

**Historic Biological Reports  
Scan Control Sheet**

**County Project Number(s):**

PM-5287

**Report Type** (check one):

- ☒ Initial Study
- ☐ Species Inventory/Survey
- ☐ Focused Study
- ☐ EIR
- ☐ Draft EIR
- ☐ EIS
- ☐ ND
- ☐ MND
- ☐ Other

**Report Date** (Month/Day/Year):

10/18/2000

**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

## COUNTY OF VENTURA BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES INITIAL STUDY

Date: October 18, 200

Requestor: Ron Allen

Project: Tentative Parcel Map No. PM 5287

Field Study: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Justification: 13.57 acre site will be grubbed and graded

### A. CHECKLIST

Biological Resources Issues	Project Impact Degree of Effect				Cumulative Impact Degree of Effect			
	N	LS	S	U	N	LS	S	U
a. endangered, threatened, or rare species	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. wetland habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. coastal habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. migration corridors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. locally important species/communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Degree of Effect Explanation

N= None

LS = Less than significant effect

S = Significant effect; MND or EIR required

U = Unknown; EIR required

### B. DISCUSSION

The project consists of the subdivision of a 13.57-acre parcel into four lots for use as residences and is located adjacent to and east of the intersection of Blanchard Road and Voltaire Way, Ventura County, California. The site is surrounded by low-density rural residences with a steep hillside located to the north. Relatively disturbed, multiple paths cross the site and several patches of burned shrubs and trees are found onsite. Project implementation involves removal of ruderal vegetation (primarily non-native grasses, mustard and scattered horticultural shrubs) and remnant coastal scrub (primarily coyote brush and some cactus within the southern section) currently existing on the vacant site. Site development would also include grading, and installation of roadway, storm channels, and septic systems.

A September 2000 search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) via the RAREFIND2 software listed several special-status species that could be present within the ruderal and remnant coastal scrub onsite. These species, their preferred habitat, and likelihood of presence on site are listed below:

Common Name	Scientific Name	Agency Status	Habitat	Potential Occurrence
Lyon's pentachaeta	<i>Pentachaeta lyonii</i>	Federal Endangered, Cal. Endangered	Pockets of grassland	Survey conducted outside blooming period; not observed on site
Conejo dudleya	<i>Dudleya parva</i>	Federal Threatened	Clayey grasslands or thin rocky soil derived from volcanic material	Survey conducted; none observed in grasslands on site
Brauton's milkvetch	<i>Astragalus brauntonii</i>	Federal Endangered	Disturbed chaparral and scrub	Survey conducted; species not observed on site
San Fernando valley spine flower	<i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>fernandina</i>	Federal Candidate	Dry grassland	Survey conducted outside blooming period; species not observed on site and is unlikely
Coast horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma coronatum</i>	Federal Species of Concern, Cal. Fully Protected	Open, sandy areas of coastal sage scrub, and chaparral	Survey conducted; habitat not observed on site
California gnatcatcher	<i>Poliophtila californica</i>	Federal Threatened, Cal. Species of Concern	Coastal sage scrub, primarily Riversidean and Diegan; prefer > 50% cover	None observed on site in remnant coastal scrub on site; species known 0.5 miles north of Moorpark

Several special-status plants have the potential to exist on site, particularly Lyon's pentachaeta, Conejo dudleya and Brauton's milkvetch. Although no sign of special-status species was observed during the October 17, 2000 site visit, the field survey was conducted during a period when several sensitive species are not readily visible. Lyon's pentachaeta is an annual that occupies pocket grasslands that are ecotonal with shrublands, and can also be found at the edges of roads and trails. This species is not visibly present during the time of the field survey. Conejo dudleya, while potentially visible, is withered and cryptic at this time of year. Brauton's milkvetch is a distinctive perennial shrub and would have been noted if present.

- \* The site is highly disturbed and native vegetation is generally lacking, so the probability of sensitive plant species being present is low. Nevertheless, given the historic presence in the general vicinity, their absence cannot be conclusively determined at this time and project development could cause a significant impact to rare plants.

The California gnatcatcher was historically known in the Santa Paula area and a small population is present in the Moorpark area. The remnants of coastal sage scrub found at the site are too sparse and does not contain suitable nesting habitat for the species. Therefore, it is unlikely that it is present and no significant impact to this species is anticipated.

The coast horned lizard was searched for at this site during field surveys. Its preferred habitat was lacking and no significant impact to this sensitive species is expected.

Several sensitive raptorial bird species could potentially use the open grasslands of the site for foraging. However, given the disturbed nature of the site and the large amount of land necessary to support these species, no significant impacts on raptor populations would be expected.

No wetlands or coastal habitat is found on site. Therefore, impacts to these habitat types are not expected.

As the project is surrounded by low-density rural residential development, project development is not expected to significantly affect species migration. Due to the sparse nature of the development, any species that currently use the area would likely continue to do so or find alternative routes of movement.

No locally important species other than those previously discussed were found or would be expected to be found on site. No locally important communities are found on site.

### C. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	<u>Yes/Maybe</u>	<u>No</u>
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?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Does the project have impacts, which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### D. MITIGATION MEASURES

Recommended ☐

Required for Negative Declaration ☒

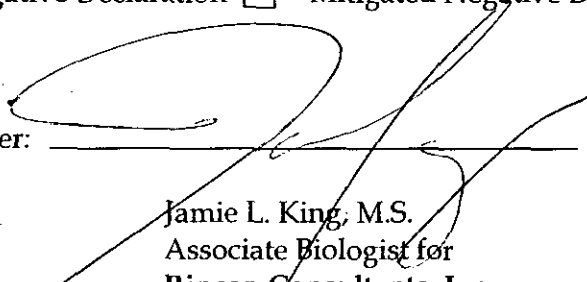
A preconstruction clearance survey for sensitive plants shall be conducted prior to site grading. This survey shall be floristic in nature and occur during the spring to determine the presence of Lyon's pentachaeta, Conejo dudleya and any other sensitive plant species. If any are found, a specific protection and conservation plan shall be developed to ensure the survival of those plants onsite.

### E. DETERMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FROM A BIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

Negative Declaration ☐ Mitigated Negative Declaration ☒ EIR Required ☐

Reviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Jamie L. King, M.S.  
Associate Biologist for  
Rincon Consultants, Inc.  
Phone: 641-1000 Ext. 32

October 18, 2000

## F. REFERENCES

- California Department of Fish and Game, California Natural Diversity Database. September 2000. RAREFIND2 software.
- California Department of Fish and Game (July 2000). *State and Federally Listed Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Plants of California*. 16 pgs. Natural Heritage Division, Plant Conservation Program
- California Department of Fish and Game (July 2000). *State and Federally Listed Endangered and Threatened Animals of California*. 11 pgs. Natural Heritage Division, Natural Diversity Data Base.
- California Department of Fish and Game (July 2000). *Special Plants List*. 112 pgs. Natural Heritage Division, Natural Diversity Data Base.
- California Department of Fish and Game (July 2000). *Special Animals*. 44 pgs.
- Dale, Nancy. 1986. Flowering Plants, The Santa Monica Mountains Coastal and Chaparral Regions of Southern California. Capra Press. Santa Barbara.
- Holland, Robert F. (October 1986). *Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California*. California Department of Fish and Game, Nongame Heritage Program. 156 pgs.
- National Geographic. 1999. Field Guide to Birds of North America.
- Rincon Consultants, Inc. October 17, 2000. Field visit by Associate Biologist, Jamie L. King, M.S.
- Thayer Birding Software. 1998. Version 2.5.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (January 31, 1997). *US Listed Flowering Plant Species Index by Lead Region and Status, as of January 31, 1997*.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (February 28, 1996). *Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Review of Plant and Animal Taxa That Are Candidates for Listing as Endangered or Threatened Species*.
- Zeiner, D., W.F. Laudenslayer, Jr., and K.E. Mayer (May 1988). *California's Wildlife*. California Statewide Wildlife Habitat Relationship System, Volumes I, II, & III. California Department of Fish and Game.