the Project have an adverse**
15 **effect on any botanical resources in the Petition Area?**

16 No, development of the Petition Area, and use of the Upper and/or Lower Easement is not
17 expected to have significant negative impacts on the botanical resources at the sites, or in the
18 general region.

19
20 DATED: Waialua, Hawaii, August 14, 2013.

21
22 Respectfully submitted,

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24 

25 MAYA LANI LeGRANDE

26 4831-2077-7493.1.064670-00001