

## SECTION B

### INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

**Job:** CUP-5281

**Requester:** Janie King

**Applicant:** Ed Gibbons

**Date:** December 30, 2002

**Survey Type:** Field

**Rationale:** Adjacent Stream

**Site Description:** A field visit of the site (portion of Parcel no. 503-0-010-310) was conducted on December 30, 2002. The site is located near Long Canyon, about three miles northwest of Moorpark. The 222 acre Parcel supports about 110 acres of orchards (lemon, avocado, persimmon, peach) and pasture for horses and sheep. About one-third of the Parcel supports coyote brush scrub, dominated by coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*) and California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*). The site of the proposed farm worker dwelling has been recently disturbed and supports only weedy, non-native species such as summer mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*). A tributary to the Long Canyon drainage is located adjacent to the site of the proposed farm worker dwelling.

	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	X				X			
b. wetland habitat	X				X			
c. coastal habitat	X				X			
d. migration corridors	X				X			
e. locally important species/communities		X				X		

\*N No Impact

LS Less Than Significant Impact

PS-M Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated

PS Potentially Significant Impact

**SECTION C**  
**DISCUSSION OF RESPONSES**

- a. Plant or animal species listed under either the Federal or California Endangered Species Acts reported within 10 miles of the Parcel include:
- Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyoni*, Federal and State Endangered) – reported from near Tierra Rejada Road, 6 miles to the southeast (NDDDB, 2002).
  - California orcutt grass (*Orcuttia californica*, Federal and State Endangered) – reported from near the intersection of SR 23 and Tierra Rejada Road, 6 miles to the southeast (NDDDB, 2002).
  - Southern steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*, Federal Endangered) - reported from the Santa Clara River, 5 miles to the north (NDDDB, 2002).
  - Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo belli pusillus*, Federal and State Endangered) - reported from the Santa Clara River, 5 miles to the north (NDDDB, 2002).
  - Coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica*, Federal Threatened) – reported from northern Moorpark, 4 miles to the east-southeast (NDDDB, 2002)

The Parcel does not provide suitable habitat for these or other rare, threatened, or endangered species known from the region and the addition of a farm worker dwelling to the Parcel would not adversely affect rare, threatened or endangered species.

- b. The adjacent tributary of the Long Canyon drainage is an ephemeral, entrenched stream with eroded vertical banks. It supports mostly coyote brush and branching phacelia (*Phacelia ramossisima*), which is not considered wetland vegetation. Based on the small watershed (about 100 acres) and field observations, the duration of flow is expected to be very brief. This stream is not expected to meet the wetland hydrology (duration of inundation) or hydric soil criteria of the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual. Therefore, the stream does not support wetlands under the Federal, State or County definition. The proposed farm worker dwelling would not adversely affect wetlands.
- c. The site is located approximately 17 miles northeast of the coastal zone and coastal resources do not occur in the vicinity of the site. Coastal resources are not expected to be adversely affected by the addition of a farm worker dwelling.
- d. Long Canyon may be used by wildlife as a corridor of convenience between the Santa Clara River valley and Arroyo las Posas/Little Simi Valley. However, much of the habitat along this corridor has been converted to citrus orchards. The proposed farm worker dwelling would not reduce the value of this potential wildlife corridor.

- e. Special-status species known to occur within three miles of the Parcel include coast live oak, western sycamore, southern California black walnut, wedge-leaf horkelia, California spineflower, Plummer's mariposa lily, coast horned lizard, coastal western whiptail, silvery legless lizard, Cooper's hawk, loggerhead shrike, northern harrier, barn owl, merlin, southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, Bell's sage sparrow and San Diego desert woodrat (Padre Associates, 2002a and 2002b). The only special-status species observed at the site during the field visit was one southern California black walnut, located about 50 feet east of the site, immediately above the north bank of the drainage. Excluding the southern California black walnut tree, the proposed farm worker dwelling would not displace special-status species or their habitat. It is unclear if the southern California black walnut tree would be removed to accommodate the farm worker dwelling. However, this species is listed as a plant of limited distribution (List 4) by the California Native Plant Society. List 4 species do not meet the definition of rare or endangered under Section 15380 of the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, such that impacts to such species are not generally considered significant.

#### **References:**

- California Natural Diversity Data Base. 2002. RAREFIND 2 Output for the Moorpark 7.5' Quadrangle map.
- Padre Associates, Inc. 2002a. *Biological Baseline Assessment for Wayne J. Sand and Gravel Quarry, CUP-4571 Mod. 6 Ventura County, California*. Prepared for Wayne J. Jones.
- Padre Associates, Inc. 2002b. Letter report on the results of botanical and California gnatcatcher surveys for the expansion of the Grimes Rock Quarry; CUP-4874 Mod. 2. Prepared for Grimes Rock Quarry.

## 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?	_____	<u>  X  </u>
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).	_____	<u>  X  </u>
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).	_____	<u>  X  </u>
4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	_____	<u>  X  </u>

**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.

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Signature of Preparer

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Date