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Project No. 0402-0041

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Planning Division
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Botanical Survey of the Holly Property (SD05-0043) Sulphur Mountain

Introduction

The project consists of a parcel map waiver and large lot subdivision for four parcels on Sulphur Mountain. A biological resources assessment and initial study checklist was completed for the project by David Magney Environmental Consulting (DMEC) on December 8, 2005. As part of the biological resources assessment, DMEC recommended a spring botanical survey be conducted within areas proposed for development. The purpose of this letter report is to provide the results of the spring botanical survey conducted in response to DMEC's recommendation.

Methodology

The property owner (Richard Holly) and County biologist Liz Chattin identified potential development areas on the property including home sites and access roads. Padre Associates conducted a botanical survey of the potential development areas on April 21, 2006, including six home sites (4 primary and 2 alternate) with access roads from Sulphur Mountain Road. All access roads would follow the alignment of existing unpaved roads. The survey included a 10 to 20 foot wide buffer area surrounding potential development areas to ensure all potentially affected plant species were identified.

Mr. Holly stated that all oak trees within the potential development areas would be preserved. Therefore, a tree survey was not conducted. All potential development areas were surveyed and all vascular plant species observed were recorded. Samples were taken as needed and plant identity was verified using a dissecting microscope and the *Jepson Manual, Higher Plants of California* (Hickman [ed.], 1993). Most species were in flower or otherwise exhibited diagnostic features. Therefore, the majority of plants encountered could be positively identified.

Results

Padre Associates identified 111 plant species within the potential development areas, including 85 native species. The percentage of non-native species was relatively low (23 percent), given that most of the potential development areas consist of existing unpaved roads or historically cleared areas. In contrast, DMEC found 103 plant species within the entire property during a less intensive fall survey.

The Ventura County Locally Important Plant Species list (February 2006 version) and California Native Plant Society Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California were used to determine the conservation status of plant species found. Four (or five) species on these lists were found during the botanical survey (see Table below).

Special-Status Species within/adjacent to Development Areas

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Impacts
Catalina mariposa lily Club-haired mariposa lily	*Calochortus catalinae* *Calochortus clavatus*	CNPS List 4	Adjacent to access road to home site 3
Mesa horkelia	*Horkelia cuneata* ssp. *puberula*	CNPS List 1B	Adjacent to access road to home sites 3 and 4, adjacent to home site 1A
Southern California black walnut	*Juglans californica* var. *californica*	CNPS List 4	Adjacent and within access road to home site 4
Plectritis	*Plectritis ciliosa* ssp. *insignis*	Locally important species	Adjacent to access road to home sites 3 and 4

Mariposa Lilies. These species are bulb-forming perennial herbs in the lily family. Both Catalina and club-haired mariposa lily have been placed on List 4 by the California Native Plant Society, noting it is a plant of limited distribution, but not rare or endangered. Based on Padre Associates experience, Catalina mariposa lily is the most common mariposa lily in Ventura County. The mariposa lilies had not begun to flower at the time of the April 21, 2006 field survey and could not be positively identified. Due to the lack of flowers, Padre Associates could not determine if mariposa lilies found were Catalina or club-haired. However, GPS coordinates provided in the DMEC report and field observations by Padre Associates indicate both species occur along the access road to home site 3.

The access road to home site 3 would follow the existing alignment with only minor widening and paving. No loss of Catalina mariposa lily or club-haired mariposa lily would occur based on the development plans provided to Padre Associates. However, we recommend the area supporting these species be flagged or monitored during construction to prevent inadvertent impacts.

Mesa Horkelia. This species is a low-growing perennial herb in the rose family, and vegetatively resembles strawberry. Mesa horkelia has been placed on List 1B by the California Native Plant Society, noting it is rare, threatened or endangered in California and elsewhere. This species had not begun to flower at the time of the April 21, 2006 field survey and could not be positively identified. Therefore, we are not certain of the species identification. Mesa horkelia is located about 10 feet from home site 3 and 4 access roads and home site 1A. No loss of mesa horkelia would occur based on the development plans provided to Padre Associates. However, we recommend areas supporting this species be flagged or monitored during construction to prevent inadvertent impacts.

Southern California Black Walnut. This species is a tree with long, pinnate leaves and hard, round fruits. Southern California black walnut has been placed on List 4 by the California Native Plant Society, noting it is a plant of limited distribution, but not rare or endangered. Based on Padre Associates experience, this species is very common on Sulphur Mountain, mostly on north-facing slopes. A seedling (3 feet tall) is located within the access road to home site 4 and would be removed. This impact is considered less than significant due to the abundance of this species in the project area and immature status of the plant to be removed.

Plectritis. This species is a tiny spring-flowering annual herb in the valerian family. Plectritis is considered a locally important plant species based on a consensus of opinion by local botanists. This species is not recognized as needing conservation by the California Native Plant Society. Plectritis was found along the access roads to home sites 3 and 4, but is unlikely to be removed by planned minor widening and paving. However, we recommend areas supporting this species be flagged or monitored during construction to prevent inadvertent impacts.

Conclusion

No significant impacts to special-status species would occur based on development plans provided to Padre Associates. However, special-status plant species are located in close proximity to proposed access road improvements and/or home sites and may be inadvertently affected. Therefore, we recommend these areas be flagged or monitored during construction.

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Should you have any questions, please contact me at extension 13 at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Padre Associates, Inc.

Matt Ingamells
Senior Biologist

Attachment: Plant species list

Vascular Plants Observed within/adjacent to Proposed Improvements at the Holly Property (SD05-0043), Sulphur Mountain, California

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habit	Wetland Indicator Status	Family
Achillea millefolium	Yarrow	PH	FACU	Asteraceae
Adenostoma fasciculatum	Chamise	S	.	Rosaceae
Amsinckia menziesii	Fiddleneck	AH	.	Boraginaceae
*Anagallis arvensis**	Scarlet pimpernel	AH	FAC	Primulaceae
Artemisia californica	California sagebrush	S	.	Asteraceae
Astragalus gambelianus	Small milk-vetch	AH	.	Fabaceae
Astragalus trichopodus var. phoxus	Milk-vetch	PH	.	Fabaceae
*Avena barbata **	Slender wild oat	AG	.	Poaceae
Baccharis pilularis [B.p. var. consanguinea]	Coyote brush	S	.	Asteraceae
Baccharis salicifolia [B. viminea; B. glutinosa]	Mule fat, seep-willow	S	FACW	Asteraceae
Bromus carinatus var. carinatus	California brome	AG	.	Poaceae
*Bromus diandrus **	Ripgut grass	AG	.	Poaceae
*Bromus hordeaceus **	Soft chess	AG	FACU-	Poaceae
*Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens **	Red brome	AG	NI	Poaceae
Calandrinia ciliata	Red maids	AH	FACU	Portulacaceae
Calochortus sp.	Mariposa lily	PH	.	Liliaceae
Calystegia macrostegia ssp. cyclostegia	Morning-glory	PV	.	Convolvulaceae
Camissonia confusa	Evening primrose	AH	.	Onagraceae
Cardamine californica	Milk maids	AH	.	Brassicaceae
*Carduus pycnocephalus**	Italian thistle	AH	.	Asteraceae
Castilleja affinis ssp. affinis	Indian paintbrush	PH	.	Scrophulariaceae
Castilleja exerta ssp. exerta	Purple owl's clover	PH	.	Scrophulariaceae
Cercocarpus betuloides var. betuloides	Birchleaf mountain mahogany	S	.	Rosaceae
Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. pomeridianum	Soap lily	PH	.	Liliaceae
Clarkia sp.	Clarkia	AH	.	Onagraceae
Claytonia perfoliata	Miner's lettuce	AH	FACU	Potulacaceae
Cordylanthus rigidus ssp. rigidus	Birds beak	AH	.	Scrophulariaceae
Crassula connata	Pygmy weed	AH	FAC	Crassulaceae
Cryptantha muricata	Cryptantha	AH	.	Boraginaceae
Daucus pusillus	Daucus	AH	.	Apiaceae
Dichelostemma capitatum ssp. capitatum	Blue dicks	PH	.	Liliaceae
Dryopteris arguta	Wood fern	PF	.	Dryopteridaceae
Emmenanthe peduliflora	Whispering bells	AH	.	Hydrophyllaceae
Epilobium canum ssp. canum	Californian fuschia	S	.	Onagraceae
Eremocarpus setigerus	Dove weed	AH	.	Euphorbiaceae
Eriophyllum confertiflorum var. confertiflorum	Golden yarrow	PH	.	Asteraceae
*Erodium cicutarium **	Redstem filaree	AH	.	Geraniaceae
Filago californica	California filago	AH	.	Asteraceae
Gilia angelensis	Gilia	AH	.	Polemoniaceae
*Galium aparine**	Goose grass	AH	.	Rubiaceae
Galium angustifolium ssp. angustifolium	Chaparral bedstraw	S	.	Rubiaceae
Galium porrigens var. porrigens	Climbing bedstraw	PH	.	Rubiaceae
*Geranium molle**	Geranium	AH	.	Geraniaceae
Gnaphalium californicum	Green everlasting	A/BH	.	Asteraceae
Heteromeles arbutifolia [var. macrocarpa]	Toyon	S	.	Rosaceae
*Hirschfeldia incana**	Summer mustard	BH	.	Brassicaceae
*Hordeum murinum ssp. leporinum**	Wild barley	AG	.	Poaceae
Horkelia cuneata	Horkelia	PH	.	Rosaceae
Juglans californica var. californica	Southern California black walnut	T	FAC	Juglandaceae
Keckiella cordifolia [Penstemon cordifolius]	Heart-leaved bush penstemon	S	.	Scrophulariaceae
*Lactuca serriola**	Prickly lettuce	AH	.	Asteraceae
Lasthenia californica	California goldfields	AH	.	Asteraceae
Lathyrus vestitus	Chaparral pea	PV	.	Fabaceae
Lessingia filaginifolia var. filaginifolia	Cudweed-aster	PH	.	Asteraceae
*Lolium multiflorum**	Italian rye-grass	AG	FAC*	Poaceae
Lomatium dasycarpum	Lomatium	PH	.	Apiaceae
Lomatium lucidum	Lomatium	PH	.	Apiaceae
Lotus scoparius var. [ssp.] scoparius	Deerweed, California broom	PH	.	Fabaceae
Lotus wrangelianus	Annual lotus	AH	.	Fabaceae
Lupinus bicolor	Minature lupine	AH	.	Fabaceae
Lupinus longifolius	Bush lupine	S	.	Fabaceae
Lupinus succulentus	Succulent lupine	AH	.	Fabaceae
Madia gracilis	Slender tarplant	AH	.	Asteraceae
Malacothamnus fasciculatus	Chaparral mallow	S	.	Malvaceae
Malacothrix clevelandii	Annual malacothrix	AH	.	Asteraceae
Malacothrix saxatilis ssp. tenuifolia	Malacothrix	AH	.	Asteraceae
Malosma laurina	Laurel sumac	S	.	Anacardiaceae
*Malva parviflora**	Cheese weed	AH	.	Malvaceae
*Marrubium vulgare**	Horehound	PH	.	Lamiaceae

Vascular Plants Observed within/adjacent to Proposed Improvements at the Holly Property (SD05-0043), Sulphur Mountain, California

Scientific Name	Common Name	Habit	Wetland Indicator Status	Family
*Medicago polymorpha**	Bur clover	AH	.	Fabaceae
Melica imperfecta	Melic grass	PG	.	Poaceae
*Melilotus indica**	Yellow sweet-clover	AH	FAC	Fabaceae
Nassella lepida	Foothill needlegrass	PG	.	Poaceae
Navarretia atractyloides	Navarretia	AH	.	Polemoniaceae
Paeonia californica	California peony	PH	.	Paeoniaceae
Penstemon heterophyllus	Penstemon	PH	.	Scrophulariaceae
Phacelia imbricata	Imbricate phacelia	PH	.	Hydrophyllaceae
Phacelia ramossisima	Branching phacelia	PH	.	Hydrophyllaceae
Phacelia viscida	Sticky phacelia	AH	.	Hydrophyllaceae
Pholistoma auritum var. auritum	Fiesta flower	PH	.	Hydrophyllaceae
*Picris echioides**	Prockly ox tongue	AH	.	Asteraceae
Platystemon californicus	Cream cups	AH	.	Papaveraceae
Plectritis ciliosa ssp. insignis	Plectritis	AH	.	Valerianaceae
Poa secunda ssp. secunda	One-sided bluegrass	PG	.	Poaceae
Quercus agrifolia var. agrifolia	Coast live oak	T	.	Fagaceae
Ranunculus californicus	California buttercup	PH	.	Ranunculaceae
Rhamnus ilicifolia	Holly-leaf redberry	S	.	Rhamnaceae
Ribes malvaceum	Chaparral currant	S	.	Grossulariaceae
Ribes californica	California gooseberry	S	.	Grossulariaceae
Salvia leucophylla	Purple sage	S	.	Lamiaceae
Sambucus mexicana	Mexican elderberry	T	FAC	Caprifoliaceae
Sanicula bipinnata	Sanicle	PH	.	Apiaceae
Sanicula crassicaulis	Pacific sanicle	PH	.	Apiaceae
*Silene gallica **	Windmill pink	AH	.	Caryophyllaceae
*Silybum marianum**	Milk thistle	AH	.	Asteraceae
Sisyrinchium bellum	Blue-eyed grass	PH	.	Iridaceae
*Sisymbrium orientale**	Sisymbrium	AH	.	Brassicaceae
Solanum xantii	Purple nightshade	PH	.	Solanaceae
*Sonchus asper**	Prickly sow thistle	AH	.	Asteraceae
*Sonchus oleraceus**	Sow thistle	AH	.	Asteraceae
Stachys bullata	Hedge nettle	AH	.	Scrophulariaceae
*Stellaria media**	Chickweed	AH	.	Caryophyllaceae
Thysanocarpus laciniatus	Lace pod	AH	.	Brassicaceae
Toxicodendron diversilobum [Rhus diversiloba]	Poison oak	S/V	.	Anacardiaceae
Trifolium gracilentum	Clover	AH	.	Fabaceae
Trifolium wildenovii	Tomcat clover	AH	.	Fabaceae
Verbena lasiostachys var. scabrida	Verbena	PH	.	Verbenaceae
*Vicia benghalensis**	Purple vetch	AV	.	Fabaceae
*Vicia sativa ssp. nigra**	Narrow-leaf vetch	AV	FACU	Fabaceae
Viola pedunculata	Johnny jump-up	PH	.	Violaceae
Vulpia microstachys var. pauciflora	Annual fescue	AG	.	Poaceae

Notes: Scientific nomenclature follows Hickman (1993) and California Native Plant Society (2001)
(1): eastern portion of Oilfield not as intensively surveyed, some species found in western portion may occur in eastern portio
An "*" indicates non-native species which have become naturalized or persist without cultivatior

Habit definitions:
AF = annual fern or fern ally.
AG = annual grass.
AH = annual herb.
BH = biennial herb.
PF = perennial fern or fern ally.
PG = perennial grass.
PH = perennial herb.
PV = perennial vine.
S = shrub.
T = tree.

Wetland indicator status (Reed 1988): OBL = obligate wetland species, occurs almost always in wetlands (>99% probabilit
FACW = facultative wetland species, usually found in wetlands (67-99% probability)
FAC = facultative species, equally likely to occur in wetlands or nonwetlands (34-67% probability
FACU = facultative upland species, usually occur in nonwetlands (67-99% probability)
+ or - symbols are modifiers that indicate greater or lesser affinity for wetland habitats
NI = no indicator has been assigned due to a lack of information to determine indicator status
* = a tentative assignment to that indicator status by Reed (1988)
A period "." indicates that no wetland indicator status has been given in Reed (1988)