

## SECTION B

### INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

**Job:** SD04-0013(PMW-LLS)

**Requester:** Debbie Morrisset

**Applicant:** Mark Bautzer

**Date:** April 15, 2004

**Survey Type:** Field

**Rationale:** Large lot subdivision

**Site Description:** A field visit to the project site (SD04-0013) was made on April 15, 2004. The parcel (037-0-013-10 & 12) is located in the hills above Ojai, off East Sulphur Mountain Road. The parcel is wooded with numerous coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*) along with California black walnut (*Juglans californica*). The terrain is hilly with typical coastal sage scrub scattered between the trees and on the slopes. Dominant scrub species include purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*) and California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) with occasional blue elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), redberry (*Rhamnus ilicifolia*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*) and poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*).

6. <u>Biological Resources</u>		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	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  
 PS-M Potentially significant, unless mitigated to a level of insignificance  
 PS Potentially significant, even after mitigation

## **SECTION C**

### **DISCUSSION OF RESPONSES**

a. Several Federally listed threatened or endangered species have been reported within 5 miles of the project site. The southern steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*), the southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*), and the California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) all require flowing or standing waters, and no such habitat occurs on the project site.

Davidson's saltscale (*Atriplex serenana* var. *davidsonii*) would not be expected on the project site because it is generally found on coastal bluffs at lower elevations.

Mile's milk-vetch (*Astragalus didymocarpus* var. *milesianus*) is also found near the coast at less than 1800 feet elevation, well below the 2200-2500 foot elevations of the property.

Salt-spring checkerbloom (*Sidalcea neomexicana*) and Sanford arrowhead (*Sagittaria sanfordii*) would not be expected because they occur in a wetland or brackish marsh habitat, and no such habitat occurs on the property.

Ojai fritillaria (*Fritillaria ojaiensis*), a Federal species of concern, is generally found in a broad-leaved upland forest or on rocky slopes. Although it is unlikely that this species is present on the parcel, it is recommended that if any development should occur, the area be surveyed for the presence of this species at the appropriate blooming time.

Late-flowered mariposa lily (*Calochortus weedii* and *C. weedii* var. *vestus*) could be present on the property. The habitat for the lily is described as an open woodland, or chaparral, and the parcel does contain such a habitat. It is again recommended that if any development should occur, the area be surveyed for the presence of this species at the appropriate blooming time.

b. There is no wetland habitat on the project site, so there should be no disturbance of such a site.

c. The project site is not near the coast, so no impact on a coastal habitat should occur.

d. The project site is likely a migration corridor for many animals. However, the subdivision of the larger parcel should not affect the migration pattern. In addition, there is considerable open space both north and south of the site for animal migration.

e. Reported within 5 miles of the project site are several locally important plant communities, including a southern coast live oak riparian forest and a southern sycamore, alder riparian woodland. Although coast live oaks were abundant on the property, no riparian forest was present. At present, there are no plans to remove any trees. However, if development should occur, oaks are a protected resource in Ventura County, and any tree removal would have to be mitigated.

**SECTION D**  
**MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Based on the information contained within Sections B and C:

	<b>YES/ MAYBE</b>	<b>NO</b>
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?		<b>X</b>
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).		<b>X</b>
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).		<b>X</b>
4.Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		<b>X</b>

**SECTION E**  
**DETERMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT**

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☐ 1 I find the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION should be prepared.
- ☒ 2 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.
- ☐ 3 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**

Division of the 80 acre parcel into two 40 acre parcels should cause no impact on the environment. Although there are no plans to develop the parcels at this time, should development occur in the future, then an environmental study should be carried out at the appropriate blooming time to determine if *Fritillaria ojaiensis* or *Calochortus weedii* are present and would be impacted. If either of these two plants occur on site, they should be avoided to the maximum extent possible. If they are removed, the land owner should restore an equal number of plants in adjacent suitable habitat that would not be disturbed. In addition, should there be any removal of oak trees, the land owner should consult with the County and determine the appropriate mitigation measures that would need to be taken to preserve the trees.



for Dr. Barbara Collins

Signature of Preparer

4/21/04

Date