

ATTACHMENT 3



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Planning and Development

Initial Study/Mitigated Negative
Declaration
Franklin Trail Project

February 2012



**Santa Barbara County Parks Department
610 Mission Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105**

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
Memorandum



Community
Services
Department
Community Services Department

Date: March 9, 2012

To: Honorable Members
Board of Supervisors

From: Herman D. Parker, Director 
Community Services Department

Subject: ADDENDUM - Final Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Franklin Trail Project,
Carpinteria Area, First Supervisorial District

=====

The City of Carpinteria has partial jurisdiction on the Franklin Trail Project from the beginning of the trail and through the Carpinteria High School property. The City will require a Coastal Development Permit and will use the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) as part of its review for the project. Recent conversation and coordination with City and Parks Division staff has resulted in the City requesting that the Board consider some minor clarifications to the project description and other minor corrections as part of the certification, determination and adoption of the MND at your March 13, 2012 hearing.

Staff has considered and analyzed the proposed clarifications and recommends that the Board include the proposed modifications in your action.

The items to be included are as follows:

- a) Project Description, Page 3, 3rd Paragraph, 3rd sentence:
"The trail is proposed to begin at a staging/parking area which will include signage at Meadow View Lane and Sterling Avenue along Franklin Park within the City of Carpinteria and follow a bikeway north to Foothill Road where the trail would follow along the west and north boundaries of Carpinteria High School. For safety of the student population, the trail through the High School will be fenced on both sides of the trail with chain link except for a short section that will require fencing on only one side of the trail for a total distance of approximately 0.4 miles."
- b) Geologic Processes, Page 26, last Paragraph, 2nd sentence:
"Parts of the historic trail are overgrown and would require brush clearance and resurfacing prior to being made accessible to the public; however trailblazing would result in minimal rates of deposition, erosion or siltation as minimal grading is proposed.
- c) Figures, Figure 4, Photo 1:
"View of the proposed trail looking west east between the Persoon..."

Franklin Trail Project

Proposed Final Initial Study /
Mitigated Negative Declaration

Prepared by:

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February 2012

**FRANKLIN TRAIL PROJECT
INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
1.0 Project Description.....	3
2.0 Project Location	4
3.0 Environmental Setting.....	4
4.0 Potentially Significant Effects Checklist	6
4.1 Aesthetics/ Visual Resources.....	7
4.2 Agricultural Resources	8
4.3 Air Quality.....	9
4.4 Biological Resources	14
4.5 Cultural Resources.....	21
4.6 Energy.....	23
4.7 Fire Protection	24
4.8 Geologic Resources	25
4.9 Hazardous Material/ Risk of Upset.....	27
4.10 Historic Resources.....	28
4.11 Land Use.....	30
4.12 Noise.....	32
4.13 Public Facilities	34
4.14 Recreation.....	35
4.15 Transportation/Circulation.....	35
4.16 Water Resources/Flooding.....	37
5.0 Information Sources.....	39
6.0 Project Specific and Cumulative Impact Summary	39
7.0 Mandatory Finding of Significance	40
8.0 Project Alternatives	41
9.0 Initial Review of Project Consistency with Applicable Subdivision, Zoning and Comprehensive Plan Requirements.....	41
10.0 Recommendation by P&D Staff.....	42
11.0 Determination by Environmental Hearing Officer	42
12.0 Mitigation and Monitoring Program.....	43
13.0 References.....	48

List of Tables

Table 1	Site Information	5
Table 2	County of Santa Barbara GHG Significance Determination Criteria	11
Table 3	Parking Area Noise Sources	33
Table 34	Typical Construction Noise Levels.....	33

List of Figures

Figure 1	Regional Location of Project	52
Figure 2	Franklin Trail Location Map.....	53
Figure 3	Aerial View.....	55
Figure 4	Site Photographs	57
Figure 5	Zoning Map.....	58
Figure 6	Sensitive Elements Reported by the California Natural Diversity Database	59
Figure 7	Critical Habitat.....	60

Figure 8	Biological Resources	61
Figure 9	Coastal Zone and Fire Hazard Area	62

Appendices

Appendix A	Biological Assessment and Evaluation for Wildlife Plants
Appendix B	Noise Data Sheets

1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project is an approximately 7-mile long recreational trail (see Figure 1), which begins in the City of Carpinteria and terminates at East Camino Cielo Trail at the Sutton Canyon ridgeline of the Santa Ynez range (approximate elevation of 3,650 ft). The northern part of the proposed trail is within the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) and is part of an existing forest service public trail (the Franklin Trail), which has been removed from public use, but remained in the public trust. The new proposed Franklin Trail would be built as a multi-use trail for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrian uses. The trail would have a natural surface and would be 4-6 feet wide. No asphalt paving is proposed. Approximately 4 out of 7 miles of the alignment are currently maintained as an access road for Southern California Edison and the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF). The remainder of the trail, approximately 3 miles (1 mile on the Horton and Persoon properties and 2 miles on LPNF land), would require 10 feet wide by 10 feet high vegetation removal for initial trail construction or clearance. Completion of the trail is expected to take approximately 90 days.

Three different agencies have jurisdiction over parts of the proposed trail. The southern portion of the trail is within the jurisdiction of the County of Santa Barbara and the City of Carpinteria, and the northern part of the trail is within the federal jurisdiction of the USDA Forest Service as part of the Los Padres National Forest. It is anticipated that the trail will be developed at one time. Brush clearance and trail establishment would only occur through areas where no previous trail existed or where the existing trail has become overgrown. No heavy, motorized equipment would be necessary for trail establishment; only hand tools such as chain saws would be used to clear brush and stabilize the trail surface.

The southern portion of the trail, covering about 5.5 miles, traverses a portion of the three privately owned properties (the Persoon, Horton, and Rancho Monte Alegre properties). All three private property owners have granted trail easements to the County of Santa Barbara (see Figure 2). The trail is proposed to begin at a staging/parking area which will include signage at Meadow View Lane within the City of Carpinteria and follow a bikeway north to Foothill Road where the trail would follow along the west and north boundaries of Carpinteria High School. Near the trailhead, trail visitors would utilize existing street parking within the City of Carpinteria. At the northern boundary of the High School, an approximately five-foot long concrete arch pedestrian bridge would be constructed to cross the concrete channel/v-ditch to connect to the trail with the adjacent privately owned Persoon property. Rubberized non-slip surfaces would be installed around the bridge for equestrian safety. This surface does not require significant ground disturbance, and is typically installed using bolts into the ground. After crossing the pedestrian bridge over the existing v-ditch, the trail would follow the edge of an avocado orchard on the Persoon Property before crossing another pedestrian bridge over an unnamed tributary. The second pedestrian bridge would be a pre-fab clear-span bridge, approximately 65-feet long with the footings of the bridge located outside of the bed and banks of the tributary. The trail would then proceed through an easement on the Persoon property along the banks of the unnamed tributary under an existing oak canopy. An existing avocado orchard is located to the east of the proposed trail, while the creek is located to the west. The trail would then turn toward the east, with existing avocado orchards to the north of the trail and multiple greenhouse structures to the south of the trail, before reaching an existing access road along the eastern boundary of the Persoon property. The trail would be located just west of the paved access road, heading north once again toward the boundary with the Horton Ranch property. Along the High School and Persoon Ranch trail sections, areas of fencing will be required for safety and trespass issues, with the majority of the trail being fenced on one or both sides of the easement, depending on location and adjacent uses. Locked access gates leading from the trail corridor to private property will be installed at various ranch road intersection points.

The distance from Foothill Road to the Horton property is approximately 0.5 miles. The Horton Ranch easement runs along the west side of the property and generally follows a useable gradient for the future trail (no trail path currently exists). The distance through the Horton Ranch property is about one mile. North of the Horton Ranch property is the Rancho Monte Alegre. The County shares an easement and

dirt road access with Rancho Monte Alegre and the Edison Company. The easement through Rancho Monte Alegre is approximately four miles. The Rancho Monte Alegre property and the northern half of the Horton property are private holdings within the boundary of the Los Padres National Forest. Trailside fencing within the Horton Ranch and Rancho Monte Alegre will only be required at road intersections.

Federal jurisdiction under the USDA Forest Service covers the northern two miles of the trail from the northern boundary of the Rancho Monte Alegre property to the jeepway (East Camino Cielo) at the ridgeline in the Los Padres National Forest. Federal jurisdiction starts at the northern edge of the Rancho Monte Alegre property line and continues to the top of the ridgeline. On federal land, the proposed project would re-establish and utilize the old trail route; however, final trail alignment would be decided in the field to minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources and achieve manageable elevation gains.

2.0 PROJECT LOCATION

The project site is located within Santa Barbara County. It is partially within the City of Carpinteria and partially within unincorporated parts of the Carpinteria watershed stretching to the ridgeline of the Santa Ynez Mountains in the Los Padres National Forest. It is divided among public easements over private land and public lands. The project would consist of constructing a trail within an existing easement to form a continuous public link from Carpinteria to the Los Padres National Forest. The trail would begin at a marked trailhead on Meadow View Lane in Carpinteria, share an existing bikeway along Franklin Creek up to Foothill Road, where it follows the western and northern boundaries of Carpinteria High School (4810 Foothill Road, Carpinteria, CA 93013) and extends approximately 7-miles northeast to the top of the Sutton Canyon ridgeline (approximate elevation 3,858 feet). Figure 1 illustrates the project site within the region; Figure 2 depicts the project location within the immediate site vicinity; Figure 3 is an aerial view of the trail; and Figure 4 shows site photographs.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is located near (and partially within) the City of Carpinteria, which is approximately ten miles southeast of the City of Santa Barbara and 16 miles northwest of the City of Ventura (see Figure 1). Carpinteria lies in the Carpinteria Valley, a narrow coastal terrace in southeastern Santa Barbara County between the Santa Ynez Mountains and the Santa Barbara Channel. Table 1 on the following page provides project specific information.

The City of Carpinteria occupies mesas, slopes, coastal bluffs, and low sandy littoral areas, as well as the creeks and their banklands. Both rugged exposed rock forms on mountain slopes and rolling hilltops characterize the topography of the Carpinteria Valley. Elevations within the watershed rise from sea level to 4,690 feet (Divide Peak) within the valley's view shed. The Franklin Trail elevation range would start at approximately 40 feet and extend up to 3,650 feet.

Rincon Creek, Carpinteria Creek, Franklin Creek, and Santa Monica Creek divide the Carpinteria Valley into four distinct watersheds. Franklin and Santa Monica creeks both feed into El Estero, a large marshland southwest of the City limits. Franklin Creek, the creek closest to the project site, begins at approximately 1,200 feet elevation and meanders down the Santa Ynez Mountains. The proposed trail crosses Franklin Creek a quarter of a mile below the creek's origin at an elevation of 950 feet. Carpinteria Creek bisects the eastern portion of the City, draining directly into the Pacific Ocean. The proposed trail crosses Sutton Creek, a western tributary of Carpinteria Creek, within Rancho Monte Alegre at an elevation of 1300 feet. From this location, the proposed trail follows a steep ridgeline between the headwaters of Carpinteria Creek to the east and Santa Monica Creek to the west. Rincon Creek borders Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, east of Carpinteria; the trail does not cross Rincon Creek or any of its tributaries

The topography of the project site vicinity serves not only as a major contributor to the scenic nature of the area, but also to define the local climate. Carpinteria enjoys a Mediterranean climate, with mild winters, moderate to hot summers, and limited rainfall. In the winter, minimum/maximum temperatures average in

the 40s and 60s degrees (Fahrenheit), though lows in the 30s have been recorded. Minimum/maximum temperatures average in the 50s and 70s in the summer, though highs in the 90s have been recorded.

Precipitation primarily falls between November and April, with an average annual rainfall of about 16 inches within the coastal plain with larger amounts of precipitation in the mountains areas.

Carpinteria is a relatively small coastal community of approximately 14,500 people (California Department of Finance, 2009). Carpinteria's community character results from its proximity to the beach, agricultural uses, and small town setting.

Table 1 Site Information

APN (portions of)	004-004-031 004-004-028 004-004-012 004-004-013 004-004-042 155-180-063 155-170-069	155-190-046 155-190-052 155-190-053 155-190-010 155-190-009 151-190-019
Comprehensive Plan Designation	A-I-10, Agriculture I Minimum Parcel Size 5-40 acres in Coastal Zone A-I-40, Agriculture I Minimum Parcel Size 5-40 acres in Coastal Zone A-C, Agriculture Commercial, Minimum Parcel size 40-320 Acres A-II-100, Agriculture II, Minimum Parcel size 40 acres MA, Mountainous Area, Minimum Parcel size 100 acres	
Zoning District, Ordinance	AG-I-10, Agriculture I, Minimum Parcel Size 10 acres AG-I-40, Agriculture I, Minimum Parcel Size 40 acres A-I-X-O, Exclusive Agricultural District/Minimum Parcel Size – 5 Acres/Carpinteria Agricultural Overlay District	
Site Size	Approximately 7 miles long and 4-6 feet wide	
Present Use & Development	Orchards, Grazing, Recreational Open Space, School and Residential (southernmost portion)	
Surrounding Uses/Zoning	North: AG: Agricultural uses and open space South: LDR: Low Density Residential East: AG and LDR: Agriculture and low density residential West: AG, LDR, and PF: Agriculture, low density residential, and Public Facility	
Access	Public trailhead is located on Meadow View Lane	
Public Services	Water Supply: Carpinteria Valley Water District Sewage: Carpinteria Sanitary District Fire: Carpinteria -Summerland Fire Protection District	

4.0 POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS CHECKLIST

The following checklist indicates the potential level of impact and is defined as follows:

Potentially Significant Impact: A fair argument can be made, based on the substantial evidence in the file, that an effect may be significant.

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation: Incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from a Potentially Significant Impact to a Less Than Significant Impact.

Less Than Significant Impact: An impact is considered adverse but does not trigger a significance threshold.

No Impact: There is adequate support that the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to the subject project.

Reviewed Under Previous Document: The analysis contained in a previously adopted/certified environmental document addresses this issue adequately for use in the current case and is summarized in the discussion below. The discussion should include reference to the previous documents, a citation of the page(s) where the information is found, and identification of mitigation measures incorporated from the previous documents.

4.1 AESTHETICS/VISUAL RESOURCES

Will the proposal result in:	Poten Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. The obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public or the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?			X		
b. Change to the visual character of an area?			X		
c. Glare or night lighting which may affect adjoining areas?				X	
d. Visually incompatible structures?			X		

Existing Setting:

The proposed trail would span both urban and forest land. As indicated, the trail begins at a trailhead on Meadow View Lane and travels north through the Los Padres National Forest. The foothills of the Santa Ynez Mountains border the City to the north producing dramatic views of the mid-and upper-elevations of the mountains throughout Carpinteria. The Pacific Ocean and the Carpinteria Marsh are located on the southern border of the City. These features are mainly visible from adjacent locations, though expansive views of the Santa Barbara Channel and the Channel Islands are gained from upslope parts of the valley. The Franklin Trail elevation range would start at approximately 40 feet and extend up to 3,650 feet.

County Environmental Thresholds.

The County’s Visual Aesthetics Impact Guidelines classify coastal and mountainous areas, the urban fringe, and travel corridors as “especially important” visual resources. A project may have the potential to create a significantly adverse aesthetic impact if (among other potential effects) it would alter important visual resources, obstruct public views, remove significant amounts of vegetation, substantially alter the natural character of the landscape, or involve extensive grading visible from public areas. The guidelines address public, not private views.

Impact Discussion:

a, b, d. Less Than Significant. The proposed project involves the construction of a multi-use public trail into the Santa Ynez Mountains. The project would include brush clearing and the construction of a footbridge over an existing v-ditch and a pedestrian bridge over an existing unnamed tributary. Trail improvements would not project into the skyline or impede scenic vistas. The project site is currently characterized by foliage and brush. Some of this foliage and brush would be removed for the trail; however, the existing character of the area would be essentially preserved. There would be minimal, if any, views of the trail cuts due to the narrowness of the trail and alignment of brush. Signage indicating the trailhead on Meadow View Lane would also be provided; however, signage would not project into the skyline or impede scenic vista and would be required to adhere to County of Santa Barbara and City of Carpinteria sign standards. Therefore, the project would not affect views of the foothills or mountains from Foothill Road. In addition, the trail would provide beneficial aesthetic impacts, as the public would have access to new scenic vistas including: Carpinteria Valley, the Pacific Ocean, and the Channel Islands. Within the project site vicinity, the Carpinteria General Plan (2003) identifies the main viewing corridor as Foothill Road, also known as State Route 192. The proposed project would connect an existing historic trail and would not affect views of the foothills or mountains from Foothill Road. Views of the mountains from other areas around Carpinteria would not be changed by the project. Therefore, the impact to scenic vistas would be less than significant.

c. No Impact. The proposed trail would not include the use of lighting or structures that would contribute light or glare to adjacent uses. The trail would use existing roadways and paths. Signage indicating the trailhead on Meadow View Lane and two pedestrian bridges are proposed; however, this sign and the two bridges would not create light or glare. Therefore, no impact is anticipated.

Cumulative Impacts:

Implementation of the project is not anticipated to result in any substantial change in the aesthetic character of the area since the project does not include any development that would affect views. On the contrary, the proposed project would open up views to recreational trail users. Thus, the project would not make a considerable contribution to cumulative changes in aesthetic conditions.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: No impacts have been identified. Therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

4.2 AGRICULTURAL and FORESTRY RESOURCES

Will the proposal result in:	Poten Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Convert prime agricultural land to non-agricultural use, impair agricultural land productivity (whether prime or non-prime) or conflict with agricultural preserve programs?				X	
b. An effect upon any unique or other farmland of State or Local Importance?				X	
c. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?			X		

County Environmental Thresholds:

The County's initial study screening looks at the value of a site's agricultural suitability and productivity, to determine whether the project's impact on loss or impairment of agricultural resources would be a potentially significant impact. These are guidelines, to be used with flexibility in application to specific sites, taking into account specific circumstances and specific agricultural uses. When conversion of agricultural would take place, a weighted point system is utilized to assign relative values to particular characteristics of a site's agricultural productivity (e.g., soil type, water supply, etc.).

Impact Discussion:

a-b. No Impact. The southern portion of the proposed trail, located on the Persoon and Horton properties, is designated as Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance (see Figure 5). Property owners have granted trail easements for the proposed project and these areas are not currently used for agriculture, with the exception of one section of trail that bisects the Persoon Ranch property running in a west-to-east direction. This area of the property is currently planted in avocado trees, and less than one dozen avocado trees are recommended for removal. Thus, the multi-use trail is not anticipated to result in the conversion of farmland on or within the vicinity of the trail (see section 4.11, *Land Use*, for further discussion). The passive, recreational use of the trail would not result in the conversion of agricultural activity or impede existing agricultural operations. At all locations where the trail crosses existing ranch roads, gates would provide for through-access across the trail bed. In addition, construction of the trail would not preclude the future development of agricultural use on these properties. Therefore, no impact to agricultural resources is anticipated.

c. Less than Significant. The proposed trail would extend into the Los Padres National for approximately six of the seven miles. This would require the removal of vegetation in a designated forest. However, approximately four of the six miles are currently held as an access road for Southern California Edison and the Los Padres National Forest, resulting in the need for about 2 miles of the trail to be established through vegetation removal. The proposed trail would connect the existing Franklin Trail into Carpinteria and would not involve the loss or conversion of forest land. As a result, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: No significant impacts have been identified. Therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

Cumulative Impacts:

Implementation of the project is not anticipated to result in the conversion of agricultural activity or impede existing agricultural operations. In addition, construction of the trail would not preclude the future development of agricultural use on these properties. Thus, the project would not make a considerable contribution to cumulative changes to agricultural resources.

4.3 AIR QUALITY

Will the proposal result in:	Poten Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. The violation of any ambient air quality standard, a substantial contribution to an existing or projected air quality violation including, CO hotspots, or exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations (emissions from direct, indirect, mobile and stationary sources)?			X		
b. The creation of objectionable smoke, ash or odors?			X	X	
c. Extensive dust generation?			X		
GREENHOUSE GASES	Significant		Less Than Significant		
d. Emissions equivalent to or greater than 1,100 metric tons (MT) of CO ₂ e per year OR 4.6 MT CO ₂ e per service population (residents + employees) per year from both stationary and mobile sources during long-term operations?				X	

Setting:

The project site is located within the South Central Coast Air Basin, and is under the jurisdiction of the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD). The APCD has a network of 17 stations that monitor air quality in the County. The air quality monitoring station closest to the project site is located on Gobernador Road in Carpinteria. This station measures ozone and nitrogen dioxide. The nearest air quality monitoring station that measures PM_{2.5}, PM₁₀ and carbon monoxide is the Santa Barbara station (located at 700 East Canon Perdido Street). Santa Barbara County is in attainment of the federal eight-hour ozone standard, and for the state one-hour ozone standard. The County does not meet the state eight-hour ozone standard or the state standard for particulate matter less than ten microns in diameter (PM₁₀), but meets the federal PM₁₀ standard. The County is classified as “Unclassifiable/Attainment” for PM_{2.5} as there is not yet enough data to determine the attainment status for the state standard for PM_{2.5}.

Certain population groups are considered more sensitive to air pollution than others. Children, the elderly, and acutely ill and chronically ill persons, especially those with cardio-respiratory diseases, are particularly vulnerable. Sensitive land uses include those locations where such individuals are concentrated, such as hospitals, schools, and residences. Sensitive receptors in the project area include Carpinteria High School (adjacent to the proposed trail) and single family residences located in the southern portion of the trail along Meadow Lane and on the Persoon property. The closest residential receptors are those located on Meadow View Lane at the project trailhead, approximately 25 feet away from the proposed trail alignment.

Greenhouse Gas/Climate Change Background:

Gases that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation in the atmosphere are called greenhouse gases (GHG). in

reference to the fact that greenhouses retain heat. Common GHGs include water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxides (N₂O_x), fluorinated gases, and ozone. GHG are emitted by both natural processes and human activities. Of these gases, CO₂ and CH₄ are emitted in the greatest quantities from human activities. Emissions of CO₂ are largely by-products of fossil fuel combustion, whereas CH₄ results from off-gassing associated with agricultural practices and landfills. The accumulation of GHG in the atmosphere regulates the earth's temperature. Without the natural heat trapping effect of GHG, Earth's surface would be about 34° C cooler (CalEPA, 2006). However, it is believed that emissions from human activities, particularly the consumption of fossil fuels for electricity production and transportation, have elevated the concentration of these gases in the atmosphere beyond the level of naturally occurring concentrations.

Global climate change (GCC) is a change in the average weather of the earth that is measured by temperature, wind patterns, precipitation, and storms over a long period of time. The baseline, against which these changes are measured, originates in historical records identifying temperature changes that have occurred in the past, such as during previous ice ages. The global climate is continuously changing, as evidenced by repeated episodes of substantial warming and cooling documented in the geologic record. The rate of change has typically been incremental, with warming or cooling trends occurring over the course of thousands of years. The past 10,000 years have been marked by a period of incremental warming, as glaciers have steadily retreated across the globe. However, scientists have observed an unprecedented acceleration in the rate of warming during the past 150 years.

Total U.S. GHG emissions were 7,282 million metric tons (MMT) carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂E) in 2007 (Department of Energy [DOE], Energy Information Administration [EIA], December 2008), or about 14% of worldwide GHG emissions. Based upon the California Air Resources Board (ARB) *California Greenhouse Gas Inventory for 2000-2008*, California produced 477.7 MMT CO₂E in 2008, making California the second largest contributor of GHGs among U.S. states. The major source of GHGs in California is transportation, contributing 36.5% of the state's total GHG emissions. Electricity generation is the second largest source, contributing 24% of the state's GHG emissions. California emissions are due in part to its large size and large population.

GCC has the potential to affect numerous environmental resources through potential impacts related to future air temperatures and precipitation patterns. Scientific modeling predicts that continued GHG emissions at or above current rates would induce more extreme climate changes during the 21st century than were observed during the 20th century. A warming of about 0.2°C (0.36°F) per decade is projected, and there are identifiable signs that global warming could be taking place, including substantial ice loss in the Arctic (IPCC, 2007).

According to the California Energy Commission's (CEC) Draft Climate Action Team Biennial Report, potential impacts in California of global warming may include loss in snow pack, sea level rise, more extreme heat days per year, more high ozone days, more large forest fires, and more drought years (CEC, March 2009). Potential effects include reduced water supplies in some areas, ecological changes that threaten some species, reduced agricultural productivity in some areas, increased coastal flooding, and other effects.

County Environmental Thresholds:

The *Santa Barbara County Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual* (October 2008) addresses the subject of air quality. The thresholds indicate that a proposed project would not have a significant impact on air quality if operation of the project would:

- Emit (from all project sources, mobile and stationary), less than the daily trigger (~~55 pounds per day~~ 55 pounds per day of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) or reactive organic compounds (ROC). 80 pounds per day for PM₁₀) for offsets for any pollutant; and
- Emit less than 25 pounds per day of oxides of nitrogen (NO_x) or reactive organic compounds (ROC) from motor vehicle trips only; and

- Not cause or contribute to a violation of any California or National Ambient Air Quality Standard (except ozone); and
- Not exceed the APCD health risk public notification thresholds adopted by the APCD Board; and
- Be consistent with the adopted federal and state Air Quality Plans.

No thresholds have been established for temporary impacts associated with construction activities. However, the County’s Grading Ordinance requires standard dust control conditions for all projects involving grading activities. Long-term/operational emissions thresholds have been established to address mobile emissions (i.e., motor vehicle emissions) and stationary source emissions (i.e., stationary boilers, engines, paints, solvents, and chemical or industrial processing operations that release pollutants).

Greenhouse Gas/Global Climate Change Methodology:

The County’s methodology to address Global Climate Change in CEQA documents is evolving. For future projects, the significance of GHG emissions may be evaluated based on whether projects are consistent with an adopted Climate Action Plan (or other GHG reduction plan). However, the County has not yet adopted a Climate Action Plan with established GHG emissions reduction strategies. The County is currently working to develop an inventory of GHG emissions and a Climate Action Strategy and Climate Action Plan based on this data.

Until County-specific data becomes available and significance thresholds applicable to GHG emissions are developed and formally adopted, the County will follow an interim approach to evaluating GHG emissions. Based on the June 2010 memorandums prepared by County Staff, the County’s interim approach will look to criteria adopted by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), summarized in Table 4.16-1 below, for guidance on determining significance of GHG emissions. This approach by County Staff has been recommended for inclusion in the GHG analysis in CEQA documents for projects that require County discretionary approval.

**Table 2
 County of Santa Barbara GHG
 Significance Determination Criteria**

GHG Emission Source Category	Operational Emissions
Non-stationary Sources	1,100 MT of CDE/yr OR 4.6 MT CDE/SP/yr (residents + employees)
Stationary Sources	10,000 MT/yr
Plans	6.6 MT CDE/SP/yr (residents + employees)

*Notes: SP = Service Population.
 Project emissions can be expressed on a per-capita basis as Metric tons of CDE/Service Population/year, which represents the project’s total estimated annual GHG emissions divided by the estimated total number of people that will be living in proposed project.
 The BAAQMD does not include any standards for construction-related emissions.*

A memorandum supporting Santa Barbara County’s use of the BAAQMD GHG thresholds is included in Attachment B.

Impact Discussion:

a, c. Less Than Significant.

Short-Term Construction Impacts. Establishment of the Franklin Trail would involve the construction of two bridges and trail blazing activities. The smaller concrete arch bridge (5-foot span) over the v-ditch would be located approximately 80 feet north of the northeast corner of the Carpinteria High School sports track. The larger pre-fab clear-span bridge (65-foot span) over the unnamed tributary would be located approximately 250 feet north of the northeast corner of the Carpinteria High School sports track

(or approximately 170 feet north of the smaller concrete arch bridge). The nearest residence subject to trail blazing activities is a single family home located approximately 200 feet away from the trail alignment on the Persoon property. Equipment required to complete the two bridges would include light trucks and general construction equipment, including saws, concrete mixers, etc. Trail blazing equipment would primarily use chainsaws and hand tools.

The removal of vegetation during trail blazing has the potential to result in the minimal generation of fugitive dust (PM₁₀). Areas that require vegetation removal are those on the Horton Property and the northernmost portion of the trail through the LPNF where the trail alignment is overgrown with vegetation. Trail blazing activities would be located approximately 200 feet northeast of the closest residential sensitive receptor on the Persoon property. Given that no grading is proposed (the only dust generated would be from vegetation removal) and that the closest receptor is located 200 feet away, it is likely that trail blazing activities would not result in dust generation that would significantly impact nearby receptors. Additionally, the County of Santa Barbara requires that all discretionary projects within the County include standard dust control measures to reduce impacts. In addition, APCD Rule 345, Control of Fugitive Dust From Construction and Demolition Activities, establishes limits on the generation of visible dust emissions at demolition and construction sites and also includes measures for minimizing fugitive dust from on-site activities and from trucks moving on- and off-site.

Bridge construction and trail blazing activities also have the potential to result in the emission of air pollutants (NO_x and ROC) associated with the use of tools and worker trips. However, the County of Santa Barbara has not established construction thresholds for NO_x and ROC and sees the emission during construction phases to be insignificant. However, due to the non-attainment status of the air basin for ozone, the project would be required to implement Santa Barbara County APCD (SBAPCD) measures to reduce construction-related emissions of ozone precursors and fine particulates to the extent feasible. Compliance with these measures is required for new projects in the County.

Long-Term Operational Emissions. Long-term emissions are typically estimated using the CalEEMod computer model program. However, the proposed trail would not meet the intensity of development or generate trips similar to those developments listed on the screening table that would result in potentially significant air quality emission impacts based on the SBAPCD's *Scope and Content of Air Quality Sections in Environmental Documents* guidelines (June 2008; updated December 2011). Traffic trips and loading/unloading areas along Meadow View Lane would increase. However, this increase would not be expected to generate emissions that would significantly impact nearby sensitive receptors such as residential uses adjacent to the parking areas along Meadow View Lane. Therefore, the proposed project would not have a potentially significant long-term impact on air quality.

b. No Impact Less than Significant. The proposed project is a recreational trail that would be used by hikers, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Based upon the proposed land use, it is unlikely that the project would generate objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. There may be some equestrian uses of the trail, which may result in some odors from horses at the loading/unloading areas along Meadow View Lane. However, the number of equestrian trailers parked along Meadow View Lane is anticipated to be minimal (less than approximately five trailers per day) and therefore odors associated with such uses would not significantly impact adjacent land uses. In addition, the project would not generate substantial amounts of smoke or ash. Therefore, ~~no impact~~ impacts associated with smoke, ash, or odors would ~~be~~ be less than significant.

d. Less than Significant. The proposed project would generate temporary greenhouse gases during establishment of the trail. Emissions associated with construction are not typically considered in a project's ability to result in sustained greenhouse gas emissions as it is a one-time source and does not continually contribute to the generation of greenhouse gases. Additionally, the proposed project would generate minimal trips that would be less than development projects that typically have potentially

significant impacts (See discussion in Section 4.3.a,c , *Air Quality* above) Therefore, long-term operational impacts would be less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts:

The County's Environmental Thresholds were developed, in part, to define the point at which a project's contribution to a regionally significant impact constitutes a significant effect at the project level. In this instance, the project has been found not to exceed the threshold of significance for air quality. Therefore, the project's contribution to regionally significant air pollutant emissions would not be considerable, and its cumulative effect would be less than significant.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: The following mitigation measures are recommended to reduce impacts associated with dust generation, ozone precursors and fine particulate emissions during construction. Please note that these measures are consistent with the APCD's requirements for Fugitive Dust Control Measures and Diesel Particulate and NO_x Emissions Measures.

AQ-1 Recommended Construction Dust Control. The following dust control measures shall be implemented during construction activities:

- During construction, use water trucks or sprinkler systems to keep all areas of vehicle movement damp enough to prevent dust from leaving the site. At a minimum, this should include wetting down such areas in the late morning and after work is completed for the day. Increased watering frequency should be required whenever the wind speed exceeds 15 mph. Reclaimed water should be used whenever possible. However, reclaimed water should not be used in or around crops for human consumption. ~~During construction, water trucks or sprinkler systems shall be used to keep all areas of vehicle movement damp enough to prevent dust from leaving the site. At a minimum, this would include wetting down such areas in the later morning and after work is completed for the day and whenever wind exceeds 15 miles per hour.~~
- Minimize amount of disturbed area and reduce on site vehicle speeds to 15 miles per hour or less.
- If importation, exportation and stockpiling of fill material is involved, soil stockpiled for more than two days shall be covered, kept moist, or treated with soil binders to prevent dust generation. Trucks transporting fill material to and from the site shall be tarped from the point of origin.
- Gravel pads shall be installed at all access points to prevent tracking of mud onto public roads.
- After clearing, grading, earth moving or excavation is completed, treat the disturbed area by watering, or revegetating, or by spreading soil binders until the area is paved or otherwise developed so that dust generation will not occur.
- The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons to monitor the dust control program and to order increased watering, as necessary, to prevent transport of dust offsite. Their duties shall include holiday and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the Air Pollution Control District prior to land use clearance for map recordation and land use clearance for finish grading of the structure.

Plan Requirements and Timing: All requirements shall be shown on grading and building plans and as a note on a separate information sheet to be recorded with map. Requirements shall be shown on plans or maps prior to land use clearance or map recordation. Condition shall be adhered to throughout all grading and construction

periods. P&D shall review plans for all project components prior to project initiation.

Monitoring: Permit Compliance inspectors shall perform periodic spot checks during construction to ensure compliance with requirements. APCD inspectors shall respond to nuisance complaints.

AQ-2 Recommended Diesel Particulate and NOx Emission Measures. The following measures shall be implemented during construction activities:

- Diesel construction equipment meeting the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Tier 1 emission standards for off-road heavy-duty diesel engines shall be used. Equipment meeting CARB Tier 2 or higher emission standards should be used to the maximum extent feasible.
- Diesel powered equipment should be replaced by electric equipment whenever feasible.
- If feasible, diesel construction equipment shall be equipped with selective catalytic reduction systems, diesel oxidation catalysts and diesel particulate filters as certified and/or verified by EPA or California.
- Catalytic converters shall be installed on gasoline-powered equipment, if feasible.
- All construction equipment shall be maintained in tune per the manufacturer's specifications.
- The engine size of construction equipment shall be the minimum practical size.
- The number of construction equipment operating simultaneously shall be minimized through efficient management practices to ensure that the smallest practical number is operating at anyone time.
- Construction worker trips should be minimized by requiring carpooling and by providing for lunch onsite.

Plan Requirements and Timing: All measures shall be shown on grading and building plans. Measures shall be adhered to throughout grading, hauling and construction activities.

Monitoring: Permit Compliance inspectors shall perform periodic spot checks during construction to ensure compliance with requirements. APCD inspectors shall respond to nuisance complaints.

4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Will the proposal result in:	Poten Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
Flora					
a. A loss or disturbance to a unique, rare or threatened plant community?		X			
b. A reduction in the numbers or restriction in the range of any unique, rare or threatened species of plants?		X			
c. A reduction in the extent, diversity, or quality of native vegetation (including brush removal for fire prevention and flood control improvements)?		X			
d. An impact on non-native vegetation whether naturalized				X	

Will the proposal result in:	Poten Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
or horticultural if of habitat value?					
e. The loss of healthy native specimen trees?		X			
f. Introduction of herbicides, pesticides, animal life, human habitation, non-native plants or other factors that would change or hamper the existing habitat?			X	X	
Fauna					
g. A reduction in the numbers, a restriction in the range, or an impact to the critical habitat of any unique, rare, threatened or endangered species of animals?		X			
h. A reduction in the diversity or numbers of animals onsite (including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish or invertebrates)?			X	X	
i. A deterioration of existing fish or wildlife habitat (for foraging, breeding, roosting, nesting, etc.)?		X			
j. Introduction of barriers to movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species?		X			
k. Introduction of any factors (light, fencing, noise, human presence and/or domestic animals) which could hinder the normal activities of wildlife?			X	X	

Santa Barbara County has a wide diversity of habitat types, including chaparral, oak woodlands, wetlands and beach dunes. These are complex ecosystems and many factors are involved in assessing the value of the resources and the significance of project impacts. This analysis is based on a Biological Assessment and Evaluation for Wildlife and Plants (2006 updated in 2011) prepared by Rincon Consultants (see Appendix A). The assessment included a biological survey conducted on August 22, 2006, follow up site visits conducted in August 2007 and November 2011, and updated CNDDDB and Critical habitat searches completed in November 2011.

Regulatory authority over biological resources is shared by Federal, State, and local authorities under a variety of statutes and guidelines. Primary authority for general biological resources lies within the land use control and planning authority of local jurisdictions. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is a trustee agency for biological resources throughout the state under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and also has direct jurisdiction under the Fish and Game Code of California. Under the State and Federal Endangered Species Acts, the CDFG, NOAA Fisheries, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) also have direct regulatory authority over species formally listed as Threatened or Endangered. The U.S. Department of Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has regulatory authority over specific biological resources, namely wetlands and waters of the United States, under Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act.

Existing Plant and Animal Communities/Conditions

The existing plant communities for the majority of the proposed trail alignment consist of Quercus agrifolia Woodland Alliance – Coast live oak woodland (Sawyer et al. 2009), Artemisia californica Shrubland Alliance - California sagebrush scrub (Sawyer et al. 2009), and Quercus berberidifolia Shrubland Alliance - Scrub oak chaparral (Sawyer et al. 2009). The remaining southernmost part of the proposed trail alignment consists of previously disturbed habitat including an avocado orchard, a maintained trail along the northern and western border of Carpinteria High School, and the existing trail adjacent to the concrete-lined Franklin Creek. The western portion of the avocado orchard contains remnant coast live oak/willow woodland and an unnamed tributary drainage of Franklin Creek. A bridge is proposed to cross this drainage.

Approximately 4 out of 7.5 miles of the alignment is currently maintained as an access road for Southern California Edison and the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) and no specific development actions will be

necessary to support the proposed recreational use. The remainder of the trail, approximately 3 miles on the Horton, Rancho Monte Alegre, and LPNF properties, will require 10 feet wide by 10 feet high vegetation removal for trail construction. The LPNF section was not accessible as it was completely overgrown. Biologists during the site visit on August 22, 2006 found the beginning of the trail at the south edge of LPNF property, but were only able to survey a few hundred feet of it because of the overgrowth (see Figure 8, photos 3 and 4). As evidenced by binocular surveys, it is expected that the remainder of the trail lying north of this section is also mostly chaparral.

Dominant vegetation species in the lower southern sections included cultivated avocado (*Persea americana*), coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), Nasturtium (*Tropaeolum majus*), cape-ivy (*Delairea odorata*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), holly-leaf cherry (*Prunus ilicifolia*), lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*), sawtooth goldenbush (*Hazardia squarosa*), and fascicled tarweed (*Deinandra fasciculata*). Dominant vegetation in the upper northern sections included buckwheat (*Eriogonum* sp.), California everlasting (*Gnaphalium californicum*), laurel sumac (*Molosma laurina*), buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus*), toyon, and poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*).

“Common” wildlife observed by site, sign, or sound during the site visit on November 10, 2011 include California quail (*Callipepla californica*), California towhee (*Pipilo crissalis*), wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*), spotted towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigris*), common raven (*Corvus corax*), American goldfinch (*Carduelis tristis*), California thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*), Western scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*), red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*), mountain chickadee (*Poecile gambeli*), song sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), Anna’s hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus* sp.), ground squirrel (*Spermophilus beecheyi*), Merriam’s chipmunk (*Tamias speciosus*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*, tracks seen), coyote (*Canis latrans*, scat seen), and black bear (*Ursus americanus*, scat seen).

Thresholds:

Santa Barbara County’s Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (2008) includes guidelines for the assessment of biological resource impacts. The following thresholds are applicable to this project:

Riparian Habitats: Project created impacts may be considered significant due to: direct removal of riparian vegetation; disruption of riparian wildlife habitat, particularly animal dispersal corridors and or understory vegetation; or intrusion within the upland edge of the riparian canopy leading to potential disruption of animal migration, breeding, etc. through increased noise, light and glare, and human or domestic animal intrusion; or construction activity which disrupts critical time periods for fish and other wildlife species.

Oak Woodlands and Forests: Project created impacts may be considered significant due to habitat fragmentation, removal of understory, alteration to drainage patterns, disruption of the canopy, removal of a significant number of trees that would cause a break in the canopy, or disruption in animal movement in and through the woodland.

Other Rare Habitat Types: The Manual recognizes that not all habitat-types found in Santa Barbara County are addressed by the habitat-specific guidelines. Impacts to other habitat types or species may be considered significant, based on substantial evidence in the record, if they substantially: (1) reduce or eliminate species diversity or abundance; (2) reduce or eliminate the quality of nesting areas; (3) limit reproductive capacity through losses of individuals or habitat; (4) fragment, eliminate, or otherwise disrupt foraging areas and/or access to food sources; (5) limit or fragment range and movement; or (6) interfere with natural processes, such as fire or flooding, upon which the habitat depends.

Impact Discussion:

The project would require the removal of vegetation within a 10 foot wide by 3-mile strip to establish the proposed trail. Based on these factors, the proposed project would remove approximately 3.6 acres of vegetation. However, vegetation removal is limited to the understory and shrubs; overstory shrub and tree branches higher than 10 feet above the trail would not be removed. As mentioned previously, the specific alignment of the trail as illustrated on Figure 3 may not be possible due to extent of overgrowth or avoidance of resources. As such, the final trail alignment shall be decided in the field based on decisions to allow for

the minimization of vegetation removal, resolution of local elevational issues, avoidance of sensitive species, and other issues that the crew may encounter while establishing the trail.

a, c. Less than Significant with Mitigation. Vegetation in the project vicinity includes mixed chaparral, coast live oak woodlands, and coastal sage scrub. As identified above, the proposed project would require the removal of vegetation for one mile on the Horton and Persoon properties and two miles in the LPNF, for a total of 3.6 acres to be removed. The vegetation on these properties are predominantly overgrown mixed-chaparral, which is not considered a unique, threatened, or rare plant community by any local or state regulatory agency. However, as three miles were not surveyed on foot during the biological assessment, due to their overgrown nature, the potential for unknown sensitive plant communities (including oak woodlands) may be located within the potential trail alignment. Therefore, impacts to sensitive plant communities would be potentially significant. To reduce potential impacts to less than significant, the final trail alignment will be decided in the field based on avoidance of sensitive species or communities along with implementation of mitigation measures BIO-1.

b, g, i, j. Less than Significant with Mitigation. Plants or animals may be considered to have “special status” due to declining populations, vulnerability to habitat change, or restricted distributions. Special status species are classified in a variety of ways, both formally (e.g. State or Federally Threatened and Endangered Species) and informally (“Special Animals”). Species may be formally listed and protected as Threatened or Endangered by the CDFG or USFWS or as California Fully Protected (CFP). Informal listings by agencies include California Species of Special Concern (CSC) (a broad database category applied to species, roost sites, or nests), or as USFWS Candidate taxa. CDFG and local governmental agencies may also recognize special listings developed by focal groups (i.e. Audubon Society Blue List; California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rare and Endangered Plants; U.S. Forest Service regional lists). Section 3503.5 of the Fish and Game Code of California specifically protects birds of prey, and their nests and eggs against take, possession, or destruction. Section 3503 of the Fish and Game Code also incorporates restrictions imposed by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act with respect to migratory birds. Mitigation Measure BIO-2 would be required to reduce impacts associated with removing trees or vegetation that may contain nesting birds.

The southern mile and a half (boundary line cuts through the Horton and Persoon properties) of the proposed alignment is covered under the Santa Barbara County Coastal Zone. Under the Coastal Zoning Ordinance (Section 35-140), impacts (including removal) to all trees with a diameter of 6 inches or more are regulated. No trees of this size were identified as requiring removal along the trail alignment within the Coastal Zone and it is unlikely that any tree would be removed as the trail construction supervisor would preferentially route the trail around any large trees. However, if trees of this size are found needing removal during trail construction, a Coastal Development Permit under Sec. 35-169 would be required prior to their removal. This permit mandates compliance with the regulations in Sec. 35-140, which provides minimal height requirements and trunk diameter (six inches or more in diameter measured four feet above the ground and six feet or more in height and which is 1) located in a County street right-of-way; or 2) located within 50 feet of any major or minor stream except when such trees are removed for agricultural purposes; or 3) oak trees; or 4) used as a habitat by the Monarch Butterflies.) and requires that the permit is reviewed by the County Planning Department for compliance with CEQA. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1, BIO-2 and BIO-3 would reduce potential impacts associated with nesting birds and tree impacts.

Cliff aster (*Malacothrix saxitilis* ssp. *commutate*) was seen in numerous locations along the proposed trail alignment on the Rancho Monte Alegre property. This plant was identified to subspecies level based on flower characteristics, elevation, and range.

There is a possibility that sensitive species from the Rare Plants of Santa Barbara County list, the CNDDDB, or the LPNF Sensitive Plants, Santa Barbara Ranger District (LPNF) may occur along the proposed trail alignment. Some of these include but are not limited to Nuttall's scrub oak (CNPS List 1B.

LPNF), Ojai fritillary (*Fritillaria ojaiensis*, CNPS List 1B, LPNF), late-flowered mariposa lily (*Calochortus weedii* var. *vestus*, CNPS List 1B, LPNF), and Santa Ynez false lupine (*Thermopsis macrophylla*, CNPS 1B, LPNF). Three scrub oaks (likely *Quercus berberidifolia* based on acorn cup size, not Nuttall's scrub oak) were seen on the Horton property. Figure 6 illustrates the results of the CNDDDB (November 2011) results. As indicated, the Nuttall's scrub oak has the potential to occur within the southern portion of the trail alignment, while late-flowered mariposa lily has the potential to occur north of Drainage 2. It should be noted that the trail alignment in the southern portion of the trail would follow existing roadways and easements and would not impact Nuttall's scrub oak. Additionally, late-flowered mariposa lily would not be impacted as that portion of the trail is an existing access road and no vegetation removal is proposed.

Several animal species listed by the state and federal Endangered Species Acts are known to occur within the general vicinity of the project, as seen on Figure 6, which depicts the sensitive elements reported by the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). These include Southern California ESU steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*, FE [federally endangered], CSC), Silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*, CSC, FS [Forest Service Sensitive]), and California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*, FT [federally threatened], CSC). The Coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum*, CSC, FS) could also occur, as loose sandy soils and harvester ant nests were seen in the lower elevation areas. Although none of these species were observed in the site vicinity, implementation of mitigation measure BIO-1 would reduce impacts to sensitive wildlife, if present. Arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*, FE) was also reported in the CNDDDB search; however, this species is found in more inland, arid areas and is not found within the coastal zone.

Critical habitat for the Southern California steelhead ESU lies within the trail alignment on Sutton Canyon, upstream of Carpinteria Creek (Steelhead, Critical Habitat, NOAA, September 2, 2005; 50 CFR Part 226). This species would only be present during stream flows in the winter and spring because the stream is intermittent. The existing access road crosses the riparian corridor within Sutton Canyon (see Figure 3). However, the trail is well-established in this area with a dirt crossing and culvert currently in place across the creek (see Figure 8, Photo 1). The project does not propose the clearing of vegetation or trail construction at this location, nonetheless, if the bed, bank, channel, or vegetation of this creek is affected, a CDFG Streambed Alteration Agreement shall be required. Additionally, although not proposed, if creek bottom below the ordinary high water mark of the creek is affected, Corps and Regional Water Quality Control Board permits may be required. A Conditional Use Permit from Santa Barbara County (Inland Zoning Ordinance, Section 350-240.6) may also be required. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-4 would reduce impacts to steelhead to a less than significant level.

The established access road crosses two additional creeks (see Figure 3). Drainage 1 contained flowing water at the time of the 2006 site visit, but little riparian vegetation was observed. Drainage 2 contained riparian vegetation (rush, willow, sycamore), but no water was found at the time of the site visit (See Figure 8, Photo 1). Because these areas already contain crossings suitable for a hiking trail, building the trail should not require permits.

The proposed trail crosses an unnamed tributary of Franklin Creek by means of a 65-foot pedestrian bridge near the southwestern corner of the Persoon property (see Figure 3). This tributary is natural drainage that contains a mix of native, non-native, and orchard vegetation species. The vegetation within the drainage is generally composed of non-riparian upland species. Although the bridge footings would be located outside of the bed and banks of the tributary, bridge installation has the potential to impact the banks of the unnamed tributary drainage and riparian vegetation. If clearance of vegetation or any creek work (ie. bridge crossing, fencing, etc.) would be required, permits from CDFG (1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement), Santa Barbara County (Inland Zoning Ordinance, Section 350-240.6, Conditional Use Permit), Army Corps of Engineers (404 Permit), and/or Regional Water Quality Control Board (401 Certification) may be required.

Proposed critical habitat for the California red-legged frog abuts the northernmost portion of the trail alignment (see Figure 7) and connects with Franklin Trail at the ridgeline. However, trail blazing activities would occur outside of red-legged frog habitat. Therefore, no direct impacts would occur as activities would occur outside of identified habitat. Potential indirect impacts would be reduced through mitigation measure BIO-1, which includes a biologist monitoring during trail blazing.

In summary, while no special status plant or wildlife species were seen onsite, the potential remains for previously undocumented species to occur within areas that would be subject to vegetation removal activities. Mitigation measures are required to avoid creating a significant adverse effect on these species. Moreover, due to the trail's primary alignment along the existing dirt road onsite, the proposed project is not expected to interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors any more than current conditions allow.

d. No Impact. The lower portion of the project would pass by and within an avocado orchard (Persoon property) and will involve the placement of a 5-foot pedestrian bridge across a concrete v-ditch that is tributary to Franklin Creek. Both the trail within the orchard and bridge placement would have no impact on these man-made habitats.

f, h, k. ~~No Impact~~ Less Than Significant. The project does not include the use of pesticides for either construction or long term maintenance. Rather, mechanical means are used to clear vegetation. The Franklin Trail has not been open to the public for use since the 1970's. Reestablishing the trail may have the potential for some impact on habitats and wildlife as human/equestrian uses would be reintroduced to the trail. However, ~~the~~ the project does not include human habitation, and the use of the trail by people and their pets would not cause ~~an effect~~ a significant impact since hiking previously occurred in this area and all impacts would be limited to the trail corridor as access off the trail would be limited by the extensive shrub coverage. Trail use would not significantly alter the diversity of any plants or animals in this area because of its limited extent and existing human access in the area via existing roads. Similarly, the limited number of expected users of the trail are unlikely to hinder the normal activities of wildlife. Therefore, ~~no impact would occur~~ less than significant impacts would occur.

Cumulative Impacts:

Since the project would not significantly impact biological resources onsite, it would not substantially contribute to impacts on the County's biological resources.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce the impacts to biological resources to a less than significant level.

BIO-1 Preliminary Trail Clearance Monitoring. A LPNF and County-approved wildlife biologist will serve as biological monitor and accompany the trail crew during a preliminary trail clearance. This monitoring will include pre-construction surveys for plants in the currently inaccessible area where the trail will be built. Based on the findings of the biological monitor, the final trail shall avoid any areas that have sensitive or listed plants and wildlife species.

Plan Requirements and Timing: Prior to completion of the full width trail within either the County or the LPNF jurisdictions, the applicant shall submit the appropriate portion of the final trail path to Santa Barbara County Planning & Development (P&D) or LPNF for final approval.

Monitoring: Permit compliance staff shall conduct site inspections as necessary.

BIO-2 Nesting Bird Survey. A nesting bird survey shall take place prior to grading or vegetation removal. If nesting birds are found, all active nests shall be avoided and provided with a minimum buffer of 50-300 feet, depending on the species present. If sensitive wildlife is found, individuals shall be relocated by an appropriately permitted biologist to a designated public area sufficiently distant from the construction area such that they will not return within the construction period. If federally listed or proposed species are found, all trail work shall cease and consultation with the USFWS or NOAA Fisheries is required before work continues. The biological monitor shall have stop work authority. Reporting to the CNDDDB is required within 30 days of locating any sensitive, listed, or proposed species.

Plan Requirements and Timing: The nesting bird survey shall be completed within five days prior to project activities. If project activities are delayed five days beyond the survey, another bird nesting survey shall take place.

Monitoring: The approved biologist will provide documentation of survey activities and findings to P&D and LPNF.

BIO-3 Tree Trimming. The removal of oak, willow, and sycamore branches shall be kept to the minimum amount necessary. Tree trimming activities shall be conducted in such a manner as to reduce the chance of introducing disease through improperly cut branches. Prior to tree trimming of these species, a qualified arborist shall be consulted to identify proper tree-trimming techniques to be used. Tree trimming shall conform to the techniques identified by the arborist.

Plan Requirements and Timing: The applicant shall submit findings of required tree trimming to P&D and LPNF prior to initiation of any vegetation clearing or construction.

Monitoring: P&D shall review techniques reports prior to grading and construction and require scheduling of construction activities as appropriate.

BIO-4 Creek/Steelhead/Riparian Area/Native Tree Protection. Excavation work within or adjacent to sensitive habitats including native trees and streambeds shall be avoided to the maximum extent feasible. Where excavation must be performed within sensitive areas, it shall be performed with hand tools only. If the use of hand tools is deemed infeasible, excavation work may be authorized by P&D and/or LPNF to be completed with rubber-tired construction equipment weighing five tons or less. If significant large rocks are present, or if spoil placement will impact surrounding trees, then a small tracked excavator (i.e., 215 or smaller track hoe) may be used as determined by P&D and/or LPNF staff. Bridge installation has the potential to impact the unnamed tributary drainage and riparian vegetation. The replacement ratio of impacted jurisdictional areas and other mitigation shall be determined by permitting agencies. All required additional permits shall be obtained.

Plan Requirements and Timing: The applicant shall submit final trail alignment to the appropriate jurisdiction for its location (P&D or LPNF) prior to initiation of any vegetation clearing or construction within that agency's jurisdiction.

Monitoring: P P&D shall review survey reports prior to grading and construction and require modification of construction activities as appropriate.

With the implementation of the above mitigation measures, residual impacts to biological resources would be less than significant.

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Will the proposal result in:	Poten Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
Archaeological Resources					
a. Disruption, alteration, destruction, or adverse effect on a recorded prehistoric or historic archaeological site (note site number below)?		X			
b. Disruption or removal of human remains?		X			
c. Increased potential for trespassing, vandalizing, or sabotaging archaeological resources?		X			
d. Ground disturbances in an area with potential cultural resource sensitivity based on the location of known historic or prehistoric sites?		X			
Ethnic Resources					
e. Disruption of or adverse effects upon a prehistoric or historic archaeological site or property of historic or cultural significance to a community or ethnic group?		X			
f. Increased potential for trespassing, vandalizing, or sabotaging ethnic, sacred, or ceremonial places?		X			
g. The potential to conflict with or restrict existing religious, sacred, or educational use of the area?				X	

Existing Setting:

For at least the past 10,000 years, the area that is now Santa Barbara County has been inhabited by Chumash Indians and their ancestors. Based on Records Searches at the Central Coast Information Center of the University of California, Santa Barbara (CCIC) and at the USDA Los Padres National Forest office in Santa Barbara, CA, and a Phase I Archaeological Study of a seven-mile portion of the Franklin Trail, by the Historical Environmental Archaeological Research Team (H.E.A.R.T) in August of 2006 and 2007, cultural resources are located in the vicinity of the project site. Reports are available for review at the County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development Department. Additionally, an archaeological field reconnaissance was completed that studied the southern five miles of the seven-mile trail. The northern two miles were impassable. In the surveyed five miles, two prehistoric archaeological sites were encountered. The report is available for review at the Santa Barbara County Planning Department. Although the southern portion of the proposed trail is slightly different than what was studied in the assessment, the project boundaries are within the ¼ mile records search boundaries.

County Environmental Thresholds:

The County Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (2008) contains guidelines for identification, significance determination, and mitigation of impacts to important cultural resources. Chapter 8 of the Manual, the *Archaeological Resources Guidelines: Archaeological, Historic and Ethnic Element*, specifies that if a resource cannot be avoided, it must be evaluated for importance under CEQA. CEQA Section 15064.5 contains the criteria for evaluating the importance of archaeological and historical resources. For archaeological resources, the criterion usually applied is: (D), “Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history”. A project that may cause a substantial adverse effect on an archaeological resource may have a significant effect on the environment.

Impact Discussion:

a-f. Less than Significant with Mitigation. The trail network within Santa Barbara County has historical roots. Pathways across the County were initiated thousands of years ago by Native Americans who used them for access routes between their villages and the resource base they exploited. The Chumash, a local Native American group, and their ancestors initiated these early pathways; thus, the project has potential to disrupt resources associated with this ethnic group. Additionally, portions of the Franklin Trail route lie within areas that are considered moderate-extreme for encountering prehistoric and/or historic resources. The records search conducted for the project identified seven prehistoric archaeological sites in the trail vicinity including: CA-SBA-4; CA-SBA-107; CA-SBA-1348; CA-SBA-1796; CA-SBA-2292; CA-SBA-3587; and CA-SBA-3729 (H.E.A.R.T, 2006). Additionally, two prehistoric sites were encountered in the vicinity of the project site (H.E.A.R.T, 2007). As such, implementation of the proposed trail has the potential to affect nearby resources if proper precautions are not undertaken during brush clearing and trail establishment activities. It should be noted that no paving or ground disturbing activities are proposed outside of the two pedestrian bridges located near the high school (see Figure 3). Additionally, the proposed vegetation and trail establishment has been designed to be completed using hand tools to reduce the potential for impacts to occur. Nevertheless, given the resource sensitivity and for buried or undocumented archaeological resources to occur along the trail, mitigation is required to reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.

g. Not Significant. There are no existing religious, sacred, or educational uses in the vicinity of the project site; therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation and Residual Impact:

The following mitigation measure would reduce the project's cultural resource impacts to a less than significant level:

CR-1 Phase I Archaeologist Survey. The remaining unsurveyed portions of the proposed trail alignment shall be surveyed by a County-approved qualified archaeologists(s) during the preliminary trail clearance in accordance with the recommendations found in the Phase I Survey completed for the proposed project. If resources are encountered during the survey, they should be accurately mapped, photographed, and recorded per current acceptable professional archaeological standards. All recommendations provided in the Phase I Survey shall be incorporated into the project. If necessary, the proposed trail alignment shall be modified to avoid any cultural resources.

Plan Requirements and Timing: P&D shall receive and review study prior to trail establishment.

Monitoring: If, necessary P&D will ensure that trail alignment has been modified to avoid any cultural resources.

CR-2 Resource Recovery Procedures. In the event that archaeological resources are unearthed during project construction, all earth disturbing work within the vicinity of the find must be temporarily suspended or redirected until an archaeologist has evaluated the nature and significance of the find. After the find has been appropriately mitigated, work in the area may resume. A Chumash representative shall be retained to monitor any mitigation work associated with Native American cultural material.

Plan Requirements and Timing: If necessary, the final site plan for the proposed project shall demonstrate data recovery of the cultural resources.

Monitoring: Permit Compliance shall spot check during grading and construction activities. The procedure outlined above shall be in effect throughout all grading and construction periods and implemented as needed in the event that cultural resources are unearthed.

CR-3 Human Remains Recovery Procedures. If human remains are unearthed, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to the origin and disposition pursuant to the Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission. Additional surveys will be required if the project changes to include unsurveyed areas.

Plan Requirements and Timing: If necessary, the final site plan for the proposed project shall demonstrate data recovery of the cultural resources.

Monitoring: Permit Compliance shall spot check during grading and construction activities. The procedure outlined above shall be in effect throughout all grading and construction periods and implemented as needed in the event that human remains are unearthed.

With incorporation of the above measures, residual impacts would be less than significant.

4.6 ENERGY

Will the proposal result in:	Poten Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Substantial increase in demand, especially during peak periods, upon existing sources of energy?				X	
b. Requirement for the department or extension of new sources of energy?				X	

Impact Discussion:

The County has not adopted specific significance thresholds for electrical and/or natural gas service impacts (Thresholds and Guidelines Manual).

a. Less Than Significant. The proposed project consists of the construction and clearing of a multi-use trail. Many of the resources utilized for clearing are nonrenewable, including: manpower, sand, gravel, earth, iron, and steel. In addition, the project would commit a small amount of energy as a result of the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed trail. Much of the energy that would be utilized onsite would be generated through combustion of fossil fuels during creek overpass construction, trail blazing equipment such as chain saws, construction worker vehicle trips, and vehicle trips associated maintenance of the trail after construction is complete. The proposed project would result in the consumption of resources, however, the consumption of resources (e.g., gasoline and oil) would not affect the regional availability of resources. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

b. No Impact. The proposed project consists of the construction of a multi-use trail. As the proposed project would facilitate the passive recreational use of the area, it is not anticipated that the project would require the development or extension of new energy sources. There would be **no impact** with respect to this issue.

Cumulative Impacts:

The project’s contribution to the regionally significant demand for energy would not be considerable. As such, project implementation would not significantly contribute to cumulative impacts to energy resources.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: No impacts have been identified; therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

4.7 FIRE PROTECTION

Will the proposal result in:	Poten Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Introduction of development into an existing high fire hazard area?		X			
b. Project-caused high fire hazard?		X			
c. Introduction of development into an area without adequate water pressure, fire hydrants or adequate access for fire fighting?		X			
d. Introduction of development that will hamper fire prevention techniques such as controlled burns or backfiring in high fire hazard areas?				X	
e. Development of structures beyond safe Fire Dept. response time?		X			

Impact Discussion:

a, c, e. Less than Significant with Mitigation. The project site is located within a high fire hazard area (see Figure 9) and would therefore expose trail users to potential fire hazards in the event one should occur. Approximately two miles from the project site, Fire Station #1 (911, Walnut Avenue, Carpinteria) is the closest fire station to the project site and would have primary responsibility for responding to emergencies. Given that the proposed trail is located within a high fire hazard area, impacts related to fire safety would be potentially significant. However, impacts can be reduced through incorporation of mitigation.

b. Less than Significant with Mitigation. Predictions about the long-term effects of global climate change in California include increased incidence of wildfires and a longer fire season, due to drier conditions and warmer temperatures. Any increase in the number or severity of wildfires has the potential to adversely affect resources to fight fires when they occur, particularly when the state experiences several wildfires simultaneously. Such circumstances place greater risk on development in high fire hazard areas.

The proposed trail would be developed in a high fire hazard area. Project-induced impacts may occur from the accidental or deliberate starting of a fire during construction, maintenance, or operation of the trail. Although unlikely, fires may accidentally be started during construction and maintenance phases through the use of mechanical equipment, while fires may accidentally or deliberately be started by visitors of the trail. Therefore, the proposed trail has the potential to increase fire hazards. Impacts would be potentially significant and would require mitigation to reduce impacts.

d. No Impact. The proposed trail would provide access from the City of Carpinteria to the Santa Ynez mountain range. Existing roads (located on the Persoon and Rancho Monte Alegre properties) could be used to access the trail during a fire event. Currently, the Franklin trail is not continuous and portions of the trail have not been maintained and are overgrown with brush. As the proposed project would remove brush, maintain, and connect the trail for seven miles, it would make the backcountry more accessible for fire prevention and fighting. Therefore, no impacts to fire prevention are anticipated.

Cumulative Impacts:

The proposed project would have a less than significant but mitigable impact with regards to fire hazard impacts. The proposed project would increase the ability of emergency responders to conduct fire prevention and fighting operations. As the project would not create significant fire hazards, the project’s contribution to potential impacts would not be cumulatively considerable with regards to fire safety in the County.

Mitigation and Residual Impact:

Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce the impacts to fire hazards to less than significant.

FP-1 Fire Management and Emergency Response Plan. The County Parks Department shall develop a Fire Management and Emergency Response plan for the trail in consultation with the County Fire Department, and the Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District to coordinate notification and evacuation plans for the Franklin Trail. The Plan shall include, but not limited to, the following requirements that reduce impacts associated with exposure of trail users to fires:

- Fire hazard signage shall be placed at the trailhead at Foothill Road indicating the risks of trail usage;
- The Plan shall require the maintenance of the existing fire access road and identify emergency access routes;
- State and local automatic aid agreements shall be identified in the event a wildfire breaks out;
- A maintenance schedule plan shall be included for brush/vegetation clearing;
- The Plan shall require construction crews to carry fire retardant during the use of mechanical equipment; and
- The County Fire Department shall be notified prior to trail blazing activities.

Plan Requirements and Timing: The Fire Management and Emergency Response Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the County Fire Department and the Planning and Development Department prior to approval of any Land Use Permits.

Monitoring: Santa Barbara County Fire Department and permit compliance shall ensure compliance prior to project initiation.

With incorporation of the above measure, residual impacts would be less than significant.

4.8 GEOLOGIC PROCESSES

Will the proposal result in:	Poten Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Exposure to or production of unstable earth conditions such as landslides, earthquakes, liquefaction, soil creep, mudslides, ground failure (including expansive, compressible, collapsible soils), or similar hazards?			X		
b. Disruption, displacement, compaction or overcovering of the soil by cuts, fills or extensive grading?			X		
c. Permanent changes in topography?			X		
d. The destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic, paleontologic or physical features?				X	
e. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils. either on or off the site?			X		

Will the proposal result in:	Poten Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
f. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands or dunes, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify the channel of a river, or stream, or the bed of the ocean, or any bay, inlet or lake?				X	
g. The placement of septic disposal systems in impermeable soils with severe constraints to disposal of liquid effluent?				X	
h. Extraction of mineral or ore?				X	
i. Excessive grading on slopes of over 20%?			X		
j. Sand or gravel removal or loss of topsoil?			X		
k. Vibrations, from short-term construction or long-term operation, which may affect adjoining areas?				X	
l. Excessive spoils, tailings or over-burden?				X	

County Thresholds:

Pursuant to the County’s Adopted Thresholds and Guidelines Manual, impacts related to geological resources have the potential to be significant if the proposed project involves any of the following characteristics:

1. The project site or any part of the project is located on land having substantial geologic constraints, as determined by P&D or PWD. Areas constrained by geology include parcels located near active or potentially active faults and property underlain by rock types associated with compressible/collapsible soils or susceptible to landslides or severe erosion. “Special Problems” areas designated by the Board of Supervisors have been established based on geologic constraints, flood hazards and other physical limitations to development.
2. The project results in potentially hazardous geologic conditions such as the construction of cut slopes exceeding a grade of 1.5 horizontal to 1 vertical.
3. The project proposes construction of a cut slope over 15 feet in height as measured from the lowest finished grade.
4. The project is located on slopes exceeding 20% grade.

Impact Discussion:

a. Less than Significant. The project site crosses directly over the Arroyo Parida fault and is located approximately 1.50 miles from the San Ynez Earthquake Fault Zone. Additional faults in Carpinteria include Carpinteria and Red Mountain Faults, both of which trend eastward into Ventura County. The proposed trail is located within an area that is highly susceptible to earthquakes and has low susceptibility to induced landslides and liquefaction (Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan, Seismic Hazard Zones Map, 1979). Although the project site is located within an area that is subject to seismic hazards, the proposed multi-use trail would not involve any paving or structures. In addition, the proposed project would not result in an increase in population or employment opportunities within this seismically active area. Therefore, the proposed multi-use trail would not pose seismic safety risks beyond those that already exist in the area. Impacts would be less than significant.

b, c, e, i, j. Less than Significant. The proposed trail would be aligned along the existing Franklin Trail located on the Santa Ynez mountain range. Parts of the historic trail are overgrown and would require brush clearance and resurfacing prior to being made accessible to the public; however, trailblazing would result in minimal rates of deposition, erosion, or siltation as no grading is proposed. In addition, the proposed project would comply with the County’s standard erosion control and drainage requirements which utilize natural drainage systems to the maximum extent feasible. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

d, f, g, h, k, l. No Impact. There are no unique geological features located on the project site, and the project would not result in the use of septic systems. The project would not involve mining, the loss of topsoil, or construction-related vibrations, as no grading is proposed. The project would require brush clearance and re-surfacing along the existing Franklin trail. The trail would contour along existing slopes. Additionally, the proposed trail would meander through the slopes, so that no part of the trail would exceed a 12% grade. It is not anticipated that the trail would be located on slopes over 20%. Further, construction activities would not require the use of heavy equipment (e.g., pile drivers) that could generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels. Therefore, it is not anticipated that there would be a substantial change in the topography along Franklin Trail and no impact would occur.

Cumulative Impacts:

As identified the proposed project’s impacts to geologic processes would be less than significant. As geologic processes are site-specific and not cumulative by nature, the project would not result in incremental effects on geologic hazards that could impact new development in the County. As such, the project’s impacts are not cumulatively considerable.

4.9 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS/RISK OF UPSET

Will the proposal result in:	Poten Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. In the known history of this property, have there been any past uses, storage or discharge of hazardous materials (e.g., fuel or oil stored in underground tanks, pesticides, solvents or other chemicals)?			X		
b. The use, storage or distribution of hazardous or toxic materials?				X	
c. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (e.g., oil, gas, biocides, bacteria, pesticides, chemicals or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions?			X		
d. Possible interference with an emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?				X	
e. The creation of a potential public health hazard?			X		
f. Public safety hazards (e.g., due to development near chemical or industrial activity, producing oil wells, toxic disposal sites, etc.)?			X		
g. Exposure to hazards from oil or gas pipelines or oil well facilities?				X	
h. The contamination of a public water supply?				X	

County Environmental Thresholds:

The County’s safety threshold addresses involuntary public exposure from facilities or activities involving significant quantities of hazardous materials (e.g., oil wells, pipelines, rocket propellants, chlorine, etc.) . The County of Santa Barbara Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (2008), identifies that these thresholds do not apply when populations are sporadic, which includes land-uses such as hiking trails.

Impact Discussion:

a, c, e, f. Less than Significant. The southern portion of the proposed trail is located adjacent to agricultural operations, including greenhouses on the Persoon Property and an avocado grove on the Horton property (Rincon Consultants, 2011). There is a chance that pesticides could be in the soil; however, no soil would be excavated or removed from the site. Additionally, the use of pesticides on neighboring avocado orchards could potentially impact users of the trail as a result of pesticide drift. Although spraying of pesticides would occur approximately 150 feet from the potential trail alignment.

the County of Santa Barbara regulates the spraying of pesticides by the County of Santa Barbara and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. Per the County Standards, it is required that sprayers post signs indicating that spraying is to occur within ¼ mile of the application site. By law, implementation of the proposed project would require nearby sprayers to post a sign of spraying visible from the trail. It is assumed that pesticide application and notification shall be completed in accordance with applicable laws. Therefore, pesticide impacts to trail users relating to soil contamination, release, or exposure would be less than significant.

b. No Impact. The proposed trail would be used for recreational purposes. It is not anticipated that the project would result in use, storage, or distribution of hazardous or toxic materials. Therefore, there would be no impact with respect to this issue.

d. No Impact. The proposed trail extends up into Los Padres National Forest and would not interfere with emergency response or evacuation plans. The proposed trail would beneficially affect the access for emergency personal. Therefore, there would be no impact with respect to this issue.

g. No Impact. The proposed trail is not located in the vicinity of oil and gas pipelines or facilities and does not propose any subsurface disturbance. Therefore, there would be no impact with respect to exposure of oil or gas pipelines or facilities.

h. No Impact. The proposed project is a multi-use trail, which would not require water use or use of any chemicals that have the potential for contamination of the public water supply. Therefore, no impact associated with contamination of public water supply is anticipated.

Cumulative Impacts:

Since the project would not create significant impacts with respect to hazardous materials and/or risk of upset, it would not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to cumulative safety impacts.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: No impacts have been identified; therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

4.10 HISTORIC RESOURCES

Will the proposal result in:	Poten Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Adverse physical or aesthetic impacts on a structure or property at least 50 years old and/or of historic or cultural significance to the community, state or nation?			X		
b. Beneficial impacts to an historic resource by providing rehabilitation, protection in a conservation/open easement, etc.?				X	

Existing Setting:

A historic records search and a Phase I Archaeological Study was prepared by H.E.A.R.T (2006, 2007). According to H.E.A.R.T. (2006), no historic sites have been recorded within the project area (California Register of Historic Resources; National Register of Historic Places; California Historical Landmarks; California Points of Historical Interest; State Historic Resources Commission). The trail is part of an existing trail (the Franklin Trail), which had been removed from public use. It is thought that the Franklin Trail was built around 1910-1933 by the Franklin family who occupied the local area. The Franklin Trail could be named in association with two possibly related families: a) Richard G. Franklin, who lived with one sister and three brothers, and b) Meshach Franklin who lived with his wife, Nannie, and three children. Blood relatedness is supported by the evidence that both emigrant families originated in North Carolina, are listed as living in Carpinteria at the time of the 1880 U.S. Census. both made cash entries for

lands situated adjacent to one another, and both families occupied said lands prior to inception of the Los Padres National Forest in 1906.

Environmental Threshold: Historic Resource impacts are determined through use of the County's Cultural Resources Guidelines. A significant resource a) possesses integrity of location, design, workmanship, material, and/or setting; b) is at least fifty years old, and c) is associated with an important contribution, was designed or built by a person who made an important contribution, is associated with an important and particular architectural style, or embodies elements demonstrating outstanding attention to detail, craftsmanship, use of materials, or construction methods.

Impact Discussion:

a. Less Than Significant. The proposed project would involve the restoration of the Franklin Trail and would not adversely affect the potential historic designation of the trail. The proposed project would have no adverse physical or aesthetic impact on the project properties (HEART, 2006); therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

b. No Impact. The proposed project would connect the southern and northern sections of the Franklin Trail for users such as hikers, bicyclists, and pedestrians. The proposed project would represent the restoration and conservation of the historic Franklin Trail. It would not adversely affect historic resources. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Cumulative Impacts:

The proposed project's impacts to historical resources would be less than significant. As impacts to historic resources are typically site-specific, implementation of the proposed trail would not result in incremental effects on historic resources that could impact new development in the County. As such, the project's impacts are not cumulatively considerable.

Mitigation Measure and Residual Impact:

The proposed project would not have a significant impact on historical property over 50 years old; however, the following mitigation measure has been included to reduce impact to historic resources to the maximum extent feasible.

HR-1 Historic Eligibility Determination. A County-approved historian shall conduct a preliminary determination of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places based on the condition of the trail; the potential age of the trail (1910-1933) and the potential relationship of the trail to the Franklin family who were early occupants of the local area. The review shall evaluate the proposed project in relation to the eligibility of the trail for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The historic eligibility report shall be submitted to the county of Santa Barbara for review and approval. Any recommendations provided in the review shall be incorporated in the project description.

Plan Requirements and Timing: A County-approved historian shall conduct a preliminary determination of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission (HLAC) shall review and approve the determination of eligibility. P&D shall ensure that the historical determination is completed, and that the determination is approved by the HLAC.

Monitoring: P&D shall ensure receipt of the determination to the HLAC. Permit Compliance shall ensure that the plan is implemented prior to construction. Implementation of the above mitigation measure would reduce residual impact to the maximum extent feasible.

With incorporation of the above measure, residual impacts would be less than significant.

4.11 LAND USE

Will the proposal result in:	Poten Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Structures and/or land use incompatible with existing land use?		X			
b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				X	
c. The induction of substantial growth or concentration of population?				X	
d. The extension of sewer trunk lines or access roads with capacity to serve new development beyond this proposed project?				X	
e. Loss of existing affordable dwellings through demolition, conversion or removal?				X	
f. Displacement of substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X	
g. Displacement of substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X	
h. The loss of a substantial amount of open space?				X	
i. An economic or social effect that would result in a physical change? (i.e. Closure of a freeway ramp results in isolation of an area, businesses located in the vicinity close, neighborhood degenerates, and buildings deteriorate. Or, if construction of new freeway divides an existing community, the construction would be the physical change, but the economic/social effect on the community would be the basis for determining that the physical change would be significant.)				X	
j. Conflicts with adopted airport safety zones?				X	

Existing Setting:

The proposed project is an approximate 7-mile long recreational trail (see Figure 1), which begins in the City of Carpinteria and terminates at East Camino Cielo at the Sutron Canyon ridgeline of the Santa Ynez range in the Los Padres National Forest (approximate elevation 3,858 ft). The project would pass through three private land parcels zoned for agricultural use that have granted trail easements for the trail.

Environmental Threshold:

The Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (2008) contains no specific thresholds for land use. Generally, a potentially significant impact can occur if a project would result in a physical effect related to the checklist questions identified above.

Impact Discussion:

a. **Less than Significant with Mitigation.** The proposed project would be located within a trail easement through lands zoned for agricultural uses. Existing agricultural operations adjacent to the proposed trail

include greenhouses (50 feet away; Persoon property) and an avocado orchard (275 feet away; Horton Property) located in the southern portion of the trail. Recreational users on the trail such as hikers, bicyclist, and equestrian users have the potential to conflict with surrounding agricultural practices if they were to leave the trail area. As such, mitigation (LU-1) is proposed to reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.

b-j. No Impact. The proposed trail would be located on trail easements granted by public agencies and private land owners. The County of Santa Barbara recognizes that land use impacts would occur if the proposed project would result in a substantial growth inducing effect. As such, the proposed trail would not cause a physical change that conflicts with adopted environmental policies or regulations as found in the County's General Plan or ordinances. Further, the project is not growth inducing, and would not result in the loss of affordable housing, loss of open space, or a significant displacement of people. The project does not involve the extension of a sewer trunk line, and does not conflict with any airport safety zones.

In addition, for the portions of the trail that would be located within the City of Carpinteria, the proposed project would be consistent with the City's General Plan/Local Coastal Plan and would support the following Objective and Policy of the Open Space, Recreation and Conservation Element:

- **Objective OSC-15:** *Maintain the existing trail system and provide additional recreation and access opportunities by expanding the trail system.*
- **Policy OSC-15b:** *Support enhancement of access trails along creekways designated as open space up to the foothills of the Santa Ynez mountain range. This should include exploring trail development for public use along the Edison easement behind Carpinteria High School, ending on the first ridge above the City. This should be linked to the old Franklin Trail, leading to the ridge up to East Camino Cielo. Trail restoration and enhancement of easement areas should be pursued to restore the natural beauty along these trails by negotiating with property owners, the school district, and the National Forest, to redesign trails on adopt protective fencing methods.*

Because the project is not growth inducing, would not result in the loss of affordable housing, loss of open space, or a significant displacement of people, and would be consistent with existing land use plans, policies and regulations, therefore, no land use impacts would occur with implementation of the proposed trail.

Cumulative Impacts:

Implementation of this project is not anticipated to result in any substantial change to the site's conformance with environmentally protective policies and standards. Thus, the project would not cause a cumulatively considerable effect on land use.

Mitigation and Residual Impact:

Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce impact to land use conflicts to less than significant.

- LU-1 Trail Security Measures.** In areas adjacent to irrigated croplands and greenhouses, the trail shall incorporate security measures to discourage trespassing onto adjacent agricultural lands as necessary. These could include, but not be limited to, fencing, signage, and landscaping.

Plan Requirements and Timing: A plan for the trail system shall be submitted to the Park Department and P&D for trail installation and maintenance shall be submitted to P&D prior to trailblazing for review and approval. Provisions for maintenance shall be included in the project to be reviewed and approved by Park Department and P&D. The trail system shall be implemented after trail funding is secured.

Monitoring: Park Department shall ensure trail installation meets all requirements.

With incorporation of the above measure, residual impacts would be less than significant.

4.12 NOISE

Will the proposal result in:	Poten Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Long-term exposure of people to noise levels exceeding County thresholds (e.g. locating noise sensitive uses next to an airport)?			X		
b. Short-term exposure of people to noise levels exceeding County thresholds?			X		
c. Project-generated substantial increase in the ambient noise levels for adjoining areas (either day or night)?			X		

Noise is generally defined as unwanted or objectionable sound which is measured on a logarithmic scale and is expressed in a-weighted decibels (dBA). The duration of noise and the time period at which it occurs are important values in determining impacts on noise-sensitive land uses. The Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) and Day-Night Average Level (Ldn) are noise indices which account for differences in intrusiveness between day-and night-time uses. County noise thresholds are 1) 65 dBA CNEL maximum for exterior exposure and 2) 45 dBA CNEL maximum for interior exposure of noise-sensitive uses. Noise-sensitive land uses include: residential dwellings; transient lodging; hospitals and other long-term care facilities; public or private educational facilities; libraries, churches; and places of public assembly. The proposed project is outside of 65 dBA noise contours for roadways, public facilities, airport approach and take-off zones.

Some land uses are considered more sensitive to noise levels than others, due to the amount of noise exposure (in terms of both exposure time and insulation from noise) and the types of activities typically involved. Residences, motels and hotels, schools, libraries, churches, hospitals, nursing homes, auditoriums, parks, and outdoor recreation areas are generally considered more sensitive to noise than are commercial and industrial land uses. Sensitive receptors in the project area include the Carpinteria High School (adjacent to the proposed trail) and single family residences located in the southern portion of the trail along Meadow View Lane and on the Persoon property. The closest residential receptors are those located on Meadow View Lane at the project trailhead, approximately 25 feet away from the trail alignment and the parking areas.

County Threshold:

The County of Santa Barbara Environmental Thresholds prohibits unnecessary, excessive and annoying noises from all sources, be it noise associated with temporary construction activities or long-term uses of land. The exposure level of 65 dBA is considered to be the maximum outdoor noise level compatible with residential and other noise-sensitive land uses. Development that would generate noise levels in excess of 65 dBA CNEL and could affect sensitive receptors is generally presumed to have a significant impact. In addition, according to the Santa Barbara County Environmental Thresholds Manual (2008), noise generating construction activities within sixteen hundred (1,600) feet of sensitive receptors, including schools and residences, is limited to the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday only.

Impact Discussion:

a, c. Less than Significant. Long-term noise resulting from implementation of the proposed trail would include noise that is typical of passive recreational uses. Ambient noise at the Persoon property adjacent the Carpinteria High School was measured at 44.7 Leq (see Appendix B for data sheets). This is typical

of agricultural areas that are located away from roadways or urban settings. Noise in the southern section of the trail south of Carpinteria High School would be characteristic of a residential neighborhood and urban setting.

Potential project noise would be generated from trail users which may include people talking and dogs barking. These noise sources are not considered to be significant noise producers and it is unlikely that the use of the trail would generate a measurable increase in ambient noise or exceed noise standards for adjacent receptors. Additionally, the proposed project is not anticipated to generate a measurable increase in traffic, which could increase ambient noise levels along traffic corridors and parking areas within the vicinity of the project site. As shown in Table 3 below, general noise that would be associated with the traffic and parking areas includes the movement of vehicles through the adjacent roadways, conversations, and similar activities. Typical noise levels associated with various traffic and parking area activities at approximately 100 feet and at 25 feet (the distance from the parking area on Meadow View Lane to the nearest sensitive receptors (the adjacent residences)) are summarized in Table 3. As shown in Table 3, none of the activities would exceed 65 dBA. Therefore, long-term noise generated onsite would not substantially increase ambient noise levels in adjoining areas. Impacts would be less than significant.

Table 3
Parking Area Noise Sources

<u>Source</u>	<u>Level (dBA) at 100 feet*</u>	<u>Level (dBA) at Closest Sensitive Receptors (25 feet)</u>
<u>Autos at 14 mph</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>56</u>
<u>Car Alarm Chirp</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>60</u>
<u>Talking</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>42</u>

**Source: Gordon Bricken & Associates, 1996. Estimates are based on actual noise measurements taken at various parking areas.*

b. Less Than Significant. Construction of the two proposed pedestrian bridges near the high school (see Figure 3) and trail blazing activities would generate noise that could impact adjacent sensitive receptors. The location of the proposed footbridge over the v-ditch is located approximately 100 feet from the northeast corner of the sports track and the nearest residence subject to trail blazing activities is a single family home located approximately 200 feet away from the trail alignment. Residences located in the urban portion of the trail along Meadow View Lane would not be subject to nearby trail blazing activities. Equipment required to complete the bridges would include light trucks and general construction equipment including saws, concrete mixers, etc.; while trail blazing equipment would primarily use chainsaws and hand tools. Typical noise levels associated with each activity is identified in Table 34.

Table 3-4 Typical Construction Noise Levels

Construction Activity/Equipment	Average Noise at 50 Feet	Average Noise at 100 Feet (High School Track)	Average Noise at 200 Feet (Closest Residence on Person Property)
Building – Bridge Construction ^a	84 dBA	78 dBA	72 dBA
Chainsaw ^b	85 dBA	79 dBA	73 dBA

^a Bolt, Beranek and Newman. "Noise from Construction Equipment and Operations. Building Equipment, and Home Appliances," prepared for the US EPA, 1971.

^b County of Ventura, Construction Noise Threshold Criteria and Control Plan, November 2005.

As indicated above in Table 34, noise equipment could be as loud as 84 dBA at 50 feet. However, given a noise attenuation rate of 6 dB per doubling of distance, the maximum noise experienced on the school track (100 feet from bridge over v-ditch) and at the residence on the Persoon property (200 feet from trail) during construction would be about 79 dBA and 73 dBA, respectively. As identified above, the County of Santa Barbara limits construction activities within 1,600 feet of sensitive receptors between the hours of 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday only, to reduce potential impacts. Therefore, adherence to construction timing restrictions would reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: No impacts have been identified; therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

4.13 PUBLIC FACILITIES

Will the proposal result in:	Poten Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. A need for new or altered police protection and/or health care services?				X	
b. Student generation exceeding school capacity?				X	
c. Significant amounts of solid waste or breach any national, state, or local standards or thresholds relating to solid waste disposal and generation (including recycling facilities and existing landfill capacity)?				X	
d. A need for new or altered sewer system facilities (sewer lines, lift-stations, etc.)?				X	
e. The construction of new storm water drainage or water quality control facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X	

Impact Discussion:

a. No Impact. The proposed project would not require the construction of new police facilities. The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department, Carpinteria Station, is located at 5775 Carpinteria Ave, approximately two miles south from the project site. The proposed project would not result in the construction of new buildings that could present unique challenges for police protection services on-site or result in an increase in population that would warrant the construction of new facilities to provide adequate police protection services. Therefore, there would be no impact with respect to this issue.

b, c. No Impact. The proposed project consists of the construction of a new multi-use trail. Therefore, the proposed project is not anticipated to generate an increase in population that would warrant the construction of new school facilities or generate solid waste that would exceed state or local standards. No impact related to schools or solid waste would occur.

d, e. No Impact. The proposed project consists of the construction of a new multi-use trail and does not include the use of septic systems or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, the proposed project would not create a need for new or altered sewer system facilities. Moreover, the proposed project would not require the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or an expansion of existing facilities. Therefore, no impact related to the construction or expansion of sewer system facilities or storm water drainage is anticipated.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: No impacts have been identified; therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

4.14 RECREATION

Will the proposal result in:	Poten Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Conflict with established recreational uses of the area?				X	
b. Conflict with biking, equestrian and hiking trails?				X	
c. Substantial impact on the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities (e.g., overuse of an area with constraints on numbers of people, vehicles, animals, etc. which might safely use the area)?				X	

Impact Discussion:

a-c. No Impact. As discussed previously, the proposed project would enhance public recreation within the area by establishing the Franklin Trail, thereby providing a link between Carpinteria and the Los Padres National Forest. The proposed project would not require the construction of new parks or recreational facilities to accommodate the proposed trail. Furthermore, the proposed trail would increase recreation opportunities in the area, and would have a beneficial effect with respect to recreation resources. Therefore, there would be no impact with respect to these issues.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: No impacts have been identified; therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

4.15 TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION

Will the proposal result in:	Poten Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement (daily, peak-hour, etc.) in relation to existing traffic load and capacity of the street system?			X		
b. A need for private or public road maintenance, or need for new road(s)?				X	
c. Effects on existing parking facilities, or demand for new parking?			X		
d. Substantial impact upon existing transit systems (e.g. bus service) or alteration of present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?				X	
e. Alteration to waterborne, rail or air traffic?				X	
f. Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists or pedestrians (including short-term construction and long-term operational)?			X		
g. Inadequate sight distance? ingress/egress? general road capacity? emergency access?				X X X X	
h. Impacts to Congestion Management Plan system?				X	

Impact Discussion:

a, h. Less Than Significant. The proposed project would connect the Franklin Trail over a 7-mile segment from the City of Carpinteria to the south to the Santa Ynez Mountain Range to the north. Given that the proposed trail does not specifically provide parking, it is assumed that the trail will predominantly be used by neighborhood users traveling to the trail by foot, bicycle, or equestrian modes of transportation. The proposed project would likely generate minimal vehicle traffic primarily during weekends (daylight hours only) that would not significantly impact the surrounding roadways and intersections. exceed county

congestion management level of service standards, and impact Congestion Management Plans. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

b. No Impact. The proposed multi-use trail would be designed for pedestrians, hikers, and bicyclists. The trail would be accessible via the trailhead on Meadow View Lane in the City of Carpinteria. Existing private roads provide access to the trail for emergency providers (see Section 4.7, *Fire Protection*, for further discussion). Additionally, the proposed project would not require the construction of new driveways or roads as the trail would utilize existing roadways and easements. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

c. Less Than Significant. The proposed project does not include the construction of parking areas or facilities, as it is not anticipated to generate new vehicle trips to the site compared to existing conditions, as the majority of the trail alignment is currently in place. Parking for the proposed trail would utilize existing street parking on Meadow View Lane which could accommodate up to approximately 40-45 cars. In addition, there may be additional street parking along Linden Avenue. Overnight parking for trail users wishing to access the backcountry from the Franklin Trail for multi-day hikes would be limited to a maximum parking time of 72 hours on City streets (as applicable by the City of Carpinteria Municipal Code). It is not anticipated that the trail would generate a significant amount of vehicle trips to the site that would overburden parking spaces on ~~this Meadow View Lane or Linden Avenue~~ street. Due to the proximity to residential areas, it is likely that many of the users would be able to access the site via on foot or bicycle. Therefore, impacts associated with inadequate parking would be less than significant. Although impacts would be less than significant, Mitigation Measure T-1 is recommended to further encourage trail users to bike to the trail rather than drive to and park vehicles on City streets.

d, e. No Impact. The proposed multi-use trail would be placed along the Santa Ynez mountain range and would have no impact on existing transit systems, including waterborne, rail, or air modes. Therefore, no impact would occur.

f, g. No Impact. The proposed trail would begin at the trailhead on Meadow View Lane in Carpinteria. As such, trail users would be required to cross Foothill Road via the existing cross walk, south of Carpinteria High School to access the continuing portion of the trail. Given that the proposed trail would be located on existing bike lanes and trail easements, no significant hazard for vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians would occur. Additionally, implementation of the trail would not have any impacts related to inadequate sight distance, ingress/egress, road capacity, or emergency access. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: No impacts have been identified; therefore, mitigation is not necessary. However, the following measure is intended to encourage trail users to bike to the trail rather than drive vehicles that would require parking along City streets (Meadow View Lane and Linden Avenue). As such, this recommended measure is intended to reduce parking demands and vehicle trips associated with the project.

T-1 Bicycle Racks. In areas adjacent to the trailhead, the trail shall incorporate bicycle racks to encourage trail users to bike to the trail rather than driving and parking vehicles along City streets.

Plan Requirements and Timing: A bicycle rack shall be included in all trail system plans and shall be submitted to the Park Department and P&D for review and approval. Provisions for maintenance shall be included in the project to be reviewed and approved by Park Department and P&D. The bicycle racks shall be installed after trail funding is secured.

Monitoring: Park Department shall ensure bicycle rack installation meets all requirements.

4.16 WATER RESOURCES/FLOODING

Will the proposal result in:	Poten Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters?			X		
b. Changes in percolation rates, drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface water runoff?			X		
c. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body?			X		
d. Discharge, directly or through a storm drain system, into surface waters (including but not limited to wetlands, riparian areas, ponds, springs, creeks, streams, rivers, lakes, estuaries, tidal areas, bays, ocean, etc) or alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, or thermal water pollution?			X		
e. Alterations to the course or flow of flood water or need for private or public flood control projects?			X		
f. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding (placement of project in 100 year flood plain), accelerated runoff or tsunamis?			X		
g. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of groundwater?				X	
h. Change in the quantity of groundwater, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations or recharge interference?				X	
i. Overdraft or overcommitment of any groundwater basin? Or, a significant increase in the existing overdraft or overcommitment of any groundwater basin?				X	
j. The substantial degradation of groundwater quality including saltwater intrusion?				X	
k. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies?				X	
l. Introduction of storm water pollutants (e.g., oil, grease, pesticides, nutrients, sediments, pathogens, etc.) into groundwater or surface water?			X		

Impact Discussion:

a, c. Less than Significant. The proposed project would include the installation of two bridges at the southwestern end of the avocado orchard, north of the Carpinteria High School track (see Figure 3). One 65 foot pedestrian bridge will traverse the unnamed tributary drainage of Franklin Creek and the other 5 foot pedestrian bridge will span the concrete v-ditch between the Persoon property and Carpinteria High School. The tributary drainage contains a mix of native and non-native vegetation including coast live oak, arroyo willow, cape ivy, poison oak, and nasturtium. The drainage exhibited a discernible bed, bank, and channel, but at the time of the 2011 survey (Rincon Consultants, Inc. November 2011) contained no water. The concrete v-ditch is bordered by non-native invasive plants including shortpod mustard and castor bean. While the proposed bridges may alter vegetation within the vicinity of the v-ditch and the unnamed tributary, the construction and operation of the bridges would not change the course or direction of water movement. The footings of the proposed clear-span bridge over the unnamed tributary would be located outside of the bed and banks of the tributary and thus would not alter the flow in any way. In addition, because the v-ditch consists of concrete, the footbridge that would span the ditch would not alter the flow of the v-ditch at all. In addition, the construction of the proposed bridges would not change the amount of surface water in either the

v-ditch or the unnamed tributary. Further, all trail alignments, including the portion of the trail along the eastern boundary of the high school property, would not impact any existing stream courses or surface waters, and would not disrupt or alter the flow of any stream or any other surface waters. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

b, d, i. Less than Significant. The proposed trail would consist of natural surfaces and would not contain any pavement making the trail surface permeable. The proposed pedestrian bridge over the existing v-ditch would be located over a concrete drainage, and therefore would not increase percolation rates. In addition, the footings of the proposed clear-span bridge over the unnamed tributary would be located outside of the bed and banks of the tributary and thus would not increase percolation rates. The trail would primarily occur on existing paths and roadways which would not impact the surface runoff rates. However, in areas where the trail would need to be constructed, the runoff rates could increase due to the removal of vegetation that absorbs this water. The project would only minimally change the runoff patterns due to the relatively small footprint for approximately 3 miles (6 feet wide). The project would include trash receptacles and “mutt mitt” stations to provide dog-waste pickup bags to trail users. Installation of receptacles and mutt mitt stations would reduce any impacts to surface water quality related to trail use. Therefore, surface water quality would not be significantly impacted as no development is proposed that would increase stormwater pollutants nor are impervious surfaces proposed that would collect pollutants. Due to the minimal amount of newly developed trail, and the natural, permeable surfaces, and the installation of trash receptacles and mutt mitt stations, it is not anticipated that there would be a substantial change in runoff or stormwater pollutants. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

e, f. Less than Significant. As described above, the proposed clear-span bridge over the unnamed tributary and the pedestrian bridge over the concrete v-ditch would not alter the flow of these waterways in any way. The only portion proposed trail located within the 100-year flood zone is the lower portion located on the Persoon Property and the portion adjacent to Carpinteria High School (FEMA Map, 06083C1420F, September 2005). According to the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map, these portions of the trail are located within Zone A (“No base flood elevations determined”) of the 100-year flood zone. Although a portion of the trail would be located within the 100-year flood zone, the project does not include any habitable structures and therefore would not expose people or property to water related hazards involving flooding. In addition, the project site is located approximately 1.5 miles inland of the Pacific Ocean. Therefore the proposed trail would not be subject to tsunamis. Implementation of the project would have a less than significant impact to flooding or flood control.

g-k. No Impact. The proposed trail would not affect water resources as the proposed trail would primarily use existing paths and would not require water for maintenance. The project would only require the minimal amount of water necessary for dust minimization during project construction. Further, as no development that would require water resources is proposed, no impacts would occur.

Cumulative Impacts:

The County’s Environmental Thresholds were developed, in part, to define the point at which a project’s contribution to a regionally significant impact constitutes a significant effect at the project level. In this instance, the project has been found not to exceed the threshold of significance for water resources. Therefore, the project’s contribution to the regionally significant issues of water supplies and water quality is not considerable, and is less than significant.

Mitigation and Residual Impact: No impacts have been identified; therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

5.0 INFORMATION SOURCES

5.1 County Departments Consulted

Police, Fire, Public Works, Flood Control, Parks, Environmental Health, Special Districts, Regional Programs, Other : _____

5.2 Comprehensive Plan

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Seismic Safety/Safety Element | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation Element |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Open Space Element | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise Element |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal Plan and Maps | <input type="checkbox"/> Circulation Element |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ERME | <input type="checkbox"/> |

5.3 Other Sources

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Field work | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ag Preserve maps |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Calculations | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flood Control maps |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project plans | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other technical references
(reports, survey, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic studies | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Planning files, maps, reports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Records | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Zoning maps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grading plans | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Soils maps/reports |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elevation, architectural renderings | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plant maps |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Published geological map/reports | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archaeological maps and reports |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Topographical maps | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| | _____ |
| | _____ |
| | _____ |

6.0 PROJECT SPECIFIC (short- and long-term) AND CUMULATIVE IMPACT SUMMARY

With the incorporation of the required mitigation measures, the proposed project would not cause impacts that are cumulatively considerable. The project has the potential to contribute to cumulative biological resources, cultural resources, fire protection, historic resources, and land use impacts. However, provided that the mitigation measures contained in this document are implemented, none of these cumulative impacts are substantial, and the project would not cause any cumulative impacts to become substantial. Therefore, with the incorporation of mitigation measures the proposed project does not have a Mandatory Finding of Significance due to cumulative impacts.

7.0 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Will the proposal result in:	Poten Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impa ct	Reviewed Under Previous Document
1. Does the project have the potential to substantially 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, substantially 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?			X		
2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals?				X	
3. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects and the effects of probable future projects.)			X		
4. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			X		
5. Is there disagreement supported by facts, reasonable assumptions predicated upon facts and/or expert opinion supported by facts over the significance of an effect which would warrant investigation in an EIR ?				X	

1. Less than Significant. Based on the information obtained in the preparation of this Initial Study, the proposed project would not substantially reduce the habitat of fish or wildlife species, cause fish or wildlife populations to drop below self-sustaining levels threaten to eliminate plant or animal communities. In addition, due to the trail’s primary alignment along the existing dirt road on-site, the proposed project is not expected to interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors any more than current conditions allow (see Section 4.4, *Biological Resources*, for further detail). Thus, impacts associated with biological resources are less than significant.

The Franklin Trail route may be an important example of a major period in California history. The proposed project would reconstruct the historic Franklin Trail; thus, re-establishing an important example of California History and prehistory (see Section 4.10, *Historic Resources*, for further detail). Therefore, no impacts associated with the elimination of California history would occur.

2. No Impact. The project would not achieve short-term environmental goals at the expense of long-term environmental goals. The proposed trail would provide the following short-term and long-term environmental goals: increase public accessibility to the Santa Ynez Mountain Range. increase public

accessibility to the Los Padres National Forest, and increase open space available for passive recreational activities. The short-term environmental goals are not achieved at the expense of long-term environmental goals; therefore, no impacts would occur.

3. Less than Significant. The project would not create any significant impacts that cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level for the following issue areas: Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Fire Protection, Historic Resources, and Land Use. Therefore, the project's contribution to cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

4. Less than Significant. Implementation of the proposed trail would not result in potentially significant impacts to human beings, either directly or indirectly. Therefore, the project's impacts would be less than significant.

5. No Impact. There is no disagreement with the information, facts, or expert opinion provided in this report to indicate that an EIR investigation is warranted. The findings in this report are consistent with technical reports prepared to determine the validity of information, facts and expert opinions presented in the above report.

8.0 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

If potentially significant, adverse unmitigable impacts would result, identify potential project alternatives to minimize these effects (reduced project, alternative use, alternative site location, etc.)

There are **no impacts** which can not be mitigated to a less than significant level. Therefore, it is not necessary to identify alternatives to the project.

9.0 INITIAL REVIEW OF PROJECT CONSISTENCY WITH APPLICABLE SUBDIVISION, ZONING AND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN REQUIREMENTS

Zoning for the proposed trail includes Agriculture for a minimum parcel size ranging from 4-40 acres. The proposed trail would not include any facilities and would consist of open space. As the proposed project is classified as "recreation" and not "agriculture" it would not be consistent with current zoning ordinance. However, recreational use is not precluded in agriculture zones, and the County of Santa Barbara Environmental Thresholds Manual (2008) identifies open space as a compatible use with agriculture. In addition, the trail would not remove existing farmland from operation, and the passive recreational use of the trail would not impact ongoing agricultural practices adjacent to the proposed trail.

The project is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan Polices including: (1) the trail would be sited to minimize impact on prime soils, agriculture operation, public safety and environmentally sensitive areas, (2) the project would establishing trails for horses and hiking which is compatible use with the surrounding land uses, (3) the project would placing the trail in areas that are currently not used for agriculture use are undesirable for urban uses, and (4) the proposed passive recreational uses on the trail are consistent with the County of Santa Barbara recreation polices for recreational trails (see Section, 4.11, *Land Use*, for future discussion). Thus, the proposed project is consistent with Santa Barbara Comprehensive Plan Requirements.

10.0 RECOMMENDATION BY P&D STAFF

On the basis of the Initial Study, the staff of Planning and Development:

Finds that the proposed project WILL NOT have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, recommends that a Negative Declaration (ND) be prepared.

Finds 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 measures incorporated into the REVISED PROJECT DESCRIPTION would successfully mitigate the potentially significant impacts. Staff recommends the preparation of an ND. The ND finding is based on the assumption that mitigation measures will be acceptable to the applicant; if not acceptable a revised Initial Study finding for the preparation of an EIR may result.

Finds that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and recommends that an EIR be prepared.

Finds that from existing documents (previous EIRs, etc.) that a subsequent document (containing updated and site-specific information, etc.) pursuant to CEQA Sections 15162/15163/15164 should be prepared.

Potentially significant unavoidable adverse impact areas:

With Public Hearing

Without Public Hearing

PREVIOUS DOCUMENT: _____

PROJECT EVALUATOR: _____

DATE: _____

11.0 DETERMINATION BY ENVIRONMENTAL HEARING OFFICER

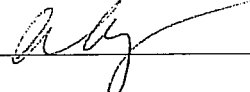
I agree with staff conclusions. Preparation of the appropriate document may proceed.

I DO NOT agree with staff conclusions. The following actions will be taken:

I require consultation and further information prior to making my determination.

SIGNATURE: _____

INITIAL STUDY DATE: _____

SIGNATURE:  _____

NEGATIVE DECLARATION DATE: 2/16/12

SIGNATURE: _____

REVISION DATE: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

FINAL NEGATIVE DECLARATION DATE: _____

12.0 MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

Identification of Mitigation Measures and Monitoring Activities	
4.1 AESTHETICS	
None required.	
4.2 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES	
None required.	
4.3 AIR QUALITY	
AQ-1	<p>Recommended Construction Dust Control. The following dust control measures shall be implemented during construction activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>During construction, water trucks or sprinkler systems shall be used to keep all areas of vehicle movement damp enough to prevent dust from leaving the site. At a minimum, this would include wetting down such areas in the later morning and after work is completed for the day and whenever wind exceeds 15 miles per hour.</i> <p>Plan Requirements and Timing: P&D shall review plans for all project components prior to project initiation.</p> <p>Monitoring: Permit Compliance inspectors shall perform periodic spot checks during construction to ensure compliance with requirements. APCD inspectors shall respond to nuisance complaints.</p>
4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	
BIO-1	<p>Preliminary Trail Clearance Monitoring. A LPNF and County-approved wildlife biologist will serve as biological monitor and accompany the trail crew during a preliminary trail clearance. This monitoring will include pre-construction surveys for plants in the currently inaccessible area where the trail will be built. Based on the findings of the biological monitor, the final trail shall avoid any areas that have sensitive or listed plants and wildlife species.</p> <p>Plan Requirements and Timing: Prior to completion of the full width trail within either the County or the LPNF jurisdictions, the applicant shall submit the appropriate portion of the final trail path to Santa Barbara County Planning & Development (P&D) or LPNF for final approval.</p> <p>Monitoring: Permit compliance staff shall conduct site inspections as necessary.</p>
BIO-2	<p>Nesting Bird Survey. A nesting bird survey shall take place prior to grading or vegetation removal. If nesting birds are found, all active nests shall be avoided and provided with a minimum buffer of 50-300 feet, depending on the species present. If sensitive wildlife is found, individuals shall be relocated by an appropriately permitted biologist to a designated public area sufficiently distant from the construction area such that they will not return within the construction period. If federally listed or proposed species are found, all trail work shall cease and consultation with the USFWS or NOAA Fisheries is required before work continues. The biological monitor shall have stop work authority. Reporting to the CNDDDB is required within 30 days of locating any sensitive, listed, or</p>

Identification of Mitigation Measures and Monitoring Activities

proposed species.

Plan Requirements and Timing: The nesting bird survey shall be completed within five days prior to project activities. If project activities are delayed five days beyond the survey, another bird nesting survey shall take place.

Monitoring: The approved biologist will provide documentation of survey activities and findings to P&D and LPNF.

BIO-3 Tree Trimming. The removal of oak, willow, and sycamore branches shall be kept to the minimum amount necessary. Tree trimming activities shall be conducted in such a manner as to reduce the chance of introducing disease through improperly cut branches. Prior to tree trimming of these species, a qualified arborist shall be consulted to identify proper tree-trimming techniques to be used. Tree trimming shall conform to the techniques identified by the arborist.

Plan Requirements and Timing: The applicant shall submit findings of required tree trimming to P&D and LPNF prior to initiation of any vegetation clearing or construction.

Monitoring: P&D shall review techniques reports prior to grading and construction and require scheduling of construction activities as appropriate.

BIO-4 Creek/Steelhead/Riparian Area/Native Tree Protection. Excavation work within or adjacent to sensitive habitats including native trees and streambeds shall be avoided to the maximum extent feasible. Where excavation must be performed within sensitive areas, it shall be performed with hand tools only. If the use of hand tools is deemed infeasible, excavation work may be authorized by P&D and/or LPNF to be completed with rubber-tired construction equipment weighing five tons or less. If significant large rocks are present, or if spoil placement will impact surrounding trees, then a small tracked excavator (i.e., 215 or smaller track hoe) may be used as determined by P&D and/or LPNF staff. Bridge installation has the potential to impact the unnamed tributary drainage and riparian vegetation. The replacement ratio of impacted jurisdictional areas and other mitigation shall be determined by permitting agencies. All required additional permits shall be obtained.

Plan Requirements and Timing: The applicant shall submit final trail alignment to the appropriate jurisdiction for its location (P&D or LPNF) prior to initiation of any vegetation clearing or construction within that agency's jurisdiction.

Monitoring: P P&D shall review survey reports prior to grading and construction and require modification of construction activities as appropriate.

Identification of Mitigation Measures and Monitoring Activities

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

CR-1 Phase I Archaeologist Survey. The remaining unsurveyed portions of the proposed trail alignment shall be surveyed by a County-approved qualified archaeologists(s) during the preliminary trail clearance in accordance with the recommendations found in the Phase I Survey completed for the proposed project. If resources are encountered during the survey, they should be accurately mapped, photographed, and recorded per current acceptable professional archaeological standards. All recommendations provided in the Phase I Survey shall be incorporated into the project. If necessary, the proposed trail alignment shall be modified to avoid any cultural resources.

Plan Requirements and Timing: P&D shall receive and review study prior to trail establishment.

Monitoring: If, necessary P&D will ensure that trail alignment has been modified to avoid any cultural resources.

CR-2 Resource Recovery Procedures. In the event that archaeological resources are unearthed during project construction, all earth disturbing work within the vicinity of the find must be temporarily suspended or redirected until an archaeologist has evaluated the nature and significance of the find. After the find has been appropriately mitigated, work in the area may resume. A Chumash representative shall be retained to monitor any mitigation work associated with Native American cultural material.

Plan Requirements and Timing: If necessary, the final site plan for the proposed project shall demonstrate data recovery of the cultural resources.

Monitoring: Permit Compliance shall spot check during grading and construction activities. The procedure outlined above shall be in effect throughout all grading and construction periods and implemented as needed in the event that cultural resources are unearthed.

CR-3 Human Remains Recovery Procedures. If human remains are unearthed, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to the origin and disposition pursuant to the Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission. Additional surveys will be required if the project changes to include unsurveyed areas.

Plan Requirements and Timing: If necessary, the final site plan for the proposed project shall demonstrate data recovery of the cultural resources.

Monitoring: Permit Compliance shall spot check during grading and construction activities. The procedure outlined above shall be in effect throughout all grading and construction periods and implemented as needed in the event that human remains are unearthed.

Identification of Mitigation Measures and Monitoring Activities	
4.6 ENERGY	None required.
4.7 FIRE PROTECTION	<p>FP-1 Fire Management and Emergency Response Plan. The County Parks Department shall develop a Fire Management and Emergency Response plan for the trail in consultation with the County Fire Department, and the Carpinteria-Summerland Fire Protection District to coordinate notification and evacuation plans for the Franklin Trail. The Plan shall include, but not limited to, the following requirements that reduce impacts associated with exposure of trail users to fires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire hazard signage shall be placed at the trailhead at Foothill Road indicating the risks of trail usage; • The Plan shall require the maintenance of the existing fire access road and identify emergency access routes; • Incorporate the State and local automatic aid agreements in the event a wildfire breaks out; • The Plan shall require construction crews to carry fire retardant during the use of mechanical equipment; • The County Fire Department shall be notified prior to trail blazing activities. <p>Plan Requirements and Timing: The Fire Management and Emergency Response Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the County Fire Department and the Planning and Development Department prior to approval of any Land Use Permits.</p> <p>Monitoring: Santa Barbara County Fire Department and permit compliance shall ensure compliance prior to occupancy clearance.</p>
4.8 GEOLOGIC PROCESSES	None required.
4.9 HAZARDUS MATERIALS/RISK OF UPSET	None required.
4.10 HISTORIC RESOURCES	<p>HR-1 Historic Eligibility Determination. A County-approved historian shall conduct a preliminary determination of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places based on the condition of the trail; the potential age of the trail (1910-1933) and the potential relationship of the trail to the Franklin family who were early occupants of the local area. The review shall evaluate the proposed project in relation to the eligibility of the trail for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The historic eligibility report shall be submitted to the county of Santa Barbara for review and approval. Any recommendations provided in the review shall be incorporated in the project description.</p> <p>Plan Requirements and Timing: A County-approved historian shall conduct a preliminary determination of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. The County Historic Landmarks Advisory Commission (HLAC) shall review and approve the determination of eligibility. P&D shall ensure that the historical determination is completed, and that the determination is approved by the HLAC.</p> <p>Monitoring: P&D shall ensure receipt of the determination to the HLAC. Permit</p>

Identification of Mitigation Measures and Monitoring Activities	
	Compliance shall ensure that the plan is implemented prior to construction. Implementation of the above mitigation measure would reduce residual impact to the maximum extent feasible.
4.11 LAND USE	
LU-1	<p>Trail Security Measures. In areas adjacent to irrigated croplands and greenhouses, the trail shall incorporate security measures to discourage trespassing onto adjacent agricultural lands as necessary. These could include, but not be limited to, fencing, signage, and landscaping.</p> <p>Plan Requirements and Timing: A plan for the trail system shall be submitted to the Park Department and P&D for trail installation and maintenance shall be submitted to P&D prior to trailblazing for review and approval. Provisions for maintenance shall be included in the project to be reviewed and approved by Park Department and P&D. The trail system shall be implemented after trail funding is secured.</p> <p>Monitoring: Park Department shall ensure trail installation meets all requirements.</p>
4.12 NOISE	
None required.	
4.13 PUBLIC FACILITIES	
None required.	
4.14 RECREATION	
None required.	
4.15 TRANSPORTATION/CIRCULATION	
None required.	
4.16 WATER RESOURCES/FLOODING	
None required.	

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Rincon Consultants, Site Visit, August 20, 2007.

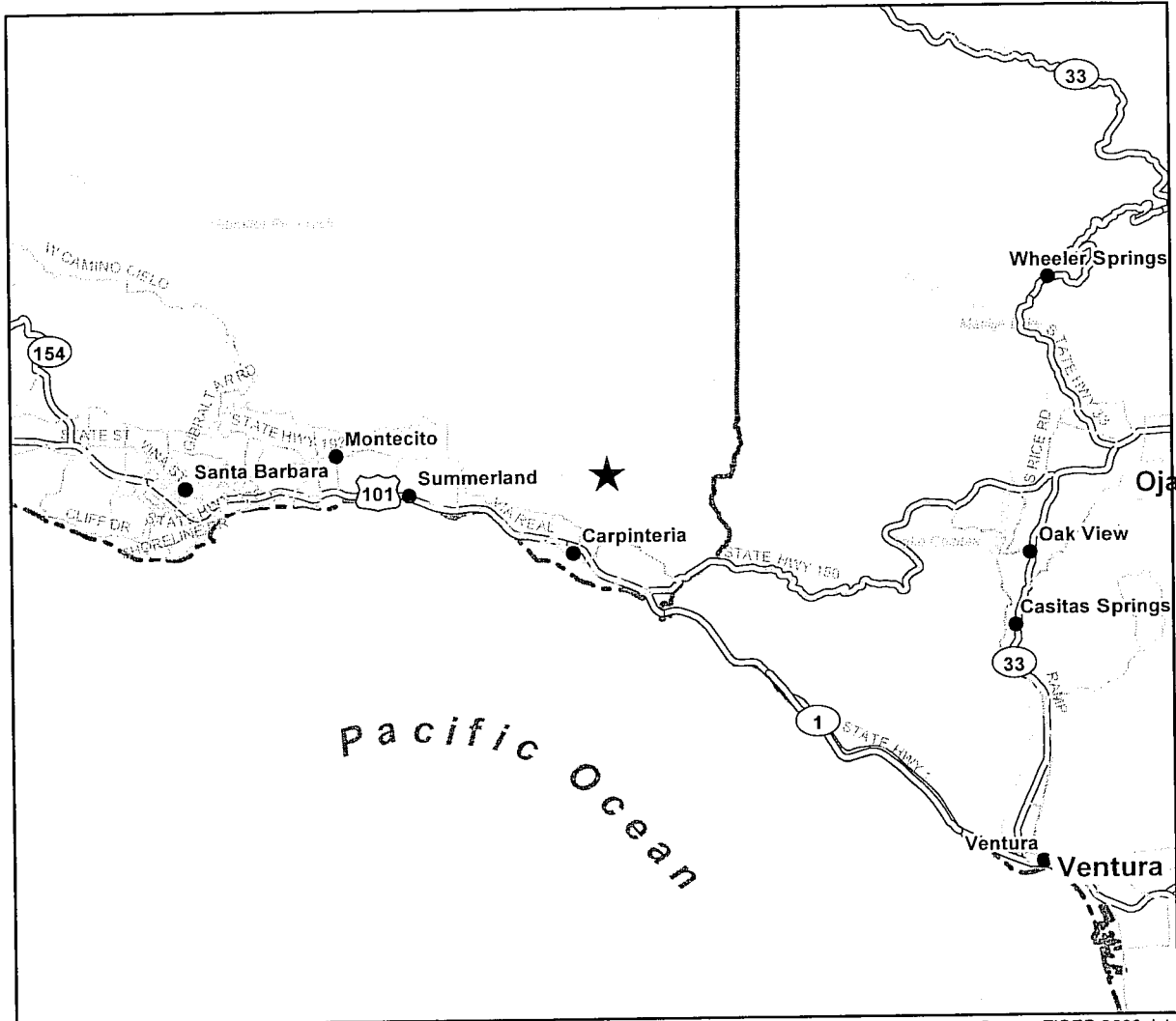
Rincon Consultants, Site Visit, November 2011.

United States Energy Information Administration, Emissions of Greenhouse Gases in the United States in 2008, December 2009.

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Figures





Source: US Bureau of the Census TIGER 2000 data.

★ Project Location

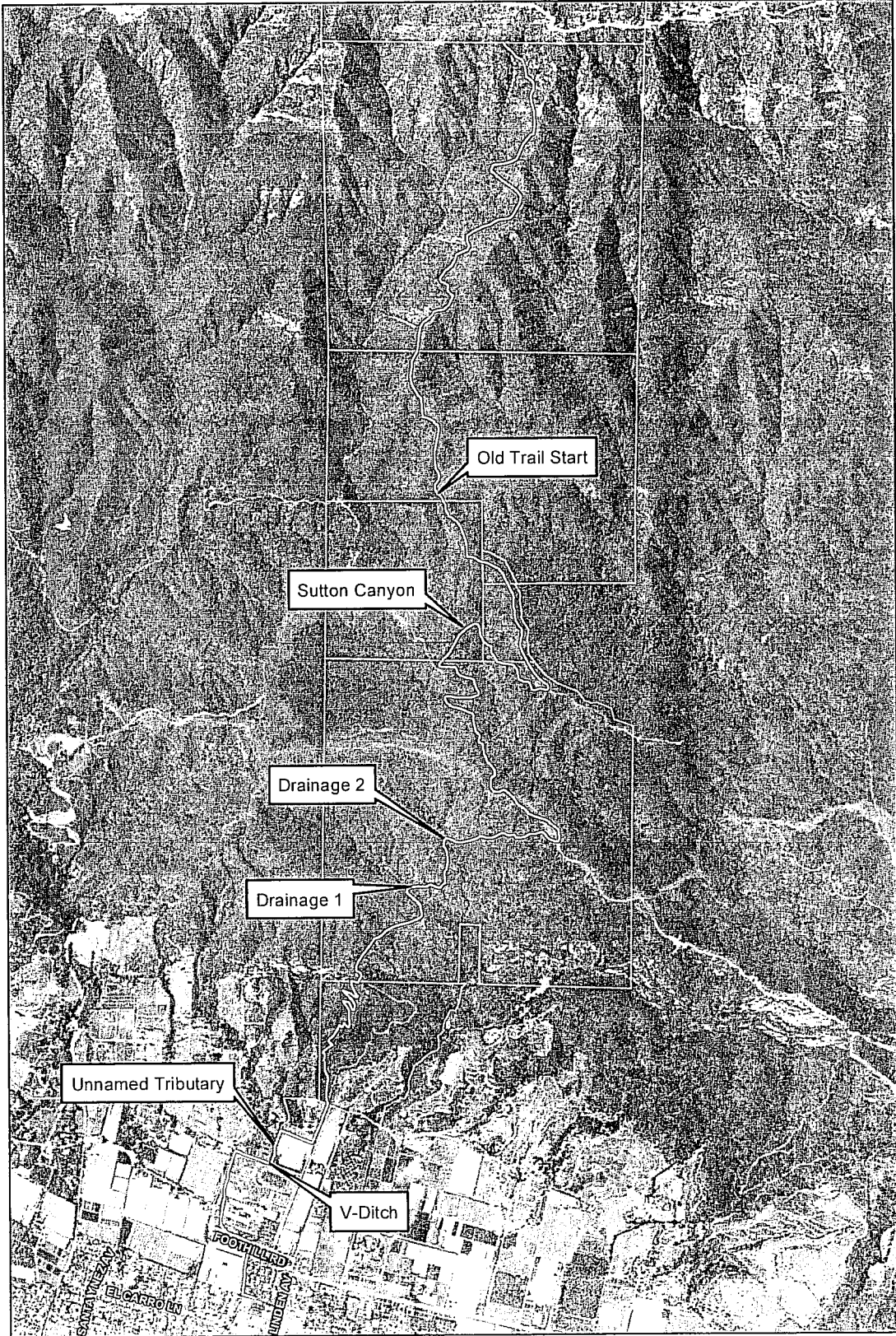


Regional Location of Project

Figure 1

County of Santa Barbara

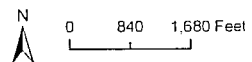




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Legend

- Proposed Trail Alignment
- Parcel Boundaries



Aerial View

Figure 3
County of Santa Barbara



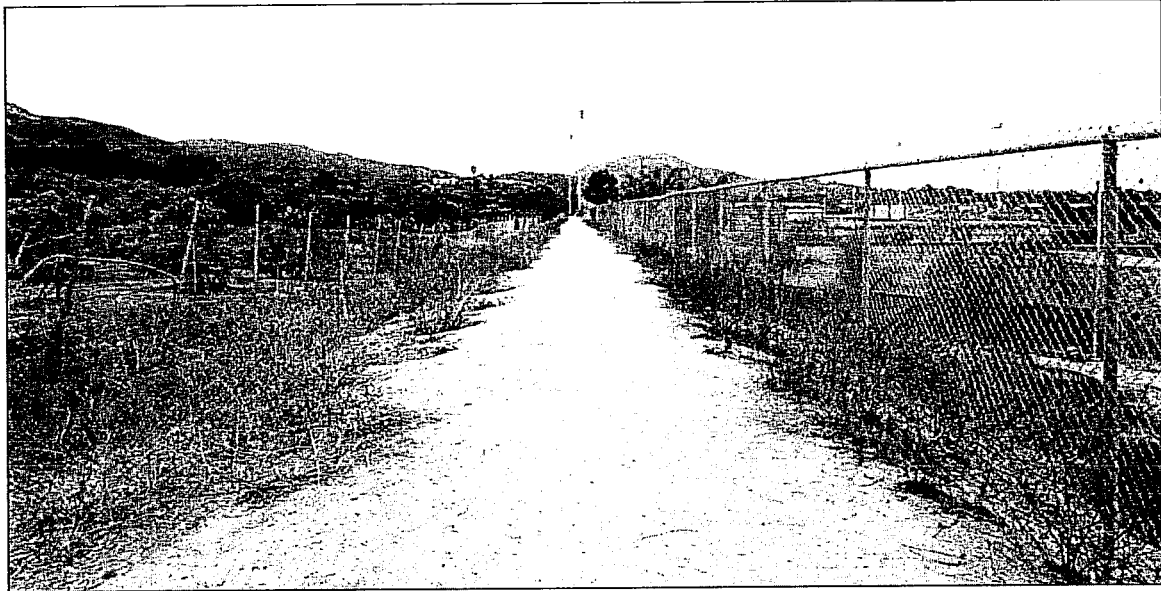


Photo 1 - View of proposed trail looking west between the Persoon Property (to the north) and the Carpinteria High School athletic fields (to the south).

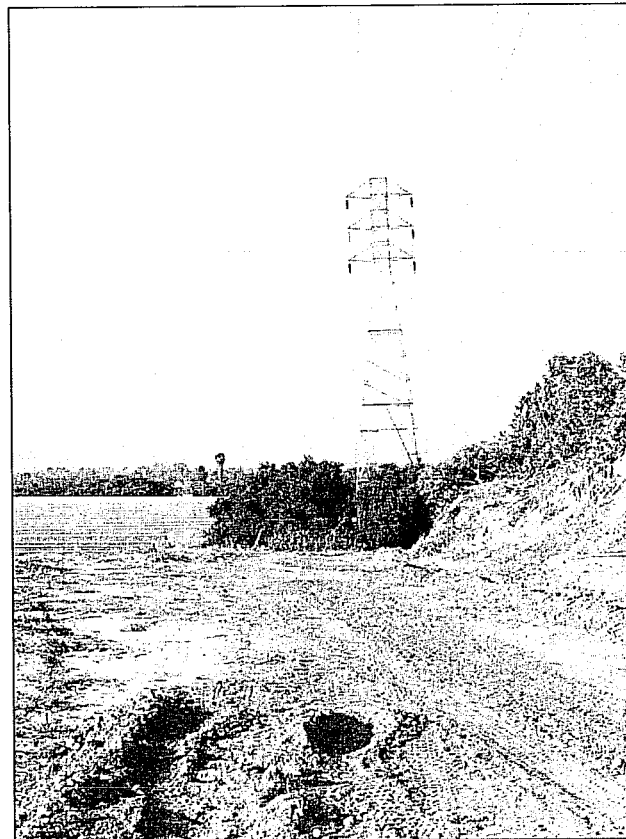
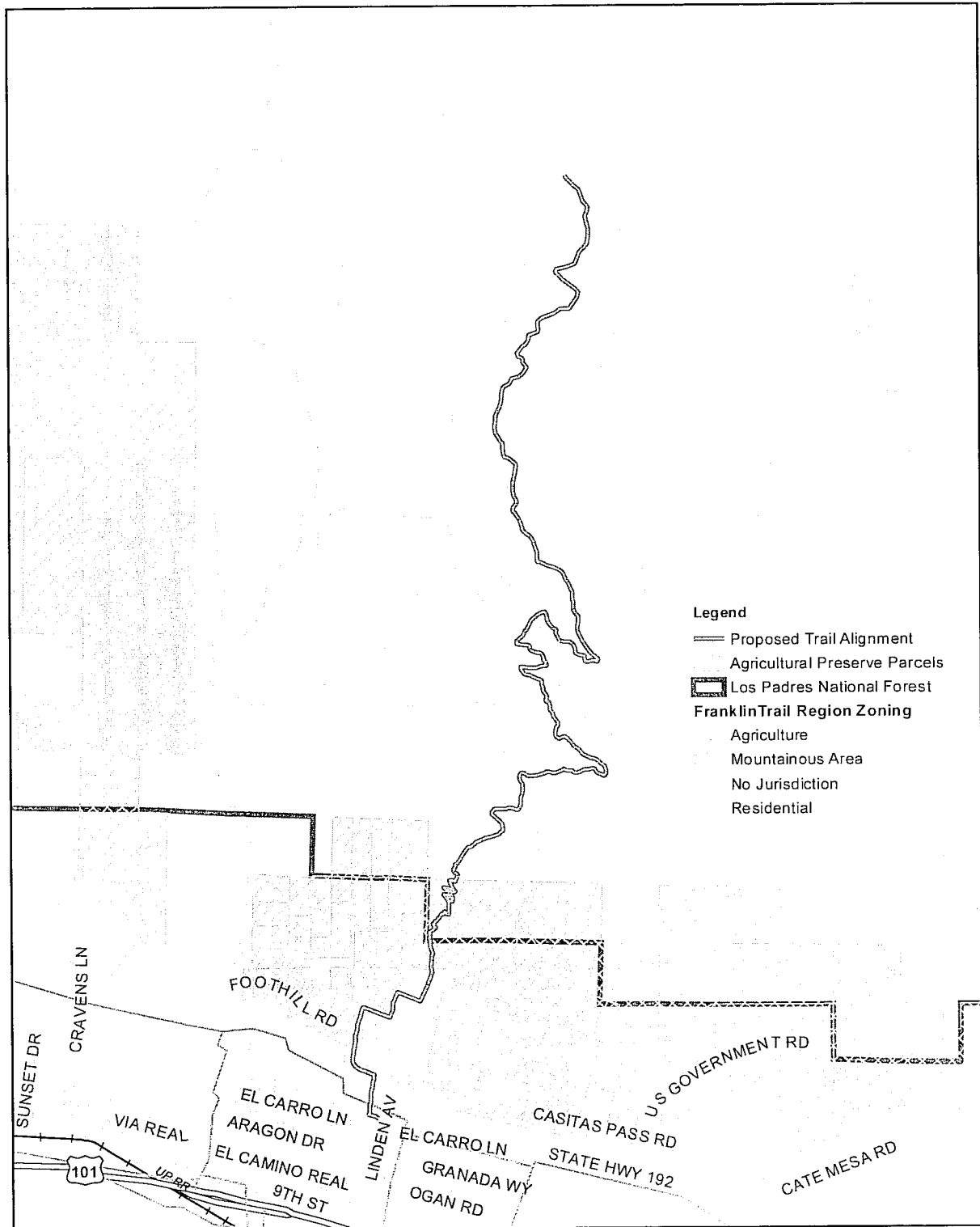


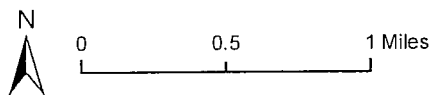
Photo 2 - View of the proposed trail looking south from the corner of Persoon and Horton Property lines.





- Legend**
- Proposed Trail Alignment
 - - - Agricultural Preserve Parcels
 - ▬ Los Padres National Forest
 - Franklin Trail Region Zoning**
 - Agriculture
 - Mountainous Area
 - No Jurisdiction
 - Residential

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census TIGER 2000 data.



Zoning Map

Figure 5

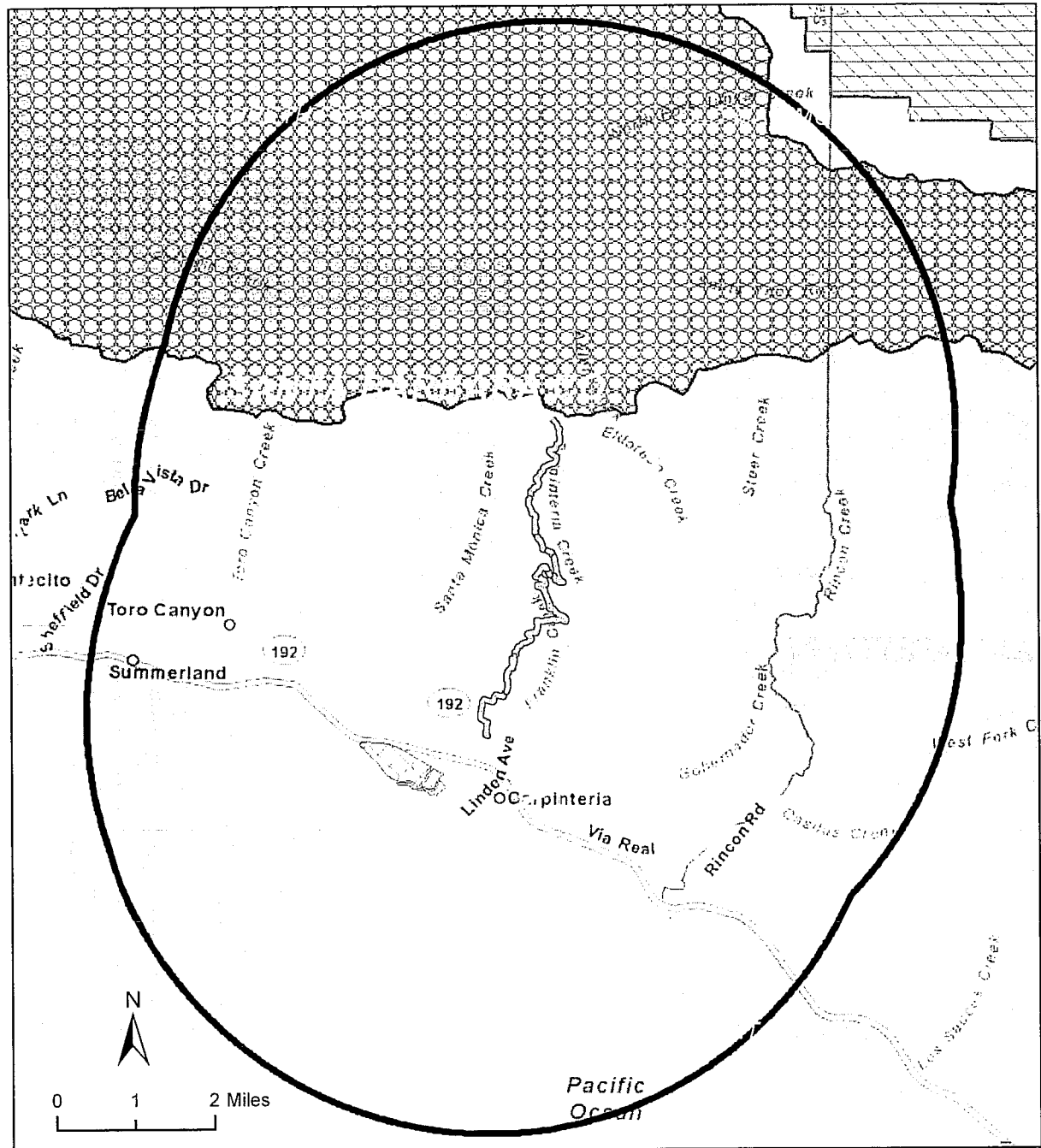


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- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Proposed Trail ◻ 5-Mile Radius Buffer Animals ▨ Belding's savannah sparrow ◻ arroyo toad ▨ foothill yellow-legged frog ◻ least Bell's vireo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◻ light-footed clapper rail ◻ monarch butterfly ◻ tidewater goby ▨ two-striped garter snake ▨ western snowy plover ○ Spotted Owl Territories | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plants ◻ Coulter's goldfields ◻ Coulter's salbush ▨ Nuttall's scrub oak ◻ Ojai fritillary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◻ Palmer's mariposa-lily ◻ Sonoran maiden fern ▨ late-flowered mariposa-lily Natural Community ▨ Southern Coastal Salt Marsh ◻ CNDDB Suppressed Records in these quads-Monarch Butterfly. Call DFG to get the specific location of these sensitive species. |
|--|---|--|---|

Sensitive Elements Reported by the
 California Natural Diversity Database

Figure 6
 County of Santa Barbara



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- Proposed Trail
- ▭ 5-Mile Radius Buffer
- ▨ California Condor
- ▩ CA Red-legged Frog PCH
- ⋯ Least Bell's Vireo FCH (2/2/1994)
- ⋈ S Calif Central Coast Steelhead
- ▭ Ventura Marsh Milk-Vetch FCH

Critical Habitat

Figure 7
 County of Santa Barbara





Photo 1 - South-facing view of Sutton Canyon (see Figure 3), current conditions.

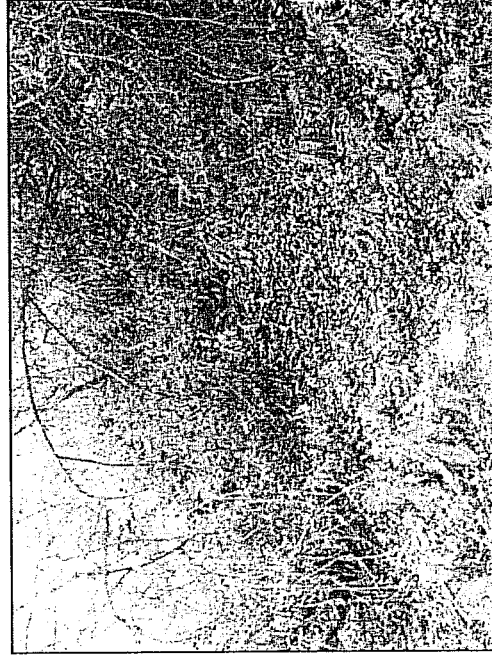


Photo 3 - View facing north of old Franklin Trail. This section starts near the road at the south edge of Forest Service land.



Photo 2 - Drainage 2, looking north (see Figure 3).

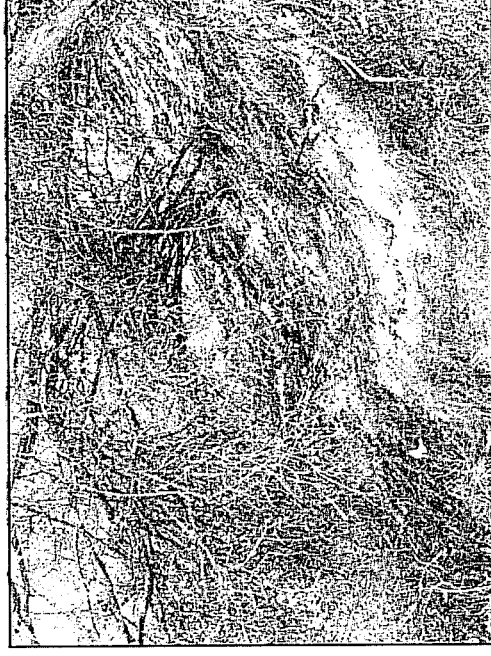
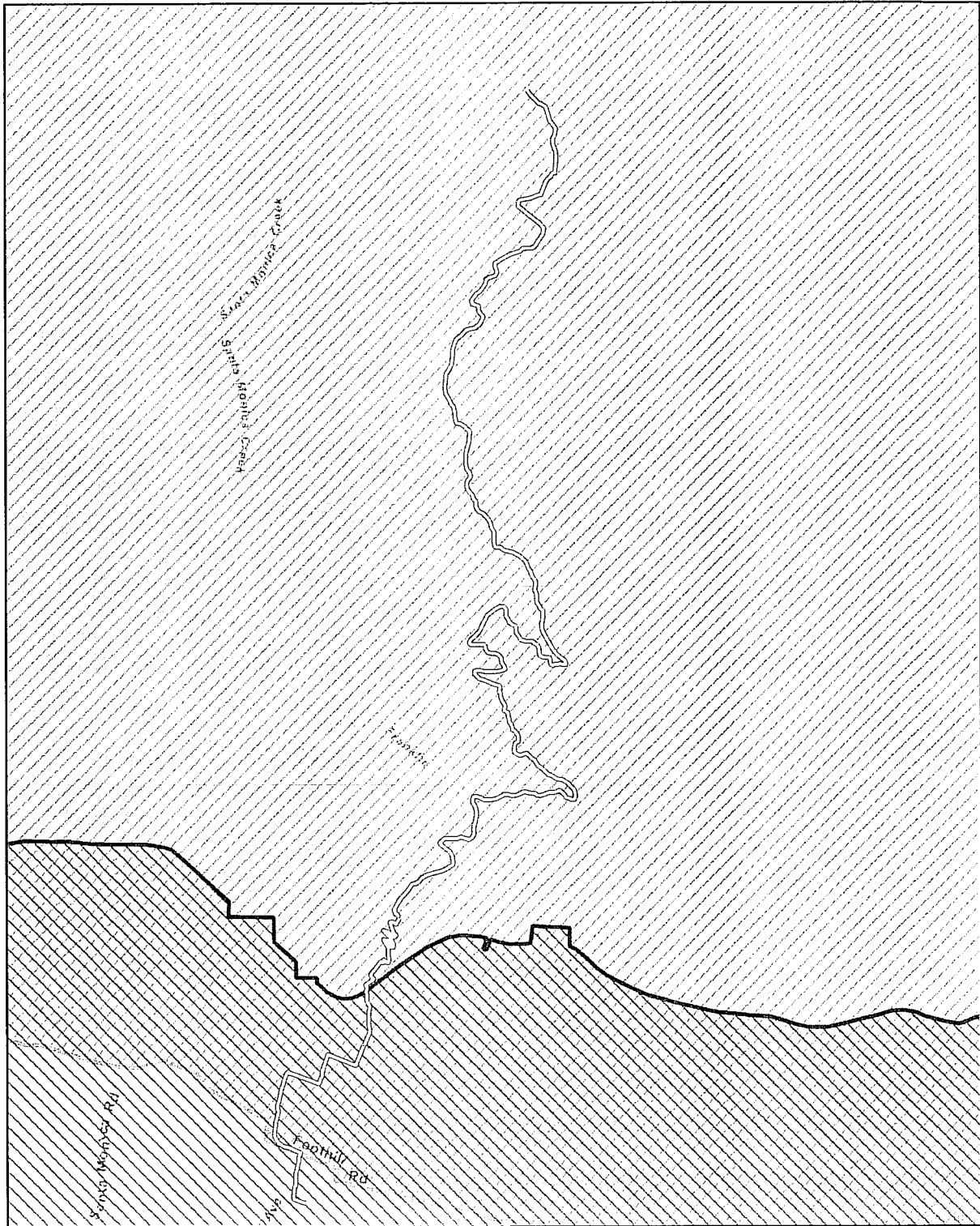


Photo 4 - Another north-facing view of the old Franklin Trail from further south (closer to road).

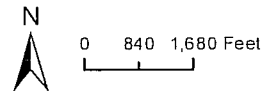
Biological Resources

Figure 8



- Legend
- Proposed Trail Alignment
 - ▨ Coastal Zone
 - - - High Fire Hazard Area

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Coastal Zone and Fire Hazard Area

Figure 9



Appendix A

Biological Assessment and Evaluation for Wildlife and Plants

**Biological Assessment and Evaluation
For Wildlife and Plants**

Franklin Trail
Santa Barbara Ranger District, Los Padres National Forest

September 2006
Updated November 2011

Prepared By,

/S/ NANCY FOX-FERNANDEZ

Date: September 18, 2006

Nancy Fox-Fernandez, Biologist/Project Manager
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Updated: November 11, 2011

Felicia Griego, Biologist
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Reviewed By,

/S/ JOHN BRACK

Date: September 15, 2006

John Brack, Zone Biologist
Los Padres National Forest

This document is prepared in conformance with the legal requirements set forth under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and standards established in Forest Service direction located in Manual Section 2672.4 through 2672.43.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. INTRODUCTION
- II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION
- III. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT
- IV. CONSULTATIONS TO DATE
- V. CURRENT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION
- VI. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES
- VII. SPECIES OF POTENTIAL OCCURRENCE
- VIII. EFFECTS ANALYSIS AND DETERMINATIONS BY SPECIES

LITERATURE CITED

FIGURES

- Figure 1: Aerial Photograph
- Figure 2: Ownership Map
- Figure 3: Site Photographs
- Figure 4: CNDDB

APPENDICES

- Appendix A. TES Wildlife List for Los Padres National Forest

I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to determine what affect the proposed action will have on threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate and Forest Service sensitive (TEPCS) wildlife and plants and their habitats, including federally designated critical habitat, and to provide minimization measures that are designed to reduce or eliminate potential adverse effects to TEPCS species or habitat if identified in the document. The minimization measures included herein will be incorporated into the final design of the proposed action within the Los Padres National Forest.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The County of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Department is proposing to permit the old Franklin Trail from Meadowview Lane, west of Linden Avenue, to East Camino Cielo Trail at the Sutton Canyon ridgeline of the Santa Ynez range (Figure 1), a total of 7.04 miles. The trail will include approximately 1.2 miles of maintained utility access road or easily accessible (Americans with Disability Act) trail and 5.8 miles of dense chaparral where vegetation removal and trail creation will be required. A bridge will also be built across the unnamed tributary to the Franklin Creek concrete channel (Figure 1).

The new proposed Franklin Trail would be built as a multi-use trail for hikers, bicyclists, and equestrian uses. The trail would have a natural surface and would be 4-6 feet wide. No asphalt paving is proposed. Approximately 5.85 miles of the trail are located within Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) land (Figure 2) and include three private properties, Rancho Monte Alegre (3.27 miles), Hopkins (0.11 miles), and a portion of Horton Ranch property (0.56 miles). An additional 1.91 miles are located within LPNF owned land. Approximately 1.18 miles of the trail is outside the LPNF and includes a portion of Horton Ranch, the Persoon property, Carpinteria High School, and the existing trail adjacent to Franklin Creek. Four out of seven miles of the alignment are currently maintained, including an access road for Southern California Edison and LPNF and would not likely require modification. The remainder of the trail, approximately 3 miles, would require 10 feet wide by 10 feet high vegetation removal for initial trail construction or clearance. Completion of the trail is expected to take approximately 90 days.

III. EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

Affected Area/Project Area - The trail alignment traverses through parcels owned by various entities (Figure 2). Four riparian crossings and one of a concrete drainage ditch were found along the surveyed trail (Figure 1): Sutton Creek, an unnamed tributary of Franklin Creek, a v-ditch that drains into the unnamed tributary, and 2 unnamed creeks, Drainage 1 and 2. Sutton Creek did not contain water at the time of the 2006 site visit, but did contain riparian vegetation (sycamore). Drainage 1, which had running water during the 2006 site visit, is likely a spring-fed stream. Drainage 1 contained riparian vegetation including mulefat and willow. Drainage 2 had riparian vegetation (rush, willow, sycamore), but no flowing or ponding water at the time of the 2006 site visit. Drainage 2 is upstream of Franklin Creek (Figure 1). Downstream habitats include Carpinteria Salt Marsh and the Pacific Ocean. The unnamed tributary of Franklin Creek is an earthen bottom drainage that drains into a concrete v-ditch which then connects with Franklin Creek, a concrete-lined drainage. During the 2011 site visit neither the unnamed tributary nor the v-ditch had flowing or ponding water. The unnamed tributary contains riparian vegetation including arroyo willow. Sutton Creek currently has a culvert and dirt crossing. Because Sutton Creek and Drainages 1 and 2 already contain crossings suitable for a hiking trail, no work

should be required in these sections. Bridge crossings would be required to cross the unnamed tributary and the concrete v-ditch.

The USFS section of the trail (trail section north of “old trail start,” Figure 1) contains overgrown chaparral and was surveyed based on using binoculars only. This section follows the direction of Sutton Canyon, but lies approximately 0.25 miles to the east of it. This section does not appear to contain any drainages or crossings based on aerial photos and topographic maps.

Current Habitat Conditions/Potentially Affected Habitats – The existing plant communities for the majority of the proposed trail alignment consist of *Quercus agrifolia* Woodland Alliance – Coast live oak woodland (Sawyer et al. 2009), *Artemisia californica* Shrubland Alliance - California sagebrush scrub (Sawyer et al. 2009), and *Quercus berberidifolia* Shrubland Alliance - Scrub oak chaparral (Sawyer et al. 2009). The remaining southernmost part of the proposed trail alignment consists of previously disturbed habitat including an avocado orchard, a maintained trail along the northern and western border of Carpinteria High School, and the existing trail adjacent to the concrete-lined Franklin Creek. The western portion of the avocado orchard contains remnant coast live oak/willow woodland and an unnamed tributary drainage of Franklin Creek. A bridge is proposed to cross this drainage

Approximately 4 out of the 7 miles of the alignment is currently maintained as access roads and existing trails including an access road for Southern California Edison and the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) and no specific development actions will be necessary to support the proposed recreational use. The remainder of the trail, approximately 3 miles in portions of the Horton, Hopkins, and Rancho Monte Alegre, and LPNF properties, will require 10 feet wide by 10 feet high vegetation removal for trail construction. The LPNF section was not accessible as it was completely overgrown. Biologists during the site visit on August 22, 2006 found the beginning of the trail at the south edge of LPNF property, but were only able to survey a few hundred feet of it because of the overgrowth (Figure 3, photos 3 and 4). As evidenced by binocular surveys, it is expected that the remainder of the trail lying north of this section is also mostly chaparral.

The last activity that occurred in the northern 2.0 miles of the proposed trail was the Wheeler Fire in 1985. It is expected that all vegetation in the LPNF section of the trail is 26 years old, as fires usually burn chaparral entirely to the ground, regardless of the age of the vegetation. The result is dense chaparral re-growth in this area.

The suitability for sensitive species (See Potentially Affected Species) that are found within chaparral communities for most of the trail is good, with most habitat components at or near natural potential for the site. The LPNF, Horton, and Rancho Monte Alegre trail sections has most of the potential for sensitive plants and wildlife.

IV. CONSULTATIONS TO DATE

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and LPNF coordinate with one another in regards to which taxa are considered in biological assessments and evaluations. The most recent update, April 2008, is reflected in the attached Checklist of Federally Listed Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Wildlife (TES Checklist). Public and agency scoping (disclosure) concerning the proposal was conducted through the Forest-wide Schedule of Proposed Environmental Actions for Los Padres National Forest (SOPA) process, where projects are disclosed to the public and interested agencies (i.e.,

FWS, California Department of Fish and Game [CDFG]). Additional disclosure is accomplished through public notices in newspapers of record and mailing lists. Resulting comments or concerns are considered during the NEPA planning process for each project.

V. CURRENT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

The Franklin Trail alignment is located within the Santa Barbara Front Place, as described in the Revised Los Padres National Forest Land and Resource Plan (LMRP) that became effective in October 2005. Program emphasis for this Place specifies maintaining a natural appearing landscape that functions as a scenic backdrop for urban coastal communities, preserving important cultural and historic sites, maintaining habitat for threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species, establishing fire prevention and protection measures and watershed management efforts, and reducing noxious weed infestations. Building the Franklin Trail is compatible with the management objectives and desired conditions for this Place.

The proposal was evaluated for compatibility with Forest Goals in the Final Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 1, Land Management Plan that pertain to trail building.

Goal 3.1 specifies recovery of federally listed species and the conservation of federally listed and sensitive species' habitat.

Goal 5.1 is to improve watershed conditions so they are healthy, dynamic and resilient to natural and human caused disturbances.

Goal 6.2 is to provide ecological conditions to sustain viable populations of native and desired nonnative species.

Implementation of the minimization measures (see Effects of the Proposed Action to follow) via incorporation into the proposal will insure these Forest Goals are met in the long term.

The proposal was evaluated for compatibility with Forest Program Strategies and Tactics in the LMRP that pertain to trail building.

Wildlife 1 - Manage habitat to move listed species toward recovery and prevent future listings.

Wildlife 2 - Maintain and improve habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants.

Implementation of the minimization measures (see Effects of the Proposed Action to follow) via incorporation into the proposal will insure these Strategies are met in the long term.

All Standards and Guidelines for trail building in the revised LMRP that apply to fish and wildlife habitat will be implemented during the development of the Franklin Trail.

Other sources of management direction as related to trails are contained in Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks (FSM & FSH 2350). These documents contain management direction and guidelines aimed at avoiding or minimizing effects of trail building on proposed or listed species and critical habitat.

Management Direction for Biological Assessments and Evaluations -Forest Service Manual FSM 2670.31(4) provides direction to "Avoid all adverse impacts on threatened or endangered species and their habitats except when it is possible to compensate adverse effects totally through alternatives identified in a biological opinion rendered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." FSM 2670.32 also provides direction on Sensitive Species to "avoid or minimize impacts to species whose viability has been identified as a concern"; however, if impacts cannot be avoided, the line officer makes the decision to allow or disallow impact, but the decision must not result in loss of species viability or create significant trends toward federal listing." Both of these Manual sections are directed at complying with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Several Forest Service Manual standards state that the U.S. Forest Service must "give preferential consideration to riparian dependent resources when conflicts among land use activities occur" (FSM 2526.03-2).

VI. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROPOSED ACTION AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES

Per Kerry Kellogg (USFS Recreation Specialist), the extent of vegetation removal for the proposed trail is estimated to include a total of 10 feet high x 10 feet wide x 37,171 feet (7.04 miles), or 8.53 acres. However, because only 3 miles of trail will need to be built or cleared, actual vegetation removal is closer to 3.6 acres, and is limited to the understory and shrubs; overstory shrub and tree branches higher than 10 feet above the trail would not be removed. As mentioned previously, the specific alignment of the trail as illustrated on Figure 1 may not be possible due to the extent of overgrowth or avoidance of resources. Therefore, a corridor along the trail of 50 to 100 feet wide should be used as a buffer for the northern 3 miles within the LPNF, Horton, Hopkins, and Rancho Monte Alegre properties. This will provide for specific siting of the trail during construction to allow minimization of vegetation removal, resolution of local elevational issues, avoidance of sensitive species, and other issues that the crew may encounter while building the trail.

Within the LPNF, no work is proposed at or in drainages along the trail alignment or downstream of such. However, if plans change to include these areas (i.e. improvements or barriers in the form of fencing, signage, or landscaping in jurisdictional areas), appropriate permits and clearances shall be obtained. The project includes the installation of two bridges at the southwestern end of the avocado orchard outside of the LPNF. One 65 foot pedestrian bridge will traverse the unnamed tributary drainage of Franklin Creek and the other 5 foot pedestrian bridge will span the concrete v-ditch between the Persoon property and Carpinteria High School. The tributary drainage contains a mix of native and non-native vegetation including coast live oak, arroyo willow, cape ivy, poison oak, and nasturtium. The drainage exhibited a discernible bed, bank, and channel, but at the time of the 2011 survey contained no water. The concrete v-ditch is bordered by non-native invasive plants including shortpod mustard and castor bean. Prior to construction of the two bridge crossings, appropriate permits and clearances shall be obtained.

Minimization/Mitigation Measures: The following mitigation measures are designed to allow the proposed action to proceed while reducing effects to biological resources to a "no effect" level.

Preliminary Trail Clearance Monitoring. A LPNF and County-approved wildlife biologist will serve as biological monitor and accompany the trail crew during a preliminary trail clearance. This monitoring will include pre-construction surveys for plants in the currently inaccessible area where the

trail will be built. Based on the findings of the biological monitor, the final trail shall avoid any areas that have sensitive or listed plants and wildlife species.

Plan Requirements and Timing: Prior to completion of the full width trail within either the County or the LPNF jurisdictions, the applicant shall submit the appropriate portion of the final trail path to Santa Barbara County Planning & Development (P&D) or LPNF for final approval.

Monitoring: Permit compliance staff shall conduct site inspections as necessary.

Nesting Bird Survey. A nesting bird survey shall take place prior to grading or vegetation removal. If nesting birds are found, all active nests shall be avoided and provided with a minimum buffer of 50-300 feet, depending on the species present. If sensitive wildlife is found, individuals shall be relocated by an appropriately permitted biologist to a designated public area sufficiently distant from the construction area such that they will not return within the construction period. If federally listed or proposed species are found, all trail work shall cease and consultation with the USFWS or NOAA Fisheries is required before work continues. The biological monitor shall have stop work authority. Reporting to the CNDDDB is required within 30 days of locating any sensitive, listed, or proposed species.

Plan Requirements and Timing. The nesting bird survey shall be completed within five days prior to project activities. If project activities are delayed five days beyond the survey, another bird nesting survey shall take place.

Monitoring: The approved biologist will provide documentation of survey activities and findings to P&D and LPNF.

Tree Trimming. The removal of oak, willow, and sycamore branches shall be kept to the minimum amount necessary. Tree trimming activities shall be conducted in such a manner as to reduce the chance of introducing disease through improperly cut branches. Prior to tree trimming of these species, a qualified arborist shall be consulted to identify proper tree-trimming techniques to be used. Tree trimming shall conform to the techniques identified by the arborist.

Plan Requirements and Timing: The applicant shall submit findings of required tree trimming to P&D and LPNF prior to initiation of any vegetation clearing or construction.

Monitoring: P&D shall review techniques reports prior to grading and construction.

Creek/Steelhead/Riparian Area/Native Tree Protection. Excavation work within or adjacent to sensitive habitats including native trees and streambeds shall be avoided to the maximum extent feasible. Where excavation must be performed within sensitive areas, it shall be performed with hand tools only. If the use of hand tools is deemed infeasible, excavation work may be authorized by P&D and/or LPNF to be completed with rubber-tired construction equipment weighing five tons or less. If significant large rocks are present, or if spoil placement will impact surrounding trees, then a small tracked excavator (i.e., 215 or smaller track hoe) may be used as determined by P&D and/or LPNF staff. Bridge installation has the potential to impact the unnamed tributary drainage and riparian vegetation. The replacement ratio of impacted jurisdictional areas and other mitigation shall be determined by permitting agencies. All required additional permits shall be obtained.

Plan Requirements and Timing: The applicant shall submit final trail alignment to the appropriate jurisdiction for its location (P&D or LPNF) prior to initiation of any vegetation clearing or construction within that agency's jurisdiction.

Monitoring: P&D shall review survey reports prior to grading and construction and require modification of construction activities as appropriate.

With the implementation of the above mitigation measures, the residual impacts to biological resources would be less than significant.

VII. SPECIES OF POTENTIAL OCCURRENCE

The attached Checklist of Federally Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Wildlife (Appendix A) discloses the wildlife species considered for this analysis, their regulatory status, and the rationale (reasons) used to determine which species have a potential to be affected by the proposal **-Y or P in the project effects column**, or conversely, no potential to be affected **-N in the effects column**. The following criterion was used to determine if a wildlife species warranted further analysis in this document:

Species information (see next paragraph) indicates suitable or modeled habitat exists in or near the affected area and distributional and/or survey information suggests or confirms the habitat is occupied and the life cycle and behavior (habitat use) of the species suggest it might be susceptible to impacts in relation to the proposed activities (in this case trail building and use) and their timing (season of year and time of day).

Occurrence and suitable/modeled habitat information for each species was determined based on local knowledge, the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB, CDFG 2011) and other sources. Information concerning habitat requirements, preference and additional distribution was found in USDA Forest Service 1999, Stebbins 2003, Zeiner et al. 1990, and when available, recovery plans, conservation assessments and species-specific web sites. This information was used in conjunction with personal knowledge and that of others (John Brack, South Zone Biologist, LPNF) to assess each species in relation to the selection criterion. No listed or proposed species were determined to have a potential to be affected by the proposal. However, three Forest Service Sensitive species may potentially be affected by the proposed action: coast horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum*, Forest Service Sensitive), California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*, Forest Service Sensitive), two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*, Forest Service Sensitive).

For all others, it was determined that either the range of the species did not overlap the project area or, if the range did overlap, then the habitat within the project area was unsuitable or, the specific project activities and their timing (season) avoided potential effects.

Designated and Proposed Critical Habitat - Critical habitats are areas specified by the FWS as essential to the conservation of a federally listed threatened or endangered species. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act prohibits destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. To follow are critical habitat designations or proposed designations that are in or near the project area.

California red-legged frog – Final critical habitat lies about 2 miles north (see Figure 4, CNDDDB) of the north end of the proposed trail. It does not exist within the project area itself (no effect).

Southern California ESU Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) – Final critical habitat exists in Sutton Canyon, which crosses the trail. However, no trail work is expected within the creek (no effect).

Ventura marsh milkvetch (*Astragalus pycnostachyus* var. *lanosissimus*) – Final critical habitat located approximately 1 mile south of the proposed trail. It does not exist within the project area itself (no effect).

Cumulative Effects – Since it was determined the proposal will have no adverse effect on federally listed wildlife and plants and/or designated critical habitat, implementation of the proposal can not constitute an incremental cumulative effect upon ESA protected wildlife or their habitats.

Determination for ESA Protected Species - Because of the information and rationale in the wildlife species checklist (attached) and the above information and rationale concerning the scope and location of the proposal, designated critical habitat and ESA protected wildlife and plants (above), the determination has been made that the proposed Franklin Trail project will have **no effect** on ESA protected or proposed species (plants and animals) or federally designated critical habitat. Pursuant to FSM 2671.44 - Determination of Effects on Listed or Proposed Species, the no adverse effect determination concludes the biological assessment process as per Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. No further consultation with FWS or NOAA in regards to the proposal is necessary.

Pursuant to FSH 1909.15 (Environmental Policy and Procedures Handbook) the no effect determination on the above ESA listed species and habitat supports the categorical exclusion of the Franklin Trail Proposal from further NEPA documentation.

Change of Condition - Should the location or scope of the proposal measurably change or should new species become listed under ESA prior to implementation, this evaluation may need to be revised to address potential impacts not now covered and may result in the need for formal consultation if a federally listed species or designated critical habitat is affected.

BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION – R5 Sensitive Species as per FS regulation and policy.

Sensitive Plant and Wildlife Species - These species are given special management consideration in all FS planning activities, with the objective to prevent a need to list the species under ESA in the future. Species are placed on the list for various reasons:

- 1) Populations are thought or known to be declining in all or some portion of their range.
- 2) The taxon needs further study in regards to its life history and ecology and is thought to be susceptible to impacts.
- 3) The species is endemic or nearly endemic to Forest Service administered lands.

Sensitive Wildlife - The attached checklist shows the animal species that are currently listed as sensitive by Los Padres National Forest, what constitutes suitable habitat, and further indicates if the species occurs or has the potential to occur in or near the project area.

Sensitive Plants – No Forest Service Sensitive plants for the Santa Barbara Ranger District were found during the 2006 site visit, although annuals were not blooming. However, although the potential exists for sensitive plants to occur on site, the proposed project is not expected to cause a trend toward federal listing or a decrease in the viability in the local population. Nevertheless, if sensitive plants are found during biological monitoring of the preliminary trail clearance, the final alignment would be re-routed to avoid any potential impacts to sensitive species. No adverse effects to sensitive plants are expected to occur.

Coast Horned Lizard (Forest Service Sensitive)

Description, Habitat, and Life History. Coast horned lizard can be found in a variety of habitats including scrubland, grassland, coniferous forests, and broadleaf woodland. A preferred habitat is in lowlands along sandy washes where scattered low shrubs provide cover (Stebbins, 2003). The species generally prefers friable, rocky, or shallow sandy soils, open areas for basking, patches of fine loose soil where it can bury itself, and areas where the lizard's preferred prey item, native harvester ants, are abundant.

Historic and Current Distribution. This species ranges from Shasta County south to Mexico. The coast horned lizard occurs between sea level and 7,000 feet elevation in coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats in arid/semi-arid climates. Although appropriate habitat and harvester ants were seen on the Horton property, no horned lizards were observed in the study area. The soils in the northern section of the trail alignment are clay, while the lower elevations have sandy, friable soils (such as on the Horton property) along a small section of the trail alignment. The presence of some suitable habitat onsite indicates that this lizard may be present, but is not anticipated to occur in large numbers.

Reasons for Decline. Threats to this species include development of natural land in the lowland and coastal valleys to urban uses, displacement of native harvester ants with nonnative Argentine ants (USDA 1999).

Effects Analysis for Coast Horned Lizard –Appropriate habitat occurs onsite (Horton property) for the coast horned lizard. Although the proposed trail construction may impact individual animals, it would not be to the extent to cause a trend toward federal listing or a decrease in the viability of the local population.

California Legless Lizard (Forest Service Sensitive)

Description, Habitat, and Life History. The legless lizard requires moist sandy, loamy, or decomposing granite soils with minimal vegetative cover. This species is known to utilize sand dunes, stream terrace oak woodlands, or under oak woodland, chaparral, or coastal sage scrub canopies with moist decomposing granite soils.

Historic and Current Distribution. Legless lizard is a near-endemic to California, ranging from Contra Costa County, California south through the Coast, Transverse, and Peninsular ranges; parts of the San Joaquin Valley; and the western edge of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and Mojave Desert to Baja California Norte, Mexico. The known elevational range extends from near sea level to 1,800 meters (1.1 miles) in the Sierra Nevada foothills. The nearest known locations of this species to the project site are approximately 15 miles (24 km) south in the City of Ventura, and 13 miles (21 km) west in the City of Santa Barbara.

Reasons for Decline. Threats to the lizard include its specialization in substrates with high sand content. It is believed that legless lizards cannot survive in urbanized, agricultural, or other areas where a loose substrate in which to burrow has been removed or radically altered. It is however capable of surviving within urban and rural residential areas and urban parks and golf courses where sufficiently loose soils or mulch conditions persist.

Effects Analysis for California Legless Lizard – Individuals are known in the project area (Jennings and Hayes 1994). Although only expected in the friable soils found on the Horton property, the proposed trail construction may impact individual animals but not to the extent to cause a trend toward federal listing or a decrease in the viability in the local population. No populations or individuals have been tracked by the CNDDDB within five miles of the project site.

Two-striped Garter Snake (Forest Service Sensitive)

Description, Habitat, and Life History. Two-striped garter snakes are highly aquatic and are rarely found away from water. They prefer perennial and intermittent streams with rocky beds or sandy beds bordered by dense vegetation. They can also be found in stock ponds or other artificially created aquatic habitats. Mating occurs in spring with females bearing live young in the fall. Adults typically consume fish, fish eggs, tadpoles, frogs, and earthworms (Stebbins 2003).

Historic and Current Distribution. Two-striped garter snakes occur in coastal California from Salinas to Baja, California (Stebbins 2003). They can occur from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. They are known within and near the project area (Jennings and Hayes 1994 and CNDDDB 2011). See Figure 4, CNDDDB for tracked location near project site.

Reasons for Decline. Threats to this species include predation by introduced fish and bullfrogs, loss of a prey food base, intense grazing, and habitat loss due to mechanical alterations of watercourses, cement lining of channels, vegetation removal, and urbanization (Jennings and Hayes 1994).

Effects Analysis for two-striped garter snake – Some individuals may exist in the project area, especially in the northern sections where the trail is near to Sutton Canyon. The proposed trail construction may impact individual animals, but not to the extent to cause a trend toward federal listing or a decrease in the viability in the local population.

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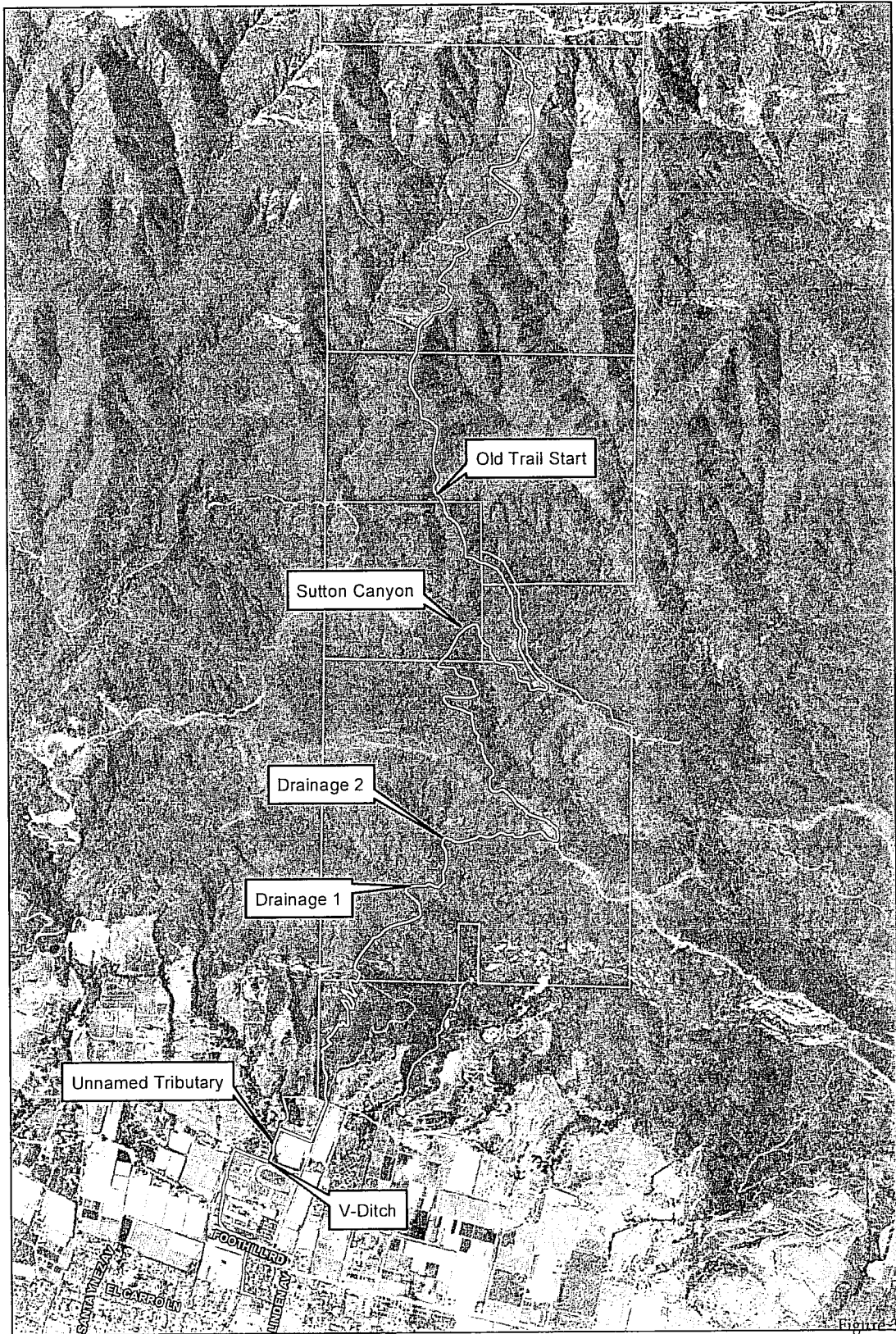
USDA Forest Service. Forest Service Manual and Forest Service FSM 2300 – Recreation, Wilderness, and Related Resource Management; Chapter 2350 - Trail, River, and Similar Recreation Opportunities (Amendment No.: 2300-2009-2). (url: <http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/fsm/2300/2350.doc>)

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Legend

- Proposed Trail Alignment
- Parcel Boundaries

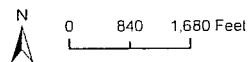


Figure 1. Aerial Photograph

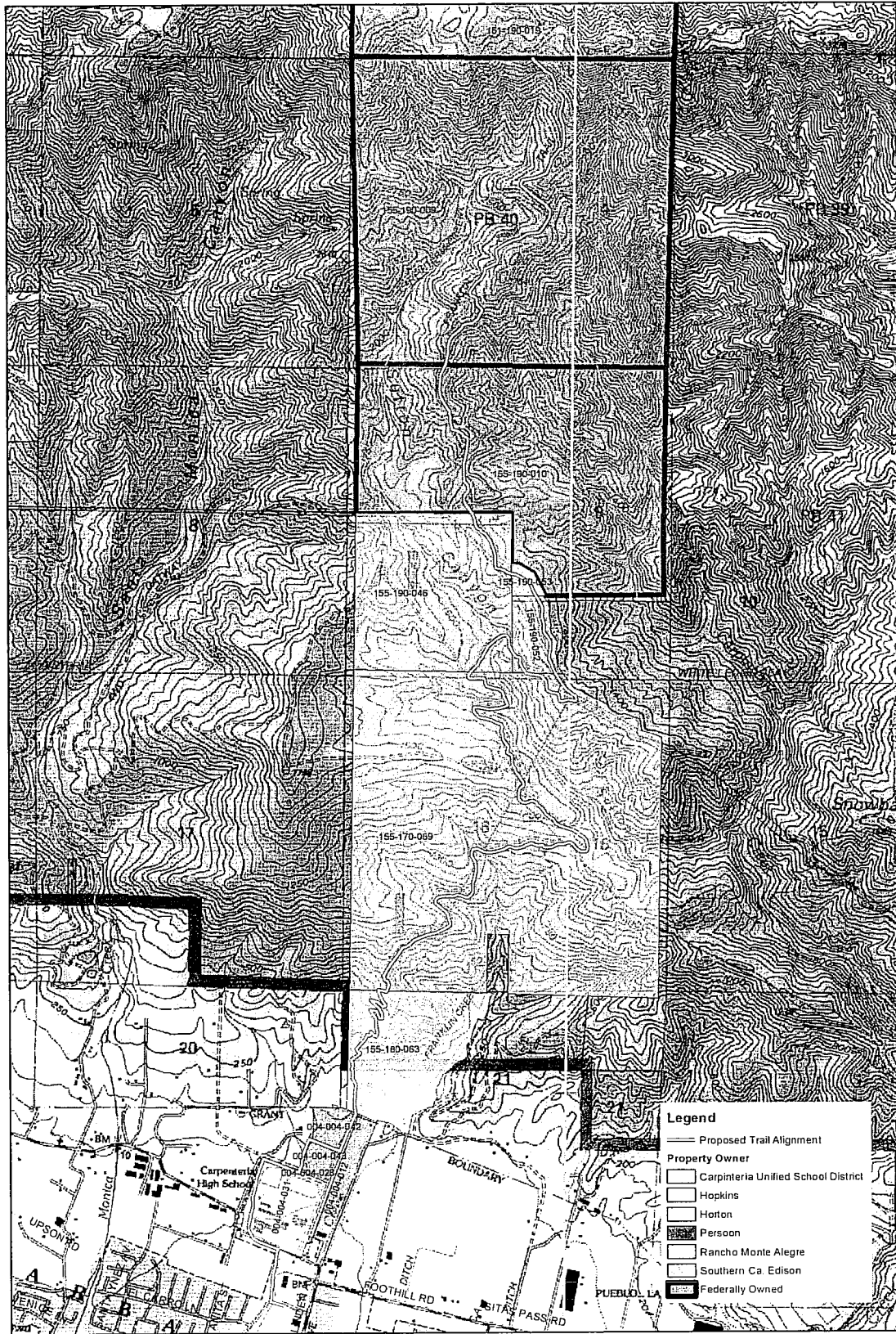


Figure 2. Ownership Map



Photo 1 - South-facing view of Sutton Canyon (see Figure 1), current conditions.



Photo 2 - Drainage 2, looking north (see Figure 1).



Photo 3 - View facing north of old Franklin Trail. This section starts near the road at the south edge of Forest Service land.



Photo 3 - Another north-facing view of the old Franklin Trail from further south (closer to road).

Figure 3. Site Photographs



Map images copyright © 2011 ESRI and its licensors. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Additional base layers from: California Natural Diversity Database, November 2011, U.S. Bureau of the Census TIGER 2000 data, and ESRI data, 2004. Note: Markers represent approximate locations where species may be found.

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Proposed Trail ◻ 5-Mile Radius Buffer Animals ▨ Belding's savannah sparrow ◻ arroyo toad ▨ foothill yellow-legged frog ◻ least Bell's vireo | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◻ light-footed clapper rail ◻ monarch butterfly ▨ tidewater goby ▨ two-striped garter snake ▨ western snowy plover ○ Spotted Owl Territories | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plants ◻ Coulter's goldfields ◻ Coulter's saltbush ▨ Nuttall's scrub oak ◻ Ojai fritillary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◻ Palmer's mariposa-lily ◻ Sonoran maiden fern ▨ late-flowered mariposa-lily Natural Community ▨ Southern Coastal Salt Marsh ◻ CNDDDB Suppressed Records in these quads-Monarch Butterfly. Call DFG to get the specific location of these sensitive species. |
|--|---|---|--|

Figure 4. California Natural Diversity Database

Appendix A - Checklist of Federally Listed Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Wildlife
 Project: Franklin Trail Proposal, Santa Barbara RD
 Date of Analysis: 8/17/06, as listed January 2006, Updated 11/15/11 as listed April 2008
 Potentially Affected Habitats: Chaparral, Coastal Sage Scrub
 Prepared by: Rincon Consultants, Inc.

Common Name	Status*	Location **	Suitable Habitat	Range w/in proj area?	Survey w/in proj area	Occupied habitat	Model ed habitat	Dist. to observations	Project Effects	
									N=None (analysis complete)	Y-Yes P-Possible
BIRDS										
California Condor <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	S&F-E	All	Cliffs, open country, possibly redwoods	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Extant	N-Condors do forage over the Project Area (PA). However, the trail work will not affect these birds.	
Bald Eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	SE & FT	M, SB	Lakes, reservoirs, sea coasts	Yes	No	No	No	Possibly extant	N-No reservoirs or lakes in or near project area. Birds may soar over PA but project will not affect these birds.	
Brown Pelican <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	S&F-E	M	Along coastline only	No	No	No	No		N-Coastal only.	
California Least Tern <i>Sterna antillarum browni</i>	S&F-E	M	Sandy gravelly beaches of coast, rivers, lakes	No	No	No	No		N-Coastal only.	
Least Bell's Vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	S&F-E	SLO, SB & V	Low elevation (<2800') riparian woodland	Yes	No	No	No	10 miles north	N-No record on or near the project site. The proposed work will not affect this species or its habitat.	
Marbled Murrelet <i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	FT	M	Large old trees near coast	No	No	No	No		N-Coastal only.	
Western Snowy Plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	FT	M, SB	Sandy/gravelly coastal beaches, alkali lakes	No	No	No	No	Many miles	N-No suitable habitat in or near the project area.	
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii eximius</i>	S&F-E	All	Dense riparian tree/shrub habitat	Yes	No	No	No	20 miles north	N-No suitable habitat in or near the project area.	
Northern Goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	FS-Sen	All	Coniferous forests	Yes	No	No	No	10 miles north	N-No suitable nesting or foraging habitat in or near the project area.	
California Spotted Owl <i>Strix occidentalis occidentalis</i>	FS-Sen	All	Dense mature mountain forests, riparian canyons	Yes	No	No	No	5 miles west	N-No suitable nesting or foraging habitat in or near the project area.	
Swainson's Hawk <i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	FS-Sen	All	Grasslands, agricultural fields with scattered trees	Yes	No	No	No	Many miles	N-No suitable habitat in or near the project area.	
Willow Flycatcher (northern ssp.) <i>Empidonax traillii</i>	FS-Sen	M & SLO	Riparian tree/shrub habitat for nesting & migrants	Yes	No	No	No	Migrants only	N-Migrants may occur in project area, but proposal will not impact these birds.	
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	FS-Sen	All	Cliffs near waterfowl and forest bird habitats	Yes	No	No	No	Many miles	N-No nesting habitat near project area. Transients might occur but with no impact.	
MAMMALS										
San Joaquin Kit Fox <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	ST & FE	SLO, SB, V & K	Arid grassland, scrubland, oak savanna, alkali sinks	No	No	No	No	30 miles north	N-No suitable habitat in or near project area and outside the known range.	
Southern Sea Otter <i>Enhydra lutris nereis</i>	FT	M	Marine	No	No	No	No		N-Marine only	
Giant Kangaroo Rat <i>Dipodomys ingens</i>	S&F-E	SLO, SB, V & K	<2800', flat arid areas	No	No	No	No	30 miles north	N-No suitable habitat in the project area and outside the known range.	
Steller's Sea Lion <i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>	FT	M	Marine	No	No	No	No		N-Marine only	

**Checklist of Federally Listed Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Wildlife Species
Project: Franklin Trail Proposal, Santa Barbara RD**

Common Name	Status*	Location**	Suitable Habitat	Range w/in proj area?	Survey w/in proj area	Occupied habitat	Model ed habitat	Dist. to observati ons	Project Effects			
									N=None (analysis complete)	Y-Yes	P-Possible	
MAMMALS, continued												
Mt. Pinos Lodgepole Chipmunk <i>Tamias speciosus calipeplus</i>	FS-Sen	Mt. Pinos, Mt. Abel	Large patches of arid shrubs in mountains	No	No	No	No	15 miles north	N-Outside known range.			
Townsend's Big-eared Bat <i>Plecotus townsendii townsendii</i>	FS-Sen	All	Caves, mines for roosting. Riparian for foraging.	Yes	No	?	No	Extant?	N-No known locations in the area. May forage but with no impact from proposal.			
Tehachapi White-eared Pocket Mouse <i>Perognathus alticola inexpectus</i>	FS-Sen	K	Arid grass/scrub, pine woodlands, 3500'-6000'	No	No	No	No	25 miles north	N-Outside known range.			
Pallid Bat <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	FS-Sen	All	Rock crevices, tree hollow, mines, caves, structures	Yes	No	?	No	Extant?	N-Suitable roosting and foraging habitat exists along trail, but the project will not impact the habitat or bats if present.			
Western Red Bat <i>Lasiurus blossevillii</i>	FS-Sen	All	Riparian woodland for roosting and Foraging	Yes	No	?	No	Extant?	N-Suitable roosting and foraging habitat exists near the trail in several places. However, the work will not impact any riparian habitat.			
REPTILES												
Blunt-nosed Leopard Lizard <i>Gambelia silius</i>	S&F-E	SLO, SB, V & K	Arid shrub in San Joaquin Valley and adj. valleys.	No	No	No	No	30 miles NW	N-No suitable habitat in or near the project area and outside the range of the species.			
South Pacific Pond Turtle <i>Actinemys marmorata pallida</i>	FS-Sen	All	<4000', river/streams w/ deep pools	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Nearby	N-Appropriate habitat exists in streams onsite the PA. These areas will not be impacted by the proposal.			
San Diego Horned Lizard <i>Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii</i>	FS-Sen	V & K	<7000', open habitats with loose soil for burrowing	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Extant	P-Appropriate habitat exists near Horton property, but none seen onsite.			
California Legless Lizard <i>Anniella pulchra</i>	FS-Sen	All	Riparian and nearby upland habitats <3,500'	Yes	No	Yes	No	Extant	P-Appropriate habitat exists along proposed trail alignment.			
Southern Rubber Boa <i>Charina boftae umbratica</i>	FS-Sen	V, K	>4,900' moist woodland/conifer forest	No	No	No	No	20 miles north	N-No suitable habitat in or near the project area.			
Two-striped Garter Snake <i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>	FS-Sen	SLO, SB, V & K	In and near aquatic and riparian habitats <7000'	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Extant	P-Known location 2 miles northwest of top of trail, appropriate habitat exists onsite.			
AMPHIBIANS												
Arroyo Toad <i>Bufo californicus</i>	FE	SLO, SB, & V	Low gradient reaches of perennial streams	Yes	Yes	No	No	10 miles north	N-No Suitable habitat in or near the project area.			
California Red-legged Frog <i>Rana aurora draytoni</i>	FT	All	Deep pools with vegetative bank cover <5000 feet	Yes	Yes	?	No	10 miles north	N-Critical and possibly occupied habitat exists near the project area but the work will not affect this habitat.			
Foothill Yellow-legged Frog <i>Rana boylei</i>	FS-Sen	M-Historic in all	Small perennial streams, highly aquatic, >2000'	Historic	Yes	No	No	Many miles	N-No known habitat in PAs. The species is considered extirpated from Santa Barbara County.			
Yellow-blotched Salamander <i>Ensatina eschscholtzi croceator</i>	FS-Sen	V & K	Moist mixed forests of oak and conifers	No	No	No	No	15 miles north	N-No suitable habitat in or near the project areas and outside the known range.			
Tehachapi Slender Salamander <i>Batrachoseps stebbinsi</i>	FS-Sen	V? & K?	Moist middle elevation canyons, talus slopes	No	No	No	No	10 miles north	N-No suitable habitat in or near the project areas and outside the known range.			

Checklist of Federally Listed Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Wildlife Species
Project: Franklin Trail Proposal, Santa Barbara RD

Common Name	Status*	Location **	Suitable Habitat	Range w/in proj area?	Survey w/in proj area	Occupied habitat	Model ed habitat	Dist. to observati ons	Project Effects	
									N-None (analysis complete)	Y-Yes P-Possible
FISH										
Tidewater Goby <i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>	FE	M	Coastal brackish water	No	No	No	No	Many miles	N-Marine and Inter-tidal only	
Steelhead Trout Southern California DPS <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	FE	South of S. Maria R.	Perennial streams with unhindered access to sea	No	Yes	No	No	Nearby	N-Occupied and designated critical habitat exists in Sutton Canyon, but the proposed work will not affect this habitat.	
Arroyo Chub <i>Gila orcutti</i>	FS-Sen	SLO, SB, V & LA	Perennial streams with coarse gravel bottoms	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Many miles	N-Does not exist in or near the project areas.	
INVERTEBRATES										
Smith's Blue Butterfly <i>Euphilotes enoptes smithi</i>	FE	M	Coast prairie/shrub, coast and sea-cliff buckwheat	No	No	No	No	Many miles	N-Outside known range.	
Conservancy Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>	FE	V	Vernal pools	?	No	No	No	20 miles NW	N-No suitable vernal pool habitat in or near the project area.	
Longhorn Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta longiantenna</i>	FE	SLO, SB?	Grassland vernal pools	?	No	No	No	Many miles	N-No suitable vernal pool habitat in or near the project area.	
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	FT	M, SLO, V, SB? & K?	Potrerros, vernal pools and other seasonal ponds	?	No	No	No	20 miles NW?	N-No suitable vernal pool habitat in or near the project area.	
Kern Primrose Sphinx Moth <i>Euproserpinus euterpe</i>	FT	SLO, V, SB, & K	Desert scrub, particularly in and around washes areas in association with its larval and adult food plants (plains evening-primrose and flairee)	No	No	No	No	Many miles	N- Does not exist in or near the project areas.	

Status: California State list as of January 2011. FS-R5 updated Sensitive Species list as of April 2008; plus updates from FWS, Ventura Office every 90 days. F-Federal, S-State, FS- Forest Service, E-Endangered, T-Threatened, P-Proposed, Sen-Sensitive, R-Species at Risk
 ** K-Kern Co., M-Monterey Co., SLO-San Luis Obispo Co., SB-Santa Barbara Co., V-Ventura Co., MP-Mount Pinos Ranger District.
 If no specific indicator is shown to the contrary, assume occurrence in all areas.

Appendix B

Noise Measurements

C:\LARD\AVSL\MULTI\22AUG_07.bin Interval Data

Number	Date	Time	Meas		SEL	Lmax	Lmin	Peak	Uwpk	L(10)	L(33)	L(50)	L(90)	RMS Excd Count	Peak Excd Count	Uwpk Excd Count	Over loads	
			Duration	Leq														
0	22Aug 06	8:36:07	162	50.7	72.8	71.1	39.4	96.6	102.5	46.6	43.3	42.1	40.2	2	0	40	2	0
0	22Aug 06	8:38:57	1200	44.7	75.5	64.1	38.1	86.9	0	46.9	43.7	42.6	40	0	0	44	0	0

C:\LARDAV\SLMUTIL\22AUG_07.bin Time History Data
 Sample Period (sec): 60.000

Meas Location	Number	Date	Time	Level	SEL
Run	Key				
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:36:07	54.6	72.4
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:37:07	42.2	60
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:38:07	41.1	58.9
Stop	Key				
Run	Key				
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:38:57	42.7	60.5
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:39:57	46.1	63.9
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:40:57	44.2	62
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:41:57	48.4	66.1
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:42:57	43.1	60.9
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:43:57	42.3	60.1
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:44:57	43.4	61.2
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:45:57	42.2	60
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:46:57	43.1	60.9
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:47:57	41.9	59.7
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:48:57	44.9	62.6
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:49:57	46.2	64
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:50:57	41	58.8
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:51:57	40.7	58.5
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:52:57	47.5	65.3
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:53:57	43.4	61.1
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:54:57	43.7	61.5
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:55:57	46.6	64.4
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:56:57	47.9	65.7
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:57:57	42.9	60.7
Franklin		0 22Aug 06	8:58:57	43.1	60.9
Stop	Intv				

C:\LARDAV\SLMUTIL\22AUG_07.bin Run/Stop Data

Meas Location	Number	Date	Time	Type
Franklin	0	22Aug 06	8:36:07	Run
Franklin	0	22Aug 06	8:38:49	Stop
Franklin	0	22Aug 06	8:38:57	Run
Franklin	0	22Aug 06	8:58:57	Stop

C:\LARDAV\SLMUTIL\22AUG_07.bin Setup Data
Site: 0 Date: 22Aug 06 08:36:06 Model: 720

#	Description	Value
2	Name	(L-D Model 720)
3	Name Inc.)
4	Name Ca.)
5	Title	(20 Min Sample)
9	Com1 Baud Rate	[9600]
10	Com1 Address	(0)
14	Output 1 Logic	[Off]
15	Output 1 Hold Time	(10)
20	Power save options	[Auto Off]
35	Cal level	(114.00)
36	Calibrator S/N	(not set)
39	Detector	[Fast]
40	Frequency Weighting	[A]
43	Mic polarization	[0]
44	Reference Level	(114.00)
45	Current Exchange rate	[3dB]
46	Current Threshold	(80)
47	Current Criterion	(90)
48	Overall Exchange rate	[3dB]
49	Overall Threshold	(80)
50	Overall Criterion	(90)
51	Dose period	(8)
55	Lnn 1 Percent	(10)
56	Lnn 2 Percent	(33)
57	Lnn 3 Percent	(50)
58	Lnn 4 Percent	(90)
61	RMS Excd Level 1	(70.00)
62	RMS Excd Level 2	(120)
63	Peak Excd Level	(70)
64	Uwpk Excd Level	(70)
65	Excd Hysteresis	(2)
72	Enable Intv History	[Yes]
73	Intv Exchange rate	[3dB]
74	Intv Threshold	(0)
75	Intv period	(00:20)
76	Intv Time Sync	[No]
77	Intv Save Ln'S	[Yes]
79	Intv Auto Stop	[Yes]
80	Enable Time History	[Yes]
81	Time History Resolution	[0.1dB]
82	Hist Save Peak	[Peak]
83	Hist Period	(60)
87	Histogram Resolution	[5.0]

C:\LARDAV\SLMUTIL\22AUG_07.bin Event Data

Peak Meas Number	Time of Date	Excd Time	Over Lmax	Duration	Leq	SEL	Lmax	Peak	Uwpk	Type	Count	loads
0	22Aug 06	8:36:21	8:36:26	10	61.9	72	71.1	96.6	102.5	0	30	0