

Job:	PD-1955	Requester:	Kim Rodriguez
Applicant:	Saticoy Land Development	Date:	Revised September 22, 2003
Survey Type:	Field	Rationale:	Adjacent to Santa Clara River

Project Impact Degree of Effect*				Cumulative Impact Degree of Effect*			
N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
	X				X		
	X				X		
X				X			
	X				X		
	X				X		
	X				X		

Page 1 of 6

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 project site include:
- Southern steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*, Federal Endangered) - reported from the Santa Clara River, adjacent to the site.
 - Santa Ana sucker (*Catostomus santaanae*, Federal Endangered) – reported from the Santa Clara River, 5 miles to the northeast (introduced) (Swift et al., 1993).
 - Tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*, Federal Endangered) – reported from the Santa Clara River estuary, 7.5 miles to the southwest (NDDDB, 2002).
 - California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*, Federal Endangered) – reported from the Ventura Harbor, 8 miles to the southwest (NDDDB, 2002).
 - Western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*, Federal Endangered) – reported from Ormond Beach, 9.5 miles to the south (NDDDB, 2002)
 - Belding's savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*, State Endangered) - reported from Ormond Beach, 9.5 miles to the south (NDDDB, 2002)
 - Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo belli pusillus*, Federal and State Endangered) – reported from the Santa Clara River, 4,000 feet to the east (Sweetwater Environmental Biologists, 1992).

Hydrocarbons leaked onto paved surfaces at the proposed County Maintenance Facility have the potential to enter the Santa Clara River via stormwater run-off. Such discharges may substantially reduce the habitat quality of the Santa Clara River for steelhead, Santa Ana sucker and tidewater goby. However, an 80 mil high-density polyethylene barrier would be installed below vehicle maintenance areas, fueling and truck wash areas and storage areas. Storm run-off would be captured and piped to a sump for treatment and disposal. Residual hydrocarbons related to vehicle maintenance, fueling and storage would not enter the Santa Clara River.

Suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo occurs at the Franklin Barranca/Santa Clara River confluence, immediately adjacent to the site. The proposed facilities would result in some noise, lighting and dust; however, due to the small scale and limited operating hours of proposed facilities, disruption of nesting at suitable habitat at the Franklin Barranca/Santa Clara River confluence is not expected. Impacts to threatened and endangered species are considered less than significant.

Habitat for least tern, snowy plover and Belding's savannah sparrow are sufficiently distant from the project site that impacts are not expected.

- b. Wetlands occur at the Franklin Barranca/Santa Clara River confluence. Construction of the proposed berm within the Ventura County Watershed Protection District easement would result in the loss of about 0.4 acres of wetland vegetation. However, most of this area is comprised of giant reed, an invasive species. Due the dominance by giant reed, this area is not considered a significant wetland for the purposes of General Plan Policy 1.5.2.3. Since the project would primarily replace invasive species with a landscaped berm, the loss of wetlands is considered a less than significant impact.
- c. The project site is located approximately 4 miles northeast of the coastal zone and coastal resources do not occur in the vicinity of the site. As discussed above, hydrocarbons entrained in stormwater run-off from the proposed County Maintenance Facility would not reach the Santa Clara River estuary and adversely affect the water quality and habitat value of this regionally important wetland. No impacts to coastal resources are expected.
- d. The Santa Clara River is considered a regional wildlife movement corridor. Noise, dust and lighting may reduce the value of adjacent portions of the Santa Clara River as a movement corridor. However, the proposed landscaped berm along the boundary of the site would provide an adequate buffer. Therefore, impacts to wildlife migration are considered less than significant.
- e. Special-status species known to occur within or immediately adjacent to the Santa Clara River include arroyo chub, southwestern pond turtle, San Diego horned lizard, coastal western whiptail, two-striped garter snake, Cooper's hawk, white-tailed kite, loggerhead shrike, tri-colored blackbird, yellow warbler and yellow-breasted chat. Habitat for these species does not occur on the site. Therefore, potential impacts would be limited to disturbance associated with noise, dust and lighting. Due to the small scale and limited operating hours of proposed facilities, the proposed landscaped berm along the southern boundary of the site would provide an adequate buffer to prevent disturbance of these species. Impacts to riparian nesting special-status birds (Cooper's hawk, yellow warbler and yellow-breasted chat) are considered less than significant.

References:

Natural Diversity Data Base (NDDB). 2002. RAREFIND 2 output for the Saticoy 7.5-minute quadrangle. California Department of Fish and Game. Sacramento, CA.

Sweetwater Environmental Biologists, Inc. 1992. *Report on the Least Bell's Vireo Monitoring and Cowbird Removal Program for 1991*. Prepared for the California Department of Fish and Game.

Swift, C. C., T. R. Haglund, M. Ruiz, and R. N. Fischer. 1993. *The Status and Distribution of the Freshwater Fishes of Southern California*. Southern California Academy of Sciences, 1993.

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.

Signature of Preparer

Date