



TEMPLATE - 3

Date  
Address

Re: Painting — Nesting Bird Conflicts

Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm writing on behalf of the Sea and Sage Audubon Society in regards to a communication from one of our members who is concerned that active bird nests, in particular those of Cliff Swallows, may have been harmed or destroyed during recent painting operations at your complex. Every year, we are forced to remind property owners and managers of their obligations, legal and otherwise, to provide protection to birds that build nests on their property.

We briefly visited your property on \_\_\_\_\_ and it appears that the painting operation is complete and that perhaps there were measures taken to limit or avoid damage to the existing nests. If so, we would like to extend our appreciation.

We want to remind you that the birds nesting on your building are protected as are all active nests (an active nest is one that contains eggs or chicks). The laws protecting birds, their eggs and chicks, include the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and CA Dept. of Fish and Game (DFG) Codes. I am sending you copies of sections of the MBTA and DFG codes that pertain to this subject.

DFG has very specific requirements regarding the destruction of swallow nests on buildings, though in some cases they do have slightly less stringent guidelines for dealing with less sensitive birds such as Mourning Doves and House Finches. They are willing to consult with you on how to deal with wildlife and bird issues.

We recognize that it can be difficult planning around these situations and sharing your property, but there are solutions available such as scheduling major work around the breeding season which is typically March through late July or August. Additionally, there are ways to work around the nesting period during the year.

We do appreciate that you have not taken steps to permanently destroy the nests and hope that you will continue to be sensitive to the protection afforded to birds



*Sea &  
Sage Audubon*

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and their nests. We are available to discuss best management strategies to meet the protection requirements for birds and can sometimes assist in surveying your property for potential issues when it is helpful.

Please contact us if we can be of assistance or provide you with further information.

Sincerely,

Scott Thomas  
Conservation Chair  
Sea and Sage Audubon Society  
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