

Historic Biological Reports
Scan Control Sheet

County Project Number(s):

TT-5347

Report Type (check one):

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

Report Date (Month/Day/Year):

09/17/2002

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

5. MINERAL RESOURCES:

Item A - Aggregate

Aggregate resources consist of sand, gravel, and crushed rock used in the construction industry. The *Ventura County Zoning Ordinance* includes Mineral Resource Protection (MRP) overlay zones for areas where important mineral resources do or may exist and the extraction of these resources may be a compatible land use. The proposed project is not located within the MRP zone. As such the project is expected to have **no adverse impacts** on aggregate resources.

Source Document: *Ventura County General Plan, Resources Appendix, Figure 1.4.6 (page 51)*

Item B - Petroleum

The project will have **no adverse impact** on petroleum resources because there are sufficient resources to meet local needs. Oil resources are considered a worldwide, national and statewide resource, which is beyond the scope of local governments to effectively manage or control.

Source Document: *Ventura County General Plan, Resources Appendix*

6. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES:

Item A - Endangered, Threatened or Rare Species, Item B - Wetland Habitat, Item C - Coastal Habitat, Item D - Migration Corridors, and Item E - Locally Important Species/Communities

The project consists of the subdivision of an existing agricultural parcel into rural residential land use. Available aerial photography (USGS, June 1994) and the applicant questionnaire indicate that the site has been used for row crops for many years and no natural biological resources remain within the confines of the site. The site is also bounded by rural residential development to the north, east, and west. Important biological resources in the project vicinity are confined to the Mountclef Ridge, south of the site, and an offsite rural residential lot is located between the proposed tract and this hillside. Limited riparian and wetland resources are located within the flood control channel (Arroyo Santa Rosa) in the northwest corner of the tract. This trapezoidal channel is lined with rock riprap and bounded by two asphalt access roads. No changes to this channel are proposed by the tract map.

No endangered, threatened, or otherwise sensitive species are expected to occur within the confines of the site. Sensitive plants in the vicinity (such as Lyon's pentachaeta and various live-forevers (*Dudleya* sp.) are associated with thin rocky, volcanic soils such as occur on Mountclef Ridge (Wildwood Regional Park), but not within the alluvial soils of the site. Long term use of the site for agricultural purposes has minimized its value to wildlife species and no sensitive species are expected on site. Therefore there will be **no adverse impacts** to endangered, threatened or rare species as a result of this project.

Unvegetated agricultural ditches form the western and eastern property boundaries, and another ditch is located in the central part of the property. These ditches are not considered jurisdictional waters because they are man-made and maintained in place by the past agricultural activities within the site. The central ditch would be re-established as a drainage course across the site and the western ditch would be crossed by the road. Given the lack of vegetation indicated by the aerial photograph, no biological resources are anticipated to be affected.

A small drainage course also occurs along the south boundary of the site which does appear to contain riparian vegetation. Per the tract map, no change to this area is proposed as it will be designated as a floodway restricted building zone. The outlet for the water quality basin will discharge into the floodway area, with a small ditch graded to drain waters towards this drainage course. Provided that the top of bank of this drainage remains undisturbed and that grading does not

occur below the ordinary high water mark for this drainage, no Streambed Alteration Agreement from the Department of Fish and Game nor a Section 404 permit and associated Section 401 certification from the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Regional Water Quality Control Board, respectively, would be required. No Ventura County significant wetlands (*per Policies 1.5.2.3 and 1.5.2.4 of the Ventura County General Plan*) are located near the site.

The southwestern pond-turtle, a sensitive wildlife species, is known to occur within the wetland habitats of Arroyo Santa Rosa less than one mile downstream of the site. The discharge of urban-related pollutants (oil and grease, excessive fertilizers and home-use pesticides) could potentially affect populations of this species; however, the use of a water quality control basin as required under the Ventura County *Stormwater Quality Urban Impact Mitigation Plan* (SQUIMP) would reduce this impact to a less than significant level. Therefore, the project would result in a **less than significant** impact to wetland habitats.

The project site does not lie within the coastal area. No migration corridors (such as along the flood control channel or the small drainage at the south edge of the project) would be significantly affected by the proposed residential development as the usefulness of these areas are already limited by adjacent residential uses. No locally important species or communities lie within the project site based on its long term agricultural use. Therefore there are **no adverse impacts** to coastal habitat, migration corridors or locally important species/communities.

Source Document: *Biological Initial Study* dated November 26, 2002 prepared by Rincon Consultants

7. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES:

Item A – Soils

The issue of the loss of Prime Agriculture soils was addressed in the 1997 *Nicholson FEIR*. On September 16, 1997, the Ventura County Board of Supervisors approved an amendment to the *Ventura County General Plan* land use designation from "Open Space" to "Rural" and Zone Change from "A-E" (Agricultural Exclusive) to "R-E-2.875 Ac Av" (Rural Exclusive, 2.875 acre average parcel size). It was determined that the loss of prime agriculture land would be a significant impact and as such, a Statement of Overriding Considerations was prepared. The Overriding Consideration stated that the project would provide rural residential housing opportunities compatible with surrounding development. The Board adopted the CEQA findings and determined that the public benefits of the project outweighed the significant unreduced, unmitigable environmental impact (i.e., loss of prime agricultural soil). As this issue has been previously addressed in the 1997 *Nicholson FEIR* and no feasible mitigation measures were available to mitigate agricultural impacts to the project, no further review or mitigation is required. As such, the proposed tentative tract would have **no impact** to agricultural soils.

The cumulative loss of agricultural soils in the county was addressed in the Final EIR for the Comprehensive Amendment to the County General Plan (1988). In accordance with Section 15183 of the *State CEQA Guidelines*, additional cumulative analysis is not required for any project that is consistent with the General Plan.

Source Document: 1997 *Nicholson FEIR*

Item B – Water

The proposed project is expected to consume 3.22 acre-feet per year of groundwater for domestic and landscape irrigation purposes. If the site were to remain in agricultural use, water consumption would be expected to average 9.4 acre feet of groundwater per year based upon historical water consumption. Therefore, the project will result in an estimated net savings of 6.18 acre feet of