SECTION B
INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

Job: PM-5233 **Requester:** Ron Allen

Applicant: Tony/Romona Moloski **Date:** August 21, 2000

Survey Type: Field **Rationale:** Subdivision

Site Description: A field visit of the project site (Parcel nos. 003-0-250-37 & 38) was conducted on August 18, 2000. The parcels are located north and south of Curtis Trail, approximately 1-mile northwest of the intersection of Adams Trail and Lockwood Valley Road, in the Los Padres National Forest, Lockwood Valley. The property gently slopes toward the south and runoff from the hills to the north passes through the area. The soil consists of sandy alluvial deposits. Vegetation is dominated by sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), rabbit brush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), along with four-wing saltbush (*Atriplex canescens*) and ephedra (*Ephedra nevadensis*). Also present were *Eriastrum densifolium*, *Eriogonum deflexum*, and *Stephanomeria exigua*. Along the northern and western borders of the property are pinyon pine (*Pinus monophylla*) and Tucker's oak (*Quercus john-tuckeri*) along with some sulfur buckwheat (*Eriogonum umbellatum*) and prickly poppy (*Argemone corymbosa*).

	Project Impact Degree of Effect*				**Cumulative Impact Degree of Effect***			
	N	**LS**	**PS-M**	**PS**	**N**	**LS**	**PS-M**	**PS**
6. Biological Resources								
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. *Gymnogypus californianus*, the California condor, is listed as endangered by both federal and state agencies. The condor has been observed in Lockwood Valley and is known to require vast expanses of open Savannah, grasslands, and foothill chaparral in mountain ranges of moderate altitude. The condor roosts in deep canyons containing clefts in the rocky walls to provide nesting sites and forages up to 100 miles from roosting areas. The site does not include deep, rocky canyons where the condor could roost. The site is, however, within the 100 mile radius of the nearest condor sighting and could be used as foraging grounds.

Branchinecta lynchi, the pool fairy shrimp, is listed as federally threatened. The shrimp is endemic to the grasslands of the Central Valley, central coast mountains, south coast mountains, and in astatic rain-filled pools. The shrimp inhabits small, clear-water sandstone-depression pools and grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt-flow depression pools. Due to the gentle grade over the entire site, there was an absence of marshland or potential water pools anywhere on the site and, therefore, no habitat for the shrimp.

Layia heterotricha, pale-yellow layia, is listed as a federal species of concern. Pale-yellow layia is characteristically found in pinyon-juniper woodland or valley and foothill grassland on alkaline or clay soils. No evidence of the Pale-yellow layia was observed on the site and its presence is considered unlikely due to the loose, sandy nature of the soil.

Sidalcea neomexicana, salt spring checkerbloom, is listed as rare by the CNPS. The checkerbloom is usually found in alkali playas, brackish marshes, in chaparral, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, or Mojavean desert scrub. Evidence of the checkerbloom was not found, and its presence is considered unlikely as marshland or alkali springs were not located on the site.

Oxytheca parishii var., abramsii, Abram's oxytheca, is listed as rare by the CNPS. In general, the oxytheca can be found in chaparral and is known only from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. The nearest siting of the plant occurred at the historic site of Stauffer in the Lockwood Valley, approximately 1 mile from the site. The plant typically occurs on sandy soil on a sedimentary shale substrate. Evidence of the oxytheca was not found on the site, and its presence is considered unlikely due to the loose soil and the density of vegetation found on the site.

b. The parcel does not contain a wetland habitat, so there should be no destruction of a wetland habitat.

c. The project site is not located in the vicinity of the coast, so no adverse impact would be expected.

d. Wildlife movement is likely to occur on the site because the parcel is within a relatively undisturbed section of the Los Padres National Forest. The cover provided by the trees along the northern and western site boundaries are likely to be used as a migration route for deer and other mammals. Subdividing the site in itself is not a significant impact, but if extensive development were to occur, transecting the site could possibly alter wildlife migration patterns.

- Listed special status communities were not observed on the site. It is noted, however, that the presence of pinyon pines and Tucker's oaks along the northern and western site boundaries could be used as wildlife migration corridors. If construction on each of the proposed parcels were to occur, disruption of these areas could upset the existing migration patterns. However, considering the large amount of undeveloped land within the project site and to the north, any alteration of migration patterns would not be a significant impact.

SECTION E
DETERMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

[X] 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.

Barbara Keller — Signature of Preparer

Aug. 22, 2000 — Date