



NATIONAL
MUSEUM *of*
NATURAL
HISTORY

Debra J. Eckrote
Regional Chief
NTSB Western Pacific Region
505 South 336th St. Suite 540
Federal Way, WA 98003
[REDACTED]

14 January 2019

RE: FAA Wildlife Strike #2018-12-28-201626;

Smithsonian Feather Lab Case #190108

FINAL REPORT

Dear Ms Eckrote,

Two (2) bags of bird remains from the Vertical CFI (N8319T) Robinson Helicopter R22 crash on 28 December 2018 near Hayward Executive Airport, CA were received by the Smithsonian Institution's Feather Identification Lab on 08 January 2019. The samples were received from Mr. Dan Biteman, USDA Wildlife Biologist, Oakland International Airport. Each sample was submitted for DNA analysis, and whole feathers and fragments were compared with museum specimens.

The bird remains from this event have been identified as Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*). The average weight of this species is 4 lb (1,830 g).

Bag #1 – 2 whole wing feathers provided to Mr. Biteman by airport employees that were present at the scene of the accident on 28 December. Identified as Turkey Vulture. Tissue sample from feather identified using DNA analysis, and two wing feathers matched to vouchered museum specimens of Turkey Vulture.

Bag #2 – paper towel swipe with tissue and minute feather fragments collected directly from the aircraft by Mr. Biteman. Identified as Turkey Vulture. Tissue samples identified using DNA

analysis, and small feather fragments matched to vouchered museum specimens of Turkey Vulture.

Good luck with this investigation, let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Carla J. Dove, Ph.D.
Feather Identification Lab
Smithsonian Institution
NHB E-600, MRC 116