Historic Biological Reports Scan Control Sheet

County Project Number(s):	cup-5ans
Report Type (check one): Initial Study	
Report Date (Month/Day/Year):	09/09/2002
Check if the following apply to the Wetland and/or aquatic habitat	report:
☐ Within designated Coastal Zone	
Potential movement corridor for fi	sh and/or wildlife

SECTION B INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

Job: CUP-5268 Requester: Todd Militello

Applicant: Robert Medrano Date: September 9, 2002

Survey Type: Field Rationale: Commercial organic processing

Site Description: A field visit of the project site (A.P.N. # 511-0-200-01) was conducted on September 6, 2002. The 132-acre property is located on Highway 118 in Moorpark, California. The project outlined in application CUP-5268 requests operation of commercial organics processing, chip and grind operation, green waste recycling, vermicomposting, bulk landscape materials, and mulch production. The general topography of the property has been graded to accommodate former agriculture fields, several access roads, various building pads, and storage of chipped materials (see attached site photographs). The property slopes up sharply at the northern end and is currently undeveloped. Vegetation among the disturbed areas is dominated by beavertail cactus (*Opuntia basilaris*), Fountaingrass (*Pennisetum setaceum*), wild mustard (*Brassica negra*), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), and ice plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*). The northern, undeveloped end is primarily coastal sage scrub dominated by coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), and yucca (*Yucca whipleii*). Blue gum eucalyptus trees (*Eucalyptus globulus*) are scattered within the northwest portion of the site. Wildlife species identified during the survey include brush rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani*), black-tailed jackrabbit, (*Lepus californicus*), and raven (*Corvus corax*).

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	1				~	,		
c. Coastal habitat	/				~			
d. Migration corridors	~				~			-
e. Locally important species/ communities	V				/			

* 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 5 miles of the project site and have the potential to be present at the site:

Santa Ana sucker (Catostomus santaanae), a federally threatened species of fish, occurs on rocky- or sandy-bottomed creeks and drainages. The property does not support creeks or waterways and it is unlikely the fish is present.

San Diego woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia*), a state species of concern, inhabits coastal sage scrub and prefers rocky and sandy sites with scattered coyote bush and cactus. The northern end of the property supports a large amount of coastal scrub with coyote bush and beavertail cacti. The proposed project, however, is limited to the lower 35 acres of the 132-acre parcel. Because the 35 acres are already maintained as disturbed agricultural fields or for storage piles, it is unlikely the species occurs in that area. The northern portion of the site, however, likely supports the species.

Plummer's mariposa lily (Calochortus plummerae), listed as 1B by the California Native Plant Society, is usually found in coastal sage scrub or valley and foothill grassland. Soil is usually sandy or alluvial. The northern end of the property supports a large amount of coastal scrub on sandy soils. The proposed project, however, is limited to the lower 35 acres of the 132-acre parcel. Because the 35 acres are already maintained as disturbed agricultural fields or for storage piles, it is unlikely the species occurs in that area. The northern portion of the site, however, likely supports the species.

- b. There is no wetland habitat on the project site, so there should be no disturbance of such a site.
- c. The project site is not near the coast, so no impact on a coastal habitat should occur.
- d. The project site is located in an area primarily used for orchards and row crops. However, undeveloped areas that could be used as wildlife migration corridors are present on the northern portion of the property.
- e. Southern riparian scrub, a plant community monitored by the state, is found along depressions or along creek and stream banks. The property does not support creeks or waterways and it is unlikely the community is present.

SECTION D MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Based on the information contained within Sections B and C:

	YES	МО
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 <u>DETERMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT</u>

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

1	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

The proposed project includes use of only the southern 35 acres of the 132-acre parcel. The area where changes are requested is currently disturbed and provides little to no habitat for special status species. The northern portion of the property, however, provides decent habitat for both the San Diego desert woodrat and Plummer's mariposa lily. It is recommended that the applicant does not disturb the northern portion of the property unless special status surveys for these two species are completed.

Signature of Preparer

Date