

**Historic Biological Reports  
Scan Control Sheet**

**County Project Number(s):**

PD-1994

**Report Type (check one):**

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

**Report Date (Month/Day/Year):**

05/04/2003

**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

# COUNTY OF VENTURA BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES INITIAL STUDY

Date: August 4, 2003

Requestor: Kim Rodriguez

Project: PD 1994

Field Study: ☐ Yes ☒ No

Justification: Proposed project work within a lot containing no apparent biological resources.

## 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 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"/>
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 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"/>
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 proposed action involves the grading and development of a 1.3 acre parcel to build a 14 unit apartment complex. This will occur on the property located at 4079 East Center Street within the community of Piru. The property currently contains one residence. The applicant requests a Development Permit for the above action.

Resources that were reviewed include: USGS computer topographic maps (National Geographic, 2001), digital site photographs provided by County personnel, and available aerial photography (GlobeXplorer, 2003). The proposed work area lies within a property located within the developed area of Piru. The property is level with an elevation of approximately 690 feet above mean sea level. The property currently contains a residence with associated landscaping located on the southern portion adjacent to East Center Street and a disturbed ruderal area on the northern portion used for parking and storage. No native habitats appear to be present on the site. The landscaped portion of the site contains several trees including pepper and eucalyptus. No native trees were observed on the site photographs provided. These photographs indicate that the ruderal portion is dominated by non-native grasses, mustards, and Russian thistle.

Existing adjacent land uses include a park with ball fields to the north; commercial development and a vacant lot to the west; East Center Street, an orchard, vacant lots, and

residences to the south; and the Piru Creek riparian corridor to the west. Areas of grouted rip rap lie within a buffer zone between the property and Piru Creek. This buffer zone ranges in width from approximately 20 to 100 feet. The riparian area to the east of the property consists of willow scrub habitat dominated by willow species.

No blueline streams are shown on the USGS quadrangle within the property. Piru Creek is located approximately 200 feet to the east.

A search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) via the RAREFIND2 software (May 2003) listed two special-status species that are located within native habitats in the area. These include Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*) and the southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*). The Santa Ana sucker is a federally threatened species and the southwestern pond turtle is a California species of concern and both species may occur in Piru Creek. Other special-status species that may occur in the area, primarily associated with riparian habitats, include: the CDFG fully protected white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), the State endangered yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), the Federal and State endangered Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), the State species of concern western spadefoot (*Scaphiopus hammondi*), and the federally endangered arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*). These species have the potential to occur within the Piru Creek riparian area.

In addition, any oak or other native trees that may occur on the property are considered a locally important species by Ventura County.

Biological resources issues:

- a. **Endangered, threatened, or rare species.** The proposed grading and construction would have no direct impacts to endangered, threatened, or rare species because the site is an occupied residence with maintained landscaping and areas mowed for weed control. However, the federally endangered arroyo toad is known within the Piru Creek area and may occur adjacent to the project site. This species could potential move onto the construction site from the adjacent riparian area. Additionally, long term impacts to sensitive species within the riparian area could occur due to impacts from residents, including human disturbance, disturbance and take by pets, and impacts from trash. Mitigation would be required to reduce impacts for both short and long term impacts.
- b. **Wetland Habitat.** No wetland habitat occurs within the delineated work area for the project. Wetland areas may occur within the Piru Creek riparian area, but these areas will not be impacted by the proposed construction. Water from the site will be discharged in accordance with County SQIMP requirements and no impacts to sensitive resources in Piru Creek would be anticipated.
- c. **Coastal Habitat.** The site is not located within the coastal zone, and no impacts would occur to this habitat.
- d. **Migration Corridors.** The parcel is currently developed and disturbed with a chain link fence surrounding the property. As such, it does not serve as a migration



corridor. The Piru Creek riparian area functions as a riparian corridor for species movement, but the proposed construction will not impact this area.

- e. **Locally Important Species/Communities.** Native trees are protected by the Ventura County Zoning Ordinance and loss of these trees would result in a potentially significant impact. Upon review of site photographs, no native trees appear to be located within the project work area. However, if any oak trees were to be taken or impacted as a result of this project, compliance with the Ventura County Tree Protection Regulations (8107-25) would be 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 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 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

- a. **Sensitive Fauna.** The proposed project has the potential for short term construction impacts and longer term resident impacts to special-status species. A silt fence should be installed during construction along the eastern site boundary to reduce or eliminate the potential for impacts to special status species including southwestern pond turtle, arroyo toad, and spadefoot toad, which may move onto the construction work area. Additionally, a permanent fence or wall should be installed along the eastern property boundary (such as the existing chain link fence) to reduce the potential for long term impacts to listed species within the riparian corridor from human disturbance, trash impacts, and impacts from cats and dogs.

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

Negative Declaration ☐ Mitigated Negative Declaration ☒ EIR Required ☐

Reviewer: Ed Miller

Date: 8/4/03

Ed Miller  
Project Manager/Biologist for  
Rincon Consultants, Inc.  
Phone: 641-1000 Ext. 41

August 4, 2003

## F. REFERENCES AND BIBLIOGRAPHY

California Department of Fish and Game (May 2003). Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Plants of California. 14 pgs. Habitat Conservation Division, Wildlife and Habitat Data Analysis Branch.

California Department of Fish and Game (May 2003). Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Animals of California. 10 pgs. Habitat Conservation Division, Wildlife and Habitat Data Analysis Branch.

California Department of Fish and Game (May 2003). Special Animals. 45 pgs. Habitat Conservation Division, Wildlife and Habitat Data Analysis Branch.

California Department of Fish and Game, California Natural Diversity Database. May 2003. RAREFIND2 software.

GlobeXplorer (2003). Aerial photographs AirPhotoUSA.

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.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (December 1999). Endangered and Threatened Plants as published in *Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants 50 CFR 17.11 and 17.12*, December 1999.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (December 1999). Endangered and Threatened Wildlife as published in *Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants 50 CFR 17.11 and 17.12*, December 1999.