

Historic Biological Reports  
Scan Control Sheet

County Project Number(s):

CCL-0211/PM 5393

Report Type (check one):

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

Report Date (Month/Day/Year):

10/18/2002

Check if the following apply to the report:

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

## COUNTY OF VENTURA BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES INITIAL STUDY

Date: October 18, 2002

Requestor: Debbie Morrisset

Project: CCC0211/PM 5393

Field Study: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Justification: sensitive flora known to be 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. wetland habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 the legalization of a 37.5-acre parcel located on Hasler Road, approximately 1.6 miles west of 10000 Yerba Buena Road in the community of Malibu, along the eastern border of Ventura County, California. The applicant proposes building a single-family residence, guesthouse and studio onsite, although no site plans have been provided at this time.

A search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) via the RAREFIND2 software (September 2002) listed several special-status species that could be present within the communities onsite. Attachment A includes a map showing the results of the CNDDB 10-mile radius search for sensitive biological resources and a table of the resource-listing status of these species.

The USDA Soil Survey for the Ventura Area, CA (1970) was reviewed for soil types occurring onsite. The Triunfo Pass USGS topographic quadrangle (National Geographic, 2001) was also reviewed prior to the site visit. The onsite elevation ranges from approximately 1250 to 1600 feet above mean sea level, with the highest elevation atop a terraced knoll located on the western side of the property. The site slopes gently from the approximate center of the property toward the northeastern corner and slopes more steeply along the northern, southern and southeastern reaches of the property. A brief reconnaissance of the project site was performed by Rincon Consultants biologists on October 10, 2002. The survey was performed by walking

existing roads and level grassland areas of the site with periodic entry into dense vegetation for direct and binocular observation. Plant and wildlife species observed were noted. The project site is developed with dirt roads and a concrete pad. Rock outcrops are found throughout the property.

Native vegetative communities onsite include Mixed Chaparral and Coastal Sage Scrub, along with individual coast live oak trees. The site also includes Non-Native Grassland. Classification of these habitat types or vegetative communities is based on Holland and Keil (1990). Mixed Chaparral and Coastal Sage Scrub communities intergrade with one another and are dominated by laurel sumac (*Rhus laurina*), ceanothus (*Ceanothus* spp.), buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum* and *E. cinereum*), deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*), and black sage (*Salvia mellifera*). Associated species include toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides*), California aster (*Lessingia filaginifolia*), and saw-toothed goldenbush (*Hazardia squarrosa*). Non-native Grassland onsite is characterized by non-native oat (*Avena* sp.) and brome (*Bromus* sp.) grasses and non-native forbs including tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*). Scattered native forbs occurring in the grassland include tarweed (*Hemizonia* sp.) and everlasting (*Gnaphalium* sp.). Occasional occurrences of multi-trunk coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and scrub oak species (*Quercus* sp.) were noted along the road that traverses the property to the northeast and in the northern regions of the project site. Additionally, melic grass (*Melica* sp.), a native bunchgrass, and ornamental species including non-native juniper trees (*Juniperus* sp.) and a pepper tree (*Schinus molle*) were observed onsite. Remnant stalks of charred vegetation were also noted among the chaparral species and the oak trees.

No blueline streams occur on the site, according to the Triunfo Pass topographical quadrangle. Natural drainage features were observed among the steep northern slopes of the project site, and may contribute to downstream flows.

The vegetation occurring onsite provides suitable habitat for several common animal species. Mammals observed directly or by sign (track, scat, burrow, etc.) were rabbit and canine. Bird species observed onsite include scrub jay, red-tailed hawk, California towhee, rufous-sided towhee and yellow rumped warbler. Black-tailed deer are also expected onsite.

No sensitive wildlife species listed by the CNDDDB were observed during the October 10, 2002 site visit, although suitable habitat for the San Diego horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillei*), listed by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) as a species of concern, was observed in the coastal scrub and chaparral habitat that is present on the project site. No native ants, the coast horned lizards' preferred prey, were observed onsite during the site visit. The southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps*) is not included in the CNDDDB list although the bird species is listed by the CDFG as a species of concern and also has the potential to utilize the project area due to the open coastal scrub and rocky outcrops that occur onsite.

No sensitive plant species listed by the CNDDDB (Attachment A) were observed on the project site, although the October site visit was outside of the blooming period when most of the species potentially onsite would be most obvious. Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyoni*) is a sensitive plant species that has the potential to occur within the grassland and chaparral onsite. Sensitive plant species that have the potential to occur on rock outcrops onsite include: Santa

Monica Mountains dudleya (*Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *agourensis* and *D. cymosa* ssp. *ovatifolia*), marcescent dudleya (*D. cymosa* ssp. *marcescens*), Conejo dudleya (*Dudleya parva*) and Verity's dudleya (*D. verityi*). The Sonoran maiden fern (*Thelypteris puberula* var. *sonorensis*), on List 2 by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS), is a locally important plant species that is known to occur in seeps and may potentially occur within the northern slopes of the project site. Plummer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus plummerae*), southern tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis*), and dune larkspur (*Delphinium parryi* ssp. *blochmaniae*), species listed 1B by the CNPS and rayless ragwort (*Senecio aphanactis*), a species listed 2 by the CNPS, are considered locally important and have the potential to occur within the grassland and coastal scrub onsite. Mature oak trees that occur on the project site are considered a locally important species by Ventura County. Examination of an aerial photograph supplied by Ventura County indicates that there is the potential for additional oak trees to occur in canyons on the north facing slopes of the site.

- a. **Endangered, threatened or rare species.** Improvements to the property associated with residential development, including grading or fuel modification, may result in the loss or disturbance of the sensitive plant species, including Lyon's pentachaeta, Santa Susana tarplant and/or the dudleyas listed above, or the habitat supporting those plant species. The loss of these species or their habitat would be considered significant. Therefore, mitigation is suggested for the protection of sensitive plant species and associated habitat.

Although there is the potential for the San Diego horned lizard and rufous-crowned sparrow to occur onsite, the loss of a less than 40 acres of habitat would be considered less than significant due to the amount of available adjacent habitat in open lands. However, loss of horned lizard individuals would be significant. Therefore, mitigation is suggested to protect the San Diego horned lizard, if present. The rufous-crowned sparrow is mobile and is expected to move away from the area if subject to disturbance. Mitigation is not required for the rufous-crowned sparrow.

- b. **Wetland Habitat.** No specific wetland habitat was observed onsite, although drainage features observed on the project site may qualify as waters of the U.S. If the drainages are under the jurisdiction of the US Army Corps of Engineers as waters of the U.S. and the proposed project results in the grading or placement of fill in waters, significant impacts may result. Disturbance to the drainages may also result in cumulative impacts. Therefore, mitigation is required to protect waters, if present.
- c. **Coastal Habitat.** The project site occurs in the Coastal Zone, although there are no environmentally sensitive habitat areas occurring on the project site, as discussed in the Coastal Area Plan of the Ventura County General Plan (April 1997). Therefore, no impacts to sensitive coastal habitats are expected. No mitigation is required.
- d. **Migration Corridors.** The project site is approximately 40-acres in size and is surrounded on three sides by open space. Species passing through the project site may partially be blocked by development but will alternately be able to utilize other areas of the site and adjacent open land for passage. Therefore, the proposed project

will not be a significant barrier to migration and 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.** Creation of the parcel would not directly impact oak trees; however, development of the site may result in the loss of oak trees on the site. Oak trees are protected by the Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance per section 8107-25.5 and the loss of oak trees would result in a potentially significant impact. The loss of oak trees may also contribute to potentially significant cumulative impacts. Mitigation is required under the ordinance.

### 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Does the project have impacts, which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### D. MITIGATION MEASURES

Recommended ☒

Required for Negative Declaration ☒

- a. **Sensitive Flora.** Surveys for sensitive plant species should be performed during the blooming period, when species potentially onsite may be more easily observed and may be identified to species. If sensitive species occur onsite, they should be avoided and fenced to prevent disturbance. If avoidance is not feasible, it should be determined whether replacement mitigation is acceptable for the species in question and a habitat restoration plan should be prepared.

**San Diego horned lizard.** A capture and off-site relocation plan shall be developed for the San Diego horned lizard. Such a plan would include the scouring of appropriate habitat that is to be converted or disturbed to capture horned lizards and the identification of suitable unoccupied habitat to which they could be relocated.

- b. **Waters of the U.S.** The location of waters or wetlands under Corps or CDFG jurisdiction should be mapped on project site plans prior to grading. If waters or

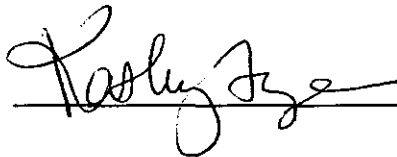
wetlands are located onsite and cannot be avoided, a habitat restoration plan shall be prepared.

- e. **Oak Trees.** Any oak trees that may be removed by project grading shall be mitigated for in compliance with the Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance.

#### E. DETERMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FROM A BIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

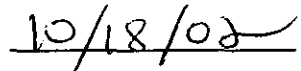
Negative Declaration ☐ Mitigated Negative Declaration ☒ EIR Required ☐

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_



Kathy Frye  
Senior Biologist for  
**Rincon Consultants, Inc.**  
Phone: 641-1000 Ext. 19

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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. July 2002. *Special Plants List*. Natural Heritage Division, Natural Diversity Data Base.

California Department of Fish and Game. July 2002. *Special Animals*.

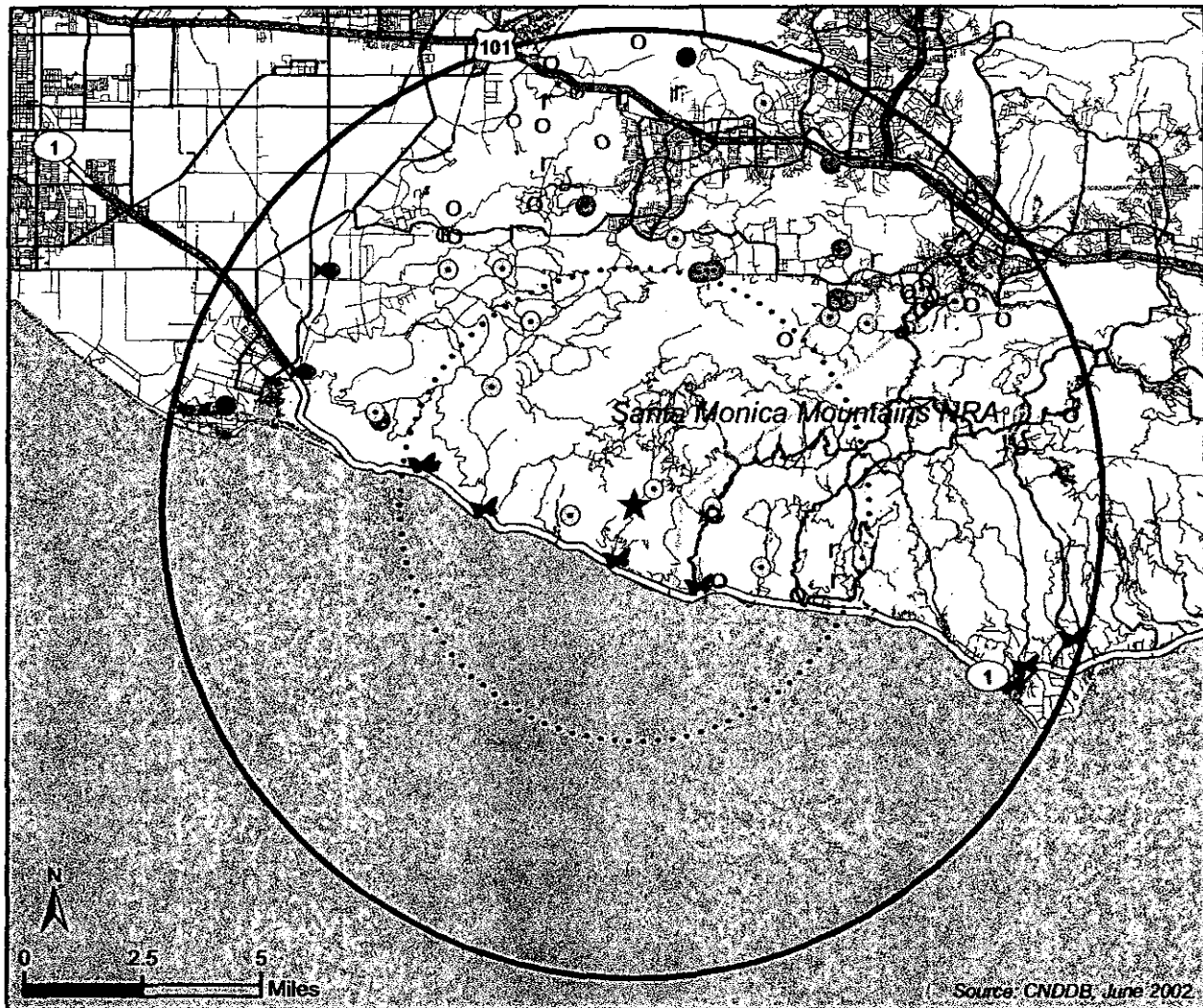
Dale, Nancy. 1986. Flowering Plants, The Santa Monica Mountains Coastal and Chaparral Regions of Southern California. Capra Press. Santa Barbara.

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.

National Geographic. 2001. USGS Topographic Maps on CD-ROM. San Francisco, California.

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.

Ventura County RMA - PM 1 3  
Biological Resources Initial Study



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ABNME05014, LIGHT-FOOTED CLAPPER RAIL

ABPAUD0810, BANK SWALLOW

ABPBWD1114, LEAST BELL'S VIREO

ABPBXG9015, BELDING'S SAVANNAH SPARROW

AFCHAD0208J, SOUTHERN STEELHEAD - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ESU

AFCJB13120, ARROYO CHUB

AFCQND4010, TIDEWATER GOBY

ARACF12021, SAN DIEGO HORNED LIZARD

ARACJ02140, COASTAL WESTERN WHIPTAIL

ARAD636180, TWO-STRIPED GARTER SNAKE

CTT42110CA, VALLEY NEEDLEGRASS GRASSLAND

CTT52120CA, SOUTHERN COASTAL SALT MARSH

CTT61300CA, SOUTHERN RIPARIAN FOREST

CTT61310CA, SOUTHERN COAST LIVE OAK RIPARIAN FOREST

CTT62400CA, SOUTHERN SYCAMORE ALDER RIPARIAN WOODLAND

CTT71130CA, VALLEY OAK WOODLAND

ICOL02121, TIGER BEETLE

ICOL44010, GLOBOSE DUNE BEETLE

ILEP64030, WANDERING (=SALT MARSH) SKIPPER

ILEP72010, MONARCH BUTTERFLY

WAGSL7040, MIMIC TRYONIA (=CALIFORNIA BRACKISH-WATER SNAIL)

PDAST20095, ORCUTT'S PINCUSHION

PDAST4R0J, SANTA SUSANA TARPLANT

PDAST4R0P, SOUTHERN TARPLANT

PDAST5L0A1, COULTER'S GOLDFIELDS

PDAST6X080, LYON'S PENTACHAETA

PDAST8X080, RAYLESS RAGWORT

PDORAD0016, CONEJO DUDLEYA

PDORAD0051, BLOCHMANN'S DUDLEYA

PDORAD00A3, MARCESCENT DUDLEYA

PDORAD00A5, SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS DUDLEYA

PDORAD00A7, SANTA MONICA MTNS. DUDLEYA

PDORAD00J0, VERITY'S DUDLEYA

PDORAD01G0, CONEJO BUCKWHEAT

PDORAD01B1, DUNE LARKSPUR

PDORAD00C2, SALT MARSH BIRDS-BEAK

PMLU00150, PLUMMER'S MARIPOSA LILY

PMPOM4G010, CALIFORNIA ORCUTT GRASS

PPTHE05192, SONORAN MAIDEN FERN

Sensitive Elements Reported by the  
California Natural Diversity Database

California Department of Fish and Game  
Natural Diversity Data Base

List of Elements and Status by Scientific Name  
PM 5393

Scientific/Common Name	Federal/ State Status	Global/ State Rank	CNPS/ R-E-D	CDFG Status
CALOCHORTUS PLUMMERAE PLUMMER'S MARIPOSA LILY	None/ None	G3/ S3.2	1B/ 2-2-3	
CENTROMADIA PARRYI SSP AUSTRALIS SOUTHERN TARPLANT	None/ None	G4?T2/ S2.1	1B/ 3-3-2	
CHAENACTIS GLABRIUSCULA VAR ORCUTTIANA ORCUTT'S PINCUSHION	None/ None	G5T3/ S2.1	1B/ 2-3-2	
CICINDELA SENILIS FROSTI TIGER BEETLE	None/ None	G4T1/ S1		
CNEMIDOPHORUS TIGRIS MULTISCUTATUS COASTAL WESTERN WHIPTAIL	None/ None	G4T3T4 / S2S3		
COELUS GLOBOSUS GLOBOSE DUNE BEETLE	unknown code.../ None	G1/ 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		
DEINANDRA MINTHORNII SANTA SUSANA TARPLANT	None/ Rare	G2/ S2.2	1B/ 2-2-3	
DELPHINIUM PARRYI SSP BLOCHMANIAE DUNE LARKSPUR	unknown code.../ None	G4T2/ S2.2	1B/ 3-2-3	
DUDLEYA BLOCHMANIAE SSP BLOCHMANIAE BLOCHMAN'S DUDLEYA	None/ None	G2T2/ S2.1	1B/ 2-3-2	
DUDLEYA CYMOSA SSP AGOURENSIS SANTA MONICA MTNS. DUDLEYA	Threatened/ None	G5T1/ S1.2	1B/ 3-2-3	
DUDLEYA CYMOSA SSP MARCESCENS MARCESCENT DUDLEYA	Threatened/ Rare	G5T2/ S2.2	1B/ 3-2-3	



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DUDLEYA CYMOSA SSP OVATIFOLIA SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS DUDLEYA	Threatened/ None	G5T2/ S2.2	1B/ 3-2-3	
DUDLEYA PARVA CONEJO DUDLEYA	Threatened/ None	G2/ S2.1	1B/ 3-2-3	
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	
EUCYCLOGOBIUS NEWBERRYI TIDEWATER GOBY	Endangered/ None	G3/ S2S3		SC
GILA ORCUTTI ARROYO CHUB	None/ None	G2/ S2		SC
LASTHENIA GLABRATA SSP COULTERI COULTER'S GOLDFIELDS	None/ None	G4T3/ S2.1	1B/ 2-3-2	
ONCORHYNCHUS MYKISS IRIDEUS SOUTHERN STEELHEAD - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ESU	Endangered/ None	G5T2/ S2		SC
ORCUTTIA CALIFORNICA CALIFORNIA ORCUTT GRASS	Endangered/ Endangered	G2/ S2.1	1B/ 3-3-2	
PANOQUINA ERRANS WANDERING (=SALTMARSH) SKIPPER	None/ None	G4G5/ S1		
PASSERCULUS SANDWICHENSIS BELDINGI BELDING'S SAVANNAH SPARROW	None/ Endangered	G5T3/ S3		
PENTACHAETA LYONII LYON'S PENTACHAETA	Endangered/ Endangered	G1/ S1.1	1B/ 3-3-3	
PHRYNOSOMA CORONATUM BLAINVILLEI SAN DIEGO HORNED LIZARD	None/ None	G4T3T4 / S2S3		SC

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Scientific/Common Name	Federal/ State Status	Global/ State Rank	CNPS/ R-E-D	CDFG Status
RALLUS LONGIROSTRIS LEVIPES LIGHT-FOOTED CLAPPER RAIL	Endangered/ Endangered	G5T1/ S1		
RIPARIA RIPARIA BANK SWALLOW	unknown code.../ Threatened	G5/ S2S3		
SENECIO APHANACTIS RAYLESS RAGWORT	None/ None	G3?/ S1.2	2/ 3-2-1	
SOUTHERN COAST LIVE OAK RIPARIAN FOREST	None/ None	G4/ S4		
SOUTHERN COASTAL SALT MARSH	None/ None	G2/ S2.1		
SOUTHERN RIPARIAN FOREST	None/ None	G4/ S4		
SOUTHERN SYCAMORE ALDER RIPARIAN WOODLAND	None/ None	G4/ S4		
THAMNOPHIS HAMMONDII TWO-STRIPED GARTER SNAKE	None/ None	G2G3/ S2		SC
THELYPTERIS PUBERULA VAR SONORENSIS SONORAN MAIDEN FERN	None/ None	G5T3T4 / S2.2?	2/ 2-2-1	
TRYONIA IMITATOR MIMIC TRYONIA (=CALIFORNIA BRACKISHWATER SNAIL)	None/ None	G2G3/ S2S3		
VALLEY NEEDLEGRASS GRASSLAND	None/ None	G1/ S3.1		
VALLEY OAK WOODLAND	None/ None	G3/ S2.1		

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Scientific/Common Name	Federal/ State Status	Global/ State Rank	CNPS/ R-E-D	CDFG Status
VIREO BELLII PUSILLUS LEAST BELL'S VIREO	Endangered/ Endangered	G5T2/ S2		