

SECTION B

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

Job: CUP 5225

Requester: Terry Newman

Applicant: Ozzie Osborne

Date: June 8, 2004

Survey Type: Field

Rationale: Continued use of property

Site Description: A field visit to the project site (CUP 5225) was made on June 7, 2004. The parcel (02-150-11) is located in the northeastern portion of Ventura County, one and a half miles south of the Ozena-Lockwood Valley Road, and approximately three miles east of route 33. The permit area includes only a small portion of the 160 acre parcel and has been in use for over 150 years with several buildings already in place. Dominant species of the surrounding vegetation include pinyon pine (*Pinus monophylla*), scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), and manzanita (*Arctostaphylos sp.*) The terrain of the permit area is flat and vegetated with cultivated trees and plants, including *Ailanthus altissima* and Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*). The area to be developed has been graded and is vegetated with grass and weedy annuals.

	Project Impact Degree of Effect*				Cumulative Impact Degree of Effect*			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
6. <u>Biological Resources</u>								
a. endangered, threatened or rare species	<u>X</u>	___	___	___	<u>X</u>	___	___	___
b. wetland habitat	<u>X</u>	___	___	___	<u>X</u>	___	___	___
c. coastal habitat	<u>X</u>	___	___	___	<u>X</u>	___	___	___
d. migration corridors	<u>X</u>	___	___	___	<u>X</u>	___	___	___
e. Locally important species/communities	<u>X</u>	___	___	___	<u>X</u>	___	___	___

*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. Several Federally listed threatened or endangered species have been reported within 5 miles of the project site. The prairie falcon (*Falco mexicanus*) and the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) has been reported in the vicinity of Reyes Peak and Lockwood Valley. Neither bird would be affected by the project because the area affected is less than an acre, is vegetated with non-native plants, and could not affect a breeding or nesting site requiring cliffs or deep canyons with rocky walls.

The pale yellow layia (*Layia heterotrichia*), a Federal species of concern, has also been reported in the vicinity of Reyes Peak, associated with pinyon-juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland. The plant is generally found on alkaline or clay soils and would not be expected to occur within the project site that has been previously graded and is vegetated with non-native plants.

Another species of concern reported from Reyes Peak is Abram's oxytheca (*Oxytheca parishii* var. *abramsii*). This plant is known only to Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties and is found in shale or sandy places of the chaparral, at elevations of 1700 to 2000 meters. Elevation of the project site is approximately 1300 meters, well below the expected range for Abrams' oxytheca.

Salt-spring checkerbloom (*Sidalcea neomexicana*), a species of concern has been reported within 5 miles of the project site. However, it is found in alkali springs and marshes, and no such habitat occurs on the permit area.

- b. There is no wetland habitat on the permit site, so there should be no disturbance of such a site.
- c. The permit site is not near the coast, so no impact on a coastal habitat should occur.
- d. The permit site is unlikely to be a migration corridor for many animals, because it is relatively small and there would be ample room for migration on all sides of the site.
- e. No locally important communities are present in the permit area. The surrounding area is vegetated with scrub oak and manzanita, but there are no plans for removal of any trees or shrubs, so there should be no impact on these species.

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 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 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).

_____ X

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.

Signature of Preparer

Date