COUNTY OF VENTURA
BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES INITIAL STUDY

Date: January 6, 2003
Requestor: Todd Militello
Project: PD-1922
Field Study: ☒ Yes ☐ No
Justification: sensitive species potentially in the vicinity

A. CHECKLIST

Biological Resources Issues	Project Impact Degree of Effect N	LS	PS-M	PS	Cumulative Impact Degree of Effect 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	☐	☐	☒	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

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 a Planned Development Permit for a 3.83-acre parcel located at 12530 Hasler Road, approximately 0.7 miles east 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, garage/barn, 10,000-gallon water tank with fire hydrant, swimming pool, septic tank, sand filter system, and gazebo onsite. A 5,000-gallon water tank with fire hydrant and two to three oak trees will be removed or relocated and an existing 1,600-gallon water tank will remain in use.

Rincon Consultants performed a search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) via the RAREFIND2 software (June 2002) for a site less than one mile east of the PD 1922 project site (PM 5393; Rincon Consultants October 2002). The search listed several special-status species within the vicinity of the PM 5393 project site and that information also applies to PD 1922. Attachment A includes a map showing the results of the PM 5393 CNDDB 10-mile radius search for sensitive biological resources and a table of the resource-listing status of these species.

The Triunfo Pass USGS topographic quadrangle (National Geographic, 2001) and aerial photography available online (TerraServer Image June 1994; Globexplorer) were reviewed for

the site, along with a November 14, 1990 Initial Study (IS) Checklist, Discussion, Findings and Determination for the subject property (CCC9017/PD1421 McClelland Consultants, Inc.). A Rincon Consultants biologist performed a brief reconnaissance of the project site on January 2, 2003. The topographic map illustrates onsite elevation ranges from approximately 1100 to 1500 feet above mean sea level. The 1990 McClelland IS states that the site is steep to moderately steep, has been disturbed by three road cuts, and is vegetated with native chaparral and scrub communities onsite along with individual coast live oak trees. Rincon confirmed McClelland's observations during the January 2003 site visit and additionally observed horticultural species and pine trees planted along the roads and annual grasses volunteering in disturbed areas onsite.

No blueline streams occur on the site, according to the Triunfo Pass topographical quadrangle. Drainage is directed offsite via a roadside drainage, south of the entry (Wells) road, and via culvert under that road flowing northwest and eventually offsite. No water was observed in the drainage during the January 2003 site visit. The southeast corner of the property consists of a bare level area, which is the site of the proposed house, pool and sand filter. An existing water reservoir is located in the southwest quadrant of the property. The owner relays that this reservoir belongs to an adjacent landowner and will be removed. The southwest quadrant of the site also contains rock outcroppings.

Coastal scrub and chaparral habitats within the project vicinity of the Malibu hills have the potential to support special status wildlife species including San Diego horned lizard and southern California rufous-crowned sparrow. Additionally, the vicinity has the potential to support special-status plants species including Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*) and plant species that have the potential to occur on rock outcrops including: 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*). Mature oak trees that occur on the project site are considered a locally important species by Ventura County.

a. **Endangered, threatened or rare species.** Limited native vegetation occurs onsite although the 3.8-acre project site does not contain a contiguous undisturbed area of native habitat measuring at least 1-acre in size. No special-status plant or wildlife species were observed or are expected onsite due to the limited and patchy areas of native habitat and the disturbed nature of the site. Additionally, areas proposed for development are currently disturbed and consist of bare soil or non-native vegetation, with the exception of the loss of approximatley two to three coast live oak trees. Oak trees are discussed below in (e) Locally Important Species/Communities. It is not anticipated that improvements to the property associated with residential development, including grading or fuel modification, would result in the loss or disturbance of sensitive plant species, including Lyon's pentachaeta and/or the dudleyas listed above, or the habitat supporting those plant or special-status wildlife species. No mitigation is required.

b. **Wetland Habitat.** No specific wetland habitat was reported by McClelland (1990), although there is an existing roadside culvert that may qualify as waters of the U.S. No grading or fill is proposed for the drainage or culvert and there are no plans to

widen the road, which could impact the drainage. Therefore, no impacts to wetlands or waters of the U.S. are expected to occur from project development. No mitigation is required.

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 3.8-acres in size and does not contain an undisturbed 1-acre area of contiguous native habitat. Species passing through the project site currently traverse roads, disturbed habitats and patches of native habitat. Project development is proposed for disturbed areas. Therefore, the proposed project will not create a new 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.** Development of the site is expected to result in the loss of two to three oak trees from removal or relocation of these trees, as reported by the applicant and the County. In addition to the loss of oaks due to removal, impacts to oaks due to development may also include encroachment into the dripline for utilities, including septic, or a change in drainage surrounding oaks. Oak trees are sensitive to changes to their root systems. Grading, cutting, or trenching around oak trees or a change in water regime may be detrimental to oaks (Holland; http://www.slonet.org/vv/ipcoplng/oaks.html). 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 and would reduce impacts due to the loss of trees to less than significant.

C. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	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?	☒	☐
2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals?	☒	☐
3. Does the project have impacts, which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?	☐	☒

D. MITIGATION MEASURES

Recommended ☒ Required for Negative Declaration ☒

Oak Trees. The location of oak trees, including extent of canopies, should be illustrated on site plans along with development, utilities, trenching, septic fields and roadways. Any oak trees removed or impacted by project grading or development shall be mitigated for in compliance with the Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance. Addtionally, the following measures should be implemented, as previously suggested by McClelland (1990), and also specifically refers to septic fields:

- Existing grades should be maintained within tree canopies;
- Pervious or impervious surfaces, such as asphalt or gravel, should not be placed within the root zone;
- Water ponding should not occur within tree canopies, including septic fields; and
- Vehicles, machinery, or other equipment should not be parked within tree canopies during construction.

E. DETERMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FROM A BIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Negative Declaration ☐ Mitigated Negative Declaration ☒ EIR Required ☐

Reviewer: Kathy Frye Date: 1/6/03

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

January 6, 2003

F. REFERENCES

California Department of Fish and Game, California Natural Diversity Database. September 2002. RAREFIND2 software.

California Department of Fish and Game. October 2002. *Endangered, Threatened or Rare Plants List*. 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. October 2002. *Endangered and Threatened Animals List*. Natural Heritage Division, Natural Diversity Data Base.

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

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

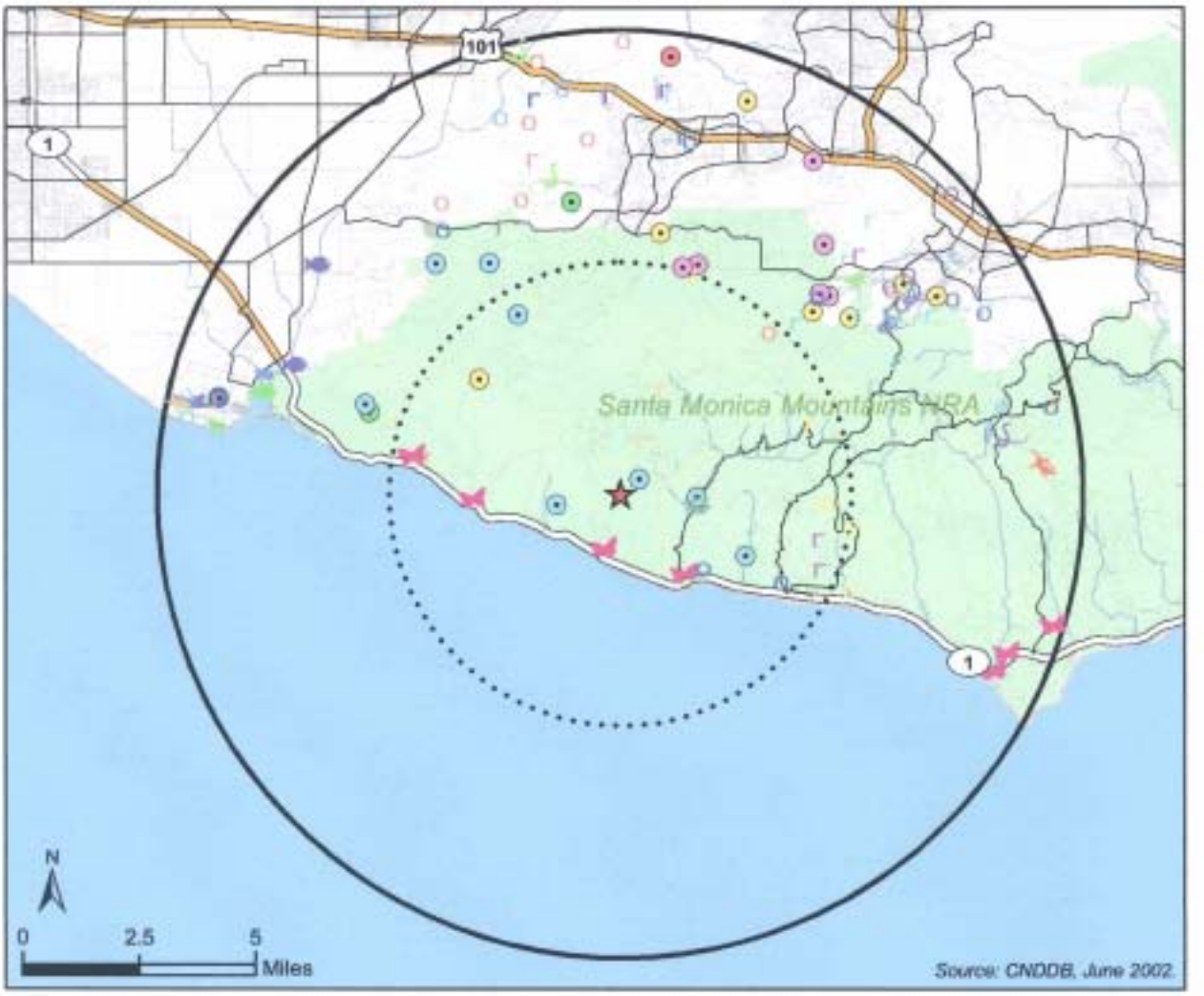
Holland, Robert F. October 1986. *Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California.* California Department of Fish and Game, Nongame Heritage Program. 156 pgs.

Holland, V.L. *Development Around Coast Live Oaks.* San Luis Obispo Department of Planning and Building website: http://www.slonet.org/vv/ipcoplng/oaks.html

Johnson, Sharon G. 1988. Living Among the Oaks: A Management Guide for Landowners. Univ. of Ca. Coop. Ext., Natural Resources Program, UC Berkeley. 8 p.

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 Co. PM 5393
ABNME05014, LIGHT-FOOTED CLAPPER RAIL
ABPAU08010, BANK SWALLOW
ABPBW01114, LEAST BELL'S VIREO
ABPSB00615, BELDING'S SAVANNAH SPARROW
AFCHA0209J, SOUTHERN STEELHEAD - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ESU
AFCJB13120, ARROYO CHUB
AFCQN04010, TIDEWATER GOBY
ARACF12021, SAN DIEGO HORNED LIZARD
ARACJ02140, COASTAL WESTERN WHIPTAIL
ARADB36150, TWO-STRIPED GARTER SNAKE
CTT42110CA, VALLEY NEEDLEGRASS GRASSLAND
CTTS21200CA, SOUTHERN COASTAL SALT MARSH
CTT61300CA, SOUTHERN RIPARIAN FOREST
CTT61310CA, SOUTHERN COAST LIVE OAK RIPARIAN FOREST
CTT62400CA, SOUTHERN SYCAMORE ALDER RIPARIAN WOODLAND
CTTF1130CA, VALLEY OAK WOODLAND
ICCOL02121, TIGER BEETLE
ICCOL4A010, GLOBOSE DUNE BEETLE
ILEP94030, WANDERING (=SALTMARSH) SKIPPER
ILEPP2010, MONARCH BUTTERFLY
IMGAS37040, MIMIC TRYONIA (=CALIFORNIA BROOKSNAIL)
PDAST20065, ORCUTT'S PINCUSHION
PDAST4R0U0, SANTA SUSANA TARPLANT
PDAST4R0P4, SOUTHERN TARPLANT
PDAST5L0A1, COULTER'S GOLDFIELDS
PDAST6X060, LYONS PENTACHAETA
PDAST8H060, RAYLESS RAGWORT
PDCRA04010, CONEJO DUDLEYA
PDCRA04091, BLOCHMAN'S DUDLEYA
PDCRA04063, MARCESCENT DUDLEYA
PDCRA04065, SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS DUDLEYA
PDCRA04067, SANTA MONICA MTNS. DUDLEYA
PDCRA04U0, VERITY'S DUDLEYA
PDPGN08103, CONEJO BUCKWHEAT
PDRAN03181, DUNE LARKSPUR
PDSCR0J0C2, SALT MARSH BIRD'S-BEAK
PMLIL0D150, PLUMMER'S MARIPOSA LILY
PMPOA4C010, CALIFORNIA ORCUTT GRASS
PPTHE05152, 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	

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
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

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
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		

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
VIREO BELLII PUSILLUS *LEAST BELL'S VIREO*	Endangered/ Endangered	G5T2/ S2		