

SECTION B

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

Job: CUP-5020 **Requester:** Debbie Morrisset
Applicant: Keith International/Sprint **Date:** January 8, 1998
Survey Type: Field **Rationale:** Sensitive habitat

Site Description: A field visit of the site (portion of parcel no. 109-0-041-090) was conducted on December 31, 1997. The parcel is located east of Saticoy in the western end of Las Posas Valley. The site does not support vegetation and is surrounded by lemon orchards to the north and west. Southern arroyo willow riparian forest occurs in the expanded floodplain of the Santa Clara Drain (informal debris basin) south and east of the site. A grove of eucalyptus trees occur immediately south of the debris basin, adjacent to State Route 118.

	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

SECTION C
DISCUSSION OF RESPONSES

- a. Plant or animal species listed under either the Federal or California Endangered Species Acts reported in the vicinity of the parcel (Santa Paula 7.5' quadrangle map, California Natural Diversity Data Base, 1997) include:
- Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo belli pusillus*, Federal and State Endangered)-reported from near Saticoy, 2.4 miles to the north-northwest; and
 - Southern steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*, Federal Endangered)-reported from Santa Paula Creek, 6.8 miles to the northeast.

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

- b. The Santa Clara Drain debris basin likely supports wetlands. However, no project impacts to this area are expected.
- c. The parcel is located approximately 10 miles northeast of the coastal zone and coastal resources do not occur in the vicinity of the site. Coastal resources are not expected to be adversely affected by further development of the site.
- d. Although drainages are typically used as movement corridors, wildlife are unlikely to use the Santa Clara Drain due to its lack of cover and habitat (excluding the debris basin). In any case, the facilities would be removed from the Santa Clara Drain and unmanned, such that the project is not expected to reduce the value of this potential local wildlife movement corridor.
- e. Southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*), yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia brewsteri*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*), and Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*) have been reported from the Santa Clara River about 3 miles north of the project site. Cooper's hawk was observed at the debris basin and a monarch butterfly wintering site (*Danaus plexippus*) has been observed in the eucalyptus grove during surveys conducted for the SR 118 realignment project (Paul Caron, Caltrans, personal communication). The proposed antenna and associated facilities 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 project site is currently bare; therefore, no impacts to special-status plant species would occur.

Southern arroyo willow riparian forest occurs about 50 feet east of the project site and the California Department of Fish and Game considers this community as sensitive. However, the project would not result in any loss or indirect effects to this community.

References:

- California Natural Diversity Data Base. 1997. RAREFIND Output for the Santa Paula 7.5' Quadrangle map.
- Caron, Paul. 1998. Telephone conversation of January 5, 1998 with Caltrans District biologist concerning biological resources of concern identified during studies conducted for the SR 118 realignment project.
- Sweetwater Environmental Biologists, Inc. 1992. Report on the Least Bell's Vireo Monitoring and Cowbird Removal Program for 1991. Prepared for the California Department of Fish and Game.

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?	_____	<u> X </u>
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).	_____	<u> X </u>
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).	_____	<u> X </u>
4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	_____	<u> X </u>

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.

Signature of Preparer

Date