

Letter of Transmittal

ATTENTION: Debbie Morrisset**DATE: March 22, 2000**

Ventura County Planning Division
800 South Victoria Avenue, L# 1740
Ventura, CA 93009

PROJECT REFERENCE:
Biological Initial Study**PROJECT NUMBER:**
7020-014

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1		Initial Study Checklist for CUP-5101

REMARKS:

SIGNATURE:

Dina Kiyohara
Environmental Analyst

SECTION B
INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

Job: CUP - 5101

Requester: Hollee Brunsky

Applicant: Sprint PCS

Date: March 21, 2000

Survey Type: Field

Rationale: Wireless communications site

Site Description: A field visit of the project site (Parcel no. 040-0-080-060) was conducted on March 21, 2000. The parcel is located in Santa Paula, at 7944 Pine Grove Road, just east of Steckel Park. The area surrounding the parcel consists of rolling hills with pasture land to the north and east. An avocado orchard lies to the south, and east of the property is a residential dwelling. The area of the project site is typical chaparral with laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*). Directly south of the parcel is a small creek bordered with mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), laurel sumac, poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), and wild elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*).

	Project Impact Degree of Effect*				Cumulative Impact Degree of Effect*			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
6. <u>Biological Resources</u>								
a. endangered, threatened or rare species	<u>X</u>	___	___	___	<u>X</u>	___	___	___
b. wetland habitat	<u>X</u>	___	___	___	<u>X</u>	___	___	___
c. coastal habitat	<u>X</u>	___	___	___	<u>X</u>	___	___	___
d. migration corridors	<u>X</u>	___	___	___	<u>X</u>	___	___	___
e. Locally important species/communities	<u>X</u>	___	___	___	<u>X</u>	___	___	___

*N No impact

LS Less than significant

PS-M Potentially significant, unless mitigated to a level of insignificance

PS Potentially significant, even after mitigation

SECTION C
DISCUSSION OF RESPONSES

- a. Several rare or endangered species have been reported within 5 miles of the project site. The southern steelhead, *Oncorhynchus mykiss gairdneri*, has been sighted in the Santa Paula Creek, near the city of Santa Paula. Although there is a small creek adjacent to the project site, it is not large enough to be a habitat for the southern steelhead.

A federal species of concern, the southwestern pond turtle, *Clemmys marmorata pallida*, has also been sighted within 5 miles of the project site. The pond turtle requires permanent or near permanent bodies of water and areas for basking, such as partially submerged logs, vegetation, or mud banks. The small creek located just south of the project site is not large enough to be a suitable habitat for the turtle. The banks with vegetation, on either side of the small creek, are narrow and the land has been disturbed and cleared up to the banks.

In Big Cone Camp, north of Santa Paula, in Santa Paula Canyon, the Ojai fritillary, *Fritillaria ojaiensis*, a federal species of concern, has been spotted. The fritillary is found in wooded areas, such as oak woodland or chaparral. The area with natural vegetation within the project site is quite small and would not be sufficient area for the survival of the fritillary. Therefore, no impact would be expected. In addition, minimal disturbance of the chaparral vegetation is expected to occur.

- b. There is a small wetland habitat directly to the south of the project site. There are no plans to disturb this area, so no impact should occur. However, should it be necessary to disturb the creek in any way, a permit from the California Department of Fish and Game and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers will be required.
- c. The project site is not near the coast, so no impact on a coastal habitat should occur.
- d. It is possible that the project site could be a migration corridor for some animals. However, the construction of the proposed wireless telecommunication site should not affect any migration corridors that already exist. Minimal disturbance of the area will occur and sufficient land exists to the north, east and south of the property.
- e. Reported within 5 miles of the project site is a California walnut woodland. There should be no impact on this community because no walnut trees were found on or near the property.

SECTION D
MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Based on the information contained within Sections B and C:	YES/MAYBE	NO
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, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	_____	<u> X </u>
2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one which occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time while long-term impacts will endure well into the future).	_____	<u> X </u>
3. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (Several projects may have relatively small individual impacts on two or more resources, but the total of those impacts on the environment is significant).	_____	<u> X </u>
4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	_____	<u> X </u>

SECTION E
DETERMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☒ I find the proposed project **COULD NOT** have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** should be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measure(s) described below will be applied to the project. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** should be prepared.
- ☐ I find the proposed project, individually and/or cumulatively **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.

Mitigation Measures

Condition
Although there are no plans to relocate or disturb the small creek directly south of the project site, we do feel that care to prevent disturbance should be taken during the construction phase of the project, either during the emplacement of the antennae and equipment cabinets or during the construction of a proposed underground power/telco service trench. It is expected that some of the chaparral shrubs will be removed adjacent to the existing water tank and along the proposed trench. No rare, endangered, or threatened species occur in this area.

Tucker

Signature of Preparer

Mar. 21, 2000

Date