

TRANSMITTAL

July 7, 1999

Project No. 9706-1741

Ventura County Resource Management Agency

Planning Division

800 S. Victoria Avenue

Ventura, California 93009

Attention: Ms. Debbie Morrisset

Subject: John Devito (CCC-9907, PM-5183, PD-1783)
Biological Resources Initial Study

Dear Debbie:

Please find one (1) copy of the biological resources portion of the initial study for the subject project. Should you have any questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Padre Associates, Inc.



Matt Ingamells
Senior Biologist

SECTION B

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

Job: CCC-9907, PM-5183, PD-1783

Requester: Debbie Morrisset

Applicant: John Devito

Date: July 7, 1999

Survey Type: Field

Rationale: Oak Trees

Site Description: A field visit of the site (Parcel no. 700-0-130-260) was conducted on July 7, 1999. The parcel is located on the eastern slope of Little Sycamore Canyon, in the Santa Monica Mountains. The parcel supports mostly mixed chaparral, coast live oak woodland and southern coast live oak riparian forest. Two tributaries of Little Sycamore Creek occur on the parcel.

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

- *N No impact
 LS Less than significant impact
 S Significant impact
 U Impact unknown

*OK per note
 deed restriction*

SECTION C
DISCUSSION OF RESPONSES

- a. Plant or animal species listed under either the Federal or California Endangered Species Acts reported by the California Natural Diversity Data Base (RAREFIND 2 Output for the Triunfo Pass 7.5' Quadrangle maps) within 5 miles of the parcel include:

- Marcescent dudleya (*Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *marcescens*, Federal Threatened, State Rare) – reported from Little Sycamore Canyon, 0.5 miles to the southwest.
- Santa Monica Mountains dudleya (*Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *ovatifolia*, Federal Threatened) – reported from Arroyo Sequit, 1 mile to the east.

The parcel does not provide suitable habitat for these or other rare, threatened, or endangered species known from the region and the proposed development of the parcel would not adversely affect rare, threatened or endangered species.

- b. Two drainages occur on the parcel and join near the southwestern corner. Portions of these drainages support hydrophytic vegetation and would meet the County and State definition of wetlands. An informal debris basin near the confluence of the two drainages may support hydric soil and meet the Federal wetland definition. Although current development plans would not impact wetlands, ultimate development of the parcel may result in the loss of wetland vegetation and filling of wetlands. The magnitude of loss of wetlands is unknown, but is considered a potentially significant impact.
- c. Potential impacts to the coastal zone include degradation of nearshore habitat associated with sedimentation from grading. However, the parcel is sufficiently distant from the coast that impacts are expected to be less than significant.
- d. Little Sycamore Creek and major tributaries may be used as local wildlife movement corridors. Proposed development is sufficiently removed from the drainages, such that no impacts are expected. However, ultimate development may result in the loss of riparian vegetation and filling of the drainages, adversely affecting wildlife movement. Such impacts would be considered less than significant, given the small area of habitat served by the movement corridor.
- e. Special-status species reported from within 3 miles of the parcel include Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) and Plummer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus plummerae*). Development of the parcel would not result in any loss of habitat for these species or other indirect effects (noise, dust, lighting, pets, invasive landscaping). Therefore, no impacts are expected.

The parcel supports numerous coast live oak trees, considered protected under the Zoning Code. Proposed development would not result in the loss of oak trees; however, ultimate development may result in the loss of at least one oak tree. Provided the applicant complies with the Tree Protection Regulations (Section 8107-25 of the Zoning Code), loss of oak trees is considered a less than significant impact.

The parcel also supports two sensitive plant communities: southern coast live oak riparian forest (southern drainage) and southern arroyo willow riparian forest (northern drainage). Proposed development would not adversely affect these sensitive communities; however, ultimate development may result in the loss or degradation of these resources. The magnitude of loss of these communities is unknown, but is considered a potentially significant impact.

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?
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?

 X

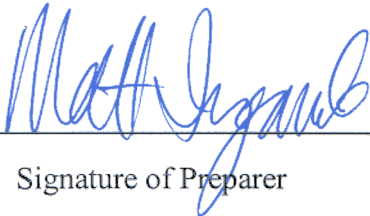
SECTION E
DETERMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

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

A deed restriction shall be recorded, limiting development of the parcel to that indicated on the attached Site Plan. This measure would prevent impacts to wetlands, oak trees and sensitive communities.



Signature of Preparer



Date