Historic Biological Reports
Scan Control Sheet

County Project Number(s): PM-5286

Report Type (check one):
- ☒ Initial Study
- ☐ Species Inventory/Survey
- ☐ Focused Study
- ☐ EIR
- ☐ Draft EIR
- ☐ EIS
- ☐ ND
- ☐ MND
- ☐ Other

Report Date (Month/Day/Year): 11/19/2020

Check if the following apply to the report:

- ☐ Wetland and/or aquatic habitat
- ☐ Within designated Coastal Zone
- ☐ Potential movement corridor for fish and/or wildlife

California Environmental Quality Act Environmental Checklist Form
Biological Resources
County of Ventura, Planning Division

PROJECT REFERENCE NO.: ~~CCC-0006/PM-5270~~ PM-5210, 5286	**PROJECT PLANNER:** Kim Rodriguez
DATE: Initial checklist: 26 July 1999 Revised: 19 October, 2000	**PROJECT BIOLOGIST:** Carl G. Thelander, BioResource Consultants, P.O. Box 1539, Ojai, 93024 Ph. 805-646-3932

PROJECT LOCATION: Hidden Meadows Estates, Santa Rosa Valley, Lot 15 of Tract 2732 (APN 519-0-071-17; 519-0-082-08)

PROJECT ADDRESS: None provided

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Rezone from R-E-20 Acre to R-E-10 Acre; Subdivision of approximately 21.59 acres into three parcels.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING: The project site is on Marvella Court, south of Santa Rosa Valley Road near its intersection with Moorpark Road and west of Norwegian Grade. The area is a mix of disturbed, ruderal vegetation near existing and proposed housing development mixed with patches of native vegetation such as Coastal Sage Scrub, Southern Cactus Scrub, California Annual Grassland, and Coyote Brush Scrub. Scattered rock outcrops contain a rich lichen flora.

Due to the seasonal timing of the initial field survey, we observed few wildlife species and few annual plant species. The field visit revealed the presence of scrub jays, common ravens, red-tailed hawk (1), coyote (scat), brush rabbits, California quail, roadrunner, mockingbirds, house finches, mourning doves, western flycatcher, and brown towhees.

Native plant species observed within the scrubland habitats at the site include: California Sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), Coyote Brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), Lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*), Coast Prickly Pear (*Opuntia littoralis*), Southern California Black Walnut (*Juglans californica* ssp. *californica*) (a special-status species – CNPS List 4), White Sage (*Salvia apiana*), Purple Sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), California Wild Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), Giant Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica* ssp. *holosericea*), a locoweed (*Astragalus* sp.), Giant Ryegrass (*Leymus condensatus*), and Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*).

Grassland areas contained Slender Wild Oat (*Avena barbata*), Summer Mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), Yellow Star-thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), California Everlasting (*Gnaphalium californicum*), Black Mustard (*Brassica nigra*), fiddleneck (*Amsinckia* sp.), Soft Chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), Ripgut Brome (*Bromus diandrus*), White Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), Sweet Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), Curly Dock (*Rumex crispus*), and Red Brome (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*). Many other plant species are expected to occur onsite; however, they were not visible or identifiable due to the seasonal life cycles of many California annual plant species.

A search of the California Natural Diversity Data Base records for the area indicate habitat is present onsite, or in the Santa Rosa Valley region, for several special-status species, including those listed below.

Special-Status Wildlife Species:
Riverside Fairy Shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*)
California Red-legged Frog (*Rana aurora draytoni*)
Coastal Western Whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris multiscutatus*)
Two-striped Garter Snake (*Thamnophis hammondii*)
California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*)
Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)
Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) – nesting
San Diego Desert Woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*)

Special-Status Plant Species:
Braunton's Milkvetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*)
Catalina Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus catalinae*)
Plummer Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus plummerae* ssp. *plummerae*)
Small-flowered Morning-glory (*Convolvulus simulans*)
Conejo Live-forever (*Dudleya abramsii* ssp. *parva*)
Blochman Live-forever (*Dudleya blochmaniae* ssp. *blochmaniae*)
Verity Live-forever (*Dudleya verityi*)
Conejo Buckwheat (*Eriogonum crocatum*)
Santa Susana Tarplant (*Hemizonia minthornii*),
Southern Spikeweed (*Hemizonia parryi* ssp. *australis*),
Southern California Black Walnut (*Juglans californica* ssp. *californica*),
California Orcutt Grass (*Orcuttia californica*),
Lyon Pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*),
Rayless Ragwort (*Senecio aphanactis*).

There are also approximately fifteen (15) species of lichens in Ventura County that are considered rare (Magney in ed.)[1], one or more of which may occur at the project site:

Acarospora theloccoides
Caloplaca chrysophthalma
Caloplaca epithallina
Caloplaca invadens
Caloplaca supyracella
Endocarpon subnitescens
Parmotrema austrosinense
Pertusaria flavicunda
Phaeophyscia kairamoi
Phaeophyscia sciastra
Protoparmelia punctilla
Vermilacinia ceruchoides
Xanthoparmelia angustiphylla

[1] Magney, D.L. In ed. Preliminary List of Rare California Lichens. Submitted to California Lichen Society for publication.

On September 27, 2000, David Magney (DMEC) conducted a floristic survey of the plants on Mr. Dave Caldwell's property in the Hidden Valley Estates, Santa Rosa Valley, to determine the presence of special-status plant species onsite. The biological resources initial study BRC performed on behalf of County of Ventura Planning Division in 1999 recommended seasonal floristic surveys be performed during the spring and summer months. Unfortunately, no such surveys were conducted. This most recent survey has been relied upon to prepare this revised initial study/CEQA checklist.

The purpose of this survey, done outside the appropriate seasons originally recommended, is to conduct a floristic survey to the extent feasible, and more closely examine site conditions to assess the likelihood of occurrence of any special-status plant species onsite.

The property is characterized by a steep north-facing slope on the south half of the property, and moderate to gently sloping terrain on the northern half. The vegetation in the lower (northern) half has been altered to varying degrees in the past; however, soil disturbance does not appear to have been substantial in any portion of the property, except by the construction of a retention basin, which is now fully vegetated.

FLORA

The 27 September 2000 field survey concentrated on the lower (northern) portion of the parcel since no development is proposed for the southern portion. Sixty-four (64) vascular plant taxa were observed onsite, which is lower than what would be expected from a 21-acre parcel with several plant communities. This relatively low number of plant taxa is largely a result of the unseasonal timing of the survey, since most annual herbs and grasses in this region begin and complete their life cycles during the winter and spring months. Some genera observed onsite were unidentifiable to species because required plant parts were not present at the time of the survey. There is likely another 25 percent more plant species onsite. A list of all plant taxa observed during the field survey is presented in Table 1, Plant Species Observed at the Caldwell- Santa Rosa Valley Property, Ventura County. This list also includes lichens observed onsite.

Table 1. Plant Species Observed at the Caldwell-Santa Rosa Valley Property, Ventura County

Scientific Name[2]	Common Name[3]	Habit[4]	W.I.S.[5]	Family
	Vascular Plants			
Amaranthus blitoides	Prostrate Amaranth	AH	FACW	Amaranthaceae
Amsinckia menziesii	Ranchers Fire	AH	.	Boraginaceae
Anagallis arvensis *	Scarlet Pimpernel	AH	FAC	Primulaceae
Artemisia californica	California Sagebrush	S	.	Asteraceae
Artemisia douglasiana	Mugwort	PH	FACW	Asteraceae
Asclepias fascicularis	Narrowleaf Milkweed	PH	FAC	Asclepidaceae
Avena fatua *	Wild Oat	AG	.	Poaceae
Baccharis pilularis	Coyote Brush	S	.	Asteraceae
Baccharis salicifolia	Mulefat	S	FACW	Asteraceae
Brassica nigra *	Black Mustard	AH	.	Brassicaceae
Bromus diandrus *	Ripgut Grass	AG	(FACU)	Poaceae
Bromus hordeaceus *	Soft Chess	AG	FACU-	Poaceae
Bromus madritensis ssp. *rubens* *	Red Brome	AG	NI	Poaceae
Carduus pycnocephalus *	Italian Thistle	AH	.	Asteraceae
Centaurea melitensis *	Tocalote	AH	.	Asteraceae
Chamaesyce sp.	Golondrina	PH	.	Euphorbiaceae
Chenopodium album *	Lambs Quarters	AH	FAC	Chenopodiaceae
Datura wrightii	Jimson Weed	AH	.	Solanaceae
Dudleya abramsii* ssp. *parva	**Conejo Live-forever**	**PH**	.	**Crassulaceae**

[2] Scientific nomenclature follows Hickman (1993, *The Jepson Manual*, UC Press), Skinner and Pavlik (1994, *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California*, California Native Plant Society), and Baldwin (1999, Names of California Tarweeds, http://ucjeps.Berkeley.edu/tarweeds.html).

An "*" indicates non-native species which have become naturalized or persist without cultivation. **Bold** species indicate special-status species.

[3] Common names follow Abrams and Ferris (1960, *Illustrated Flora of Pacific States*), Niehaus and Ripper (1976,. *A Field Guide to Pacific States Wildflowers*. Houghton Mifflin Company), and DeGarmo (1980, *California List of Scientific and Common Plant Names*, U.S. Soil Conservation Service).

[4] 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

[5] **W.I.S.** = Wetland Indicator Status (National List of Wetland Plants [Reed 1988, National List of Plant Species that Occur in Wetlands: California (Region 0). (Biological Report 88[26.10].) U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service]):
OBL = obligate wetland species, occurs almost always in wetlands (>99% probability)
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 = 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).
Parentheses around an indicator status indicates the wetland status as suggested by the author.

Scientific Name[2]	Common Name[3]	Habit[4]	W.I.S.[5]	Family
Encelia californica	California Bush Sunflower	S	.	Asteraceae
Epilobium canum ssp. *canum*	California Fuchsia	PH	.	Onagraceae
Eremocarpus setigerus	Dove Weed	AH	.	Euphorbiaceae
Eriogonum cinereum	Ash Coast Buckwheat	S	.	Polygonaceae
Eriogonum elongatum var. *elongatum*	Long-stemmed Buckwheat	PH	.	Polygonaceae
Eriogonum fasciculatum ssp. *foliolosum*	Leafy California Buckwheat	S	.	Polygonaceae
Erodium cicutarium *	Redstem Filaree	AH	.	Geraniaceae
Foeniculum vulgare *	Sweet Fennel	PH	FACU	Apiaceae
Gnaphalium californicum	Green Everlasting	A/BH	.	Asteraceae
Gnaphalium leucocephalum	**White Everlasting**	**PH**	**FAC**	**Asteraceae**
Hazardia squarrosa var. *grindelioides*	Saw-toothed Goldenbush	S	.	Asteraceae
Heteromeles arbutifolia	Toyon	S	.	Rosaceae
Heterotheca grandiflora	Telegraph Weed	PH	.	Asteraceae
Hirschfeldia incana *	Summer Mustard	PH	.	Brassicaceae
Juglans californica* var. *californica	**Southern California Black Walnut**	**T**	**FAC**	**Juglandaceae**
Lactuca serriola *	Prickly Wild Lettuce	AH	FAC	Asteraceae
Lessingia filaginifolia var. *filaginifolia*	Cudweed-aster	PH	.	Asteraceae
Leymus condensatus	Giant Wildrye	PG	FACU	Poaceae
Lolium multiflorum *	Italian Ryegrass	AG	FAC*	Poaceae
Lotus scoparius	Deerweed	PH	.	Fabaceae
Malacothrix saxatilis var. *tenuifolia*	Tenuated Cliff-aster	PH	.	Asteraceae
Malva parviflora *	Cheeseweed	AH	.	Malvaceae
Marrubium vulgare *	White Horehound	S	FAC	Lamiaceae
Nassella sp.	Needlegrass	PG	.	Poaceae
Nicotiana glauca *	Tree Tobacco	S	FAC	Solanaceae
Opuntia littoralis	Coastal Prickly Pear	S	.	Cactaceae
Picris echioides *	Bristly Ox-tongue	AH	.	Asteraceae
Poa secunda ssp. *secunda*	One-sided Bluegrass	PG	.	Poaceae
Polygonum arenastrum *	Common Knotweed	AH	FAC	Polygonaceae
Quercus agrifolia var. *agrifolia*	Coast Live Oak	T	.	Fagaceae
Rhus integrifolia	Lemonadeberry	S	.	Anacardiaceae
Ricinus communis *	Castor Bean	S	FACU	Euphorbiaceae
Rumex crispus *	Curly Dock	PH	FACW-	Polygonaceae
Salix sp.	Willow	S	FACW	Salicaceae
Salsola tragus *	Russian Thistle	AH	FACU+	Chenopodiaceae
Salvia leucophylla	Purple Sage	S	.	Lamiaceae
Salvia mellifera	Black Sage	S	.	Lamiaceae

Scientific Name[2]	Common Name[3]	Habit[4]	W.I.S.[5]	Family
Sambucus mexicana	Blue Elderberry	S	.	Caprifoliaceae
Schinus molle *	Peruvian Pepper Tree	T	.	Anacardiaceae
Silybum marianum *	Milk Thistle	AH	.	Asteraceae
Stephanomeria virgata ssp. *virgata*	Twiggy Wreath Plant	AH	.	Asteraceae
Toxicodendron diversilobum	Poison Oak	S/V	(FACU)	Anacardiaceae
Urtica dioica ssp. *holosericea*	Hoary Creek Nettle	PH	FACW	Urticaceae
Vulpia myuros var. *myuros* *	Rattail Fescue	AG	FACU*	Poaceae
Yucca whipplei ssp. *whipplei*	Our Lord's Candle	S	.	Agavaceae
Nonvascular Plants (Lichens)				
Anisomeridium cf. *biforme*	Small Stipple Lichen	Crustose	.	
Candelaria cf. *concolor*	Candleflame Lichen	Crustose	.	Parmeliaceae
Evernia cf. *prunastri*	Oakmoss Lichen	Fruticose	.	Ramalinaceae
Parmeliopsis cf. *ambigua*	Green Starburst Lichen	Foliose	.	Parmeliaceae
Ramalina cf. *farinacea*	Lace Lichen	Fruticose	.	Ramalinaceae
Xanthoria cf. *polycarpa*	Orange Peel Lichen	Foliose	.	Teloschistaceae

Several species of lichen are present onsite, primarily on old Coyote Brush scrubs and rock outcrops on the southern portion of the parcel. Additional species of lichen are likely to occur onsite in the Coastal Sage Scrub and rock outcrops on the southern half of the property; however, this area was not surveyed intensively.

None of the lichens (see above) observed onsite are considered special status species; however, one or more may occur on bark of trees and scrubs or on rock outcrops in Polygons 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 on Figure 1.

Impacts to special-status species, in general, should be avoided, since mitigation through transplantation or propagation nearly always fails. However, a few species, such as the Southern California Black Walnut, can be successfully regenerated in suitable habitat. While impacts to Southern California Black Walnut are considered significant, mitigation is feasible onsite through planting young plants within the existing Walnut Woodland areas to be protected onsite. Space for such plantings can be obtained by removing the nonnative Peruvian Pepper Trees onsite, which can be invasive in natural woodland and riparian habitats such as present onsite.

VEGETATION

The vegetation of the property consists of five natural vegetation types: Coastal Sage Scrub, Coyote Brush Scrub, Southern California Walnut Woodland, Perennial Grassland, and Ruderal Grasslands [including areas dominated by Black Mustard (*Brassica nigra*) and Sweet Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)]. Coastal Sage Scrub, Perennial Grassland, and Southern California Black Walnut Woodland are all considered sensitive plant communities. In addition, a swath of sparse ruderal vegetation occurs along the northern edge of the property as a fire hazard clearance zone. The location of each of the vegetation types is delineated on Figure 1. Each vegetation unit (or area) is delineated on Figure 1 and designated with a numeral for discussion-sake.

Coastal Sage Scrub
Native plant species observed within the Coastal Sage Scrub habitats at the site include: California Sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), Coyote Brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), Lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*), Coast Prickly Pear (*Opuntia littoralis*), White Sage (*Salvia apiana*), Purple Sage (*Salvia leucophylla*), California Wild Buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), Blue Elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), Giant Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica* ssp. *holosericea*), a locoweed (*Astragalus* sp.), Giant Ryegrass (*Leymus condensatus*), and Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*).

A list of plant species observed during the 27 September 2000 botanical field survey is included as Table 1. Polygons 1, 9, and 11 on Figure 1 consist of Coastal Sage Scrub. Polygon 10 represents previously disturbed Coastal Sage Scrub that is recovering from the disturbance. Mr. Magney estimates that the disturbance likely occurred approximately 15 to 20 years ago. At least one listed plant species (*Dudleya abramsii* ssp. *parva*) is known to occur in the Coastal Sage Scrub vegetation, within the area designated as Polygon 11.

Coyote Brush Scrub
Coyote Brush Scrub is similar to Coastal Sage Scrub, and contains many of the same species of plants; however, it is dominated by Coyote Brush. Coyote Brush Scrub occurs at the base of the steep slope on the eastern edge of the property, designated at polygon 8 on Figure 1. Some special-status plant species have potential to occur in this vegetation type.

Walnut Woodland
Walnut Woodland at the Caldwell property is dominated by Southern California Black Walnut (*Juglans californica* ssp. *californica*), a special-status species – CNPS List 4, with Peruvian Pepper Tree (*Schinus molle*), Mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), and Giant Creek Nettle (*Urtica dioica* ssp. *holosericea*), as well as a number of plants typically associated with grasslands and Coastal Sage Scrub communities. Walnut Woodland areas are designated by Polygons 6 and 7 on Figure 1, with three small unnumbered polygons. The Walnut Woodland, at least a portion of it, represents riparian habitat and jurisdictional waters of the United States, which would require the applicant to obtain permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board, and California Department of Fish and Game before any work is conducted in the small drainage traversing the property, represented generally by Polygons 6 and 7 on Figure 1. County general plan policy also restricts ground disturbance within 100 feet of riparian vegetation.

Ruderal Grassland
Grassland areas contained Slender Wild Oat (*Avena barbata*), Black Mustard, Summer Mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), Tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), California Everlasting (*Gnaphalium californicum*), Black Mustard (*Brassica nigra*), fiddleneck (*Amsinckia* sp.), Soft Chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), Ripgut Brome (*Bromus diandrus*), White Horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), Sweet Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), Curly Dock (*Rumex crispus*), and Red Brome (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*). Many other plant species are expected to occur onsite; however, they were not visible or identifiable due to the seasonal life cycles of many California annual plant species. The Ruderal Grassland areas are designated as Polygons 2, 3, and 5, and differentiated by the dominant plant, either Sweet Fennel or Black Mustard, both invasive exotic plants. Both Polygons 2 and 5 also contain scattered shrubs typical of Coastal Sage Scrub. No special-status plant species were observed, or expected to occur, in these areas.

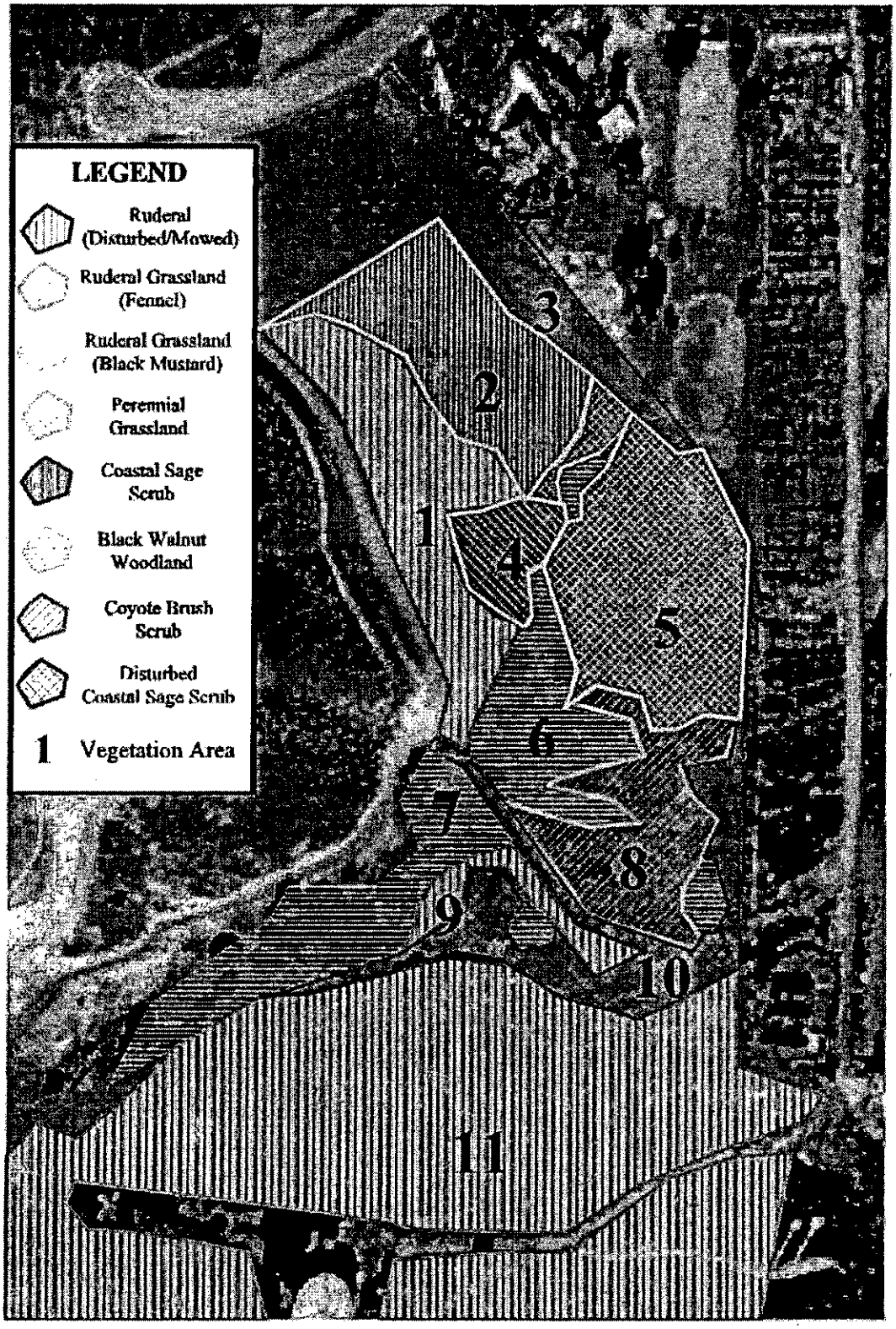

Figure 1. Plant communities at the Caldwell Property, Santa Rosa Valley, Ventura County

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES:	PROJECT IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT[6]				CUMULATIVE IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT			
What level of impact will the proposal have on:	**N**	**LS**	**PS-M**	**PS**	**N**	**LS**	**PS-M**	**PS**
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	
Will the proposal:								
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, ore regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			x				x	
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			x				x	
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetland as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?			x				x	
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	x				x			
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?			x				x	
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	x				x			

[6] N = No Impact; LS = Less Than Significant; PS-M = Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated; PS = Potentially Significant Impact.

Additional comments or explanations:

Item A. Habitat is present that might support sensitive, threatened, rare, or otherwise listed plant species. Portions of the property contain suitable habitat for California gnatcatchers, an endangered species associated with coastal sage scrub habitat.

Item B. Portions of the Walnut Woodland represent riparian habitat and jurisdictional waters of the United States.

Item C. The parcel is not located in the coastal zone. Therefore, no adverse impacts are expected.

Item. D. The parcel supports no native vegetation that would act as a significant migration corridor for wildlife. Therefore, no adverse impacts are expected.

Item E. The property contains locally important species or communities, namely coastal sage scrub, perennial grassland, and walnut woodland, and contains one or more species of local concern.

Recommendations:

Item A. Surveys for these plant species need to be conducted at the proper time of year to ensure that they have the highest probability of determining presence/absence. A qualified rare plant expert/botanist should conduct these surveys. Those portions of the coastal sage scrub suitable as gnatcatcher habitat occur in those portions of the property that are proposed for remaining as open space. This is reportedly being accomplished by donating one of the subdivided parcels and other provisions to ensure that coastal sage scrub vegetation is not disturbed.

While the field survey conducted on 27 September 2000 found special-status plant species onsite, additional seasonal field surveys are needed in portions of the property to determine the presence or absence of other special-status species onsite. Some areas are hereby cleared for further consideration for follow-up botanical surveys. These are represented by Polygons 2, 3, and 5 on Figure 1.

The presence of Walnut Woodland/riparian habitat in Polygons 6 and 7 represent development constraints, as well as Coastal Sage Scrub and Perennial Grassland vegetation, both sensitive plant communities. Avoidance of each of these plant communities is recommended where feasible; otherwise, baring the occurrence of additional special-status species, mitigation for impacts to any of them would require enhancing disturbed habitats of similar composition at a high ratio of impact to enhancement, or replacement at a ratio of 3:1 in the Santa Rosa Valley area. Permanent preservation of existing habitat, in-kind, may be used to reduce restoration/creation mitigation from 3:1 to 1:1. Without replacing habitat impacted by the project, a cumulative loss of these habitats would remain.

Item B. The applicant needs to obtain permits from the USACE, LA Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the CDFG if disturbance might occur in the small drainage traversing the property. County General Plan policy prohibits impacts to riparian habitats unless those impacts are properly mitigated.

Item E. The issues will be addressed concurrently with Items A and B.

D. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE Based on the information contained with Section B6:	**Yes/Maybe**	**No**
1. Does the project have the potential to 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 major periods of California's 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 that 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 that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effect of other current projects, and the effect of probable future projects. (Several projects may have relatively small individual impacts on two or more resources, but that total of those impacts on the environment is significant.)	x	
4. Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		x

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.
[x]	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environmental, there would not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measure(s) described in section C of the Initial Study 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 environmental, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
[ ]	I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environmental, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
[ ]	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

19 October 2000

Carl G. Thelander — Date

California Environmental Quality Act Environmental Checklist Form
Biological Resources
County of Ventura, Planning Division

PROJECT REFERENCE NO.: ZC-2937/PM 5286/Blackwell	**PROJECT PLANNER:** Kim Rodriguez
DATE: 19 October 2000	**PROJECT BIOLOGIST:** Carl G. Thelander, BioResource Consultants, P.O. Box 1539, Ojai, 93024 Ph. 805-646-3932

PROJECT LOCATION: Hidden Meadows Estates, Santa Rosa Valley, Lot 16 of Tract 2732

PROJECT ADDRESS: None provided

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Rezone from R-E-20 Acre to both R-E-10 Acre and R-E-5 Acre; Subdivision of approximately 24.46 acres into three parcels: Parcel 1 of 6.04 acres, Parcel 2 of 11.61 acres, Parcel A of 6.81 acres.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING: This report is based on an evaluation of aerial photos and materials developed by BioResource Consultants and Dave Magney Environmental Consulting that were compiled recently for an adjoining property (Caldwell; Lot 17). Field visits were conducted for that neighboring property, and photographs of Lot 16 were taken at that time. Based on these data, no field visit was considered necessary for this CEQA checklist process.

The project site is on Marvella Court, south of Santa Rosa Valley Road near its intersection with Moorpark Road and west of Norwegian Grade. The area is a mix of disturbed, ruderal vegetation near existing and proposed housing development mixed with patches of native vegetation apparently including Coastal Sage Scrub, California Annual Grassland, and Coyote Brush Scrub.

A search of the California Natural Diversity Data Base records for the area indicate habitat is present onsite, OR in the Santa Rosa Valley region, for several special-status species, including those listed below.

Special-Status Wildlife Species:
Riverside Fairy Shrimp (*Streptocephalus woottoni*)
California Red-legged Frog (*Rana aurora draytoni*)
Coastal Western Whiptail (*Cnemidophorus tigris multiscutatus*)
Two-striped Garter Snake (*Thamnophis hammondii*)
California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica*)
Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*)
Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) – nesting
San Diego Desert Woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*)

Special-Status Plant Species:
Braunton's Milkvetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*)
Catalina Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus catalinae*)
Plummer Mariposa Lily (*Calochortus plummerae* ssp. *plummerae*)
Small-flowered Morning-glory (*Convolvulus simulans*)
Conejo Live-forever (*Dudleya abramsii* ssp. *parva*)
Blochman Live-forever (*Dudleya blochmaniae* ssp. *blochmaniae*)
Verity Live-forever (*Dudleya verityi*)
Conejo Buckwheat (*Eriogonum crocatum*)
Santa Susana Tarplant (*Hemizonia minthornii*),
Southern Spikeweed (*Hemizonia parryi* ssp. *australis*),
Southern California Black Walnut (*Juglans californica* ssp. *californica*),
California Orcutt Grass (*Orcuttia californica*),
Lyon Pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*),
Rayless Ragwort (*Senecio aphanactis*).

There are also approximately fifteen (15) species of lichens in Ventura County that are considered rare (Magney in ed.)[1], one or more of which may occur at the project site:

Acarospora theloccoides
Caloplaca chrysophthalma
Caloplaca epithallina
Caloplaca invadens
Caloplaca supyracella
Endocarpon subnitescens
Parmotrema austrosinense
Pertusaria flavicunda
Phaeophyscia kairamoi
Phaeophyscia sciastra
Protoparmelia punctilla
Vermilacinia ceruchoides
Xanthoparmelia angustiphylla

An east-facing slope supports extensive coastal sage scrub vegetation that may support California gnatcatchers, a federal endangered species. The vegetation in the lower (northern) portions and bordering Marvella Court has been altered to varying degrees in the past; however, soil disturbance does not appear to have been substantial in any portion of the property.

Five natural vegetation types appear to occur on site. These are (minimum): Coastal Sage Scrub, Coyote Brush Scrub, Southern California Walnut Woodland, Perennial Grassland, and Ruderal Grasslands [including areas dominated by Black Mustard (*Brassica nigra*) and Sweet Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*)]. Coastal Sage Scrub, Perennial Grassland, and Southern California Black Walnut Woodland are all considered sensitive plant communities.

[1] Magney, D.L. In ed. Preliminary List of Rare California Lichens. Submitted to California Lichen Society for publication.

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Biological Resources, County of Ventura, Planning Division

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES:	PROJECT IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT[2]				CUMULATIVE IMPACT DEGREE OF EFFECT			
What level of impact will the proposal have on:	**N**	**LS**	**PS-M**	**PS**	**N**	**LS**	**PS-M**	**PS**
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	
Will the proposal:								
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, ore regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			x				x	
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			x				x	
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetland as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	x				x			
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	x				x			
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	x				x			
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	x				x			

[2] N = No Impact; LS = Less Than Significant; PS-M = Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated; PS = Potentially Significant Impact.

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Additional comments or explanations:

Item A. Habitat is present that might support sensitive, threatened, rare, or otherwise listed plant species. Habitat is present that may support California gnatcatchers, an endangered species associated with coastal sage scrub habitat.

Item B. Portions of the property contain sensitive habitats.

Item C. The parcel is not located in the coastal zone. Therefore, no adverse impacts are expected.

Item. D. The parcel supports no native vegetation that would act as a significant migration corridor for wildlife. Therefore, no adverse impacts are expected.

Item E. The property contains locally important species or communities, namely coastal sage scrub, perennial grassland, and possibly walnut woodland.

Recommendations:

Items A and B. We recommend that a vegetation map be prepared that accurately documents the boundaries of the sensitive plant communities found on the property. These data should be used as a baseline from which mitigation and protection efforts can be monitored.

Surveys for sensitive plant species need to be conducted at the proper time of year (March-July, depending on the species involved) to ensure that they include periods of highest probability for determining presence/absence. A qualified rare plant expert/botanist should conduct these surveys.

Coastal sage scrub that appears to be suitable habitat for California gnatcatchers is present on the property. If the owner conveys in title suitable protection for coastal sage scrub habitat, gnatcatcher surveys that meet USFWS protocols may not be needed. The boundaries of this habitat set aside needs to be based on vegetation mapping and they must take into account any buffers possibly required as part of fire control constraints.

If the above described habitat protection is not conveyed in title, we recommend that appropriate surveys be conducted to meet the requirements of the Endangered Species Act and other statutes. These surveys will determine if endangered species are present. The guidelines for conducting these surveys are available from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Field Office. The owner should contact this agency with respect to addressing the requirements of the Endangered Species Act.

The presence of Walnut Woodland/riparian habitat represents development constraints, as do Coastal Sage Scrub and Perennial Grassland vegetation, both of which are sensitive plant communities. We recommend avoidance of each of these plant communities. To accomplish this, a detailed vegetation map is needed.

Mitigation for impacts to any sensitive habitats would require enhancing disturbed habitats of similar composition at a high ratio of impact to enhancement, or replacement at a ratio of 3:1 in the Santa

Rosa Valley area. Permanent preservation of existing habitat, in-kind, may be used to reduce restoration/creation mitigation from 3:1 to 1:1. Without replacing habitat impacted by the project, a cumulative loss of these habitats would remain..

Item E. The issues are addressed concurrently with Items A and B.

D. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE Based on the information contained with Section B6:	Yes/Maybe	No
1. Does the project have the potential to 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 major periods of California's 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 that 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 that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effect of other current projects, and the effect of probable future projects. (Several projects may have relatively small individual impacts on two or more resources, but that total of those impacts on the environment is significant.)	x	
4. Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		x

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.
[x]	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environmental, there would not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measure(s) described in section C of the Initial Study 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 environmental, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
[ ]	I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environmental, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
[ ]	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

19 October 2000

Carl G. Thelander — Date