

SECTION B INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

Job: PD-1870

Requester: Debbie Morrisset

Applicant: John Bolognone

Date: June 10, 2002

Survey Type: Field

Rationale: Update to 6/14/01 report to include single family residence

Site Description: A field visit of the project site (A.P.N. # 701-0-030-020) was conducted on May 14, 2002. The 40-acre property is located on 12486 Yerba Buena Road in Malibu, California (Figures 1 and 2). The project outlined in application PD-1870 requests a legalization of illegal grading for an access road, building pad (Photo 1), picnic area (Photo 2), and a single-family residence. A previous survey had been completed to assess the impacts of constructing the access road (ENSR, 2001), this survey focused on the building pad and picnic area.

The steep topography of the site has been graded to accommodate various access roads and building pads. The primary vegetation community is coastal sage scrub, with dominants including ribbonwood tree (*Adenostoma parsifolia*), chemise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), buckbrush (*Ceanothus macrocarpa*), wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), and golden yarrow (*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*). Common wildlife in the area includes mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), western scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), California quail (*Callipepla californica*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), and the brush rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani*). Because the building pad and picnic areas had already been graded, it is difficult to determine what was present prior to disturbance.

A previous report recorded the presence of Plummer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus plummerae*), a California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List 1B plant, to the immediate east of the building site. Even though this population was not identified during the current visit, avoidance of this area is necessary. Many of the special-status species discussed below were not likely to have occurred in the project location prior to disturbance, though areas on the property adjacent to the project location do have the potential to support special status species. Although not listed in the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) search a two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*), a California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) protected and a federally listed sensitive species, was found north of the building pad on a steep access road.

6. Biological Resources	Project Impact Degree of Effect*				Cumulative Impact Degree of Effect*			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
a. Endangered, threatened or rare species			✓		✓			
b. Wetland habitat	✓				✓			
c. Coastal habitat	✓				✓			
d. Migration corridors			✓		✓			

6. Biological Resources	Project Impact Degree of Effect*				Cumulative Impact Degree of Effect*			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
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								

SECTION C

DISCUSSION OF RESPONSES

- a. Several rare or endangered species have been reported within 3 miles of the project site and have the potential to be present at the site:

Plummer's mariposa lily (*Calochortus plummerae*), CNPS List 1B species, is usually found in coastal sage scrub or valley and foothill grassland. Soil is usually sandy or alluvial. Although the species has been previously recorded at the site, signs of the lily were not observed during the field visit.

The marcescent dudleya (*Dudleya cymosa ssp. marcescens*), a federally threatened and state-designated rare plant, is found on shaded, rocky slopes of the Santa Monica Mountains. The property has rocky outcrops on slopes that have the potential for this species. The building pad and picnic areas have already been disturbed and it is unlikely the species would occur there, though other parts of the property likely support the species.

The Santa Monica Mountains dudleya (*Dudleya cymosa ssp. ovatifolia*), a federally threatened species, is also found on shaded, rocky slopes of the Santa Monica Mountains. The property has rocky outcrops on slopes that have the potential for this species. The building pad and picnic areas have already been disturbed and it is unlikely the species would occur there, though other parts of the property likely support the species.

The Conejo buckwheat (*Eriogonum crocatum*), a federal species of concern, is found on steep north-facing volcanic slopes throughout the western side of Conejo Valley. Although there is potential habitat for the species on the property, signs of the buckwheat were not observed in the project area, possibly due to the high level of disturbance caused by previous construction.

The Santa Susana tarplant (*Hemizonia minthornii*), a federal species of concern, is found in chaparral on hard sandstone outcrops in the Santa Monica Mountains. The subject site does not include sandstone outcrops and it is unlikely that the species occurs there.

The Sonoran Maiden Fern (*Thelypteris puberula var. sonorensis*), listed by the CNPS, is found along streams and seepage areas, and requires a high amount of available water. The streambed crossing the project site is dry during the warmer seasons and therefore does not have enough available water to support this species.

The monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) utilizes trees along the California coastline for overwintering. The subject property is too far from the coast to receive the morning fog necessary to support overwintering sites.

The Southern Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*), a federally listed endangered species, is present in the tributaries of the Arroyo Sequit. Although a tributary does run through the property, during the drier seasons the stream is dry and cannot support the species.

- b. Wetland habitat was not identified on the project site, so there should not be disturbance of such a site.
- c. The project site is far enough from the coast to avoid impact to coastal habitat.
- d. The project site is located in a rural area of the Santa Monica Mountains and includes extensive undeveloped areas that could be used as wildlife migration corridors. Although there are many roads that transect the property, the property as a whole is fairly undisturbed.
- e. Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest and Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland are communities found in the area that are considered sensitive and disturbance should be limited. These communities were not identified within the proposed project.

SECTION D
MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Based on the information contained within Sections B and C:

- | | YES | 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? | | ✓ |
| 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

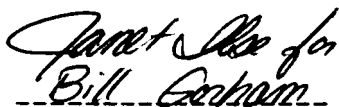
On the basis of this initial evaluation (*check one*):

	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.

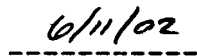
Mitigation Measures

Recommended mitigation measures include:

- Prior to grading stake the location of the Plummer's mariposa lily and notify construction workers to avoid impacting the staked area.
- To avoid impacts to the two striped garter snake, create an exclusion zone around the proposed grading area by surrounding it with silt fabric dug into the ground or weighted down to limit access to the zone. Prior to the start of construction each day, check under equipment and in exclusion zone for snakes. Remove if found.



Signature of Preparer



Date