

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

### Clerk of the Board of Supervisors 105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407

Santa Barbara, CA 93101 (805) 568-2240

(805) 568-2240

Department Name:

General Services

Department No.:

063

For Agenda Of:

9/23/2008

Placement:

Administrative

Estimated Tme:

Continued Item:

No

If Yes, date from:

Vote Required:

Majority

TO:

Board of Supervisors

FROM:

Department

Bob Nisbet, Director (560-1011)

Director(s)
Contact Info:

General Services Department

Paddy Langlands, Assistant Director (568-3096)

Support Services Division

SUBJECT:

Creation and Acceptance of Conservation Easement for Lompoc Fire Station

Property APN: 097-380-043 (003491)

**County Counsel Concurrence** 

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence** 

As to form: N/A

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

### **Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Adopt the Resolution making certain findings required by California Government Code Section 51056 to create and accept a 4.6 acre Conservation Easement on the 15.35 acre Fire Station 51 property in Lompoc (APN: 097-380-043), as well as approving and accepting the creation of the Conservation Easement; and
- b) Execute the Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Environmental Restrictions (Conservation Easement) creating a Conservation Easement on a 4.6 acre portion of the County-owned Fire Station 51 property located at the intersection of Burton Mesa and Harris Grade Roads in the unincorporated area of Lompoc Valley; and
- c) Accept title to the Conservation Easement by authorizing the Clerk of the Board to execute the Certificate of Acceptance attached to the Conservation Easement.

### **Summary Text:**

The County recently acquired a 15.35 acre parcel of property from the State of California for the purpose of constructing a new Fire and Sheriff Substation at Burton Mesa and Harris Grade Roads in the Lompoc Valley, upon the condition that a portion of the property be preserved, in perpetuity, as open space to facilitate the protection of Burton Mesa Chaparral, which provides critical habitat to many endemic endangered and rare plant species. The Conservation Easement, which is created by means of a

Conservation Easement Burton Mesa (003491) 9/23/2008 Page 2 of 3

Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Environmental Restrictions, will be recorded against the property, and will preserve, in perpetuity, a 4.6 acre portion of the Burton Mesa Chaparral.

### Background:

In 2006, the County purchased 15.35 acres of excess undeveloped Cal-Trans road right-of-way from the State of California. The purpose of the acquisition was to create a parcel upon which to construct a new Fire and Sheriff Station to replace the old Station 51, located at 749 Burton Mesa Boulevard, in the unincorporated area of Lompoc Valley. Station 51, in use since 1964, had become dilapidated and did not meet current essential services facility requirements.

The 15.35 acre parcel is located in a rural wildlife area adjacent to the Burton Mesa Ecological Preserve. The County's Planning and Development Department studied the project area and produced the "Initial Study and Final Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Relocation of Fire Station 51" (06NGD-00000-00002) that was approved by the Board of Supervisors. The document recognized the unique environmental characteristics of the property and determined that 4.6 acres of the property would have to be set aside for permanent protection by means of a deed restriction or conservation easement; or, by deeding the 4.6 acres to the California Department of Fish and Game.

The Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Environmental Restrictions is defined under the California Civil Code as a Conservation Easement; and, as such, can be transferred to a third party land trust or similar non-profit at some time in the future, if the County so desires. The document strictly limits the uses and activities that are permitted in the Easement Area, and establishes the Conservation Values that are to be protected. The document will be recorded against the property and will be binding on any future owners of the property or the Conservation Easement Area.

The California Government Code requires the County, prior to acceptance of an open-space easement, to determine by Resolution that preservation of the easement area is consistent with the applicable General Plan, and that such preservation is in the best interest of the County and is important to the public. The Negative Declaration specifically determined its consistency with the General Plan, and gave numerous reasons for its importance and preservation. The Certificate of Acceptance memorializes the County's approval and acceptance of the Conservation Easement.

### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

None

### **Special Instructions:**

After Board action, distribute as follows:

- 1. Original Resolution, copy of Declaration, Copy of Certificate of Acceptance
- Copy of Resolution, Original Declaration with original Certificate of Acceptance & Minute Order

Clerk of the Board Files

Office of Real Estate Services Attn: Don Grady Conservation Easement Burton Mesa (003491)

9/23/2008 Page 3 of 3

**NOTE:** The Office of Real Estate Services will record the Declaration and Certificate of Acceptance. Once certified copies of the documents have been returned by the Recorder's Office, Real Estate Services will deliver those documents to the Clerk of the Board for its file and reference.

### **Attachments:** - Resolution

- Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Environmental Restrictions
- Certificate of Acceptance

Authored by: Don Grady, Office of Real Estate Services

# RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF MAKING CERTAIN )	
FINDINGS REQUIRED BY CALIFORNIA )	
GOVERNMENT CODE §51056 FOR APPROVAL)	
AND ACCEPTANCE OF A CONSERVATION )	
EASEMENT ON SANTA BARBARA COUNTY )	RESOLUTION NO
ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER 097-380-043	

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Barbara ("County") purchased approximately 15.35 acres of land ("Property") located at the intersection of Burton Mesa and Harris Grade Roads in the unincorporated area of Lompoc from the State of California for the purpose of constructing a new County Fire Station and Sheriff Substation ("Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Property includes critical habitat known as Burton Mesa Chaparral, and contains several varieties of endangered and protected plant and wildlife species; and

WHEREAS, an Initial Study and Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (06NGD-00000-00002) was prepared by County's Planning and Development Department and approved by the Board of Supervisors for construction of the Fire Station and Sheriff Substation on the Property; and

WHEREAS, the Project was approved and determined to be consistent with the General Plan on the condition that 4.6 acres of the Property ("Easement Area") be set aside by County for permanent protection by means of a conservation, or "open-space" easement; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Government Code §51056, prior to accepting an open-space easement, the County shall make certain findings regarding its consistency with the general plan and its importance to the public.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FOUND AND RESOLVED by the County of Santa Barbara as follows:

1. The Board of Supervisors hereby finds and determines that:

- a. Preservation of the Easement Area as open space is consistent with the General Plan.
- b. Preservation of the Easement Area as open space is in the best interest of the County and is important to the public for enjoyment of scenic beauty because the land is valuable to the public as a wildlife preserve or sanctuary and the Conservation Easement contains appropriate covenants to that end.
- c. The Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Environmental Restrictions (Conservation Easement) presented herewith is hereby approved and accepted by the Board of Supervisors.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, the 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2008, by the following vote:

vote:			
AYES:			
NOES:			
ABSTAIN:			
ABSENT:			
	COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA		
ATTEST: MICHAEL F. BROWN CLERK OF THE BOARD	By:Chair, Board of Supervisors Salud Carbajal		
By: Deputy			
APPROVED AS TO FORM: DENNIS MARSHALL CQUNTY COUNSEL	APPROVED AS TO FORM: ROBERT W. GEIS, C.P.A. AUDITOR-CONTROLLER		
	//		

Recording Requested by and When Recorded Mail to: County of Santa Barbara c/o General Services/Real Estate Services Will Call

SPACE ABOVE THIS LINE FOR RECORDER'S USE
NO TAX DUE
APN: 097-380-043 (portion)

# DECLARATION OF COVENANTS, CONDITIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESTRICTIONS (Conservation Easement)

This Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Environmental Restrictions ("Conservation Easement") is made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2008, by the COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, a political subdivision of the State of California ("COUNTY").

### **RECITALS**

- A. COUNTY is the sole owner of that certain real property in the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, designated as Santa Barbara County Assessor Parcel Number 097-380-043, containing approximately 15.35 acres and located at the intersection of Burton Mesa and Harris Grade Roads in the unincorporated area of Lompoc Valley; more particularly described in Exhibit "A", attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference (hereinafter "Property").
- B. COUNTY purchased the Property from the State of California for the purpose of relocating the existing Santa Barbara County Fire Station 51 and Sheriff Substation facility on Burton Mesa Road upon the condition that a portion of the Property (hereinafter "Easement Area") would be preserved by means of a conservation easement, as such is defined in California Civil Code Section 815, et seq.
- C. The Easement Area, consisting of approximately 4.6 acres, is described in Exhibit "B", attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.
- D. Preservation of the Easement Area as open space has been determined to be in the best interest of the County of Santa Barbara and important to the public for the enjoyment of scenic beauty because the land is valuable to the public as a wildlife preserve, and the provisions hereof are appropriate to protect its scenic beauty.
- E. The Easement Area provides critical habitat to many endemic endangered and rare species as well as those of national and local concern in the region. This habitat, Burton Mesa Chaparral, contains a distinct strain of Central Coast Maritime Chaparral and was

recognized by the County of Santa Barbara as a sensitive plant community in 1995. There are numerous plant species in the Easement Area that have achieved protection designation, such as: La Purisima Manzanita, Sand Mesa Manzanita, Lompoc Ceanothus, Wedge-leaved Horkelia, Coast Live Oak, California Spineflower, and Lompoc Monkeyflower. Several species of wildlife that have also received protection designation can also be found in the Easement Area, including the Silvery Legless Lizard, California Horned Lizard, White-tailed Kite (nesting), Loggerhead Shrike, California Thrasher, California Horned Lark, and the American Badger. These rare species flourish in critical habitats, including Coastal Sage Scrub, Burton Mesa Chaparral, and Grassland areas found in the Easement Area. Several other rare and endangered species are assumed to inhabit the Easement Area due to its unique conditions and habitat.

- F. COUNTY desires to establish and hold this Conservation Easement in perpetuity to provide mitigation for certain impacts caused by construction of the Fire and Sheriff Stations on the Property pursuant to Santa Barbara County Planning and Development Department Initial Study and Final Mitigated Negative Declaration For the Relocation of Fire Station 51 Project No. 06NGD-00000-00002 ("Comprehensive Summary of Mitigation Measures Required For the Relocation of Fire Station 51") approved by the County Board of Supervisors December 19, 2006, which was prepared pursuant to CEQA and certified by the County Board of Supervisors for Relocation of Fire Station 51, and the related Mitigation Plan.
- G. The Santa Barbara County Planning and Development Department has determined that preservation of the Easement Area as open space is consistent with the General Plan for the Burton Mesa area.

### COVENANTS, CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to California law, including Civil Code Section 815, et seq., COUNTY hereby voluntarily creates and establishes this Conservation Easement in perpetuity over the Easement Area, subject to the following:

- 1. <u>Purposes</u>. The purposes of this Conservation Easement are to ensure the Easement Area will be retained forever in its natural condition and to prevent any use of the Easement Area that will impair or interfere with the conservation values of the Easement Area, as such are set forth in the Recitals stated herein (hereinafter "Conservation Values"). COUNTY intends that this Conservation Easement will confine the use of the Easement Area to such activities that are consistent with those purposes, including, without limitation, those involving the preservation, restoration and enhancement of native species and their habitats.
- 2. <u>COUNTY Covenants.</u> To accomplish the purposes of this Conservation Easement, COUNTY hereby promises:
- (a) To preserve and protect the Conservation Values of the Easement Area; and

- (b) To undertake all reasonable actions to prevent the unlawful entry and trespass by persons whose activities may degrade or harm the conservation values of the Easement Area; and
- (c) To prevent any activity on or use of the Easement Area that is inconsistent with the purposes of this Conservation Easement and to require the restoration of such areas or features of the Easement Area that may be damaged by any act, failure to act, or any use that is inconsistent with the purposes of this Conservation Easement; and
- (d) To preserve and manage all mineral, air and water rights necessary to protect and to sustain the biological resources of the Easement Area.
- 3. <u>Prohibited Uses</u>. Any activity on or use of the Easement Area inconsistent with the purposes of this Conservation Easement is prohibited. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the following uses and activities are expressly prohibited:
- (a) Unseasonable watering; use of fertilizers, pesticides, biocides, herbicides or other agricultural chemicals; weed abatement activities; incompatible fire protection activities; and any and all other activities and uses which may adversely affect the purposes of this Conservation Easement; and
- (b) Use of off-road vehicles and use of any other motorized vehicles except on existing roadways; and
  - (c) Grazing or other agricultural activity of any kind; and
- (d) Recreational activities including, but not limited to, horseback riding, biking, hunting or fishing, except as may be specifically permitted under this Conservation Easement; and
  - (e) Commercial or industrial uses; and
- (f) Construction, reconstruction or placement of any building, billboard or sign, or any other structure or improvement of any kind; and
- (g) Depositing or accumulation of soil, trash, ashes, refuse, waste, biosolids or any other materials; and
- (h) Planting, introduction or dispersal of non-native or exotic plant or animal species; and
- (i) Filling, dumping, excavating, draining, dredging, mining, drilling, removing or exploring for or extraction of minerals, loam, soil, sands, gravel, rocks or other material on or below the surface of the Easement Area; and

- (j) Altering the surface or general topography of the Easement Area, including building of roads; and
- (k) Removing, destroying, or cutting of trees, shrubs or other vegetation, except as required by law for (1) fire breaks, (2) maintenance of existing foot trails or roads, or (3) prevention or treatment of disease; and
- (l) Manipulating, impounding or altering any natural water course, body of water or water circulation on the Easement Area, and activities or uses detrimental to water quality, including but not limited to degradation or pollution of any surface or sub-surface waters.
- 4. Reserved Rights. COUNTY reserves to itself, and to its personal representatives, heirs, successors, and assigns, all rights accruing from its ownership of the Property and the Easement Area, including the right to engage in or to permit or invite others to engage in all uses of the Easement Area that are not expressly prohibited or limited by, and are consistent with, the purposes of this Conservation Easement; and the right to grant licenses, easements, and other property interests in the Easement Area that do not interfere with the Conservation Values.
- 5. <u>COUNTY's Remedies.</u> If COUNTY determines that any injury to the Conservation Values of the Easement Area has occurred or is threatened, COUNTY may bring an action at law or in equity in a court of competent jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Conservation Easement, to recover any damages to which it may be entitled for violation of the terms of this Conservation Easement or for any injury to the Conservation Values of the Easement Area, to enjoin the violation (*ex parte* as necessary), by temporary or permanent injunction, without the necessity of proving either actual damages or the inadequacy of otherwise available legal remedies, or for other equitable relief, including, but not limited to, the restoration of the Easement Area to the condition in which it existed prior to any such injury.

COUNTY's remedies described in this section shall be cumulative and shall be in addition to all remedies now or hereafter existing at law or in equity, including but not limited to, the remedies set forth in Civil Code Section 815, et seq., inclusive.

If COUNTY or any subsequent transferee uses or threatens to use the Easement Area for purposes inconsistent with this Conservation Easement, notwithstanding Civil Code Section 815.7, any entity or individual with a justifiable interest in the preservation of this Conservation Easement shall have standing as an interested party in any proceeding affecting this Conservation Easement.

6. <u>Acts Beyond COUNTY's Control</u>. Nothing contained in this Conservation Easement shall be construed to entitle any third party to bring any action against COUNTY for any injury to or change in the Easement Area resulting from any natural cause beyond COUNTY's control, including, without limitation, fire, flood, storm, and earth movement; or

any prudent action taken by COUNTY under emergency conditions to prevent, abate, or mitigate significant injury to the Easement Area resulting from such causes.

- 7. Access. This Conservation Easement does not convey a general right of access to the public.
- 8. <u>Amendment</u>. This Conservation Easement may be amended from time to time by COUNTY so long as such amendment is consistent with the purposes of this Conservation Easement and California law governing conservation easements and does affect its perpetual duration. Any such amendment shall be recorded in the Official Records of the County of Santa Barbara, State of California.
- 9. <u>Termination</u>. If circumstances arise in the future that render the purposes of this Conservation Easement impossible to accomplish, this Conservation Easement can only be terminated or extinguished, in whole or in part, by judicial proceedings in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- 10. <u>Transfer of Easement</u>. This Conservation Easement is transferable by COUNTY, but only to an entity or organization authorized to acquire and hold conservation easements pursuant to Civil Code Section 815.3 (or any successor provision then applicable) or the laws of the United States.
- 11. <u>Transfer of Property</u>. COUNTY shall incorporate the terms of this Conservation Easement by reference in any deed or other legal instrument by which COUNTY divests itself of any interest in all or any portion of the Easement Area, including, without limitation, a leasehold interest. The failure by COUNTY to perform any act provided in this section shall not impair the validity of this Conservation Easement or limit its enforceability in any way.
- 12. <u>Successors</u>. The covenants, terms, conditions, and restrictions of this Conservation Easement shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the parties hereto and their respective personal representatives, heirs, successors, and assigns and shall constitute a servitude running in perpetuity with the Property.

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	F, the COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, a political ia, executed this Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and day of, 2008.
	COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA
	By:
	By:
	<u>ACKNOWLEDGMENT</u>
State of California	)
County of Santa Barbara	) )
appearedevidence to be the person(s) whos acknowledged to me that he/sh capacity(ies), and that by his/her/t	fore me,, personally, who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory the name(s) is/are subscribed to the within instrument and the/they executed the same in his/her/their authorized their signature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the son(s) acted, executed the instrument.
I certify under PENALTY OF PERforegoing paragraph is true and corn	RJURY under the laws of the State of California that the rect.
WITNESS my hand and official sea	al.
MICHAEL F. BROWN CLERK OF THE BOARD	
By:	

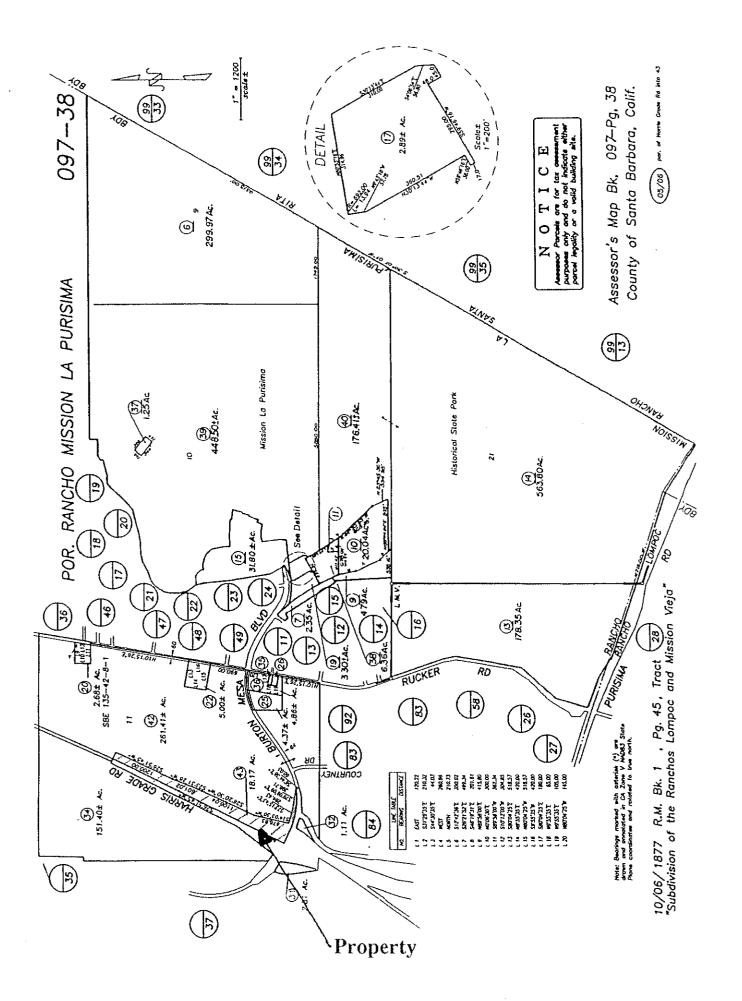
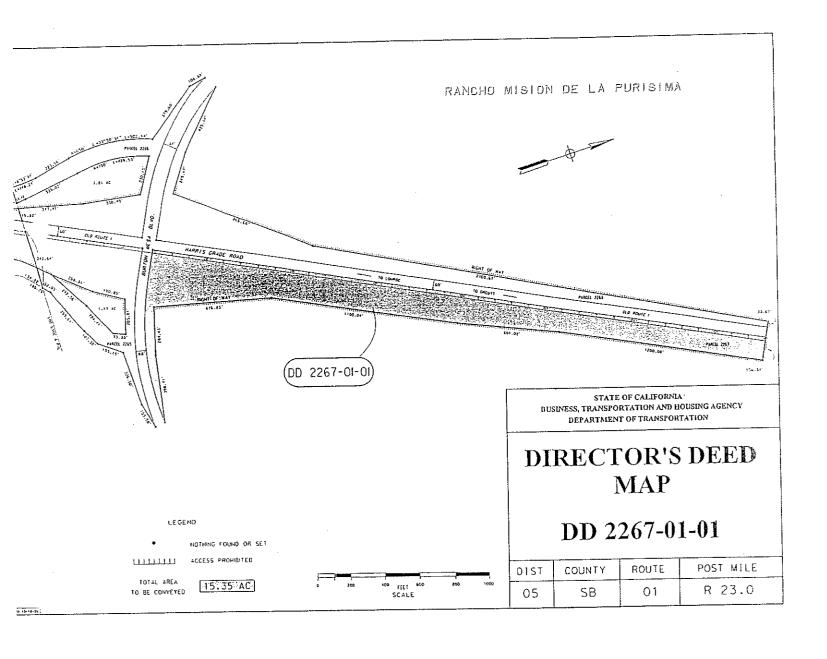


EXHIBIT A



That portion of the land conveyed to the State of California by the deed recorded June 6, 1974 in Book 2519 at Page 1324, Official Records of Santa Barbara County lying easterly of the easterly line of Harris Grade Road relinquished to the County of Santa Barbara in the deed recorded February 27, 1987 as Document No. 1987-015307 of Official Records of said County and northerly of the northerly line of Burton Mesa Boulevard described in the deed recorded August 28, 1959 in Book 1660 at Page 299, Official Records of said County.

# END OF DESCRIPTION

This real property description has been prepared by me, or under my direction, in conformance with the Professional Land Surveyor's Act.

Signature OZD N. John Date 10-18-05 EXHIBIT A



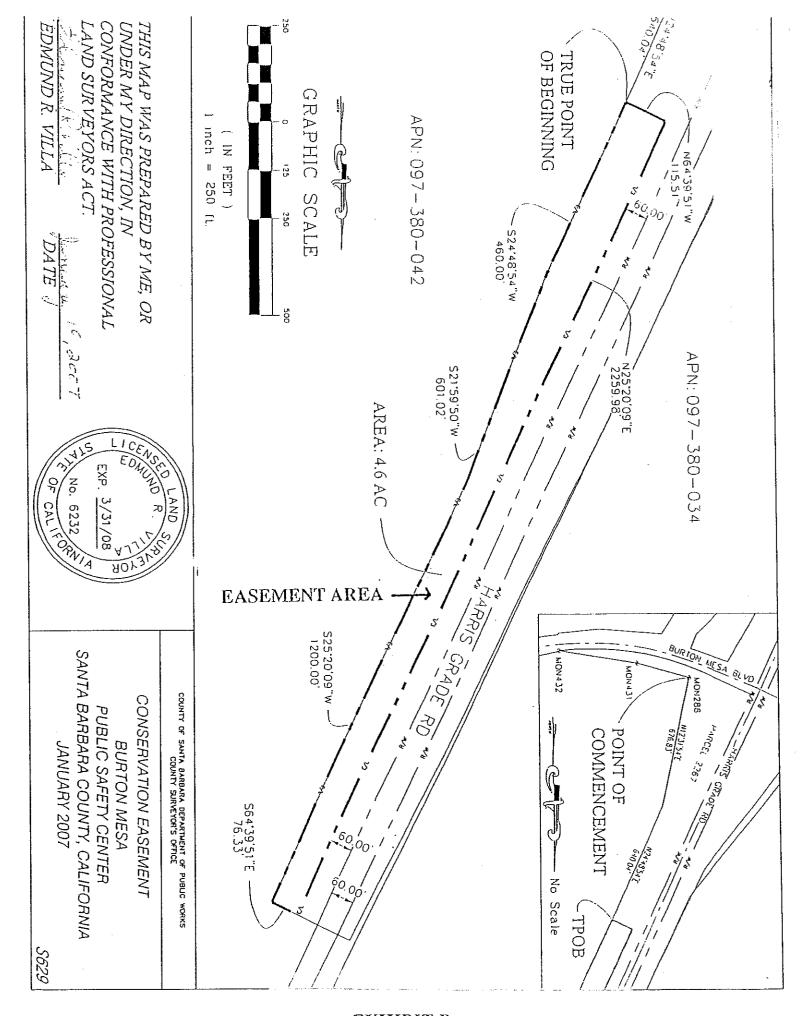


EXHIBIT B 1 of 2

### LEGAL DESCRIPTION

A portion of Rancho Mission De La Purisima in the County of Santa Barbara, State of California, as shown on State of California Transportation Agency Department of Public Works, DIVISION OF HIGHWAY-DISTRICT 5, "RIGHT OF WAY MAP" 1.0 Mi. S. of Route 246 to 2.0 Mi. N. of Santa Ynez River, PM 18.2-R23.4, County SB, Route 001, pages 21, 22 and 23, file in the Office of the County Recorder in said County, described as follows:

COMMENCING at a ¼ inch pipe with plastic plug marked "CAL DIV HGHWYS" offset right 310 feet from Station 232+40 as show on said "RIGHT OF WAY MAP", also note as monument number 288 on County of Santa Barbara-County Surveyor Office project number S629, file in the Office of the County Surveyor in said County;

- 1. Thence, N12°31'54"E 676.83 feet along the westerly line of Parcel 2267 as shown on said "RIGHT OF WAY MAP";
- 2. Thence, N 24°48'54"E 640.04 feet along said westerly line to the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING;
- 3. Thence, leaving said westerly line N 64°39'51"W 115.51 feet to point 60.00 feet southeast of the southeast Right of Way line of 60 foot wide Harris Grade Road;
- 4. Thence, parallel with and 60.00 feet southeast of said southeast Right of Way line of Harris Grade Road N 25°20'09"E 2,259.98 feet to the northerly line of said Parcel 2267;
- 5. Thence, along said northerly line S64°39'51"E 76.33 feet to the northeast corner of said Parcel 2267, noted a Station 268+00 offset right 115 feet on said "RIGHT OF WAY MAP";
- 6. Thence, along said westerly line of Parcel 2267 S25°20'09"W 1200.00 feet;
- 7. Thence, continue along said westerly line S 21°59'50"W 601.02 feet;
- 8. Thence, along said westerly line S24°48'54"W 460.00 feet to the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING

#### END DESCRIPTION

This Legal Description was prepared by me or under my direction with conformance with the requirements of the Professional Land Surveyors Act.

1 Date: 1

Edmund R. Villa, PLS 6232

Expiration 3/31/08

EXP 3 1. 18

S629 Conservation Easement

# **COUNTY SIGNATURE PAGE**

APPROVED AS TO FORM: DENNIS MARSHALL COUNTY COUNSEL

By: Deputy

APPROVED:

Ronn Carlentine, SR/WA
Real Property Manager

APPROVED AS TO FORM: ROBERT W. GEIS, CPA AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

By: VICO
Deputy

APPROVED: \(\)

Ray Aromatorio, ARM, AIC
Risk Program Administrator

# CERTIFICATE OF ACCEPTANCE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA: SS.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the interest in Covenants, Conditions, and Environmental Restricti	
by the COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, a politic	
hereby accepted by Order of the Board of Super	visors of the County of Santa Barbara or
thereof by its duly authorized officer.	-
WITNESS my hand and official seal	
this,,	
	MICHAEL F. BROWN
	CLERK OF THE BOARD
	Ву:
	Deputy Clerk