

SECTION B
INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

Job: Coastal PD LU04-0021

Requester: Debbie Morrisset

Applicant: Stephen Cole

Date: March 31, 2005

Survey Type: Office and Field

Rationale: Grading and land clearing for 1.3 acre vineyard

Site Description: A field visit of the project site (Parcel no. 700-0-140-235) was conducted on March 17, 2005. The 18.9 acre parcel is located at 9522 Cotharin Road, about 500 feet east of the junction with Pacific View Road, Malibu, California. A portion of the property has been cleared for emplacement of a house and barn. In addition, a vineyard is in place on an approximately 1.3 acre portion of the property. The 1.3 acre vineyard area is the subject of this report. Based on aerial photographs of the site it appears that the vineyard area was developed between October 2002 and January 2003. The topography of this 1.3 acre area consists of a steep hill with areas directly adjacent to the vineyard vegetated with typical chaparral species, including California lilac (*Ceanothus spinosus*), buckbrush (*Ceanothus megacarpus*), bush mallow (*Malacothamnus fasciculatus*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) and some poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). Photographs taken of the subject property during ENSR's site visit are provided in **Appendix A**.

SECTION C
DISCUSSION OF RESPONSES

	Project Impacts				Cumulative Impacts			
	Degree of Effect				Degree of Effect			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
6. <u>Biological Resources</u>								
a. Endangered, threatened or rare species	✓				✓			
b. Wetland Habitat	✓				✓			
c. Coastal Habitat	✓				✓			
d. Migration Corridors		✓				✓		
e. Locally important species/communities	✓				✓			

N: No impact

LS: Less than significant

PS-M: Potentially significant, unless mitigated to a level of insignificance

PS: Potentially significant, even after mitigation

a. Endangered, Threatened or Rare Species

According to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), several special-status species have the potential to occur within 5 miles of the project site. However, none of the species described below were observed the day ENSR visited the proposed project site.

Plants:

- **Santa Susana tarplant** (*Deinandra minthornii*), a federal species of concern, has been observed at Charmlee County Park. Santa Susana tarplant grows in crevices of sandstone boulders and around rocky sandstone outcrops. No such rocky outcrops are present on the property.
- **Conejo buckwheat** (*Eriogonum crocatum*), a state rare species, has been observed in the vicinity of Lake Sherwood on rocky outcrops above the lake. Conejo buckwheat only grows amidst such rocky outcrops, and no such rocky habitat was observed at the project site.
- **Marcescent dudleya** (*Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *Marcescens*), a federal threatened and state rare species, has been observed within 2 miles of the project site in Little Sycamore Canyon at the junction of Yerba Buena Road and Cotharin Road. The location is a north facing rock outcrop with moss, lichens, and associated with *Lilium humboldtii* and *Pholistoma racemosum*. Marcescent dudleya requires a rocky outcrop. This species would not be expected on the project site because there is no suitable habitat for its survival.
- **Santa Monica Mountains Dudleya** (*Dudleya cymosa* ssp. *ovatifolia*), a federal threatened species, has also been found within 5 miles of the project site. Like marcescent dudleya, it would not be expected to occur in the project site because it also requires a rocky outcrop, and none is present.

- **Plummer's mariposa lily** (*Calochortus plummerae*), a federal species of concern, has been observed in coastal scrub north of highway 1, within 2 miles of the project site. Plummer's mariposa lily would not be expected on this parcel at this time because much of it has already been graded and the surrounding chaparral species are very dense, leaving no room for the lily. Plummer's mariposa lily is more common in foothill grassland.
- **Orcutt's pincushion** (*Chaenactis glabriuscula* var. *orcuttiana*), a species listed by the California Native Plant Society as rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere, has been found on coastal dunes within 5 miles of the project site. Orcutt's pincushion requires a sandy site along the coast and would not be found on the project site which is located about 2 miles from the coast and is at an approximate elevation of 970 feet above sea level.
- **Sonoran maiden fern** (*Thelypteris puberula* var. *sonorensis*), a species listed by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) as rare, threatened, or endangered in California, has been observed within five miles of the site. This species grows along streams or in seepage areas. The Sonoran maiden fern is not expected on the property site because it requires an aquatic habitat, and no such habitat occurs on the site.

Animals:

Several rare or endangered species have been reported within 5 miles of the project site:

- **Golden eagle** (*Aquila chrysaetos*), a state species of special concern, has been reported within the area. Cliff walled canyons or large trees in open areas provide nest sites, and no such habitat occurs on the project site.
- **Southern steelhead** (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*), a federal endangered species, has been observed within five miles of the site. This species is not expected on the property site because they both require an aquatic habitat, and no such habitat occurs on the site.

b. Wetland Habitat

There is no wetland habitat on the project site, so there should be no disturbance of such a site.

c. Coastal Habitat

This project is not located within the coastal zone, thus no impact on a coastal habitat should occur.

d. Migration Corridors

Wildlife movement could occur on the property in areas that have not been cleared for development or for the vineyard. Additional clearing to extend the vineyard to the east should not affect the wildlife.

e. Locally Important Species/Communities

No locally important communities, such as a Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest or a Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland community, are present on the parcel. Therefore, such communities will not be affected.

SECTION D
MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	YES/ MAYBE	NO
Based on the information contained within Sections B and C:		
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?		✓
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).		✓
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).		✓
4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		✓

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.

Catrina Mangiardi

Signature of Preparer

March 22, 2005

Date

APPENDIX A

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

ENSR

PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG


Client Name: Ventura County Planning Department		Site Location: 9522 Cotharin Road	Project No. 07020-019-011
Photo No. 1	Date: 3/17/05		
Direction Photo Taken: North East			
Description: 1.3 acre vineyard and adjacent chaparral vegetation.			

Photo No. 2	Date: 3/17/05	
Direction Photo Taken: East		
Description: 1.3 acre vineyard and adjacent chaparral vegetation.		

ENSR

PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG


Client Name: Ventura County Planning Department		Site Location: 9522 Cotharin Road	Project No. 07020-019-011
Photo No. 3	Date: 3/17/05		
Direction Photo Taken: North east			
Description: 1.3 acre vineyard and adjacent chaparral vegetation.			

Photo No. 4	Date: 3/17/05	
Direction Photo Taken: East		
Description: Southern portion of vineyard area.		