



Letter of Transmittal


ATTENTION:	DATE:
Ventura County Planning Division Attn: Debbie Morrisset 800 South Victoria Avenue, L# 1740 Ventura, CA 93009	3/1/00

PROJECT REFERENCE:	PROJECT NUMBER: 7020-014
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WE ARE SENDING YOU THE FOLLOWING:

Number of Originals	Number of Copies	Description
1		Biological review for CCC-0001

REMARKS:
If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (805) 388-3775.

SIGNATURE:

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SECTION B
INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

Job: CCC-0001

Requester: Debbie Morrisset

Applicant: Rhonda Short-Moore

Date: February 26, 2000

Survey Type: Field

Rationale: Legalize 3 - 40 acre parcels

Site Description: A field visit of the project site (A.P.#: 015-0-010-090, 120 and 130) was conducted on February 26, 2000. The parcel is located in Rose Valley, off Highway 33, 15 miles north of Meiners Oaks. Two small streams traverse the property in a valley running from southeast to northwest, with willows (*Salix sp.*) extending for about 75 feet on either side of the streams. Vegetation on the valley floor between the streams is dominated by sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), and some yerba santa (*Eriodictyon crassifolium*). Hills on either side of the valley (northeastern and southwestern part of the parcels) are vegetated with chaparral species, including mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus betuloides*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*), scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*), chaparral whitethorn (*Ceanothus leucodermis*), and buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*).

	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	___	<u>X</u>	___	___	___	<u>X</u>	___	___
b. wetland habitat	___	<u>X</u>	___	___	___	<u>X</u>	___	___
c. coastal habitat	<u>X</u>	___	___	___	<u>X</u>	___	___	___
d. migration corridors	<u>X</u>	___	___	___	<u>X</u>	___	___	___
e. Locally important species/communities	<u>X</u>	___	___	___	<u>X</u>	___	___	___

*N No impact

LS Less than significant

S Significant

U Unknown

SECTION C
DISCUSSION OF RESPONSES

- a. If the parcel under study is only to be separated into 3 parcels, no environmental impact will occur. However, if development of the property is to occur, there is possibility of impact to rare and endangered species. The arroyo toad, *Bufo microscaphus californicus*, has been reported in the vicinity of the project site, in pools along Sespe Creek. Because there is considerable wetland habitat on the project site, it is very possible that the arroyo toad could be found there.

Also reported from within 5 miles of the parcel is the southwestern pond turtle, *Clemmys marmorata pallida*, a federal species of concern. The turtle would require permanent or nearly permanent bodies of water and also submerged logs or vegetation mats for basking sites. Because of the large amount of wetland area present and the possibility of nearly permanent bodies of water being present, it is possible that the southwestern pond turtle could inhabit areas within the parcel.

The two-striped garter snake, *Thamnophis hammondi*, a federal species of concern, has been reported from Lion Canyon, within 5 miles of the project site. The snake requires a source of water and is usually found along streams with rocky beds and a riparian growth. Such a habitat does occur on the project site. Therefore, it is possible that the two-striped garter snake could be found within the parcel.

- b. The parcel does contain a wetland habitat, so development of the parcel could result in an impact upon the wetland. Willows were the dominant species present in the wetland area.
- c. The project site is not located in the vicinity of the coast, so no adverse impact would be expected.
- d. It is likely that wildlife movement does occur on the property. But since the area is large and assuming that any development is not extensive, it should not interfere with wildlife movement through the property.
- e. No locally important species or communities are present on the parcel that would be impacted. The vegetation in the valley is largely sagebrush and rabbitbrush. On the slopes, chamise, mount mahogany, and Ceanothus are dominant. There were a few interior live oaks present, but these were minimal and widely spaced. No oak woodland was present.

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?

 X

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).

 X

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).

 X

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:

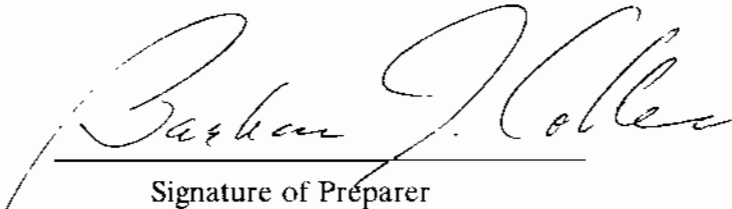
- ☐ I find the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION should be prepared.
- ☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation 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

If the parcel is merely being divided into three parcels, no biological impact upon rare or endangered species will occur. If, on the other hand, development of the property is being considered, then a survey by a zoologist should be carried out to be sure that the arroyo toad, the two-striped garter snake, or the southwestern pond turtle will not be adversely affected.

Proj. description

DEED RESTRICT - prior to "development"/construction
on AG ranches - surveys shall be performed to assure
NO adverse affects on arroyo toad, two stripe garter snake &
southwest pond turtle.


Signature of Preparer


Date