



# CONDOR ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING SERVICES, INC.

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## **Biological Assessment Proposed Cingular Wireless Cell Site**

**505 W. Fairview Road  
Ojai, California  
APN No. 010-0-170-210  
Project No. LU05-0075**



**Prepared by:  
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**Prepared for:  
The County of Ventura  
Resource Management Agency  
Planning Division  
Eric Nagy, Planner**

**August 11, 2005**



## **Introduction**

The Resource Management Agency Planning Division of the County of Ventura is processing an application by Cingular Wireless for installation, operation, and maintenance of a communications facility consisting of twelve 20-foot high stub mount antennas and a 11' 5" x 20 x 10' 6" equipment shelter on an agricultural parcel in the Ojai area. The Case Planner is Eric Nagy (805) 654-2493. Condor Environmental has been asked to review the biological resources of the site and to prepare the biological resources section of the Initial Study pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).



**Photo 1:** Avocado grove and eucalyptus trees at the project site. *Photograph by Jennifer Jackson*

## **Location**

The project site is located north of Fairview Road., east of Highway 33, and west of Camp Ramah Road, north of Ojai. The parcel number is 010-0-170-210 at 505 W. Fairview Road. The site is immediately south of two existing water tanks (as shown in photo 1), on a cleared dirt and asphalt pad at the top of an avocado orchard. The site is at an elevation of 1,111 feet; latitude 34.46346 and longitude -119.27398.

## **Methods**

The California Natural Diversity Database (California Department of Fish and Game 2005) was queried on August 10, 2005 and a list of locally rare plants of Ventura County was consulted (Magney 2004).

The project site was briefly surveyed on foot by Condor Biologists Elihu Gevirtz, Vince Semonsen, and Jennifer Jackson on the morning of August 11, 2005 from 10:15 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Site conditions as well as all plants and animals observed were noted. Animals were noted by site, sound, tracks, and scat. Plants were identified in the field and unknown species were clipped and brought back to the office for identification.

The surrounding environment was observed by walking on a trail that



**Photo 2:** View of water tank from the east. *Photograph by Jennifer Jackson*

surrounds the water tanks to view nearby habitats, wildlife corridors, and associated plant species.

### **Results**

Much of the site is on an existing dirt and asphalt pad immediately south of two water tanks that are surrounded by a chain link fence. The site is located at the top of an avocado orchard. Avocados are planted to the south and southwest of the project site. Chaparral and coastal scrub dominate the adjacent parcel to the north and northwest.

Vegetation onsite is limited to several tall eucalyptus trees (*Eucalyptus globulus*). Three coast live oak trees (*Quercus agrifolia*) are located downslope east of and below the pad (Table 1). Vegetation near the site, on the adjacent parcel, is dominated by big pod ceanothus (*Ceanothus megacarpus*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), hollyleaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*), elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*), and other herbaceous plants listed in Table 2. Numerous western fence lizards (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) were observed onsite and several bird species were heard and observed on or near the project site. Coyote (*Canis latrans*) scat and deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) trails indicate that the area is utilized by these species.



**Photo 3:** Chaparral on adjacent parcel to the north. Photograph by Jennifer Jackson

### **Roosting and Nesting**

No evidence of nesting or roosting by raptors or vultures was found in or around the eucalyptus trees.

### **Endangered Species**

No rare, threatened or endangered species, or candidates for such listing, were observed on the project site.

### **Wetlands**

There are no wetlands or riparian areas on or near the project site, evidenced by the lack of wetland indicator species.

### **Coastal Habitats**

The project site is outside of the Coastal Zone.

### **Habitats Providing Seasonal Concentrations or Migration of Fish and Wildlife**

Such habitats and areas do not exist at the project site.

**Locally Important Species and Communities**

No species identified by the California Natural Diversity Database were observed onsite.  
No plants listed by California Native Plant Society were observed onsite.

**Mitigation Measures**

No mitigation measures.



**Table 1**  
**Plant Species Occurring Onsite**

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Blue Gum
<i>Persea americana</i>	Avocado
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast live oak

**Table 2**  
**Plant Species Occurring Offsite, North of the Water Tanks**

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Adenostoma fasciculatum</i>	Chamise
<i>Brassica nigrens</i>	Black mustard
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat
<i>Ceanothus megacarpus</i>	Big Pod ceanothus
<i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i>	Telegraph weed
<i>Keckelia cordifolia</i>	Climbing penstemon
<i>Lotus scoparius</i>	California broom
<i>Malacothamnus fasciculatus</i>	Chaparral mallow
<i>Malacothrix saxatilis</i> var. <i>commutata</i>	Cliff aster
<i>Malosma laurina</i>	Laurel sumac
<i>Phacelia</i> sp.	Phacelia
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	Hollyleaf cherry
<i>Salvia mellifera</i>	Black sage

**Table 3**  
**Wildlife Species Observed Onsite and Adjacent to Project Site**

Scientific Name	Common Name
<b>Reptiles</b>	
<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>	Western Fence Lizard
<b>Birds</b>	
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Turkey vulture
<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Red-shouldered hawk
<i>Aeronautes saxatalis</i>	White-throated swift
<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's woodpecker
<i>Toxostoma redivivum</i>	California thrasher
<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	House wren
<i>Chamaea fasciata</i>	Wrentit
<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	Lesser goldfinch
<b>Mammals</b>	
<i>Canis latrans</i>	Coyote
<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	Mule deer

## **References**

California Department of Fish and Game, 2005. California Natural Diversity Database, Rare Find 3.

Magney, D. 2004. Locally Rare and Uncommon Plants of Ventura County.