



# CONDOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SERVICES, INC.

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## **Findings of Biological Survey Summer 2006**

**Wimberly Parcel Map  
Simi Valley, California**

SD05-0017

APN 500-0-400-235



### **Prepared by:**

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### **Prepared for:**

**The County of Ventura  
Resource Management Agency  
Planning Division  
Dan Klemman, Planner**

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## **Introduction**

The County of Ventura Resource Management Agency Planning Division is processing an application (SD05-0017) by Doug Wimberly, owner, to divide an existing parcel approximately 21 acres in size into two parcels approximately 10 acres and 11 acres each. The project site is located in the Tierra Rejada Valley area of the Simi Valley next to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. It is situated at an approximate elevation of 1,100 feet, roughly at N34.261029, W-118.826106. The Case Planner is Dan Klemann (805) 654-3588.

Condor Environmental prepared a preliminary report on the biological resources of the property and the biological resources section of the CEQA Initial Study based upon a brief site visit on a single day in October, 2005 and submitted it to the County on November 14 (Gevirtz and Semonsen 2005). The second report entitled *Findings of Additional Biological Investigations Winter and Spring* (Gevirtz et al. 2006) presented the results of the investigations as well as two other visits to the property conducted in February and April. The most recent visit to the site occurred on July 17, 2006. The objective of this last visit was to check for any late flowering plants not previously observed, and to check for the presence of rufous crown sparrow. Presently, Rufous Crown Sparrow is a California Species of Special Concern, but is not expected to remain on the list (Lyann Comrack *pers. comm. in* Gevirtz et al 2005). This species is common throughout Simi Valley.

## **Methods**

Condor Biologists Jennifer Jackson and Vince Semonsen visited the site briefly, on July 17, 2006 from 7:00 to 8:15 a.m. under mostly cloudy skies and mild temperatures. Site conditions as well as plants and animals observed were noted. Ten power and eight power binoculars were used to observe and identify any animals in and around the property. Rufous Crown Sparrow is often spotted on the ground and is known to occupy more open areas near margins of disturbance. Therefore, some time was spent standing still near the access road and walking slowly through open pockets in the vegetation.

## **Results**

### **Plants**

- No additional sensitive plants were observed on site.

### **Animals**

- Rufous crown sparrow was not observed on the site.
- Two white-tailed kites (*Elanus leucurus*) were observed foraging over the property, and then landed southeast of the fenceline toward the Reagan Library. This species is considered a Fully Protected species by the State of California (California Fish and Game Code, Section 3511). White-tailed kites are found in open country, preferring grasslands and the upper sections of marshes for hunting. These areas may be maintained as year-



round territories or they may be unused for several years before being used again. Communal nocturnal roosts often occur in oak woodland on the edge of grassland, but communal roosts can also occur in willows, and orchards.

- Two loggerhead shrikes (*Lanius ludovicianus*) were observed flying over the property on July 17. Loggerhead shrike is considered a Species of Special Concern by the Department of Fish and Game. It is found in a variety of open habitats, including grassland, coastal scrub, and oak savanna, the edges of woodlands, cultivated fields, and non-native plantings. This species preys on insects and small vertebrates including reptiles and birds.

### **Discussion**

The property has now been surveyed four times: in fall, early spring, mid spring, and summer. Although each of the visits was brief, and there is a possibility that some species were missed, most species were probably captured in the inventory. In our opinion, adequate information has been gathered to conduct environmental review on the proposed project.

The presence of white-tailed kites and loggerhead shrikes should be considered in future analyses of cumulative impacts of conversion of grasslands and open shrub communities to urban and suburban development and other uses such as golf courses and row crop agriculture in the Tierra Rejada Valley / Simi Valley area.



**Table 1**  
**Plants Observed on the Property (Updated July 21, 2006)**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Family
<b>Allium haematochiton*</b>	<b>red-skinned onion</b>	Liliaceae
<i>Amsinckia menziesii</i>	common fiddleneck	Boraginaceae
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	California sage, coastal sage	Asteraceae
<i>Asclepias fascicularis?</i>	Narrow leaf milkweed	Asclepiadaceae
<i>Avena barbata</i>	slender wild oat	Poaceae
<i>Brassica nigra</i>	black mustard	Brassicaceae
<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	ripgut brome	Poaceae
<i>Bromus madritensis</i>	foxtail chess, red brome	Poaceae
<b>Calochortus catalinae**</b>	<b>Catalina mariposa lily</b>	Liliaceae
<i>Cirsium sp.(no flowers)?</i>	thistle	Asteraceae
<i>Dichelostemma capitatum</i>	wild hyacinth, blue dicks	Liliaceae
<i>Encelia californica</i>	California encelia	Asteraceae
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat	Polygonaceae
<i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i>	golden yarrow	Asteraceae
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California Poppy	Papaveraceae
<i>Gnaphalium californica</i>	California everlasting	Asteraceae
<i>Hazardia squarrosa</i>	sawtooth goldenbush	Asteraceae
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	shortpod mustard	Brassicaceae
<i>Lasthenia californica?</i>	common goldfields	Asteraceae
<i>Lotus scoparius</i>	California broom	Fabaceae
<i>Lupinus succulentus</i>	succulent lupine	Fabaceae
<i>Lupinus sparsiflorus?</i>	Coulter's lupine	Fabaceae
<i>Madia sp.?</i>	tarweed	Asteraceae
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	bush monkeyflower	Scrophulariaceae
<i>Malacothrix saxitalis</i>	cliff aster	Asteraceae
<i>Mirabilis californica</i>	wishbone bush	Nyctaginaceae
<i>Nassella pulchra</i>	purple needlegrass	Poaceae
<i>Phacelia cicutaria</i>	caterpillar phacelia	Hydrophyllaceae
<i>Rhus ovata</i>	sugar bush	Anacardiaceae
<i>Salvia leucophylla</i>	purple sage	Lamiaceae
<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	California blue eyed grass	Iridaceae
<i>Solanum xanti</i>	purple nightshade	Solanaceae
<i>Trifolium sp.</i>	clover	Fabaceae
<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	poison-oak	Anacardiaceae

\* locally rare in Ventura County, **Source:** 2004. Magney, D. *Checklist of Ventura County Rare Plants*

\*\*California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List 4-Watch List and locally rare in Ventura County

California Invasive Plant Council- Moderate Status



**Table 2**  
**Wildlife Observed on the Property (Updated July 21, 2006)**

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Invertebrates</i>	
<i>Helminthoglypta willetti</i> *	Matilija shoulderband snail
<i>Reptiles</i>	
<i>Crotalus viridis</i>	Western rattlesnake
<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	Western fence lizard
<i>Birds</i>	
<i>Baeolophus sp.</i>	Titmouse
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed hawk
<i>Callipepla californica</i>	California quail
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's hummingbird
<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	Lesser goldfinch
<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	House finch
<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>	Wrentit
<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Red-shafted flicker
<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	American crow
<i>Elanus leucurus</i> **	White-tailed kite
<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i> ***	Loggerhead Shrike
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song sparrow
<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	Savannah sparrow
<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	Cliff Swallow
<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>	California towhee
<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	Spotted towhee
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Mourning dove
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	White-crowned sparrow
<i>Mammals</i>	
<i>Canis latrans</i>	Coyote(scot)
<i>Sylvilagus audubonii</i>	Audubon or desert cottontail
<i>Thomomys bottae</i>	Botta's pocket gopher (burrows)

\*Locally important species Source: Ventura County 2006

\*\* Fully Protected species

\*\*\*California Species of Special Concern



## **References**

California Native Plant Society 2001. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California. David Tibor, Editor. Sixth Edition.

Gevirtz, Elihu, M. Carroll, K. Burton, P. Collins, M. Holmgren, L. Spanne, and A. Nelson. 2005. Land Management Plan for the Burton Mesa Ecological Reserve. Prepared for State of California, The Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game.

Magney, David 2004. Locally Rare and Uncommon Plants of Ventura County.

