

Historic Biological Reports
Scan Control Sheet

County Project Number(s):

CUP-5295

Report Type (check one):

- ☒ Initial Study
- ☐ Species Inventory/Survey
- ☐ Focused Study
- ☐ EIR
- ☐ Draft EIR
- ☐ EIS
- ☐ ND
- ☐ MND
- ☐ Other

Report Date (Month/Day/Year):

11/18/2002

Check if the following apply to the report:

- ☒ Wetland and/or aquatic habitat
- ☐ Within designated Coastal Zone
- ☒ Potential movement corridor for fish and/or wildlife

OCT 22 2002

COUNTY OF VENTURA BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES INITIAL STUDY

Date: October 18, 2002

Requestor: Terry Newman

Project: CUP 5275

Field Study: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Justification: sensitive flora known in the vicinity

A. CHECKLIST

Biological Resources Issues	Project Impact Degree of Effect				Cumulative Impact Degree of Effect			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
a. endangered, threatened, or rare species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. wetland habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. coastal habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. migration corridors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. locally important species/communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Degree of Effect Explanation

N= None

LS = Less than significant effect

PS-M = Significant effect; Mitigation incorporated for a ND

PS = Potentially Significant effect; EIR required

B. DISCUSSION

The project site consists of an asphalt lot staging area devoid of vegetation located approximately 3,080 ft. southwest of Los Angeles Avenue and 1300 feet northwest of 5625 Vineyard Avenue, and adjacent to the Santa Clara River in the community of El Rio, Ventura County, California. The proposed project consists of a CUP for the continued use of an existing radio controlled model airplane flying field. Project activity will occur within the project site and also within a 900 ft. arced flight path to the northwest of the asphalt lot staging area, as illustrated in figures provided by Ventura County.

A search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) via the RAREFIND2 software (September 2002) listed several special-status species that are known to occur within a 10-mile radius of the project site. Attachment A includes a map showing the results of the CNDDDB search for sensitive biological resources and a table of the resource-listing status of these species.

Rincon Consultants biologists performed a reconnaissance of the project site on October 10, 2002. The project area is located between a haul road, to the northwest, and a levee, to the southeast. The haul road is devoid of vegetation and is currently subject to traffic. Quarry and farmed land occur beyond the levee to the southeast. The project site is dominated by bare land but also contains non-native Ruderal and native Mule Fat Scrub vegetative communities.

Sparse Ruderal vegetation occurs in disturbed areas surrounding the site and is characterized by horseweed (*Conyza canadensis*), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), and non-native grasses. Scattered mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) also occurs with the ruderal vegetation. The area immediately beyond the haul road, north of the project site and south of the Santa Clara River flood channel, is dominated by Mule Fat Scrub, characterized by mule fat and arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), and also contains non-native exotics giant reed (*Arundo donax*) and castor bean (*Ricinus communis*). Occasional coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) shrubs and locally common occurrences of saltbush (*Atriplex* sp.) are also scattered within the Mule Fat Scrub, north of the levee. The Santa Clara River, located north of the staging area, haul road, and scrub vegetation, contained no water and scant vegetation during the October 2002 site visit. Soils in the described areas are loose, sandy and dry.

Animals observed directly or by sign within or near the project area include Anna's hummingbird and cottontail rabbit. No sensitive plant or wildlife species were observed onsite or in the immediate vicinity, although habitat exists in the vicinity for five of the wildlife species listed by the CNDDB. Southern steelhead (southern California ESU), federally listed endangered and listed by the California Department of Fish and Game as a species of concern (CSC), and arroyo chub, listed CSC, may utilize the Santa Clara River for passage when water is present. Mulefat Scrub may provide habitat for the San Diego horned lizard, burrowing owl, and silvery legless lizard, all CSC. Additionally, the sensitive lizards may be found basking or foraging on open or ruderal areas in or adjacent to the site.

- a. **Endangered, threatened or rare species.** The lower mainstem of the Santa Clara River is primarily a migration corridor for steelhead (<http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/hcd/soCalDistrib.htm>). Occasional pedestrian entry into the river to retrieve stray model airplanes would not result in significant impacts to migrating steelhead or arroyo chub. The San Diego horned lizard and silvery legless lizard are potentially subject to direct mortality, if present, via the passage of vehicles on the haul road. The continued use of the staging area, with occasional entry into scrub for stray plane retrieval, may result in lizard mortality by pedestrian traffic. Impacts due to pedestrian traffic would result in less than significant impacts to these CSC species due to the limited area that would be traversed, the amount of remaining area for escape, and abundance of available habitat in the vicinity. No nesting burrowing owls were observed, although they may forage in the vicinity. Owls are currently subject to the noise created by the quarry and model airplane operation and would be expected to move from the vicinity if disturbed. Therefore, no impacts to burrowing owl are anticipated. No mitigation is required.
- b. **Wetland Habitat.** Although it is not a planned activity, participants at the Camarillo Flying Circus may occasionally walk into the flood plain to retrieve model airplanes. However, the use of the project site in this manner will have a less than significant impact on waters of the U.S., and/or wetlands. No mitigation is required.
- c. **Coastal Habitat.** The proposed continued activity is not located in the coastal zone. No mitigation is required.



- d. **Migration Corridors.** Operational disturbance (noise and human presence) has been occurring and will continue to occur during daylight hours and would not form a barrier to terrestrial or aquatic wildlife movement. Therefore, project impacts to migration corridors are considered less than significant. The project would not contribute to cumulative impacts on migration corridors. No mitigation is required.
- e. **Locally important Species/Communities.** No locally important species, as listed by CNDDDB, were observed or expected onsite. Most raptors that are found in the area are listed as sensitive species at their nest sites; no nesting would be anticipated to occur within the habitats present in the site vicinity and no harassment of nesting raptors by the model airplanes would be expected. No locally important communities occur onsite and no significant impacts to locally important species or communities are anticipated. No mitigation is required.

C. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	<u>Yes/Maybe</u>	<u>No</u>
1. Does the project have the potential to significantly degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Does the project have impacts, which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

D. MITIGATION MEASURES

Recommended ☐

Required for Negative Declaration ☐

No mitigation is recommended or required.

E. DETERMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FROM A BIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Negative Declaration ☒ Mitigated Negative Declaration ☐ EIR Required ☐

Reviewer: _____

Kathy Frye

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Rincon Consultants, Inc.
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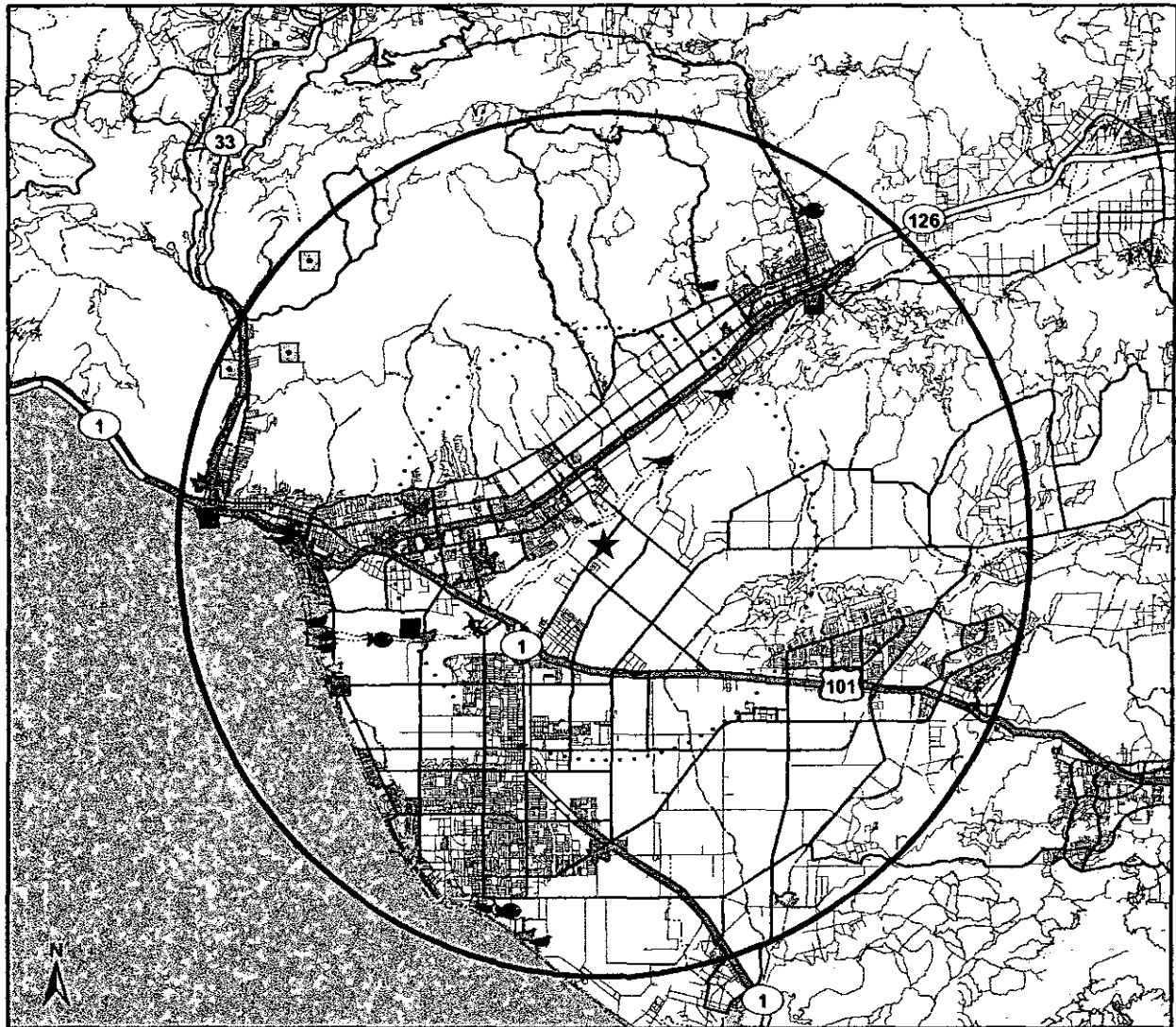
Date: _____

10/18/02

October 18, 2002

F. REFERENCES

- California Department of Fish and Game, California Natural Diversity Database. September 2002. RAREFIND2 software.
- California Department of Fish and Game. October 2002. *State and Federally Listed Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Plants of California*. Natural Heritage Division, Plant Conservation Program
- California Department of Fish and Game. July 2002. *State and Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Animals of California*. Natural Heritage Division, Natural Diversity Data Base.
- California Department of Fish and Game. July 2002. *Special Plants List*. Natural Heritage Division, Natural Diversity Data Base.
- California Department of Fish and Game. July 2002. *Special Animals*.
- Dale, Nancy. 1986. Flowering Plants, The Santa Monica Mountains Coastal and Chaparral Regions of Southern California. Capra Press. Santa Barbara.
- Holland, Robert F. October 1986. *Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California*. California Department of Fish and Game, Nongame Heritage Program. 156 pgs.
- Zeiner, D., W.F. Laudenslayer, Jr., and K.E. Mayer. May 1988. *California's Wildlife*. California Statewide Wildlife Habitat Relationship System, Volumes I, II, & III. California Department of Fish and Game.



Source: CNDDDB, June 2002.

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| ★ Ventura Co. CUP 5275 | ● AFCHA0209J, SOUTHERN STEELHEAD - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ESU | ■ CTT63300CA, SOUTHERN RIPARIAN SCRUB |
| ● ABNNB03031, WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER | ● AFCJB13120, ARROYO CHUB | ● IICOL02101, SANDY BEACH TIGER BEETLE |
| ● ABNNM08103, CALIFORNIA LEAST TERN | ● AFCON04010, TIDEWATER GOBY | ● IILEPP2010, MONARCH BUTTERFLY |
| ● ABNR802022, WESTERN YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO | ● ARACC01012, SILVERY LEGLESS LIZARD | └ PDAST20095, ORCUTT'S PINCUSHION |
| ● ABNSB10010, BURROWING OWL | ● ARACF12021, SAN DIEGO HORNED LIZARD | └ PDAST4R0P4, SOUTHERN TARPLANT |
| ● ABPAU08010, BANK SWALLOW | ● ARADB36160, TWO-STRIPED GARTER SNAKE | └ PDAST5L0A1, COULTER'S GOLDFIELDS |
| ● ABPEJ08080, CALIFORNIA GNATCATCHER | ■ CALE1220CA, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL LAGOON | └ PDCRA040U0, VERITY'S DUDLEYA |
| ● ABPBW01114, LEAST BELL'S VIREO | ■ CTT52120CA, SOUTHERN COASTAL SALT MARSH | └ PDFAB07B1, VENTURA MARSH MILK-VETCH |
| ● ABPBX99015, BELDING'S SAVANNAH SPARROW | ■ CTT52410CA, COASTAL AND VALLEY FRESHWATER MARSH | └ PDPGN081G0, CONEJO BUCKWHEAT |
| | ■ CTT61310CA, SOUTHERN COAST LIVE OAK RIPARIAN FOREST | └ PDSCR0J0C2, SALT MARSH BIRD'S-BEAK |

Sensitive Elements Reported by the California Natural Diversity Database



County of Ventura

California Department of Fish and Game
Natural Diversity Data Base

List of Elements and Status by Scientific Name
CUP 5275

Scientific/Common Name	Federal/ State Status	Global/ State Rank	CNPS/ R-E-D	CDFG Status
ANNIELLA PULCHRA PULCHRA SILVERY LEGLESS LIZARD	unknown code.../ None	G3G4T3 T4Q/ S3		SC
ASTRAGALUS PYCNOSTACHYUS VAR LANOSISSIMUS VENTURA MARSH MILK-VETCH	Endangered/ Endangered	G3?T1/ S1.1	1B/ 3-3-3	
ATHENE CUNICULARIA BURROWING OWL	unknown code.../ None	G4/ S2		SC
CHAENACTIS GLABRIUSCULA VAR ORCUTTIANA ORCUTT'S PINCUSHION	None/ None	G5T3/ S2.1	1B/ 2-3-2	
CHARADRIUS ALEXANDRINUS NIVOSUS WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER	Threatened/ None	G4T3/ S2		SC
CICINDELA HIRTICOLLIS GRAVIDA SANDY BEACH TIGER BEETLE	unknown code.../ None	G5T4/ S1		
COASTAL AND VALLEY FRESHWATER MARSH	None/ None	G3/ S2.1		
COCCYZUS AMERICANUS OCCIDENTALIS WESTERN YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	None/ Endangered	G5T3/ S1		
CORDYLANTHUS MARITIMUS SSP MARITIMUS SALT MARSH BIRD'S-BEAK	Endangered/ Endangered	G4?T2/ S2.1	1B/ 2-2-2	
DANAUS PLEXIPPUS MONARCH BUTTERFLY	None/ None	G4/ S3		
DUDLEYA VERITYI VERITY'S DUDLEYA	Threatened/ None	G1/ S1.1	1B/ 3-2-3	
ERIOGONUM CROCATUM CONEJO BUCKWHEAT	None/ Rare	G2/ S2.1	1B/ 2-2-3	

California Department of Fish & Game
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Scientific/Common Name	Federal/ State Status	Global/ State Rank	CNPS/ R-E-D	CDFG Status
<i>EUCYCLOGOBIUS NEWBERRYI</i> TIDEWATER GOBY	Endangered/ None	G3/ S2S3		SC
<i>GILA ORCUTTI</i> ARROYO CHUB	None/ None	G2/ S2		SC
<i>LASTHENIA GLABRATA SSP COULTERI</i> COULTER'S GOLDFIELDS	None/ None	G4T3/ S2.1	1B/ 2-3-2	
<i>ONCORHYNCHUS MYKISS IRIDEUS</i> SOUTHERN STEELHEAD - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ESU	Endangered/ None	G5T2/ S2		SC
<i>PASSERCULUS SANDWICHENSIS BELDINGI</i> BELDING'S SAVANNAH SPARROW	None/ Endangered	G5T3/ S3		
<i>PHRYNOSOMA CORONATUM BLAINVILLEI</i> SAN DIEGO HORNED LIZARD	None/ None	G4T3T4 / S2S3		SC
<i>POLIOPTILA CALIFORNICA</i> COASTAL CALIFORNIA GNATCATCHER	Threatened/ None	G3/ S2		SC
<i>RIPARIA RIPARIA</i> BANK SWALLOW	unknown code.../ Threatened	G5/ S2S3		
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COASTAL LAGOON	None/ None	G?/ S?		
SOUTHERN COAST LIVE OAK RIPARIAN FOREST	None/ None	G4/ S4		
SOUTHERN COASTAL SALT MARSH	None/ None	G2/ S2.1		
SOUTHERN RIPARIAN SCRUB	None/ None	G3/ S3.2		
<i>STERNA ANTILLARUM BROWNI</i> CALIFORNIA LEAST TERN	Endangered/ Endangered	G4T2T3 / S2S3		

California Department of Fish and Game
Natural Diversity Data Base

List of Elements and Status by Scientific Name
CUP 5275

Scientific/Common Name	Federal/ State Status	Global/ State Rank	CNPS/ R-E-D	CDFG Status
THAMNOPHIS HAMMONDII TWO-STRIPED GARTER SNAKE	None/ None	G2G3/ S2		SC
VIREO BELLII PUSILLUS LEAST BELL'S VIREO	Endangered/ Endangered	G5T2/ S2		