

**SECTION B**  
**INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST**

**Job:** CCC-9904/PM5203

**Requestor:** Debbie Morrisset

**Applicant:** Verne W. Bauman

**Date:** August 12, 1999

**Survey Type:** Field

**Rationale:** Legalize a 10-acre parcel

**Site Description:** A field visit of the project site (Parcel no. 5293) was conducted on August 12, 1999. The parcel is located in the Santa Monica Mountains on Pacific View Road, southwest of the Deer Creek Road intersection. The 10-acre parcel is located between 1,200 and 1,500 feet above sea level, and the hilly topography supports chaparral-type vegetation. Site markers were difficult to locate, and therefore, the exact boundaries of the property were not determined during the survey. Vegetation in the area is uniform and continuous and therefore a survey of the general area is sufficient to describe the biological resources of the parcel. Dominant species in the area include, laurel sumac (*Rhus laurina*), bush mallow (*Malcothamnus fasciculatus*), california sage (*Artemisia californica*), coast and wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum sp.*), deerweed (*Lotus scoparius*), Toyon (*Heterometes arbutifolia*), and purple sage (*Salvia leucophylla*).

	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  
S Significant  
U Unknown

## **SECTION C**

### **DISCUSSION OF RESPONSES**

- a. Two species of concern and one sensitive habitat were listed in the California Department of Fish and Game Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) as having been found near the project site. One of the species identified by the CNDDB is the monarch butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*. The monarch butterfly roosts in various sites along the California coast from northern Mendocino to Baja, California during its winter migration. The butterfly usually roosts in wind-protected tree groves of *Eucalyptus*, Monterey pine, Cypress, coast live oak, etc., located nearby nectar and water sources. No trees are located on the subject parcel, therefore, the site would not be used by migrating monarchs and onsite activities would not impact the species.

Another species of concern that has been found within 3 miles of the project site is the marcescent dudleya, *Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *marcescens*. This plant is federally threatened and listed by the State as rare; it is known only from a few occurrences in Los Angeles and Ventura counties. It is generally found growing on sheer rock surfaces and cliffs associated with chaparral and has been observed in Little Sycamore Canyon, located a few miles east of the subject parcel. Another species of the genus *Dudleya*, *Dudleya lanceolata*, was observed during the survey, however the rare species was not observed. As the specific boundaries of the parcel were not marked, it was difficult to determine what was included in the parcel area during the survey. A steep rocky slope was observed along the south side of Pacific View Road, that could potentially support the rare *Dudleya*. However, it was difficult to determine whether this area was included within the 10-acre parcel. In addition, the plant flowers from May to June, and then proceeds to shrivel up in the drier summer months, and becomes difficult to locate and identify. For these reasons, the species could potentially occur onsite and could be affected by onsite activities. If construction or other activities affect areas containing sheer rock surfaces, rocky slopes or cliffs, additional surveys should be conducted during the flowering period to determine the presence of the marcescent dudleya.

The southern coast live oak riparian forest is listed as a sensitive habitat in Deer Canyon. This habitat is associated with nearby wet areas and is characterized by *Quercus agrifolia* and *Platanus racemosa*. This habitat was not observed on or near the subject parcel.

- b. No wetlands are located on or near the parcel, and therefore, no adverse impacts are expected.
- c. The project site is located within the coastal zone as designated by the California Coastal Commission. As the parcel is located within the coastal zone, onsite activities could potentially affect the coastal resources. To ensure the effects to these resources are minimal, the Coastal Commission should be consulted through the County of Ventura. Appropriate permits should be acquired prior to commencing any onsite activities.
- d. Animals would be expected to migrate through the area. However, activities affecting the parcel should not appreciably affect any migration corridors because there is ample space surrounding the property for animals to migrate.
- e. No locally important species or communities are present on the property. The entire property consists of chaparral habitat.

**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 occur 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).		<u>X</u>
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 Measure**

The project site is located within the coastal zone as designated by the California Coastal Commission. To ensure the effects to coastal resources are minimal, the Coastal Commission should be consulted through the County of Ventura. Appropriate permits should be acquired prior to commencing any onsite activities.

**Recommended Permit Condition**

A portion of the area surveyed contains habitat potentially suitable for the marcescent dudleya. If this area is located within the parcel and construction or other activities affect areas containing sheer rock surfaces, rocky slopes or cliffs, additional surveys should be conducted to determine the presence of the marcescent dudleya. The surveys will need to be conducted during the plants flowering period, between May and June.

  
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Rosanna Marshall

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date