

6. Biological Resources	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	✓				✓			
b. Wetland habitat	✓				✓			
c. Coastal habitat	✓				✓			
d. Migration corridors		✓				✓		
e. Locally important species/ communities	✓				✓			

* 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 and have the potential to be present at the site:

The golden eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), a state Fully Protected Species and state Species of Concern is found along mountains, foothills, and adjacent grasslands. Golden eagles were not identified during the survey, but likely utilize the area for hunting and foraging.

Orcutt's pincushion (*Chaenactis glabriuscula* var *orcuttiana*), a California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List 1B plant, is found along coastal dunes and bluffs under 100 meters in elevation. The subject property varies from 500 to 550 meters (m) in elevation; therefore it is unlikely that this plant occurs on the project site.

Plummer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus plummerae*), a federal Species of Concern, is usually found in coastal sage scrub or valley and foothill grassland. Soil is usually sandy or alluvial. Although there is potential habitat for the species on the property, ENSR did not observe signs of the lily in the project area during the survey.

The marcescent dudleya (*Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *marcescens*), a federal Threatened and state-designated Rare plant, is found on shaded, rocky slopes of the Santa Monica Mountains. ENSR did identify rocky outcrops on slopes that have the potential for supporting this species, however no dudleya were identified during the survey.

The Santa Monica Mountains dudleya (*Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *ovatifolia*), a federal Threatened species, is also found on shaded, rocky slopes of the Santa Monica Mountains. ENSR did identify rocky outcrops on slopes that have the potential for supporting this species, however no dudleya were identified during the survey.

The Conejo buckwheat (*Eriogonum crocatum*), a federal Species of Concern, is found on steep north-facing volcanic slopes throughout the western side of Conejo Valley, from 50 – 150 m in elevation. Although there is potential habitat for the species on the property, it is unlikely that the species would occur at this high elevation (500 m or more).

The Santa Susana tarplant (*Hemizonia minthornii*), a federal Species of Concern, is found in chaparral on hard sandstone outcrops in the Santa Monica Mountains. The subject site does not include sandstone outcrops and it is unlikely that the species occurs there. This plant was not identified during the survey.

The Sonoran Maiden Fern (*Thelypteris puberula* var. *sonorensis*), listed by the CNPS, is found along streams and seepage areas, and requires a high amount of available water. There were no streams or seepages identified during the survey, therefore it is unlikely the species occurs on the property. This plant was not identified during the survey.

The monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) utilizes trees along the California coastline for overwintering. The subject property is far enough from the coast to avoid the morning fog necessary to support overwintering sites. Therefore, it is unlikely that the monarch overwinters on the subject property.

The Southern Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*), a federal Endangered species, is present in the tributaries of the Arroyo Sequit. There were no streams identified during the survey, therefore it is unlikely the species occurs on the property.

In summary, no special status plants, animals, or communities were identified during the survey. Due to the amount of grading already completed at the site, it is unknown what species may have occurred prior to the disturbance. Areas already graded had extensive runoff from rains the previous day. The general habitat quality of the surrounding vegetation on the property is good, and should be protected from runoff during further ground disturbance activities.

- b. There is no wetland habitat on the project site, so there would be no disturbance of this resource.
- c. The project site is not near the coast, so no impact on a coastal habitat should occur.
- d. The project site is located in a rural area of the Santa Monica Mountains and includes extensive undeveloped areas that are likely to be used as wildlife migration corridors. Although there is some development that transects the property, the property as a whole is fairly undisturbed.
- e. Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest and Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland are communities found in the area that are monitored by the CDFG. These communities were not found on the subject property.

SECTION D
MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Based on the information contained within Sections B and C:

YES

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?

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).

✓

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).

✓

4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

✓

SECTION E
DETERMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

On the basis of this initial evaluation (*check one*):

✓	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

No mitigation measures are required, however it is advisable that erosion control measures be utilized to avoid additional runoff into surrounding vegetation. Although there were no special status species identified within the vegetation, protecting those areas would help maintain habitat and foraging areas for wildlife.

Signature of Preparer

Date