

# Attachment C

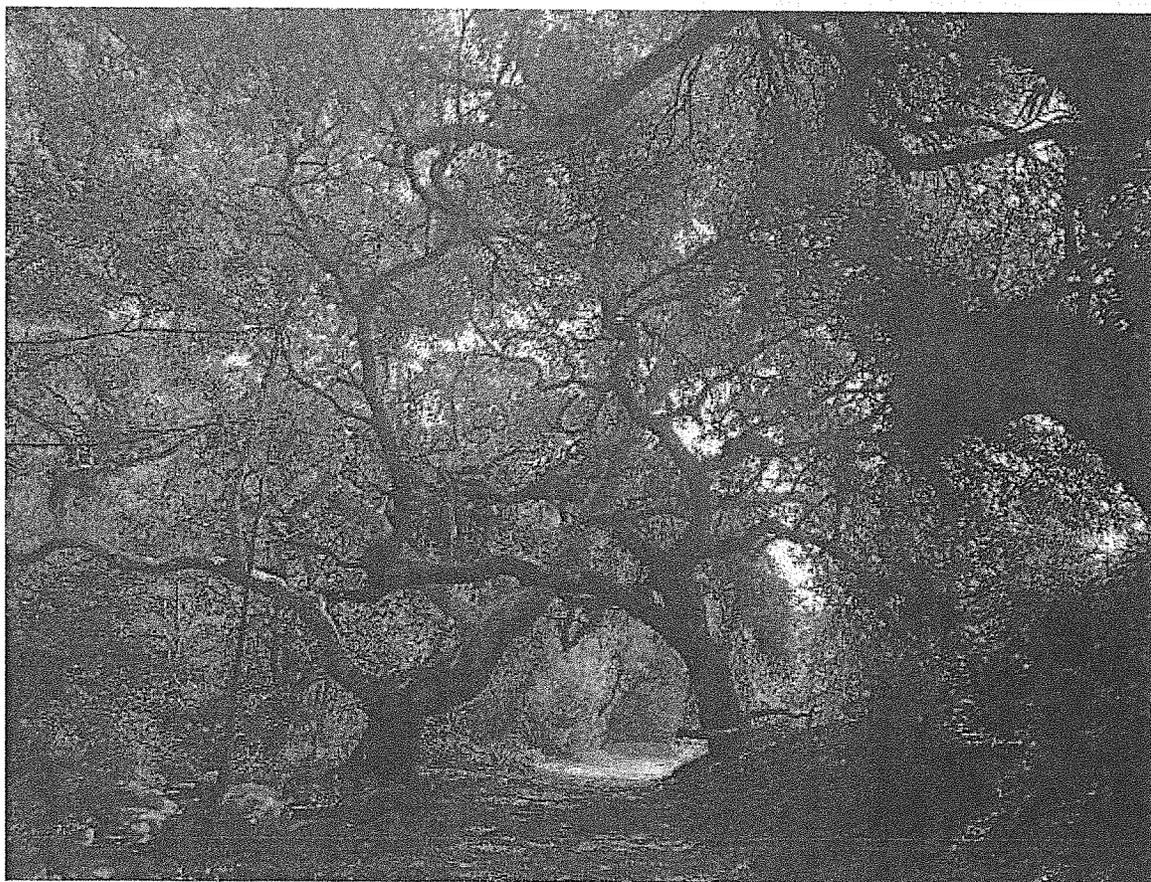


**Community  
Services  
Department**  
*Connecting People to Opportunities*



**Draft Final  
Initial Study and  
Mitigated Negative Declaration  
Baron Ranch Trail Realignment**

**Case #16CUP-00000-00029  
ND #17NGD-00000-00007**



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- A Response to Comments

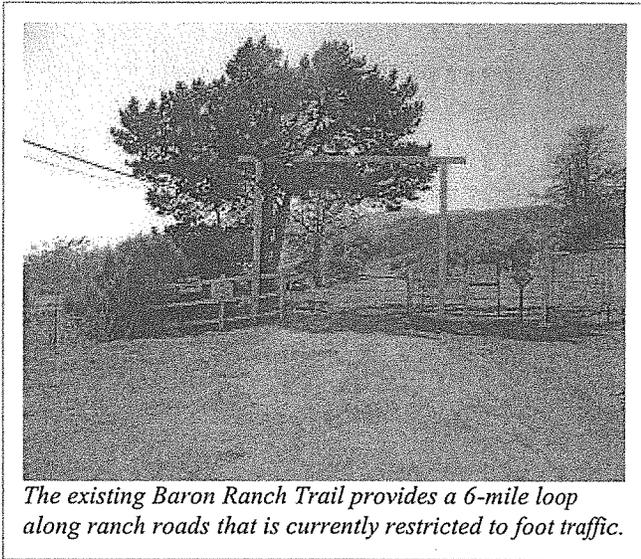
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## 1.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### 1.1 BACKGROUND

Baron Ranch is a 1,083-acre ranch owned by Santa Barbara County (County) and is managed by the County Public Works Department's Resource Recovery & Waste Management Division. The primary use of Baron Ranch is currently agricultural, including avocado and cherimoya orchards.<sup>1</sup> However, 50 acres of the ranch has been restored with native plant communities as a part of the biological mitigation program for the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration Project and partial mitigation for the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project. Habitat restoration activities have included creek restoration, in-channel pool enhancement,



*The existing Baron Ranch Trail provides a 6-mile loop along ranch roads that is currently restricted to foot traffic.*

and planting of native riparian, oak woodland, coastal sage scrub and chaparral habitats. The restoration project also involved translocation of California red-legged frog from the reconfiguration project area at the Tajiguas Landfill to designated pools in Arroyo Quemado Creek (Creek) under a Biological Opinion issued under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (Padre Associates, Inc. 2015). Approximately 30 acres of the ranch, including portions of the Creek, are proposed to be placed in a conservation easement upon completion of the restoration activities.

The existing Baron Ranch Trail (Trail) provides an approximately 6-mile loop from the trailhead at the Calle Real frontage road that parallels the north side of U.S. Highway 101. The existing Trail was completed and opened to the public in December 2010. This Trail follows existing ranch roads throughout much of its course. The lower reaches of this trail traverses existing orchards for over 1 mile, and then enters relatively undisturbed native habitats in its northern reaches. This Trail is generally located east of the Creek and is currently use-restricted to foot traffic only; mountain bikes, dogs and equestrians are currently prohibited, although trail operation guidelines permit such restrictions to be reviewed and reconsidered over the long-term (Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, Resolution 09252; 9/15/09). The trail is currently open for use on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday (dawn to dusk); however, on March 15, 2016, the County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution to acknowledge the modified location and use of the County-owned portion of Baron Ranch Trail (Appendix B). The modified location and use are analyzed in this Initial Study.

<sup>1</sup> In fall of 2016, the agricultural lease for Baron Ranch ended. As such, the County has ceased agricultural production and agriculture is now going fallow. During this time, the County has made plans to demolish agriculturally related maintenance structures along the west side of the Creek. Such activities may occur concurrently with the permitting process of this Project.

In 2015, the U.S. Forest Service issued the Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Trail Construction and Maintenance of the Baron Ridge Trail Environmental Assessment (Baron Ridge Trail EA). The Baron Ridge Trail EA assessed the environmental consequences associated with construction and maintenance of a 3.5-mile segment of trail extending off the existing Baron Ranch Trail within the lands of the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF). The Baron Ridge Trail extends from the existing Baron Ranch Trail up to the West Camino Cielo jeepway at the crest of the San Ynez Mountains, providing a valuable trail connection and access from the coastal regions of the Gaviota Coast all the way to the limited access areas of the western LPNF and Gaviota State Park (Figure 1). The Baron Ridge Trail EA found that construction and maintenance of the Baron Ridge Trail would not significantly affect the environment, and would result in beneficial effects to recreational resources. While users of the Baron Ridge Trail are expected to use the existing Trail, additional trail use was not anticipated to substantially adversely affect the coastal and inland portions of the existing Trail (U.S. Forest Service 2015).

## 1.2 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Santa Barbara County Community Services Department, Parks Division, in partnership with the County Public Works Department, and with assistance from the Santa Barbara County Trails Council (Trails Council), proposes to construct and maintain a 1.35-mile realignment of the existing Baron Ranch Trail, from the eastern side of the Creek to its western side via a bridge spanning the creek, reconnecting with the existing trail at an at-grade stream crossing. The Project includes the entire trail segment within the County's jurisdiction, extending northward and connecting with the trail segment in the U.S. Forest Service LPNF boundary. Improvement of visitor and trail user amenities (e.g., provision of a vehicle turnaround area, designation and interpretive signage, and kiosk with trail information), installation of minimal fencing along a portion of existing ranch roads on the west side of the Creek, and restoration of native habitat disturbed during Project implementation is also proposed.<sup>2</sup> These actions collectively comprise the Baron Ranch Trail Realignment Project (Project). The proposed Project is located off Calle Real on the Gaviota Coast in Santa Barbara County, California, approximately 2.5 miles northwest of Refugio State Beach (Figure 1).

Pursuant to the Santa Barbara County Coastal Zoning Ordinance (Article II, Section 35-69.4), the proposed Project requests approval of a Major Conditional Use Permit to allow for low-intensity recreational development within the AG-II zoning district designation. In addition, the proposed Project requests approval of:

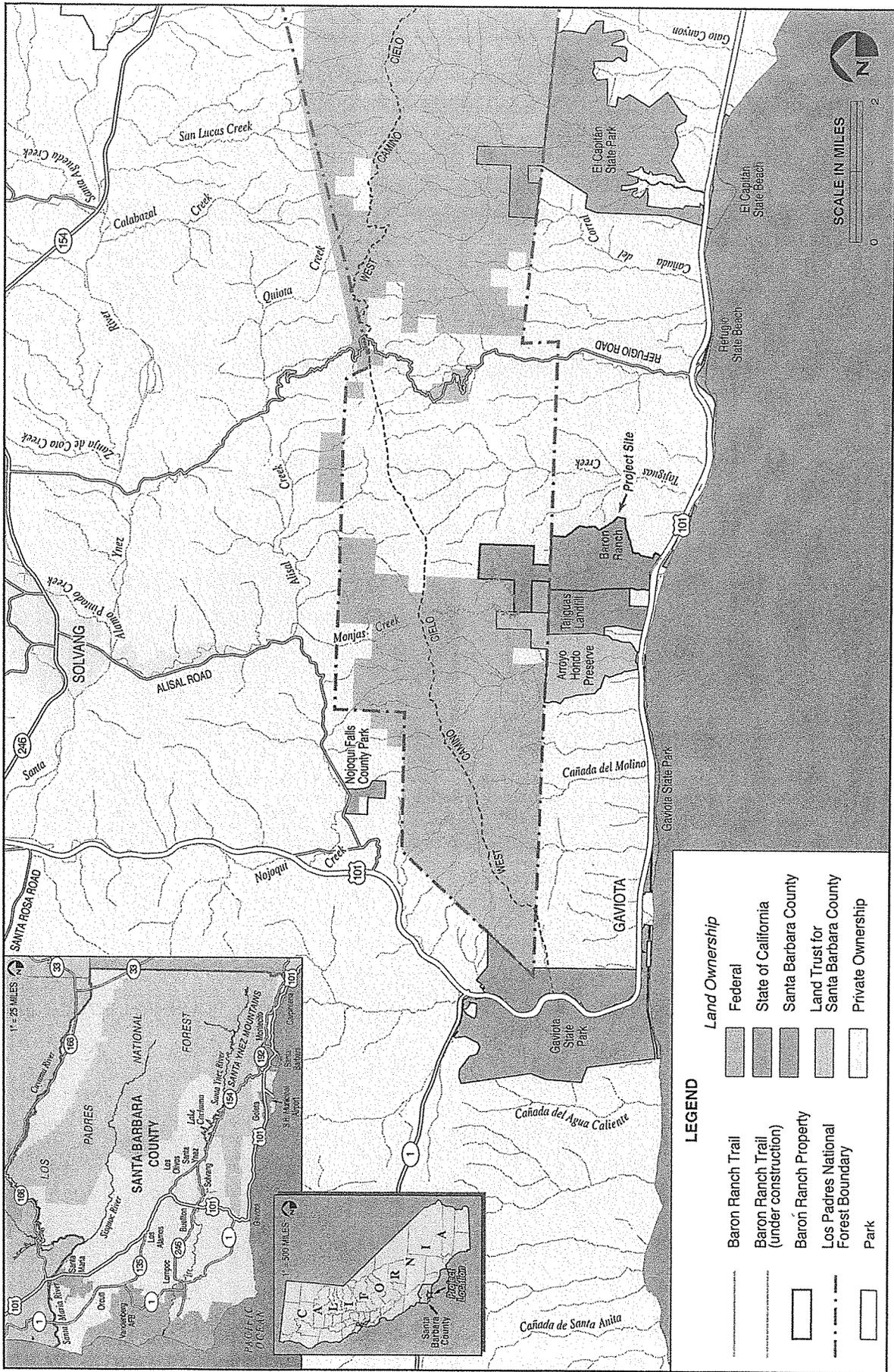
- A Coastal Development Permit and grading permit to allow:
  - Construction of a vehicle turnaround to accommodate all trail users (including trucks with horse trailers, within a disturbed area and existing residential access road) along Calle Real. Turnaround improvements include grading with a finish

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<sup>2</sup> As part of the proposed Project, restoration of native habitat includes the replacement of native specimen trees at a ratio of ten trees to every one mature tree, which experiences significant limbing during Project implementation. In addition, the proposed Project shall replant existing vegetated areas (estimated to be approximately 100 square feet (sf) at each side of the bridge's footings) that would be disturbed during construction activities and implementation of the Project.

surface of compacted road base. Graded slopes would be hydro-seeded with appropriate native species for the area;

- A new 65-foot-long by 8-foot-wide prefabricated bridge across the Creek with a non-slip deck surface suitable for all users, upon creek-side concrete abutments at the canyon entrance of Baron Ranch;
- From the bridge crossing, relocation of the lower reach of the existing Baron Ranch Trail from the east to west side of the Creek along an existing ranch road where it would reconnect with the existing Trail approximately 1.2 miles upstream and north of the agricultural production area, crossing the Creek at-grade at a location with shallow slopes; and,
- Increased usage of the entire Baron Ranch Trail as a multiple-use trail for equestrians, mountain bikers, hikers, dog walkers, and trail runners during the daylight hours, seven days a week.

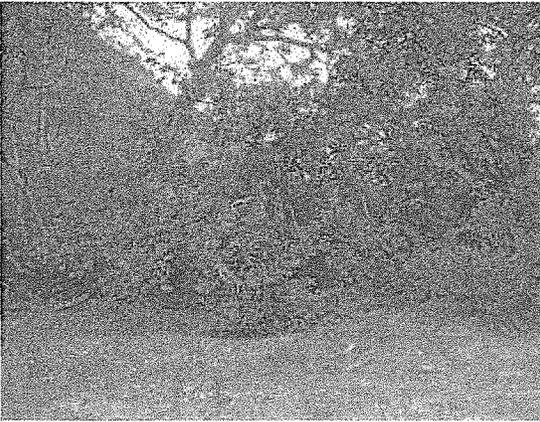


Baron Ranch  
Regional Location Map

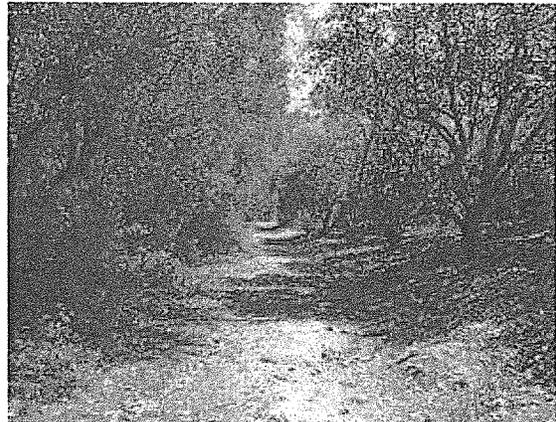
FIGURE  
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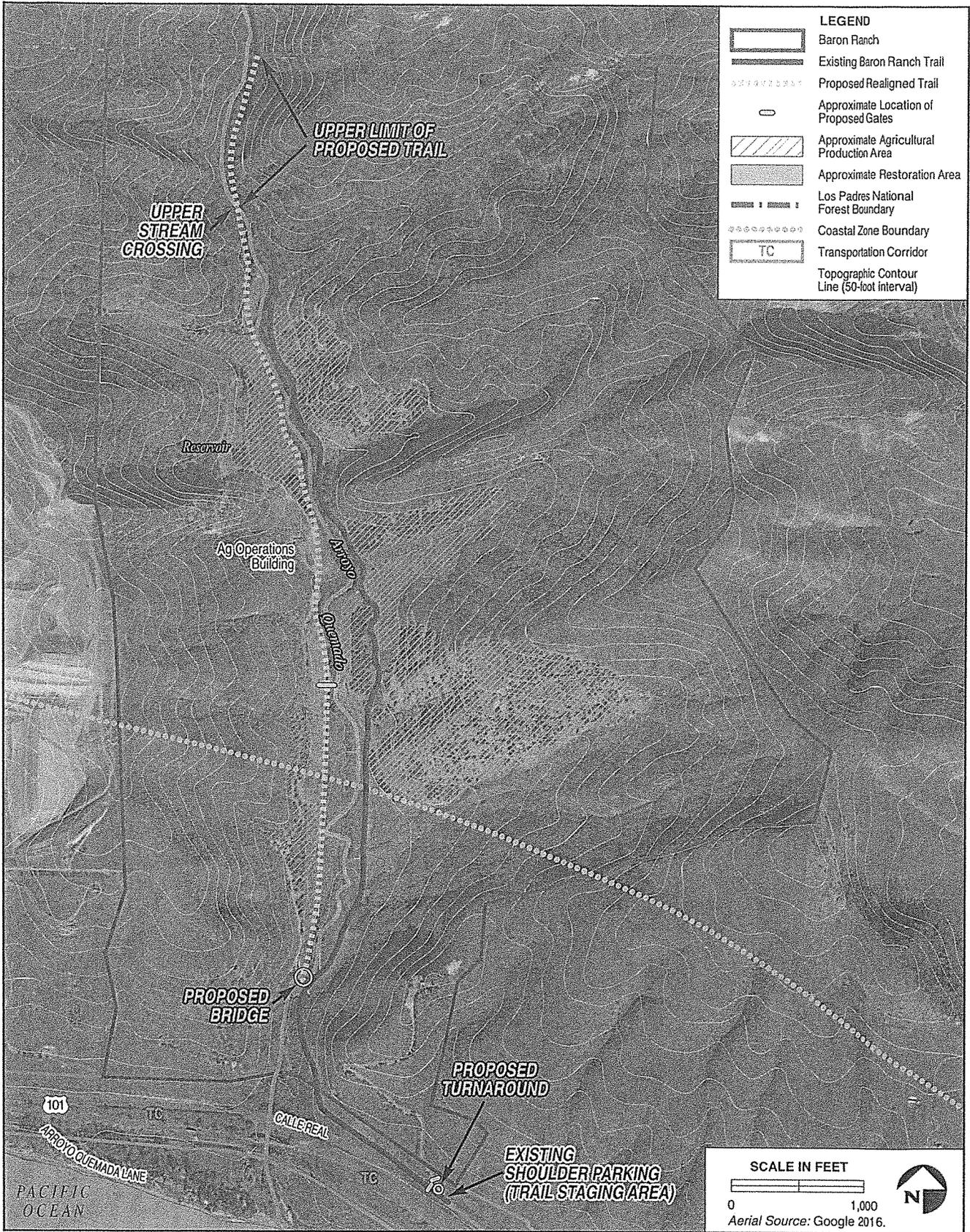
The southern reach of the proposed trail realignment would follow the Baron Ranch access road and existing Trail route for approximately 1,850 feet from the proposed turnaround, northwest to the newly proposed bridge across the Creek. The proposed realigned Trail would extend from the new bridge near the south end of Baron Ranch, along existing dirt roads west of the Creek, reconnecting with the existing trail approximately 1.2 miles to the north and extending to the LPNF boundary. County restoration of riparian and oak woodland habitat west and east of the Creek would be undisturbed. Up to 600 sf of riparian habitat restoration would be provided where needed due to installation of the bridge based on County development standards for replacement of riparian vegetation at a ratio of 3 to 1. Separation of recreational uses from agricultural uses would be realized by this realignment, with the riparian corridor serving as the boundary. The new Trail would then reconnect to the existing Baron Ranch Trail, including the segment within the LPNF that extends to the ridgeline of the Santa Ynez Mountains



*A new 65-foot long bridge would be constructed across a deeply incised segment of lower Arroyo Quemado Creek to provide access to the west side of the Creek; minor amounts of riparian vegetation (e.g., approximately up to 100 sf at each end of the bridge) would be removed but restored.*



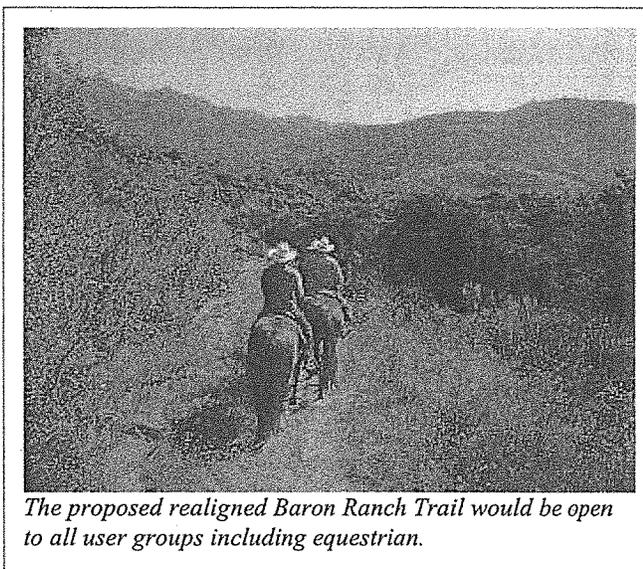
*The proposed realigned lower Baron Ranch Trail would traverse approximately 1.35 miles of existing dirt roads within Arroyo Quemado Canyon, providing views of the Creek, native habitats and orchards.*



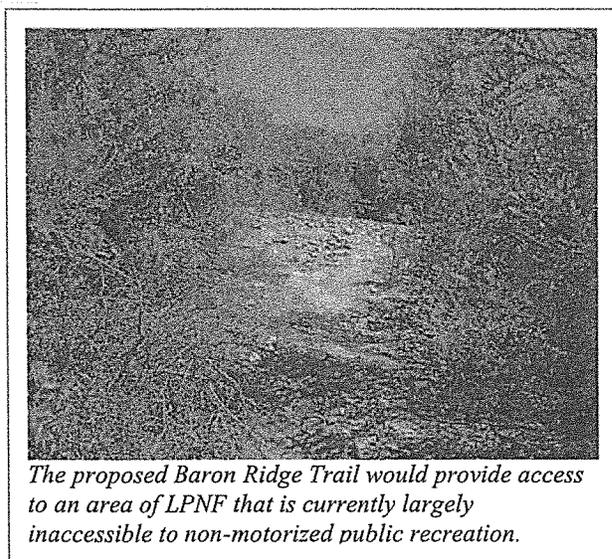
The approved Baron Ridge Trail would enhance non-motorized public access across County owned land and to an area of LPNF that is currently inaccessible via any established route. This combined County-LPNF Trail would be one of only two Front County trails to provide access to LPNF land in the 26-mile reach of the LPNF west of California State Route 154. The Baron Ridge Trail would provide connections to the West Camino Cielo jeepway<sup>3</sup> within LPNF, and to Gaviota State Park trails to the west, creating greater than 13 miles of trail system across County, state, and federal lands.

The proposed Trail would replace the existing lower reaches of the Trail located east of the Creek. The County proposes to construct and maintain this Trail with funding support from the Trails Council for ongoing trail maintenance activities.

While trail use is currently restricted to pedestrian-users, joint trail operation under the County and LPNF as a multiple-use trail is proposed. User groups are anticipated to include hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, dog walkers, and trail runners. Opening of the trail for multi-use by these groups has been endorsed by the Board of Supervisors, including opening the trail for use seven days a week during the daylight hours between of 8:00 AM and sunset upon Project completion.



*The proposed realigned Baron Ranch Trail would be open to all user groups including equestrian.*



*The proposed Baron Ridge Trail would provide access to an area of LPNF that is currently largely inaccessible to non-motorized public recreation.*

### 1.3 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

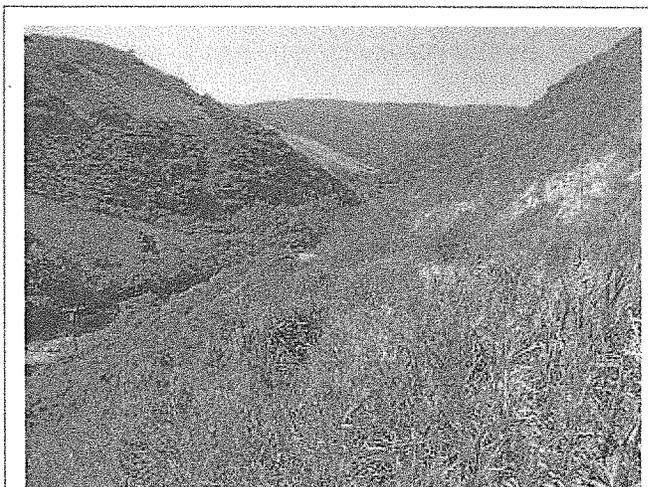
The objective of the proposed Baron Ranch Trail Realignment Project is to provide non-motorized multiple-use recreational access across County-owned land while protecting sensitive species habitat and agricultural uses. The proposed Project would improve recreational opportunities and connectivity between existing trails on County-owned land, a pending trail in the LPNF, and existing trails in Gaviota State Park, fostering interagency cooperation on provision of public recreational opportunities.

<sup>3</sup> The "jeepway" is open only to U.S. Forest Service and emergency motorized vehicles. Public use of motorized vehicles in the Los Padres National Forest is prohibited in this area

The need for the proposed Project stems from the limited access currently available on the existing lower Baron Ranch Trail. Portions of the existing lower Trail cross active and abandoned orchards that lack scenic natural character and present the potential for conflicts with agricultural uses, which are unfenced and immediately adjacent to the Trail.

Access to public land in the Gaviota area of the Santa Ynez Mountains is restricted by a limited number of public roads, intervening private land holdings in the foothills located between public roads (e.g., U.S. Highway 101 and Refugio Road), and a minimal trail system. Realignment of the lower Baron Ranch Trail and completion of the Baron Ridge Trail would open access across public and quasi-public land (i.e., Arroyo Hondo Preserve) from U.S. Highway 101, via Calle Real, into the LPNF.

#### 1.4 PROJECT COMPONENTS



*The proposed realignment of 1.35 miles of the lower Baron Ranch Trail would provide access across hundreds of acres of County owned land (foreground) to the Santa Ynez Mountains in the LPNF (background).*

The proposed Project would include installation of a new 65-foot diameter vehicle turnaround (area of approximately 3,320 sf), a bridge, gates and fences, small kiosk, wayfinding signs, interpretive signs, minor trail improvements, and erosion control. Only limited trail improvements would be required as the realigned Trail would follow an existing dirt road. County standard Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as erosion control techniques, revegetation, and living fencing such as poison oak and blackberry to control access, would be implemented to minimize potential environmental effects of all trail improvements on adjacent sensitive

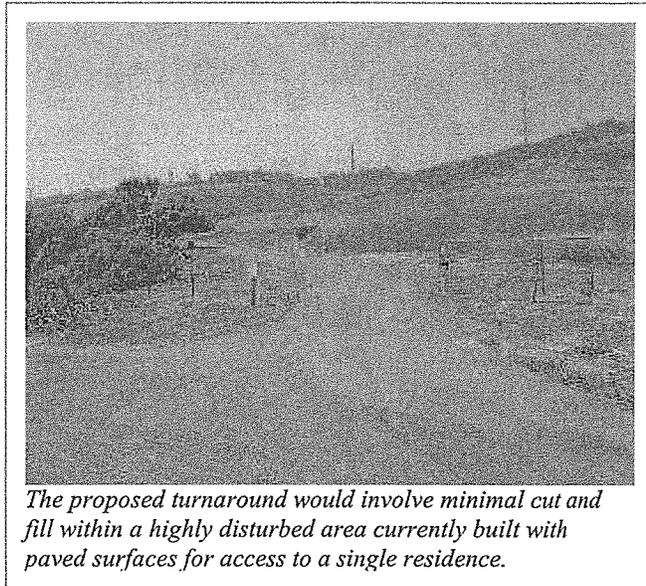
habitats. Vehicle and trailer parking would be provided by existing road shoulders at the end of Calle Real and located immediately east of the Baron Ranch entrance gate. Key trail components are described below, progressing from development within the coastal zone to more inland regions.

##### 1.4.1 Coastal Zone Development

A portion of Baron Ranch is located along the coastal zone region of the Gaviota Coast. The coastal zone refers to a zoning district designated by the County and certified by the California Coastal Commission. Within this area of the County, the coastal zone generally extends 3,000 feet inland from the mean high tide line of the Pacific Ocean. At Baron Ranch, the coastal zone extends approximately 3,200 feet from the mean high tide line and bisects the Baron Ranch Trail. Several aspects of the proposed Project would require approval of Conditional Use Permit, a Coastal Development Permit, and a grading permit. Proposed development within the coastal zone is further described below.

### Proposed Vehicle Access Improvements

The proposed Project includes development of an approximately 65-foot diameter (3,320 square foot [sf]) vehicle turnaround just west of the existing Baron Ranch entrance gate west of the terminus of Calle Real right-of-way (Figure 3). Installation would require approximately 190 cubic yards of cut and fill, as well as vegetation clearing of primarily ruderal species along the road shoulder(s). Dimensional designs of the vehicle turnaround were determined using USDA/USDOT Federal Highway Administration – Equestrian Design Guidelines for Trails, Trailheads, and Campgrounds. This turnaround would be located within a previously disturbed area surrounding an existing private residential driveway to minimize disturbance of intact coastal sage scrub habitat and be located outside of nearby areas with known sensitive cultural resources.



### Gates

The existing white Baron Ranch pipe rail monument gate located at the trailhead would remain, and signage along the realigned trail would indicate its existence. Three new gates would be installed as part of the Project (Figure 2). The first new gate would be of durable construction in a ranch or post and beam style, in an earthen tone, at a height of less than 8 feet, at the private driveway access just outside of the proposed turnaround to ensure privacy for this existing residence. The second gate, or Baron Ranch Trail entry gate, would entail construction of a new ranch gate west of the proposed turnaround and may be of similar height and scale to the existing gateway to facilitate identification of the trail. The third gate installment would be located before the existing agricultural bridge on the west side of the Creek leading towards the existing agricultural support building. This gate would serve to prevent recreational traffic across the Creek to the agricultural operation area and be of similar construction as the first gate. All installed gates would utilize solar power generated from attached solar power boxes on the gate posts. All gates would be installed within the disturbed road area and would not result in the removal of any native vegetation.



**FIGURE 3**

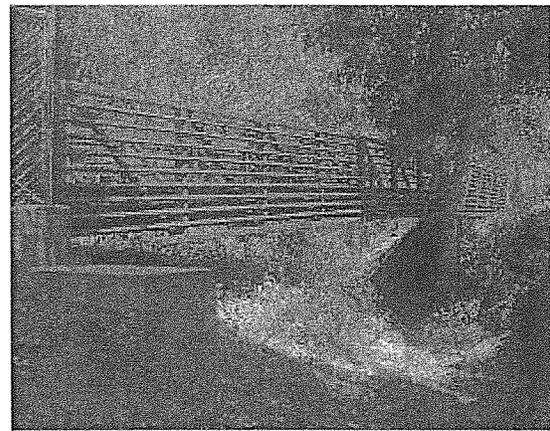
**Turnaround and Parking Area**

### Proposed Arroyo Quemado Creek Bridge

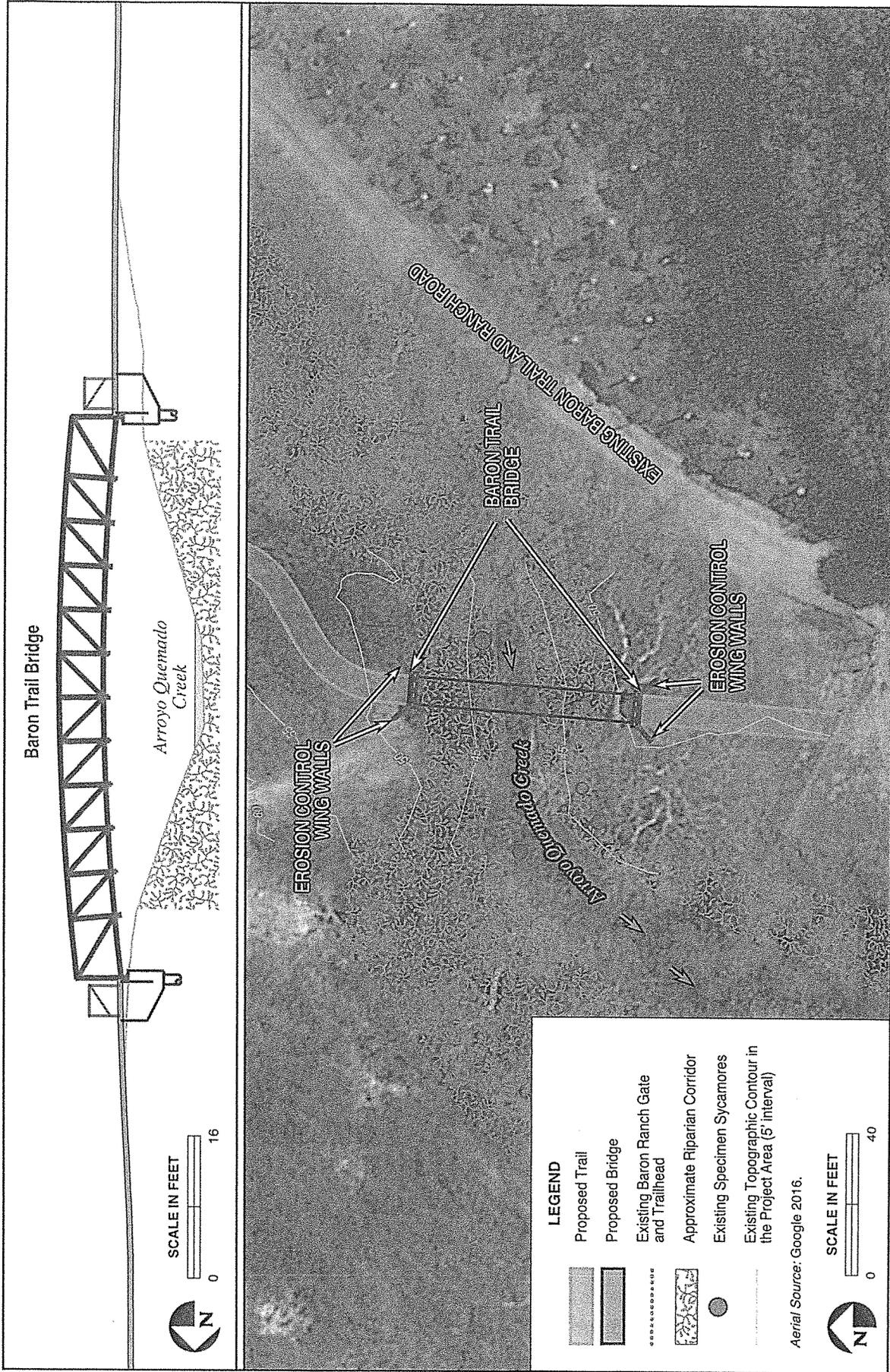
The proposed Project would include installation of a 65-foot long, 8-foot wide free span pre-fabricated bridge across the incised drainage of the Creek. This bridge would carry trail users across to the western side of the Creek in order to access the newly realigned Trail. The bridge would be made of heavy-duty construction material consisting of wooden decking and steel struts and supports (see example photos below). The bridge would be designed to accommodate all user groups including equestrians. This bridge would be supported by concrete abutments that would be installed outside of the top of the bank of the Creek (Figure 4). To ensure protection of the creek bank, erosion control wings would be installed at each end of the bridge and a rock slope would be installed outside the top of bank both upstream and downstream of the bridge abutments (refer to Appendix A). A single mature sycamore tree may need to be limbed, and disturbance of approximately 100 sf of riparian vegetation on either side of the Creek may be necessary to accommodate bridge installation, which is not within a known designated restoration area. Vegetation disturbed during construction and maintenance activities would be replaced at a ratio of three new plantings for every one (3:1) individual damaged or removed.



*The proposed new free span bridge over the Creek would be 8 feet in width, similar to this bridge over Mesa Creek in Santa Barbara. The bridge would carry trail users from the east to west side of the Creek; bridge construction would be heavy-duty and capable of supporting equestrians.*



*The proposed bridge would be supported by concrete abutments located outside of the banks of the Creek similar to this newly constructed bridge on the Franklin Trail in Carpinteria. Construction would minimize impacts to riparian habitats and sensitive species such as the California red-legged frog.*



**FIGURE 4**

**Creek Crossing**

### 1.4.2 Inland Development

Inland development would include several aspects of the proposed Project, primarily those associated with trail improvements, erosion control, trail realignment, and fencing, in accordance with County regulations and development standards. Aspects of the Project which would be implemented in the inland areas of Baron Ranch are described below.

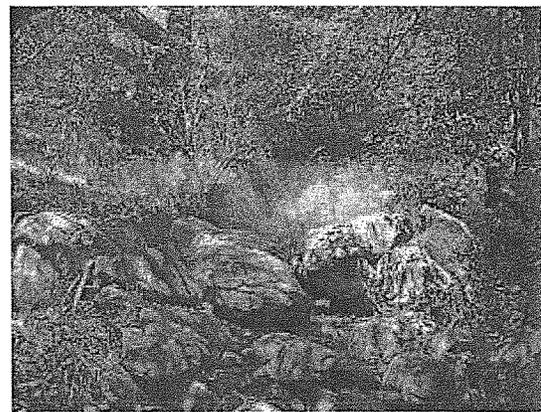
#### Proposed Realigned Trail and Upper Creek Crossing

The realigned portion of Baron Ranch Trail would extend for approximately 1.35 miles from the new bridge crossing north, to a new in-stream at-grade crossing where it would rejoin the upper reach of the existing Trail located across the Creek to the east, and continue to the LPNF boundary (refer to Figure 2). No work (e.g., construction or grading), other than installation of directional trail signs on either side of the creek would be required to complete this in-stream crossing. Within this 1.35-mile-long segment, the Trail would follow existing dirt agricultural roads that are currently 12 to 15 feet in width. Trail construction would be conducted as described in Section 1.6, *Construction*. Erosion control measures, such as use of rolling grade dips, would be installed along the road to minimize potential for erosion. Segments of the road would also require grade alterations within the existing roadbed in order to minimize erosion and direct runoff into rolling grade dips, or by out-sloping the road to direct runoff into adjacent areas. In order to minimize potential public access east of the Creek, approximately 2,300 feet north of the proposed bridge crossing, a new gate would be installed on an existing ranch road that crosses the Creek (Figure 2).

Although a short segment of this Trail would cross through areas of existing coastal sage scrub habitat, the majority is currently bordered by aging avocado orchards. As part of efforts to mitigate impacts associated with the Tajiguas Landfill and to consolidate agricultural activities east of the Creek, the Public Works Department plans to abandon all orchards west of the Creek and has restored some of the abandoned areas to the east and west of the realigned trail with native habitat, including riparian, coastal sage scrub, oak woodland, and chaparral. Over the long-term, the Trail would traverse maturing native plant communities rather than an avocado orchard. Trail maintenance activities would permit regrowth of vegetation over the edges of segments of the existing road that would not be serving non-trail uses, gradually creating a



*The realigned Trail would follow the existing road through an area of intact chaparral and oak woodland habitats to the second creek crossing.*



*The existing location for the creek crossing would be narrowed and improved with naturally occurring rock to protect trail tread and minimize erosion and sedimentation.*

narrower trail tread of 3 to 6 feet in width.

The northern 3,700 feet of this realigned Trail would follow the existing road through an area of intact chaparral and oak woodland habitats to the second creek crossing. The stream bed in this area is rocky, supporting large scattered boulders, cobbles, and gravels. The proposed at-grade creek crossing would be improved with naturally occurring rock on either side of the creek and outside the creek bank to protect trail tread and minimize erosion. Native plantings of blackberry, poison oak, and other vines and shrubs would be installed to minimize trail user incursion into the Creek or off the designated trail and into potential red-legged frog habitat. Trail connection from the at-grade crossing to the existing Trail would require minimal trail clearance. The trail will be designed to avoid disturbance to existing specimen coast live oaks to the maximum extent feasible; however, some pruning of mature coast live oak limbs may be required to accommodate equestrians and their riders, which would require clearance of 10 feet in height. After crossing the Creek channel, the Trail would rejoin with the existing ranch road/ Trail east of the Creek and continue up to the LPNF boundary, providing access along County-owned lands to the existing Baron Ranch Trail loop and the recreational and scenic resources of the Santa Ynez Mountains located in the U.S. Forest Service-owned lands of the LPNF.

The section of the Trail proposed to be realigned would be aligned along existing agricultural roads and adjacent to exposed infrastructure such as water supply pipes, electrical controls, supply stations, and electrical lines. With the realignment of the Trail, existing infrastructure would be secured (i.e., padlocked, gated, etc.) or relocated to the east side of the Creek to avoid tampering by the public. Signage would be placed to notify trail users and warn the public not to interfere with the existing infrastructure.

### **1.4.3 General Trail Improvements**

The proposed Baron Ranch Trail realignment would cross over and border the Creek, an important habitat for the California red-legged frog. The ranch is within USFWS designated critical habitat for the California red-legged frog. Arroyo Quemado has known breeding ponds which support a robust population of existing and translocated frogs, and upland areas adjacent to the Creek (particularly restored areas) provide suitable foraging and dispersal habitat. As such, trail construction, use, and maintenance must account for protection of this sensitive species and the restored habitats upon which it is dependent. Interpretative signs describing the presence of sensitive species and habitat, as well as associated trail use restrictions would be installed.<sup>4</sup> The locations of these signs would include at a minimum the vehicle turnaround, bridge crossing and upper instream crossing point.

Signs would also include a description of agricultural activities on Baron Ranch and the importance of trail users avoiding intrusion into active agricultural areas, as well as the need to respect agricultural support facilities such as wells and reservoirs. Such signs would be posted at the proposed turnaround and at the entry gate.

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<sup>4</sup> Trail use restrictions shall be noted at the trail kiosk and include the prohibitions on disturbance or take of any wildlife species from the site, as well as the introduction of any new animal or plant specimens into Baron Ranch. Trail restrictions shall be consistent with those regulations designed to protect federally endangered species, USFWS designated critical habitat, and the areas protected under the Baron Ranch Conservation Easement.

As detailed in the sections above, up to three gates would also be installed: 1) at the driveway of the private home near the existing ranch entrance, 2) at the current vehicle bridge crossing of the creek, and 3) a new ranch gate west of the proposed turnaround. Natural vegetation would also be installed where needed to keep trail users away from agricultural land or sensitive habitat areas.

## 1.5 TRAIL ACCESS AND USE

The proposed Baron Ranch Trail would be primarily accessible from the south via the Calle Real trailhead. However, upon opening of the realigned trail to multi-purpose use, access would also be provided from the north via the West Camino Cielo jeepway, which connects to Gaviota State Park approximately 8 miles to the west. Future users of the proposed Baron Ranch Trail are anticipated to primarily use the existing trailhead at the end of the Calle Real frontage road north of U.S. Highway 101; however, non-motorized trail use would also be retained from the northern trailhead.

## 1.6 PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

Although the majority of the proposed Trail would follow existing roads, Project construction would require clearing limited areas of native vegetation and earthwork, particularly for vehicle turnaround construction. Project construction equipment would include a bull dozer to grade the turnaround area and dump trucks to haul in gravel. A qualified cultural resources monitor shall be present during construction/improvement activities at the turnaround. Pipelines proximate and within the proposed turnaround are identified in the field with signage and would require pre-construction notification to the easement grantees prior to commencement of any grading or development activities. Bridge construction would require equipment such as a crane, backhoe, haul truck and cement mixer. Trail construction may require use of a 36-inch-wide Kubota K-008 tractor, a 4x4 small haul truck, compressors, hammer drills, shovels, pickaxes, chainsaws, loppers, pry bars, pulaskis, and other standard trail construction equipment. This equipment could also be used for installation of fencing, gates and signs. Trail grooming and maintenance would be performed over a period of approximately two weeks, while bridge installation would require between 30 to 60 days as further described below. When completed, the Trail would meet both County and USFS trail guidelines and would be Pack-and-Saddle class, capable of safe multiple use. Trail grades would often be gentle and generally not more than 8 to 10 percent with short grades not exceeding 15 percent.

**Table 1: Techniques to Minimize Potential Impacts and Maintenance of the Trail**

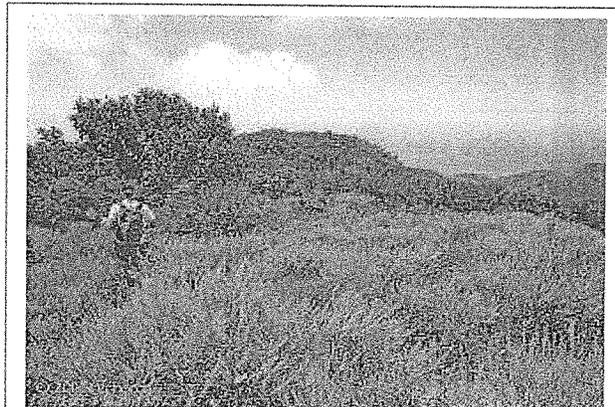
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Outsloping of road bed 5-8% to allow water to flow off the Trail</li><li>• Use of rolling grade dips rather than water bars to create larger basins for the water to drain off the Trail</li><li>• Targeted eradication of existing invasive species in trail corridor during construction</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Maintenance of wider area of existing road width for passing</li><li>• Speed control through the use of choke points especially along trail sections with poor lines of sight, and steeper grades</li><li>• Cleaning of equipment before and after use, and other techniques to minimize weed</li></ul>
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introduction

Trail work associated with bridge installation and implementation of the proposed turnaround would be scheduled to occur over a period ranging between 30 to 60 construction days outside of the high fire hazard season. Construction within the creek corridor will avoid the rainy season (November-April) to avoid the primary dispersal and breeding seasons of the California red-legged frog and to ensure protection of designated critical habitat and this federally threatened species. However, construction activities outside of the creek corridor may occur during the primary rainy season (November-April) to ensure workability of the soil and reduce the risk of fire hazards. The proposed Trail would be constructed to incorporate features that minimize erosion, limit downstream sedimentation, and reduce ongoing maintenance requirements utilizing erosion control and minimization BMPs that control water flow down and across the Trail (Table 1). Design would also include features to minimize conflicts between different user groups and enhance user safety. In addition, trail construction would include weed eradication and control practices to minimize the spread of non-native species along the trail corridor. During construction of the proposed Project and implementation of trail improvement activities, pedestrian access to the Trail would be prohibited.

## 1.7 TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Trail maintenance is an ongoing requirement on any trail. Maintenance requirements would be reduced via measures taken during initial construction (refer to Table 1). However, trail maintenance would occur on approximately 5-year cycles, with annual maintenance required during the first 3 years as the Trail adjusts to prevailing conditions. Maintenance would focus on trail tread repair, erosion control, sign and native vegetation maintenance, but would also include targeted removal of invasive weed species. Minor erosion control improvements would be required along the realigned trail as needed. Additionally, minimal grooming and resurfacing of the realigned segment of the trail would be required to ensure a safe trail surface and minimize erosion.



*The Trails Council, working with the County Parks Division, proposes to fund and perform routine maintenance of the Baron Ridge Trail.*

The County Parks Division will be responsible for all Trail maintenance activities. Trail maintenance would be performed by experienced trail crews supplemented by non-profit volunteers such as the Trails Council.

## 2.0 PROJECT LOCATION

The Project is situated along the Gaviota Coast in the Arroyo Quemado Canyon approximately 2.5 miles west of Refugio State Beach on U.S. Highway 101. The Project is located at 14550

Calle Real on Santa Barbara County lands, and Project activities would take place within the County right-of-way, the Transportation Corridor of the U.S. Highway 101, and within Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 081-150-032, 081-100-005, 081-090-009, and 081-090-007. The Tajiguas Landfill is located to the west, federally owned lands of the LPNF are located to the north, private lands are located to the east, and the U.S. Highway 101 and residential community of Arroyo Quemada to the south.

Site Information	
Comprehensive Plan Designation	<i>A-II-100 (Inland) A-II-320 (Coastal Zone) and U.S. Highway 101 Transportation Corridor</i>
Zoning District, Ordinance	<i>100-AG-0 Agriculture (Inland), 100-AG AG-II-320 Agriculture II   Minimum 320 acres (Coastal Zone) Transportation Corridor (TC)</i>
Site Size	<i>Approximately 1.35 mile long realignment, 3,320 sf vehicle turnaround</i>
Present Use & Development	<i>Agricultural Orchards, Recreational Open Space</i>
Surrounding Uses/Zoning	<i>North: Agriculture Commercial, LPNF Lands South: Transportation Corridor, Rural Residential East: Agriculture Commercial, Single Private Residence West: Agriculture Commercial, Tajiguas Landfill</i>
Access	<i>U.S. Highway 101, Baron Ranch via Calle Real</i>
Public Services	<i>Water Supply: On-site wells Sewage: On-site septic system Fire: Santa Barbara County Fire Department, LPNF U.S. Forest Service (During high fire season) Other: Electricity (Southern California Edison)</i>

### 3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

#### 3.1 PHYSICAL SETTING

##### Slope/Topography

The Project area lies within Arroyo Quemado Canyon, in the more gently sloped riparian areas along the Creek, approximately 50 feet above mean sea level. The southern landing area for the proposed bridge installment is located west of the intersection of the Baron Ranch service road and the paved Baron Ranch trailhead access road. The northern landing is located near the outside edge of a dirt agricultural access road. Sheet flows within the vicinity drain to the west and north, to the top of the bank in the southern landing area.

##### Fauna and Flora

The habitats and wildlife resources within the Project area reflect those found within the coastal and riparian areas of southern California. The area is primarily dominated by vegetation communities including *Ceanothus megacarpus* chaparral, coast live oak woodlands, southern coast live oak riparian forest, and Venturan coastal sage scrub. In total, thirteen (13) vegetation communities are present within the canyon and support a wide range of wildlife species typical of coastal, riparian, grassland, and woodland habitats. The Arroyo Quemado watershed is drained by the Arroyo Quemado Creek, which supports a healthy riparian forest and provides habitat for several sensitive species, as well as the federally threatened California red-legged

Frog (*Rana draytonii*). In addition, the Arroyo Quemado watershed is believed to have historically supported populations of the federal endangered Steelhead Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and the federally endangered Tidewater Goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*), but drainage culverts located at the U.S. Highway 101 are the primary barrier to access to the watershed.

#### Archaeological Sites

The coastal bluffs and inland canyons and watershed along the Gaviota Coast have been occupied by humans dating back as far as 9,000 years. The earliest inhabitants of the region were the Native American group known as the Chumash, and archaeological investigations of the Project region has shown evidence of existing shell mounds, material deposits, a stone shelter, and other cultural findings suggestive of pre-historic occupation of the region (County of Santa Barbara 2015). An archaeological investigation was conducted for the Baron Ranch Restoration Area which was exclusive to Arroyo Quemado Canyon and one prehistoric site was identified along the west side of the Creek (2015).

#### Soils

The southern proposed parking lot would be generally located within existing road shoulders and along an existing residential asphalt driveway. The area surrounding the site is largely disturbed and underlain by fill soils which consist of medium density clay/silty sand and sand silt. The slope of the area ranges between 10 to 15 percent and is proposed for minimal cut (40 cubic yards) and fill (110 cubic yards).

#### Surface Water Bodies

The proposed Project is within Arroyo Quemado Canyon on the southern slopes of the Santa Ynez Mountains, along the Gaviota Coast. The Arroyo Quemado watershed is drained by Arroyo Quemado Creek, an intermittent stream with pools in several locations which hold water and support aquatic and riparian species year round. An additional surface water body would include the reservoir located on the west side of the canyon, which supplies water for agricultural operations of Baron Ranch.

#### Surrounding Land Uses

The Project area is located on the County-owned lands of Baron Ranch, which are currently designated as Agriculture, and is surrounded by Agriculture and Agricultural Commercial land uses to the north and west. South of the Project area, along U.S. Highway 101 and the coast, the area at the mouth of the Creek is designated for Rural Residential use and within a Rural Neighborhood land use overlay designation. Adjacent to Arroyo Quemado Canyon to the west is the Tajiguas Landfill which is owned and operated by Santa Barbara County. Located on the eastern ridge of the canyon is a single unit private residence approximately 1,171 feet from the existing shoulder parking area.

#### Existing Structures

The Project area currently consists of County-owned agricultural lands with minimal development. Dirt roads provide access throughout Baron Ranch while installed gates deter public access to several agricultural access roads. One 2,100 square foot agricultural support structure exists within the Project area, located approximately 4,090 feet north of U.S. Highway

101 and 260 feet west of the Creek, and established agricultural infrastructure is located adjacent to the creek. In an effort to consolidate agricultural operations at Baron Ranch, the County is currently proposing relocation of existing agricultural support facilities to the east of the Creek.

### 3.2 ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

The environmental baseline from which the project’s impacts are measured consists of the physical environmental conditions in the vicinity of the project, as described above Section 1.1, *Background*.

### 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

Baron Ranch is located in the County owned agricultural coastal regions of the Gaviota Coast, approximately 21 miles west of the Santa Barbara City limits on U.S. Highway 101. The site is characterized by the Arroyo Quemado Canyon which consists primarily of chaparral, coast live oak woodland and riparian habitats consistent with both the southern California coastal regions

and the Santa Ynez Mountains. Much of the area is used for agricultural activities, and much of the canyon consists of avocado and cherimoya orchards. The Project area provides distant views of the northern-most Channel Islands (i.e. Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, and San Miguel) on clear days, especially from higher elevation ridges and hillsides accessible via the Baron Ranch Trail, and scenic views of the Pacific Ocean are available from many locations in the Project area.

The immediate Project area is located at the southern extent of Arroyo Quemado Canyon, along the more gently sloped southern facing hillsides of the canyon. Arroyo Quemado Canyon extends north, into the southern expanses of the Santa Ynez Mountains, where elevation quickly rises as slopes become prominently steeper. Arroyo Quemado Creek traverses the central canyon. The southern extent of the Arroyo Quemado watershed consists of large clusters of orchards along Arroyo Quemado, as well as along the canyon slopes, but the northern extent of the watershed is dominated by native chaparral and oak woodland habitat.

### 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 impact 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. Less Than Significant.** Implementation of the proposed Project would result in improvements to the access and usability of the Baron Ranch Trail. The Project would include the clearing of vegetation and the tree-limbing of a single mature sycamore tree for the placement of large concrete support structures and a 65-foot-long by 8-foot-wide pre-fabricated bridge over Arroyo Quemado Creek. The proposed turnaround area would require limited grading and removal of primarily weedy vegetation within County right-of-way along Calle Real. Aside from the improved parking area and new gates located at the proposed turnaround, Project components would not be visible from Highway 101, the primary public viewing area. Improvements to the Baron Ranch Trail and would be consistent with the existing visual character of the Trail and surrounding rural-agricultural land uses. Such improvements would use similar materials as surrounding ranch entrances (wood, earthen toned stones, wrought iron), agricultural operation security fencing (e.g., wire or pipe rail), and ancillary directional signage (typically of wood materials) specific rural land holdings. The primary visual character of the site is rural/agricultural. The proposed Project seeks to relocate a portion of the Baron Ranch Trail to an existing dirt access road, which would ultimately reduce the potential for trail users to disrupt orchard operations. Implementation of the proposed Project would preserve the natural and agricultural character of the Project area, and would increase the ability for public use of the Trail and access to these valuable scenic and visual resources. Therefore, the existing visual character would be maintained and implementation of the Project would result in less than significant impact.

**c, d. No Impact.** The proposed Project does not include development or construction of structures or additional sources of lighting. Construction of the Project would not produce a

significant sources of lighting or glare, and operation of the Trail would limit use to daytime hours. Light may be generated from the vehicles of trail users nearing the sunset hours of the day, but these sources of light would not generate a significant amount of light or glare. Therefore, the proposed Project would not generate glare or night lighting, nor would it result in the construction of visually incompatible structures and the Project would have no impact.

Cumulative Impacts

Implementation of the proposed Project would result in localized, short-term construction-related impacts to visual resources. Long-term impacts to visual resources would be less than significant and would not contribute considerably to any adverse cumulative impacts with regard to visual resources.

Required Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts have been identified. Therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

**4.2 AGRICULTURAL 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	

Existing Setting

Agricultural lands play a critical economic and environmental role in Santa Barbara County. Agriculture continues to be Santa Barbara County’s major producing industry with a gross production value of over \$1 billion (Santa Barbara County 2007 Crop Production Report). In addition to the creation of food, jobs, and economic value, farmland provides valuable open space and maintains the County’s rural character. All of Baron Ranch consists of agriculture zoned lands and approximately 20 percent of the Ranch property is used for avocado and cherimoya orchards. Historical uses of the lands within Arroyo Quemado Canyon include agricultural production and livestock grazing within the southern extents of the canyon.

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.** Trail realignment and construction of the vehicle turnaround would not take place on prime farmland designated by the California Department of Conservation’s Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP). Along the Baron Ranch Trail, FMMP-designated Prime and Unique Farmlands extended along the Creek and side valleys of Arroyo Quemado Canyon. The Baron Ranch Trail parallels Arroyo Quemado Creek and overlays portions of these prime and unique farmlands. However, trail improvements and realignment would take place on the existing Baron Ranch Trail and existing agricultural access roads, and would not result in any conversion of prime farmlands or conflict with any lands currently under Williamson Act contract. The proposed bridge crossing would be installed in portions of the southernmost extent of the Arroyo Quemado Canyon prime farmlands. Concrete supports would be constructed outside of the riparian corridor, along the creek bank where agricultural operations are not viable, and installation of the bridge would not result in the conversion of prime farmlands for non-agricultural use. Construction of the proposed turnaround would take place within a presently disturbed area and along the existing residential driveway located at the main entrance to Baron Ranch. This area is currently built with paved road surfaces for a residential driveway and is dominated by weeds and non-native vegetation with intermixed coastal sage scrub habitat adjacent to disturbed areas. This area provides little to no agricultural or grazing opportunities. Therefore, the proposed Project would not convert any prime agricultural land for non-agricultural use, nor would it affect any important farmlands, and the Project would have no impact on these resources.

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 issue constitutes a significant effect at the project level. In this instance, the Project has been found not to exceed the threshold of significance for agricultural resources. In addition, the County has proposed to focus agricultural operations to the east side of the Creek, granting the west side to full habitat restoration and trail access. Therefore, the Project’s contribution to the regionally significant loss of agricultural resources is not considerable, and its cumulative effect on regional agriculture is less than significant.

Required Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts have been identified. Therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

**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, 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	

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
c. Extensive dust generation?			X		
<b>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</b>					
d. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			X		
e. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			X		

Existing Setting

The proposed Project is located in 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 18 monitoring stations throughout their jurisdiction that monitor air quality in the County (Santa Barbara County APCD 2016). The air quality monitoring station closest to the Project is the El Capitan monitoring station, located approximately 5.4 miles east near El Capitan State Beach. This station measures ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), nitric oxide (NO), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), sulfur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>), total hydrocarbons (THC) and particulate matter less than or equal to 10 micrometers in diameter (PM<sub>10</sub>). The nearest station that monitors carbon monoxide (CO) and particulate matter less than or equal to 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) is the Goleta monitoring station, located approximately 16.5 miles east at 380 N. Fairview Ave. in Goleta. In 2014, several air monitoring stations, including the El Capitan and Goleta stations, recorded ozone concentrations which exceeded federal standards and particulate matter concentrations which exceeded state standards. As such, Santa Barbara County has a non-attainment status for the state 8-hour ozone standard and the state 24-hour PM<sub>10</sub> standard (Santa Barbara County APCD 2015).

County Environmental Thresholds

Chapter 5 of the Santa Barbara County Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (as amended in 2015) addresses the subject of air quality. The thresholds provide that a proposed project will not have a significant impact on air quality if operation of the project will:

- emit (from all project sources, mobile and stationary), less than the daily trigger for offsets for any pollutant (currently 55 pounds per day for NO<sub>x</sub> and reactive organic compounds (ROC), and 80 pounds per day for PM<sub>10</sub>);
- emit less than 25 pounds per day of oxides of nitrogen (NO<sub>x</sub>) or ROC from motor vehicle trips only;
- not cause or contribute to a violation of any California or National Ambient Air Quality Standard (except O<sub>3</sub>);
- 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 short-term 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).

### Impact Discussion

**a, c. Less than Significant.** Improvements to the Baron Ranch Trail would involve the construction of a bridge, minor grading of a 3,320 sf gravel vehicle turnaround, and installation of several signs and gates along the Trail and dirt ranch access roads. The proposed bridge installment is located approximately 1.13 miles northwest and the proposed turnaround is located 0.76 miles northwest from the U.S. Highway 101 exit onto Calle Real. The nearest sensitive receptors include the single private residence located approximately 1,500 feet up the slope from the proposed turnaround and the residences located across U.S. Highway 101 approximately 1,100 feet from the proposed turnaround. Equipment required to complete the bridge installation and slope grading for the parking turnaround area would include light trucks, a bull dozer, a small crane, backhoe, cement mixer, tractor, and other small construction equipment (e.g., hammer drills, pickaxes, chainsaws, shovels, etc.).

Project-related construction activities would require grading that has been minimized to the maximum extent possible under the circumstances. Earth moving operations in the Project area would not have the potential to result in significant Project-specific short-term emissions of fugitive dust and PM<sub>10</sub> with the implementation of standard dust control measures that are required for all new development in the County. 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 onsite and offsite.

Emissions of O<sub>3</sub> precursors (NO<sub>x</sub> and ROC) during Project construction would result primarily from the onsite use of heavy earthmoving equipment. Due to the limited period of time that grading activities would occur in the Project area, construction-related emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> and ROC would not be significant on a Project-specific or cumulative basis. However, due to the non-attainment status of the air basin for O<sub>3</sub>, the Project would implement measures recommended by the APCD to reduce construction-related emissions of O<sub>3</sub> precursors to the extent feasible. Compliance with these measures is routinely required for all new development in the County.

Due to the small scale of the Project and current regulations required for construction activities, impacts to air quality resulting from the generation of dust, and the construction and operation of the Project would be less than significant.

**b. No Impact.** The proposed Project would not result in new surface paving or other sources of objectionable odors during construction associated with implementation of the bridge crossing, trail realignment, and proposed turnaround. Additionally, the Project would not result in the generation of smoke or ash during construction of the Project or operation of the Trail. Project implementation would permit equestrian use along the Baron Ranch Trail, which may result in

potential generation of equestrian-related odors. Odors associated with trail use by equestrians would not result in a significant impact to sensitive receptors as the Project area is not within vicinity of a substantial number of people; therefore, it is anticipated that the Project would have no impact in this regard.

Cumulative Impacts

The Project has been found not to exceed the significance criteria for air quality. Therefore, the Project’s contribution to regionally significant air pollutant emissions is not cumulatively considerable, and its cumulative effect is less than significant.

Required Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts have been identified. Therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

**4.4 AIR QUALITY - GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

Greenhouse Gas Emissions - Will the project:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			X		
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			X		

Existing Setting

Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), and nitrogen trifluoride (NF<sub>3</sub>). The largest source of greenhouse gas emissions from human activities in the United States is from fossil fuel combustion for electricity, heat, and transportation. Specifically, the *Inventory of U.S. Greenhouse Gases and Sinks* (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2013) states that the primary sources of greenhouse gas emissions in 2013 included electricity production (31percent), transportation (27 percent), industry (21 percent), commercial and residential (12 percent), and agriculture (9 percent). This release of gases creates a blanket around the earth that allows light to pass through but traps heat at the surface, preventing its escape into space. While this is a naturally occurring process known as “the greenhouse effect,” there is strong evidence to support that human activities have accelerated the generation of greenhouse gases beyond natural levels. The overabundance of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has led to a warming of the earth and has the potential to severely impact the earth’s climate system. For instance, Santa Barbara County is projected to experience an increase in the number of wildfires, land vulnerable to 100-year flood events, and temperature increases, even under a low-emissions scenario (California Energy Commission 2015).

Climate change results from greenhouse gas emissions “...generated globally over many decades by a vast number of different sources” rather than from greenhouse gas emissions generated by any one project (County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development 2008). As

defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15355 and discussed in Section 15130, "...a cumulative impact consists of an impact which is created as a result of the combination of the [proposed] project...evaluated...together with other projects causing related impacts." Therefore, by definition, climate change under CEQA is a cumulative impact.

#### County Environmental Thresholds

CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(a) states,

Lead agencies may analyze and mitigate the significant effects of greenhouse gas emissions at a programmatic level, such as in...a separate plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Later project-specific environmental documents may tier from...that existing programmatic review...a lead agency may determine that a project's incremental contribution to a cumulative effect is not cumulatively considerable if the project complies with the requirements in a previously adopted plan...

In May 2015, the County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors adopted the *Energy and Climate Action Plan* (ECAP) (County of Santa Barbara Long Range Planning Division 2015) and certified the accompanying EIR (SCH# 20144021021) (PMC 2015). The ECAP meets the criteria in CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b) for a "plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions." The ECAP commits the County to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent below 2007 levels by 2020 consistent with the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32) and the related *Climate Change Scoping Plan* (California Air Resources Board 2008).

The ECAP included a greenhouse gas emissions forecast for unincorporated Santa Barbara County to 2020. The growth estimates used in the emissions forecast came from the *Santa Barbara County Regional Growth Forecast 2005-2040* (Santa Barbara County Association of Governments 2007) and incorporated 2010 U.S. Census data where available. The estimates were based on factors such as population projections, vehicle trends, and planned land uses. The sources of greenhouse gas emissions included various sectors, such as transportation, residential energy, commercial energy, off-road, solid waste, agriculture, water and wastewater, industrial energy, and aircraft. As a result, most residential and commercial projects that are consistent with the County's zoning (in 2007) were included in the forecast. However, certain projects were not included in the emissions forecast, such as stationary source projects (e.g., large boilers, gas stations, auto body shops, dry cleaners, and water treatment facilities), Comprehensive Plan amendments, and community plans that exceed the County's projected population and job growth, due to uncertainty in forecasting their greenhouse gas emissions. Projects not included in the forecast must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.4(a) states "A lead agency should make a good-faith effort, based to the extent possible on scientific and factual data, to describe, calculate or estimate the amount of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from a project." CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.4(b) further states,

A lead agency should consider the following factors, among others, when assessing the significance of impacts from greenhouse gas emissions on the environment:

- (1) The extent to which the project may increase or reduce greenhouse gas emissions as compared to the existing environmental setting;

(2) Whether the project emissions exceed a threshold of significance that the lead agency determines applies to the project...

A lead agency may determine that a project's incremental contribution to an existing cumulatively significant issue, such as climate change, is not significant based on supporting facts and analysis [CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(a)(2)]. A project's contribution to a significant cumulative impact will be rendered less than significant if the project is required to implement or fund its fair share of a mitigation measure designed to alleviate the cumulative impact [CEQA Guidelines Section 15130(a)(3)]. Such determinations must be based on analysis in the environmental document with substantial evidence to demonstrate that the required mitigation represents the project's "fair-share" contribution towards alleviating the cumulative impact.

### Impact Discussion

**a, b. Less than Significant.** The proposed Project was not forecasted in the ECAP. Implementation of the Project would result in the generation of GHGs during Project construction activities, including excavation and grading of fill material for the implementation of the proposed bridge installment and vehicle turnaround. Project construction would take place over an estimated period of 60 days. However, 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. Furthermore, implementation of the Project would not include the development of facilities that would result in direct consumption of fossil fuels or indirect operational GHG emissions. Consequently, the proposed Project's short-term construction-related GHG emissions would be minor and would not be significant.

Operation of Baron Ranch would not result in direct generation of GHGs. Opening of the Trail seven days a week to additional trail users would generate minimal trips (approximately 39 ADTs) that would be less than development projects that typically have potentially significant impacts. Further the County currently does not have specific quantified GHG emission thresholds for non-industrial development such as the proposed Project. Additionally, the proposed Project would not conflict with any other plans, policies, or regulations of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. Therefore, incremental increases to GHG emissions from recreational trail users accessing the Baron Ranch Trail would be less than significant.

### Cumulative Impacts

The proposed Project's total greenhouse gas emissions would be incremental, as Project implementation would result in additional development along an existing recreational trail which would not generate a significant and sustained source of GHG emissions. Therefore, the Project's incremental contribution to a cumulative effect is not cumulatively considerable and the Project's greenhouse gas emissions will not have a significant impact on the environment.

### Required Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts have been identified. Therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

**4.5 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
<b>Flora</b>					
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 or horticultural if of habitat value?			X		
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		
<b>Fauna</b>					
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			
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		

Background and Methods

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.

The Project area is located along the Gaviota coastline, just east of and adjacent to the Tajiguas landfill on property owned and operated by Santa Barbara County. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared for the proposed Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project in 2009 (County of Santa Barbara 2009). A Biological Assessment/Biological Resources Technical Report (EcoSystem Restoration Associates [ERA] 2008) and supporting biological surveys were performed as a part of this effort for the Baron Ranch Restoration Project, which includes the Project area and surrounding vicinity (County of Santa Barbara 2009). These documents, along with a previous Biological Assessment (Hunt & Associates 2001) for the Tajiguas

landfill, have been used to support the description of the existing conditions at the Project area provided below. Additionally, Amec Foster Wheeler and County staff visited the Project area on 17 November 2015 and 10 March 2016 to review the conceptual Project plans and confirm existing conditions at the Project area.

### Regional Setting

The Gaviota coastline and general Project area is located in the western half of the Santa Barbara Channel region, which supports a wide variety of habitats. Regionally, within the vicinity of the Project area there is a general elevational zonation of the upland vegetation from the beach through the coastal plain and foothills up the southern slopes of the Santa Ynez Mountains. Native vegetative habitats in the area include coastal strand, coastal bluff, coastal sage scrub, grassland, oak savanna, oak woodland, chaparral, and riparian woodland. Non-native habitats include ruderal vegetation (non-native weeds growing in disturbed areas) and cultivated areas. The various vegetation habitats in turn support a wide array of wildlife species.

The Project area is located in the Tajiguas Creek-Frontal Santa Barbara Channel sub-watershed (Hydrologic Unit Code [HUC] 180600130105; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [USEPA] 2016), which includes approximately 90 square miles. The Project area is located along Arroyo Quemado Creek, an ephemeral creek which drains an area of approximately 2.85 square miles. Originating in the chaparral of LPNF, the creek flows down the steep slope in the upper reach. In the lower reach, the slope decreases and traverses through avocado and cherimoya orchards, which include planted orchards along the valley floor and up many of the side canyons. A dirt road provides ranch access to orchard operations along the west side of the Creek, north of the Project area.

As part of the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project EIR, approximately 50 acres of Baron Ranch are designated for native plant restoration and approximately 30 acres of the creek and adjacent areas are proposed to be permanently protected in a conservation easement. Included in the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project, USFWS approved biologists captured, tagged, and translocated California red-legged frogs from the Tajiguas Landfill property to existing and enhanced pool habitat in Arroyo Quemado in Baron Ranch under a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued Biological Opinion in compliance with Section 7 of the ESA. Numerous pools are present within the Creek, including one pool located within the vicinity of the area of development.

### Flora

Vegetation communities and land cover types were identified at Baron Ranch during development of the Baron Ranch Restoration Plan. The Biological Assessment/Biological Resources Technical Report prepared in support of the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project relied on field surveys conducted during 2008, 2000, and 1998 (County of Santa Barbara 2009; ERA 2008; Hunt & Associates 2001). Vegetation and land cover types within the Project area include:

- *Ceanothus megacarpus* chaparral;

- Coast live oak woodland;
- Developed areas;
- Freshwater marsh;
- Orchard;
- Native grassland;
- Open water;
- Ruderal;
- Southern coast live oak riparian forest,
- Southern willow scrub;
- Venturan coastal sage scrub;
- Venturan coastal sage scrub-disturbed; and
- Bare ground/roads.

Coast live oak woodland, freshwater marsh, native grassland, open water, southern coast live oak riparian forest, and southern willow scrub are all designated as sensitive vegetation community types by Holland (1986) and/or Santa Barbara County (1992, updated 2008).

A CNDDDB data search was performed for the Project area. Sensitive plant species with the potential to occur within the Project area include those described below in Table 2.

**Table 2: Observed Special Status Plant Species within the 1-Mile Vicinity of the Project Area**

Common Name	Species Name	Federal Status	State Status	CRPR	Potential to Occur
Plants					
Refugio manzanita	<i>Arcostaphylos refugioensis</i>	-	-	1B.2	Low
Davidson's saltscale	<i>Atriplex serenana</i> var. <i> davidsonii</i>	-	-	1B.2	Low
Plummer's baccharis	<i>Baccharis plummerae</i>	-	-	4.3	Observed
Late-flowered mariposa-lily	<i>Calochortus fimbriatus</i>	-	-	1B.2	Low
Seaside bird's-beak	<i>Cordylanthus rigidus</i> ssp. <i> littoralis</i>	-	E	1B.1	Low
Gaviota tarplant	<i>Deinandra increscens</i> ssp. <i> villosa</i>	E	E	1B.1	Low
Ojai fritillary	<i>Fritillaria ojaiensis</i>	-	-	1B.2	Low
Santa Barbara honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera subspicata</i> var. <i> subspicata</i>	-	-	1B.2	Observed
White-veined monardella	<i>Monardella hypoleuca</i> ssp. <i> hypoleuca</i>	-	-	1B.3	Low
Chaparral ragwort	<i>Senecio aphanactis</i>	-	-	2B.2	Moderate
Hoffman's nightshade	<i>Solanum xanti</i> var. <i> hoffmannii</i>	-	-	CBR	Observed
Sonoran maiden fern	<i>Thelypteris puberula</i> var. <i> sonorensis</i>	-	-	2B.2	Moderate
Notes: California Native Plant Society (CNPS) California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 1B.1: Seriously endangered in California 1B.2: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere 2B.2: Fairly endangered in California 4.3: Plants of Limited Distribution - A Watch List CBR: Considered But Rejected					
Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) 2016a; CDFW 2016b; CNPS 2016; County of Santa Barbara 2009; ERA 2008.					

As a result of approval and implementation of the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project, restoration within Baron Ranch is ongoing, with planting of native vegetation communities, including southern coast live oak riparian forest, southern coast live oak woodland, southern willow scrub, freshwater marsh, *Ceanothus megacarpus* chaparral, and Venturan coastal sage scrub. A total of approximately 50 acres of restoration is occurring to provide mitigation for the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration Project and partial mitigation for the Tajiguas Landfill Expansion Project. Restoration also includes compensatory mitigation for the loss of individual sensitive plant species in the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration area including Plummer's baccharis (*Baccharis plummerae*), which has been incorporated into the Venturan coastal sage scrub habitat restoration as well as Santa Barbara honeysuckle (*Lonicera subspicata* var. *denudate*) and Hoffman's nightshade (*Solanum xanti* var. *hoffmannii*), which have been included in the coast live oak woodland restoration (County of Santa Barbara 2009). Monitoring and control of highly invasive plant species is also currently ongoing (County of Santa Barbara 2009). To date, approximately 50 acres of agricultural and disturbed areas have been successfully restored to native habitat and more than 30,000 trees and shrubs have been installed. Based on data from the most current monitoring effort, more than 90 percent of all plantings are alive and thriving (Ecological Conservation & Management 2016).

#### Wetlands

The USFWS National Wetland Inventory (NWI) depicts potential riverine, freshwater pond, and freshwater forested / shrub wetlands within the main channels and tributaries of Arroyo Quemado Creek (USFWS 2016). In addition, as a part of the county-sponsored restoration, an area of 1.3 acres of a disturbed former quarry area was developed as fresh water marsh.

#### Fauna

The majority of the Project area is of high value for wildlife species, excluding the disturbed, ruderal, and developed lands. Sage scrub communities can provide habitat to a variety of wildlife species for food and cover. Rock outcrops can provide valuable habitat to a variety of wildlife for cover, foraging, perching, nesting, and denning. Riparian and woodland communities can provide food, water, thermal cover, escape, nesting, and migration and dispersal corridors for an abundance of wildlife. Freshwater marsh and open water communities can provide valuable habitat to a variety of wildlife for food, cover, and water. Ruderal land and bare ground provides relatively little value to most wildlife species because these areas are devoid of vegetation or are vegetated with annual weedy plant species of limited food, water, and cover value. Wildlife surveys were conducted by EcoSystems Restoration Associates through the summer of 2007 and late spring of 2008, including a focused daytime habitat assessment and nighttime survey for California red-legged frogs (*Rana aurora draytonii*) and other sensitive aquatic vertebrates in support of the Biological Assessment (ERA 2008) for the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project.

**Invertebrates.** The distribution of invertebrates is generally defined by the presence of their larval food plants and suitable habitat and environmental conditions. Within the Project area, coastal sage scrub, riparian, woodland, rocky outcrops, exposed ridgelines, freshwater marsh, ponds, and creeks all provide important habitat, water and dispersal corridors for many invertebrate species. Thirteen butterfly species have been observed in the vicinity of the Project area during surveys conducted by ERA biologists in 2007 and 2008, including monarch butterfly

(*Danaus plexippus*). Monarch butterfly roost sites are known within blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) groves at the mouth of the Creek (Meade 1999).

**Fish.** Currently, the Creek does not have adequate water to support native fish populations year-round. Under normal conditions, the creek contains adequate water flow during the rainy season that often runs into the summer season. Under normal conditions, the creek often contains springs or pools within the channel that provide year-round surface water. Additionally, significant fish passage barriers exist between the Pacific Ocean and the upper reaches of the creek; particularly the drainage culvert beneath U.S. Highway 101, and the Union Pacific Railroad culvert. However, the Creek may have historically supported winter runs of federally endangered southern steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). Additionally, the federally endangered tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) has been reported from the mouth of the Creek, but is prevented from occurring at Baron Ranch due to impassable fish barriers at U.S. Highway 101 and Union Pacific Railroad tracks (USFWS 2005).

**Amphibians.** All amphibians require moisture for at least a portion of their life cycle, with many requiring a permanent water source for habitat and reproduction. Some terrestrial amphibian species have adapted to more arid conditions and are not completely dependent on a perennial or standing source of water. Three amphibian species have been detected in the vicinity of the Project area, including two fairly common and widespread species, western toad (*Bufo boreas*), Pacific treefrog (*Hyla regilla*), and the federally threatened California red-legged frog. In addition, the Monterey salamander (*Ensatina eschscholtzii*) has been observed in the vicinity of the Tajiguas Landfill area in Pila Creek during a biological survey preceding basin maintenance (County of Santa Barbara 2009).

**Reptiles.** Many reptile species are restricted to certain vegetation communities and soil types, although certain species will occur in a variety of habitats and environmental conditions. Many species occurring in open areas use rodent burrows and rocky outcroppings for foraging opportunities and for cover and protection from predators and extreme weather conditions. During surveys conducted in the vicinity of the Project area, reptile observations included such common species as side-blotch lizard (*Uta stansburiana*), western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), alligator lizard (*Elgaria multicarinatus*) and California whipsnake (*Masticophis lateralis lateralis*). Other reptile species observed during previous surveys in the vicinity at the nearby Tajiguas Landfill include western skink (*Eumeces skiltonianus*) and terrestrial garter snake (*Thamnophis elegans*) (Hunt & Associates 2001). Two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*) was observed in a sedimentation basin by Padre Associates' biologists as part of the sedimentation basin maintenance monitoring in 2006 and during a botanical survey in June 2008 (County of Santa Barbara 2009; ERA 2008). A southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*) was also encountered near the onsite creek corridor during a site visit by Amec Foster Wheeler and County staff (March 2016).

**Birds.** Many of the native habitat communities in the Project area are of high quality with minimal disturbances. Coastal sage scrub, woodland, riparian habitats, chaparral, freshwater marsh, and open water can all support a large number of bird species. Many raptor and passerine species will use the large trees associated with woodlands and riparian habitats for nesting activities and other bird species will use these areas for foraging, cover and dispersal opportunities. During the surveys conducted in 2007 and 2008 within the vicinity of the Project area, a total of 40 bird species were detected, which include year-round residents, winter or

summer visitors, or fall/spring migrants (County of Santa Barbara 2009; ERA 2008). Common birds observed in the immediate vicinity included turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), California thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*), western scrub jay (*Aphelocoma californica*) and Nuttall's woodpecker (*Picoides nuttallii*).

**Mammals.** The sage scrub, chaparral, riparian and oak woodlands, and sedimentation ponds are considered high value habitat for a variety of mammal species. The vegetation communities throughout the Project area provides high quality cover, foraging habitat, and denning sites for a variety of mammals. The creeks and agricultural reservoir supply a much needed water source and dirt roads provide larger animals with an alternative to steep, densely vegetated slopes. Relatively common species that have been observed, detected by sign, or are expected to occur within the vicinity of the Project area include desert cottontail (*Sylvilagus audubonii*), Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), bobcat (*Felis rufus*), grey fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), black bear (*Ursus americanus*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), and California black bear (*Ursus americanus californiensis*). A number of bat species may also use the Project area and surrounding vicinity as foraging habitat or for roosting within rocky outcroppings.

A CNDDDB data search was performed for the Project area. Sensitive wildlife located that could potentially inhabit the Project area include those described below in Table 3.

**Table 3: Special Status Wildlife Species within the 1-Mile Vicinity of the Project Area**

Common Name	Species Name	Federal Status	State Status	Other	Potential to Occur
<b>Invertebrates</b>					
Monarch butterfly	<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	-	-	USFS S	Observed
Fish					
Tidewater goby	<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>	E	-	CDFW SSC	Low
Southern steelhead	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i>	T	-	-	Low
<b>Amphibians</b>					
Coast Range newt	<i>Taricha torosa torosa</i>	-	-	CDFW SSC	Low
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana aurora draytonii</i>	T	-	CDFW SSC	Observed
Foothill yellow-legged frog	<i>Rana boylei</i>	-	-	CDFW SSC USFS S	Low
<b>Reptiles</b>					
Silvery legless lizard	<i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i>	-	-	CDFW SSC USFS S	Moderate
Southwestern pond turtle	<i>Clemmys marmorata pallida</i>	-	-	CDFW SSC USFS S	Observed
Coast horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii</i>	-	-	CDFW SSC	Low
Coast patchnosed snake	<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgultea</i>	-	-	CDFW SSC	Low
Two-striped garter snake	<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>	-	-	CDFW SSC USFS S	Observed

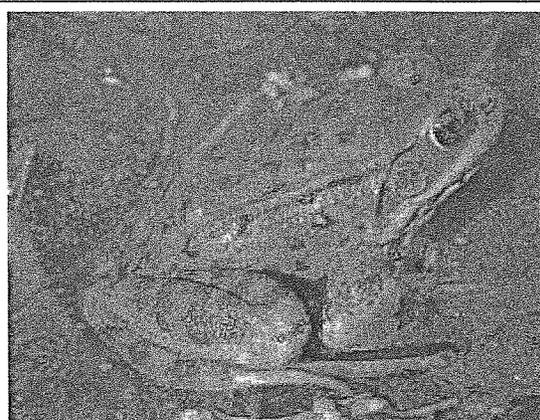
**Table 3: Special Status Wildlife Species within the 1-Mile Vicinity of the Project Area**

Common Name	Species Name	Federal Status	State Status	Other	Potential to Occur
<b>Birds</b>					
Cooper's hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	-	-	CDFW WL	High
Sharp-shinned hawk	<i>Accipiter striatus</i>	-	-	CDFW WL	High
Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow	<i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>	-	-	CDFW WL	Moderate
Grasshopper sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>	-	-	CDFW SSC	Low
Golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	BGEPA	-	CDFW FP CDFW WL USFWS BCC	Low
Ferruginous hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>	-	-	CDFW WL USFWS BCC	Low
Swainson's hawk	<i>Buteo swainsonii</i>	-	T	USFWS BCC	Low
Western snowy plover (coastal population)	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	T	-	CDFW SSC USFWS BCC	Low
Northern harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	-	-	CDFW SSC	Low
Yellow warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia brewsteri</i>	-	-	CDFW SSC USFWS BCC	Moderate
White-tailed kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	-	-	CDFW FP	Low
California horned lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>	-	-	CDFW WL	Moderate
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>	-	-	CDFW WL	Low
Prairie falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	-	-	CDFW WL USFWS BCC	Low
American peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	-	-	CDFW FP USFWS BCC	Low
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	BGEPA	E	CDFW FP USFS S USFWS BCC	Low
Yellow-breasted chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	-	-	CDFW SCC	Moderate
Loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	-	-	CDFW SSC USFWS BCC	Low
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	-	-	CDFW WL	Low
California brown pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis californicus</i>	-	-	CDFW FP USFS S	Low
Bank swallow	<i>Riparia riparia</i>	-	T	-	Low
Least Bell's vireo	<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	E	E	CDFW SSC	Low
<b>Mammals</b>					
Pallid bat	<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	-	-	CDFW SSC USFS S	Moderate
Townsend's bigeared bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii pallescens</i>	-	CT	CDFW SSC USFS S	Moderate
Spotted bat	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>	-	-	CDFW SSC	Moderate
San Diego desert woodrat	<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i>	-	-	CDFW SSC	High
Big free-tailed bat	<i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>	-	-	CDFW SSC	Moderate

**Table 3: Special Status Wildlife Species within the 1-Mile Vicinity of the Project Area**

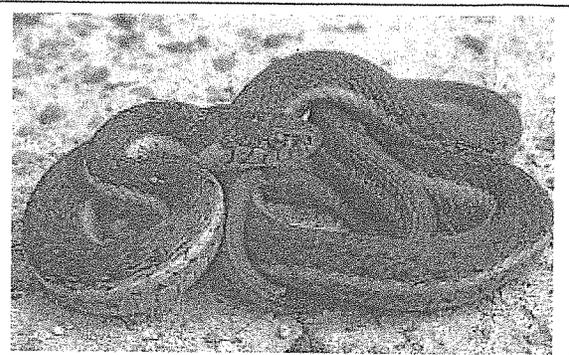
Common Name	Species Name	Federal Status	State Status	Other	Potential to Occur
American badger	Taxidea taxus	-	-	CDFW SSC	High
<p>Notes:</p> <p>Federal Status</p> <p>E: Endangered = Danger of extinction throughout range</p> <p>T: Threatened = Likely to become endangered in foreseeable future throughout range</p> <p>BGEPA: Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act = Protected from harassment and take under the BGEPA</p> <p>State Status:</p> <p>E: Endangered = Applies to a species whose survival and reproduction in the wild are in immediate jeopardy from one or more causes</p> <p>T: Threatened = Applies to a species that is existing in small numbers throughout all or a significant portion of its range that it may become endangered</p> <p>CT: Candidate Threatened = Candidate for listing under the California Endangered Species Act</p>		<p>Other:</p> <p>CDFW SSC: California Department of Fish and Wildlife Species of Special Concern</p> <p>CDFW WL: California Department of Fish and Wildlife Watchlist Species</p> <p>CDFW FP: California Department of Fish and Wildlife Fully Protected = Fully protected under the California Department of Fish and Game Code</p> <p>USFS S: U.S. Forest Service Sensitive = Considered a sensitive species by the USFS.</p> <p>Potential to Occur:</p> <p>Observed: Observed during biological surveys conducted as a part of the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project or included in active restoration within the Project area.</p> <p>High, Moderate, Low: As determined by previous biological surveys conducted as a part of the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project.</p>			
Sources: CDFW 2016b; CDFW 2016c; County of Santa Barbara 2009; ERA 2008; Hunt & Associates 2001.					

**California Red-legged Frog.** In surveys conducted in 2008, federally threatened California red-legged frogs were found within nearly every pooled area surveyed along a 2-mile stretch of the creek corridor, amounting to over 100 frogs (ERA 2008). Additionally, surveys in 2007, verified breeding pools with larvae and recently metamorphosed juvenile California red-legged frogs in the southern, more disturbed areas of the ranch (ERA 2008). Arroyo Quemado Creek has been federally designated as critical habitat for the California red-legged frog (USFWS 2016). Compensatory mitigation for the loss of California red-legged frog habitat as a result of the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration has been included in the Baron Ranch Restoration Plan. As a part of the California Red-Legged Frog Management Plan, pre-construction surveys and capture of California red-legged frogs occurred within the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration area. Individuals were translocated to the Creek on Baron Ranch. Habitat restoration for California red-legged frogs and translocation of frogs from the Tajiguas Landfill has been ongoing within the Project area for the past seven years.

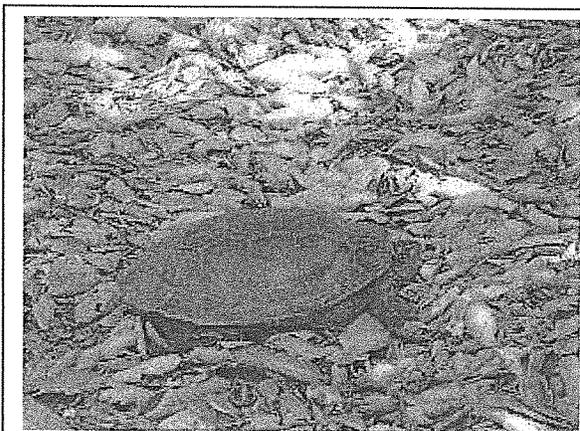


*The Project area has been federally designated as critical habitat for California red-legged frogs. Habitat restoration and transplants have been ongoing for the past four years as a result of the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project.*

**Two-striped garter snake.** The two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*) was observed in a sedimentation basin within the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration area by Padre Associates' biologists as part of the sedimentation basin maintenance monitoring in 2006 and during a botanical survey in June 2008 (County of Santa Barbara 2009; ERA 2008). The two-striped garter snake is considered a species of special concern by CDFW. Because this species likely relied on resident amphibian populations in the in-channel basins within the landfill reconfiguration area, the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project required relocation of any two-striped garter snakes encountered to the Creek, similar to the California red-legged frog as described above.



*Two-striped garter snakes have been observed within the immediate Project vicinity and have been relocated to Arroyo Quemado Creek as a part of mitigation for the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project*



*The southwestern pond turtle was observed along the proposed trail realignment within close proximity to the creek.*

**Southwestern pond turtle.** A southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*) was observed in a vegetated area along the proposed trail realignment, adjacent to the creek corridor by Amec Foster Wheeler and County personnel during a site visit in March 2016. The southwestern pond turtle is considered a California species of special concern by CDFW. Similar to those species described above, the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project required relocation of any southwestern pond turtles encountered.

### County Environmental Thresholds

Santa Barbara County's Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual (2008, revised 2015) includes guidelines for the assessment of biological resource impacts. The following thresholds are applicable to this project:

**Wetlands:** Projects which result in a net loss of important wetland area or wetland habitat value, either through direct or indirect impacts to wetland vegetation, degradation of water quality, or would threaten the continuity of wetland-dependent animal or plant species are considered to have a potentially significant effect on the environment. Projects which substantially interrupt wildlife access, use and dispersal in wetland areas would typically be considered to have a

potentially significant impact. Projects which disrupt the hydrology of wetlands systems would be considered to have a potentially significant impact.

*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.

*Native Grasslands:* In general, project created impacts to native grasslands may be considered significant if they involve removal of or severe disturbance to a patch or a combined patch area of native grasses that is greater than one-quarter (1/4) acre in size. The grassland must contain at least 10 percent relative cover of native grassland species (based on a sample unit). Impacts to patch areas less than one-quarter acre in size that are clearly isolated and not part of a significant native grassland or an integral component of a larger ecosystem are usually considered insignificant.

*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.

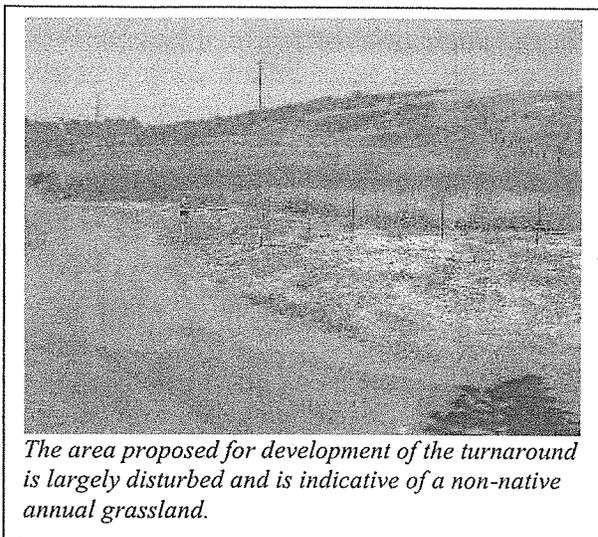
*Individual Native Trees:* Project created impacts may be considered significant due to the loss of 10% or more of the trees of biological value on a project site.

*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

**a, b. Less than Significant.** Implementation of the proposed Project would not result in a substantial net loss or disturbance to unique, rare, or threatened plant communities. Implementation of the proposed Project would not result in a reduction in the numbers or restriction in the range of any unique, rare, or threatened species of plants. The proposed Trail realignment would traverse approximately 1.35 miles of existing dirt roads located west of the Creek, and would avoid sensitive restoration areas. Further, the proposed gates, living fences, and additional signage included in the proposed Project would guide trail users along the realigned trail segments.

The two major construction components included in the proposed Project would have a less than significant impact on sensitive vegetation communities and sensitive plant species. The proposed 3,320-square foot vehicle turnaround would be constructed within an area mapped as Coastal



Scrub, a designated Environmentally Sensitive Habitat (ESH) area (County of Santa Barbara 2016a). However, this area is located within highly disturbed areas along an existing residential access road within County right-of-way and adjacent to several utility easements. Though this area is mapped as an ESH, the proposed area of disturbance would occur within these disturbed areas, which are dominated by non-native annual grasses and ruderal vegetation. Nonetheless, development of the proposed turnaround would avoid removal of native vegetation and result in minimal cut and fill. Additionally, the cut slopes in these areas would be revegetated with native plant species chosen from a palette of County approved species retrieved from the

local area or the Baron Ranch Nursery, consistent with the County Resource Recovery Baron Ranch Restoration Project plant palette, potentially resulting in minor beneficial impacts due to the presently disturbed/ruderal nature of the area.

Installation of the proposed prefabricated 65-foot single span bridge would result in minor impacts to riparian and potential wetland habitats within the Project area. The proposed bridge crossing is located roughly 1,000 feet upstream of where the Creek passes through the embankment for the northbound lanes of U.S. Highway 101. The proposed bridge would traverse a deeply incised segment of lower Arroyo Quemado to realign the Trail and provide access to the west side of the Creek; approximately 50 to 100 sf of riparian vegetation would need to be removed to accommodate the proposed bridge abutments. Pipe piles would support the abutments and would be driven to at least 24 feet below the footing bottom elevation (Appendix F). The installation of bridge abutments could temporarily disturb a 50 to 100 sf area on either side of the proposed bridge. However, following construction, riparian vegetation is likely to recolonize the areas immediately surrounding the abutments and the Project would provide for replacement of riparian vegetation at a ratio of 3:1; therefore, long-term riparian vegetation loss along the creek corridor would be negligible. Additionally, BMPs would be implemented to reduce erosion during construction (e.g., all open excavations would be protected from inclement weather to avoid saturation during rainfall). Over the long-term with the proposed implementation of grade dips, revegetation of disturbed areas, and other erosion control measures, impacts to wetland habitats adjacent to the realigned Trail, including the proposed 65-foot single span bridge, would be less than significant.

**c. Less than Significant.** The proposed Project may result in minor removal of native vegetation during installation of the bridge and gates. As described above, the proposed realignment of the Trail would follow approximately 1.35 miles of existing dirt roads. Additionally, the parking turnaround and gates would generally be constructed in areas of disturbed or ruderal vegetation and within County right-of-way. The construction of the proposed 65-foot single span bridge would require removal of 50 to 100 sf of riparian vegetation at each of the planned bridge abutments; however, as described above, over the long-term it is anticipated that riparian

vegetation would recolonize these areas. Consequently, long-term impacts to riparian habitat along the creek corridor would be less than significant. Implementation of the proposed Project would not require a substantial reduction in the extent, diversity, or quality of native vegetation. Further, the proposed project would include plantings from a palette of County approved native species, consistent with the County Resource Recovery Baron Ranch Restoration Project plant palette, in the upper portion of the Trail, as well as targeted invasive species removal during maintenance activities, which may result in a minor beneficial impact to native vegetation within the Project area.

**d. Less than Significant.** Implementation of the proposed Project would not have an adverse impact on non-native vegetation that provides habitat value. The proposed realignment of the trail would avoid active orchard operations and would include gates, living fences, and additional signage to guide trail users away from these areas. All gates and fences would provide adequate space above, below, and through to allow for the passage of wildlife.

**e. Less than Significant with Mitigation.** Installation of the abutments for the proposed 65-foot single span bridge could result in the need for significant limbing of a single mature sycamore (*Platanus* spp.) tree and disturbance of up to approximately 200 sf of riparian vegetation along the Creek. Additionally, trail connections at the upper creek crossing would require significant limbing of several mature coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia* ssp.). However, the proposed Project would not result in the loss of 10 percent or more of the trees of biological value on a Project area. Further, the proposed Project would include planting of a minimum of 10 trees for every mature tree affected by the proposed Project, as well as a 3:1 replacement of riparian vegetation that would be removed to support bridge installation. Consequently, the proposed Project would be self-mitigating and impacts to native specimen trees would be less than significant. Implementation of MM BIO-2 would ensure all new trees would be from within the local area to preserve genetic integrity. In addition to these measures and implementation of MM BIO-3, a County-approved arborist shall observe bridge installation and establishment of the upper creek crossing and oversee tree limbing activities to ensure substantial damage to these trees is avoided, while adequate use of these connections is provided. Therefore, potential impacts to native tree species resulting from Project implementation would be less than significant with the incorporation of proposed mitigation measures.

**f. Less than Significant.** The implementation of the proposed Project would not result in the introduction of herbicides or pesticides. Any vegetation removal associated with construction activities or trail maintenance activities would be manual or mechanical with limited spot treatment using herbicides, which would be applied by a certified herbicide applicator and would comply with all applicable federal, state, and local regulations. While the implementation of the proposed Project could generate more recreational traffic along the Trail, the proposed installation of gates, living fences, and additional signage would guide trail users along the realigned Trail. It is not anticipated that the potential increase in foot traffic would result in a substantial increase in the spread of invasive species. Further, the proposed Project would include the targeted treatment of invasive species during trail maintenance activities. Implementation of MM BIO-5 would ensure BMPs are undertaken during construction of the Project, and would involve formal pre-construction meetings to provide construction and maintenance personnel with training concerning sensitive biological species and habitat within the Project area, as well as the inspection of gear and equipment to prevent the spread of non-

native or invasive species. Consequently, impacts associated with the potential spread of invasive species and disruption of existing habitat would be less than significant.

**g, h, i. Less than Significant with Mitigation.** As previously described, the Project area has been enhanced through active habitat restoration to provide enhanced and expanded habitat for California red-legged frog and southern steelhead over the past four years as a part of the Tajiguas Landfill Reconfiguration and Baron Ranch Restoration Project. While southern steelhead have not been observed in the Creek within the last 10 years due to drainage culverts located at the U.S. Highway 101 acting as a substantial barrier to movement, California red-legged frogs have been observed within the Project area and have been translocated, along with two-striped garter snakes, from the Tajiguas Landfill into the Project area. Further, the Project area has been federally designated as critical habitat for the California red-legged frog. As a part of the Baron Ranch Restoration Project and associated studies, a total of 15 pools were identified in the Creek that provide suitable California red-legged frog breeding habitat for most of the realigned Project area and along the proposed Trail realignment segment, and these locations are especially sensitive. Pool 5 is located within close proximity to the proposed bridge installation area. In addition, butterflies have been observed in the Project area during surveys conducted by ERA biologists in 2007 and 2008, including the monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) (County of Santa Barbara 2009; ERA 2008). Other species with moderate to high potential to occur include migratory birds, raptors, and bats, as well as several other reptiles, birds, and mammals included in Table 3 above. Due to the relative absence of southern steelhead and limited likelihood that southern steelhead would exist within Arroyo Quemado as a result of downstream barriers to fish passage, the Project is not anticipated to result in any adverse effects to this species.

Implementation of the Project could potentially result in short-term noise-related disturbance to sensitive species during construction activities associated with the proposed 65-foot single span bridge as well as the proposed gravel turnaround. Additional minor noise-related disturbances to sensitive species could result from the installation of gates, as well as during the construction of grade dips and other erosion controls. However, all construction activities, with the exception of the proposed bridge, which would impact a minor area of riparian habitat, would occur in previously disturbed areas, primarily along dirt roads bordering orchards. Further, installation of the pre-fabricated bridge would include staging of equipment on existing dirt roads. The bridge would be lowered in place on the abutments by crane, and would minimize impacts to the creek banks and in-channel habitat. Consequently, potential direct impacts to California red-legged frogs or other riparian or aquatic species would be minimal.

During bridge installation, riparian and aquatic species may be disturbed during the short term due to such construction activities which could result in species migration upstream or downstream of the proposed bridge location; however, following construction, this area would continue to provide suitable habitat for riparian and aquatic species. Improvements to support an in-stream crossing would consist of minimal trail improvements, installation of directional trail signs, and placement of rocks at either side of the creek. No grading or construction would be required to complete the in-stream crossing, and impacts associated within implementation of this feature are negligible. Implementation of the proposed Project would result in the increased recreational use of the Baron Ranch Trail, potentially increasing pedestrian interaction with the sensitive habitat and species located within or along the Arroyo Quemado riparian corridor.

However, due to the existing riparian habitat vegetation mix, as well as use of native species in restoration of disturbed habitat that serve as a natural deterrent to access (e.g., poison oak, stinging nettle, and black berry), and steep slopes along the Creek that will serve to deter public off-trail access, project disturbance from trail users will be minimized. Implementation of MM BIO-2 would ensure all plantings would be of native, naturally occurring species from the local area to preserve genetic integrity.

Similarly, installation of pilings would create short-term temporary noise that could result in migration of birds and bats as well as other sensitive species away from the immediate vicinity of the proposed bridge location. With implementation of MM BIO-4, construction and bridge installation areas shall be subject to surveying for nesting birds prior to grading or tree-limbing activities, and appropriate actions are included in MM BIO-4 to ensure the reduction of potential Project related impacts to all nesting or sensitive bird species in the area, including possible presence of migratory birds.

To reduce potential impacts to sensitive biological species and habitat by construction personnel during Project implementation, MM BIO-5 would ensure the use of trail construction and maintenance related BMPs. In addition, MM BIO-5 would provide Project construction and maintenance personnel with training concerning Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate federally listed and special status species prior to performing Project activities. Furthermore, MM BIO-5 would require all Project construction and maintenance personnel to perform inspections and maintenance of gear and equipment to reduce potential impacts resulting from the introduction of non-native or invasive species and the inadvertent discharges within the Arroyo Quemado watershed.

With the implementation of MM BIO-1, MM BIO-3, MM BIO-4, and MM BIO-5, these impacts would be less than significant and the area would provide suitable habitat following the completion of construction. Additionally, the proposed realignment of the Trail would avoid sensitive restoration areas and would reduce potential disturbance of sensitive habitat. The installation of gates, living fences, and additional signage would guide trail users along the realigned Trail. Consequently, with the implementation of mitigation, impacts to sensitive species would be less than significant.

**j, k. Less than Significant.** Implementation of the proposed Project would include short-term construction related impacts that could hinder the normal activities of wildlife as described above. These impacts would largely be related to construction noise associated with construction of the proposed gravel turnaround area and the installation of the proposed 65-foot single span bridge. However, construction fencing and lighting, if required at all, would be minimal and would be removed following the completion of construction. The installation of gates and living fences would guide trail users along the realigned Trail; however, these fences would be wildlife friendly, ensuring the safe passage of wildlife species while avoiding inhibition of their movement. Fences deterring access to adjacent operating orchards would have adequate space above, below, and through to allow for the passage of wildlife. Further, no in-stream barriers would be included as part of the proposed bridge installation or any other aspect of the proposed Project. Consequently, these impacts would be less than significant.

### Cumulative Impacts

Since the Project would not significantly impact biological resources onsite, it would not have a cumulatively considerable effect on the County's biological resources.

### Required Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures would reduce the Project's biological resource impacts to a less than significant level:

**MM BIO-1** *Sensitive Species Survey: If construction activities fall within the time periods described below, an Applicant-funded special status species survey shall be conducted by a County-approved biologist immediately prior to construction activities associated with the proposed bridge and gravel turnaround area or any other trail construction activities requiring vegetation removal or trimming.*

*A pre-construction survey shall be conducted to identify and/or flag individual species of Plummer's baccharis and Santa Barbara honeysuckle. Recommendations shall be made to reroute the Trail around recorded individuals, limiting disturbance to the maximum extent feasible. If disturbance cannot be avoided, then potentially affected individuals would be relocated and/or additional individuals shall be planted at a ratio of 3:1 as a part of native plantings associated with the proposed Project.*

*If bridge installation, vehicle turnaround construction, or substantial trail-construction activities (e.g., use of heavy equipment to install gates or benches or establish grade dips or other erosion controls) would occur within the migratory bird season (February 1 through August 15) and/or raptor breeding season (January 1 through September 15), a migratory bird and/or raptor survey shall be conducted in these areas to establish the current breeding status of resident species adjacent to the relevant trail segments. This survey component must include recommendations regarding minimizing impacts during construction, including setbacks and restrictions on construction scheduling. If nests are documented, construction work within a 300-foot (migratory birds) to 500-foot (raptors) radius of active nest(s) must be suspended until the young have fledged the nest.*

*Pre-construction surveys shall be conducted to determine presence or absence of California red-legged frogs adjacent to the relevant trail segments. This survey component shall include requirements regarding minimizing impacts during construction such as: placement of protective devices such as silt fencing, inclusion of setbacks, minor re-routing, and restrictions on construction scheduling.*

- i. Within three days prior to construction activities, the agency-approved biologist will inspect the project area and associated silt fences for California red-legged frogs.*
- ii. Inspection will be conducted two times at night and two times during daylight hours.*

- iii. *If any California red-legged frog adults or tadpoles are found within the project area they will be moved to the nearest appropriate habitat and released by the County and USFWS-approved biologist. In addition, if any California red-legged frog adults or tadpoles are found during the surveys the agency-approved biologist shall check the immediate project area for ten consecutive days prior to the start of each day's work. If no frogs are found during the ten consecutive days, then the immediate project area will be checked at the discretion of the County and USFWS-approved biologist. If activities cease for more than one week, a one-night search for California red-legged frogs will be conducted within 100-feet upstream and 250-feet downstream of the project area.*

*The approved biologist shall continue to monitor the site to ensure the absence of California red-legged frogs during construction activities. Monitoring and pre-construction site preparation activities shall include:*

- i. *A County and USFWS-approved biologist will ensure that the spread or introduction of invasive exotic plant species will be avoided to the maximum extent possible. When practicable, existing invasive exotic plant species in the project area will be removed.*
- ii. *A County and USFWS-approved biologist will permanently remove from the project area any individuals of exotic species, to the maximum extent possible in compliance with applicable regulatory codes.*

*If bridge or at-grade stream crossing installation, vehicle turnaround construction, or substantial trail-construction activities (e.g., use of heavy equipment to install gates or benches or establish grade dips or other erosion controls) would occur during breeding season for local bat populations (May 1 through August 15) pre-construction surveys shall be conducted to determine presence or absence of bat maternity colonies. If active maternity colonies are found, a 500-foot buffer (or an appropriate buffer as determined in the field) shall be established and no construction shall occur in this buffer area until a qualified biologist determines that the young are independent.*

*If trail construction activities within 100 feet of the edge of an eucalyptus trees that host known monarch butterfly aggregation sites would occur during the overwintering season for monarch butterflies (October 1 through March 31), a County-approved biologist must survey all eucalyptus trees within a 100-foot distance of the relevant trail segments (e.g., near the lower reach of Arroyo Quemado) to determine use by monarchs. If butterfly aggregations are found within 100 feet of the work area, trail-construction shall be halted until a County-approved biologist has determined monarchs have left the site.*

**Plan Requirements and Timing.** All requirements shall be included on final grading plans. The pre-construction survey must be reviewed and approved by

County staff prior the issuance of a grading permit and the commencement of construction activities. The Applicant must adhere to all recommendations in the survey and trail construction crews must not encroach within any setbacks from identified active bird nests or bat or butterfly roosting sites.

**Monitoring.** Planning and Development (P&D) permit compliance staff must review and approve all grading and final trail construction plans prior to issuing the grading permit. The project biologist must provide the results of pre-construction surveys to permit compliance staff. The project biologist must discuss any restrictions with trail crews during the pre-site construction meeting and a qualified biological monitor will be onsite and will ensure compliance with the mitigation measures.

**MM BIO-2** *Native Plant Requirements: In order to protect the genetic integrity of the native plant populations within the Project area, all native plants and seed materials used for planting (e.g., cutslopes) must be collected from the Gaviota Coast area.*

**Plan Requirements and Timing.** A Restoration Plan, including proposed planting areas and proposed plant pallets, shall be prepared by a County-approved biologist and reviewed and approved by P&D staff prior to issuance of the zoning clearance.

**Monitoring.** The project biologist must verify compliance with the Restoration Plan in the field before and during trail construction activities and shall report the results to Permit Compliance staff on a monthly basis following the initiation of construction activities. Further, the Restoration Plan must include a three-year monitoring component that coincides with annual trail maintenance activities following initial trail realignment and construction.

**MM BIO-3** *Onsite Biologist. The Applicant shall fund and coordinate with the Resource Recovery Division of the Public Works Department to hire a P&D approved biologist and USFWS approved arborist to be onsite throughout all appropriate grading, construction, and vegetation clearing/trimming associated with the trail development within 100 feet of Arroyo Quemado.*

**Monitoring:** The onsite (project) biologist shall monitor the site during grading, construction and vegetation clearance activities. The Applicant shall submit to P&D compliance monitoring staff the name and contact information for the approved biologist and arborist prior to commencement of construction/pre-construction meeting. P&D compliance monitoring staff shall inspect the site as appropriate.

**MM BIO-4** *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 300 feet, depending on the species present. If incomplete or inactive bird nests are found within the construction area, these nests shall be removed and dismantled to prevent use or reuse to discourage the return of nesting birds the construction period. If active nests of federally listed or protected species are found, all trail work shall cease and*

*consultation with the USFWS or CDFW 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 seven 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 prior to the start of construction.

**MM BIO-5 Pre-Construction Training and Orientation.** *The Applicant shall contact P&D permit compliance staff at least two weeks prior to commencement of construction activities to schedule an on-site pre-construction meeting to be led by a County approved biologist and attended by all deemed necessary by P&D, including the permit issuing planner, grading and/or building inspectors, other agency staff, and construction personnel: contractors, sub-contractors and contracted monitors among others. During the pre-construction orientation, qualified contracted monitors, under the direction of the County, shall provide workers an orientation on sensitive biological resources, and directions as to what steps are to be taken if a sensitive resource is encountered.*

**Plan Requirements and Timing:** Pre-construction training and orientation shall be held by the approved biologist prior to the start of construction and trail maintenance activities.

**Monitoring:** P&D permit compliance staff shall monitor for compliance.

Residual Impacts

Implementation of the proposed Project may result in short-term, construction-related impacts; however with implementation of MM BIO-1, MM BIO-2, and MM BIO-3, which would require sensitive species surveys, would establish native plant requirements, require Project oversight by an approved onsite biologist, and implementation of standard BMPs to minimize erosion as required by the County, these impacts would be less than significant. Additionally, long-term impacts associated with native planting and targeted invasive species under the proposed Project would be beneficial to biological resources. Consequently, under implementation of the proposed Project, residual impacts to biological resources would remain less than significant.

**4.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
<b>Archaeological Resources</b>					
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	

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
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	
<b>Ethnic Resources</b>					
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

#### *Prehistory*

The prehistory of the Project area has been divided into five chronological time periods as follows: the Paleo-Indian period (unknown date - ca. 9000 B.C.), the Archaic period (ca. 9000 - 6000 B.C.), the Encinitas period (ca. 6000 - 2250 B.C.), the Pacific period (ca. 2250 B.C - 500 A.D.), and the Canalino period (500 A.D. - Spanish contact). During these prehistoric periods, archaeologists believe that human occupation of the California region began between 8,000 to 12,000 years ago (Moratto 1984), with occupation by the Native American Chumash culture. The Project area is located in the aboriginal Chumash territory, which ranged from the coastal San Luis Obispo to Malibu Canyon, inland to the edge of the San Joaquin Valley, and including the Channel Islands off the coast of Santa Barbara (Sturtevant 1978). It is believed that within Santa Barbara County, the Chumash and their ancestors may have inhabited the region for at least 10,000 years. Prior to first contact with the Spanish, the Chumash were a flourishing hunter-gatherer society with no known agricultural practices, heavily utilizing terrestrial and oceanic resources (Anderson 1968).

#### *History*

Initial European contact with the Chumash occurred in A.D. 1542 during, led by Juan Cabrillo's explorations. The Spanish Colonial Period (1769-1822) is marked by establishment of permanent Spanish settlements, including the Santa Barbara Presidio in 1782, Mission Santa Barbara in 1786, Mission La Purísima Concepcion in 1787, and Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa in 1772. The establishment of the missions led to the incorporation of the Chumash into mission settlements and the gradual depopulation of native Chumash villages and settlements. During the Mission Period (1760-1820), some lands held by the missions were granted to Spanish military veterans. These land grants foreshadowed the subsequent Rancho Period (1820-1845) in California. Following Mexican independence from Spain in 1822, the Mexican government gained control over California. About 500 land grants were given to local rancheros during the Rancho Period. In 1848, the land once occupied by the Chumash was taken possession of by the United States of America, which led to California statehood in 1850.

During a heavy drought in the 1860s, cattle prices declined and led to the sale of various rancho lands throughout California. In 1967 a 357-acre landfill site used for municipal solid waste disposal was opened and has continued to be operational since. In 1991, Baron Ranch was purchased by the County to maintain a buffer between the landfill and adjacent private properties (Padre Associates, Inc. 2014).

### Methods and Results

To assess impacts of the Project on archaeological and ethnic resources, a Phase I Archaeological Investigation was prepared by Amec Foster Wheeler registered professional archaeologists in April of 2016 (Appendix F). To identify impacts of the Project on these resources, the Phase I study included historical background research, archaeological and historic resources records searches, and a Phase I intensive pedestrian field survey and visual ground surface inspection. Based on records on file at the Central Coast Information Center (CCIC) at the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Phase I Archaeological Investigation, multiple cultural resources are located in the vicinity of the proposed Project (Amec Foster Wheeler 2016). Information regarding previously identified cultural resources and existing cultural resources reports within a half-mile radius of the Project area were compiled. Site types found within the bounds of the record search consisted predominantly of prehistoric lithic debitage and tools, as well as shell scatters. Prehistoric shell beads and milling implements are also present within the assemblages as are remnants of an historic residence and limited historic refuse. A total of six sites and two isolates have been documented within a half-mile radius of the Project and at least 700 feet from the proposed turnaround site; however, these sites are located outside the Project's area of proposed disturbance.

Included as part of the Phase I Archaeological Investigation and consistent with Senate Bill 18, six cultural representatives from four regionally significant Native American Tribes were contacted for information regarding any potential for additional cultural resources which may be located near the site (Appendix C). Results of this research and consultation with Native American Tribes conclude that no previously identified sites have been recorded within the areas of proposed disturbance. In addition, the County initiated a request for consultation on the proposed Project from local Native American Tribes in compliance with Assembly Bill 52 for a period of 30 days, beginning on December 27, 2016 and ending January 26, 2017. No requests for consultation were received during this period.

### County Environmental Thresholds

The County Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual 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, d, and e. No Impact.** The Phase I Archaeological Investigation investigated all aspects of the proposed Project, except for development of the currently proposed turnaround. The Phase I study investigated an area previously proposed for development of a turnaround, proximate to a known cultural resource site. The location of the currently proposed turnaround location, 560 feet east of the original turnaround site, was chosen, in part, to be further distant from the resource site and is located in an area that has been extensively disturbed with 2 intersection roadbeds (farm employee drive and the ranch road extending into the site via Calle Real) and installation of a 25-inch diameter Southern California Gas pipeline. Since preparation of the Phase I Archaeological Investigation, a study of the new turnaround location was prepared by Jesse Yorck, RPA, an approved archaeologist for the County. From this investigation, development of the proposed turnaround is determined to have no impact upon cultural resources due to the greater distance from the known sensitive resource site, the extent of previous ground disturbance throughout the vast majority of the turnaround area for utility easements, and the limited amount of grading proposed for development of the turnaround.

Due to location of proposed Project elements and the low potential for occurrence or disruption of cultural resources as identified in the Phase I Archaeological Investigation and the Update on the Cultural Resources Study for the Baron Ranch Trail Realignment Project Memo, no impact to cultural resources is anticipated.

**b, c, f, and g. No Impact.** Implementation of the proposed Project would draw visitors and recreationalists to the Baron Ranch Trail, increasing the chance for public interaction with or disturbance of the unique cultural resources located with the vicinity of the Project. However, these resources are located away from the proposed trail realignment, and the potential for the public to encounter these resources is low. In addition, trail signs and kiosk information would direct the public to stay on the proposed realigned trail, further reducing the chance for visitors and recreationalists to encounter these resources. As identified in the Phase I Archaeological Investigation, there are no known ceremonial or sacred sites which may contain human burials within the Project vicinity. As such, the potential for the disturbance of significant ethnic and historical sites through implementation of the Project is low, and no impacts to these resources are anticipated.

### Cumulative Impacts

Since implementation of the Project would not result in any significant impacts to cultural resources, the Project would not have a cumulatively considerable effect on the County's cultural resources.

### Required Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts have been identified. Therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

#### 4.7 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	

##### Existing Setting

To support agricultural operations and pumps for onsite groundwater wells, infrastructure for electricity has been established within the Project area and connects to existing infrastructure along U.S. Highway 101. Electric services are provided by Southern California Edison. The site is currently not connected to any natural gas extensions or services.

##### County Environmental Thresholds

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

##### Impact Discussion

**a. Less Than Significant.** The proposed Project consists of the construction and clearing associated with realignment of an existing 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 natural and nonrenewable resources (e.g., gasoline and oil), however, consumption would not affect the regional availability of resources. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

**b. No Impact.** The proposed Project consists of improvements to a County recreational trail. As the proposed Project would facilitate the increased passive and active recreational use of the area, it is not anticipated that the Project would require the development or extension of new energy sources. Therefore, the Project would have no impact in regards 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.

##### Required Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts have been identified. Therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

#### 4.8 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	

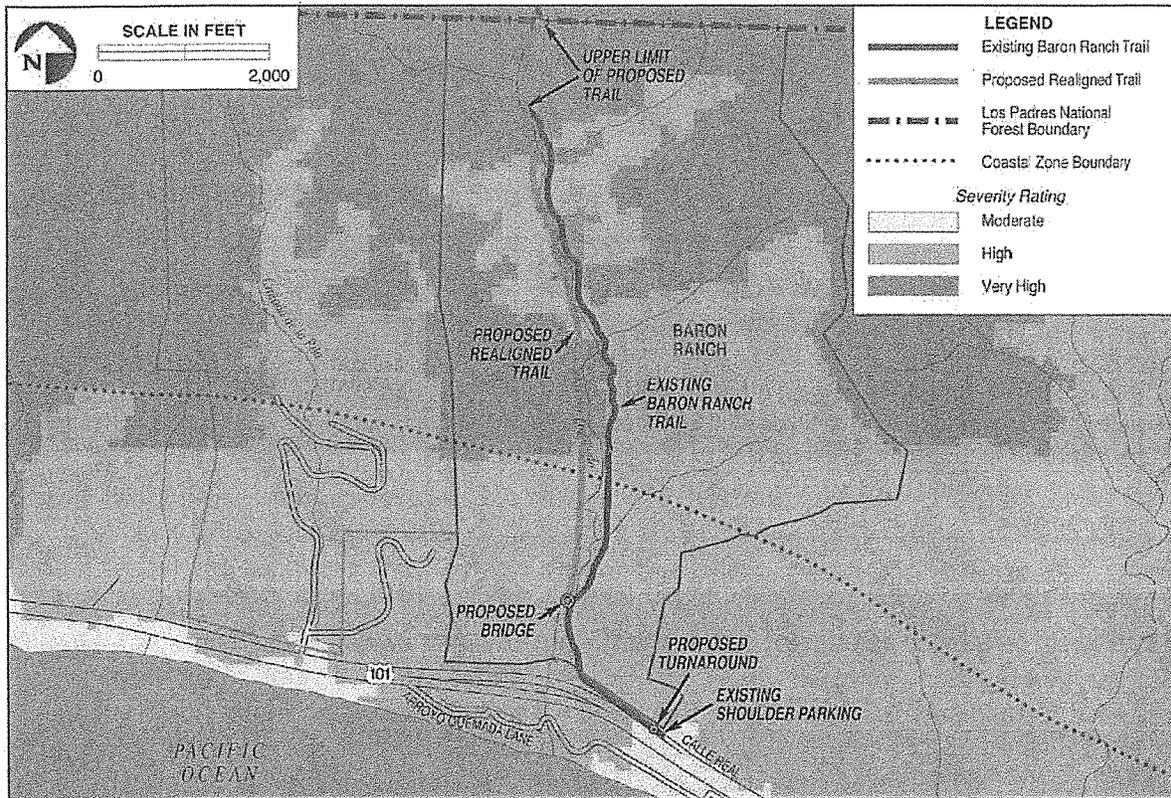
##### Existing Setting

The Project area is located within a region of the County identified as a High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (refer to Figure 5). Fire protection and prevention in the Project area is provided by the Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBCFD). The fire station located closest to the Project area is Santa Barbara County Fire Station 18, located at 17200 Calle Mariposa Reina, nearly 5.57 miles northwest on U.S. Highway 101. 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.

##### County Standards

The following applicable County Fire Department standards are applied in evaluating impacts associated with the proposed Project:

- The emergency response thresholds include Fire Department staff standards of one on-duty firefighter per 4,000 persons (generally 1 engine company per 12,000 people, assuming three firefighters/station). The emergency response time standard is approximately 5-6 minutes.
- Access road standards include a minimum width (depending on number of units served and whether parking would be allowed on either side of the road), with some narrowing allowed for driveways. Cul-de-sac diameters, turning radii and road grade must meet minimum Fire Department standards based on project type.
- Two means of egress may be needed and access must not be impeded by fire, flood, or earthquake. A potentially significant impact could occur in the event any of these standards is not adequately met.



Fire Hazard Severity in the Project Vicinity

FIGURE  
5

### Impact Discussion

**a, b, c. Less than Significant with Mitigation.** The Project area is located within a region of the County identified as a High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone and would therefore expose trail users to potential wildland fire hazards in the event one should occur. Fire hazard would be greatest during construction and maintenance on the proposed Trail, where machinery or tools could ignite vegetation. Implementation of the bridge installation and trail maintenance activities within close proximity to the creek corridor would take place during the primary dry season between late spring and late fall as risk of fire along the riparian corridor is low. Implementation of proposed turnaround has the highest fire hazard potential and would take place during the primary rainy season (late fall to late spring) when the risk of fire is lowest. Although highly unlikely, fires have been attributed to trail users. Therefore, the proposed Project has the potential to increase fire hazards. Due to the location of the Trail within an area of very high fire severity, as well as the distance of the nearest fire station, impacts related to wildfire would be potentially significant but could be reduced through the incorporation of MM FP-1.

**d and e. No Impact.** The proposed trail realignment would provide greater access to the Baron Ranch Trail by fire fighters, and the turnaround area would provide additional space for fire

protection and prevention vehicles. The proposed Project would increase the ability of emergency responders to conduct fire prevention and fighting operations. In addition, no habitable structures are proposed, and only a trail kiosk, bridge crossing, minor signage, and gating would be installed. Therefore, the Project would have no impact and a potentially beneficial impact related to fire suppression access and activities.

#### Cumulative Impacts

Since the project would not create significant fire hazards, it would not have a cumulatively considerable effect on fire safety within the County.

#### Required Mitigation Measures

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

**MM FP-1** *Fire Management and Emergency Response. The County Parks Department shall develop a Fire Management and Emergency Response Plan in consultation with the County Fire Department to coordinate notification and evacuation plans for the Baron Ranch Trail. The Plan shall include, but not be 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 Calle Real and parking area, and an informational kiosk indicating the risks of trail usage and identifying trail use restrictions;*
- *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 and maintenance crews to carry fire retardant during the use of mechanical equipment or any equipment that could create sparks; and,*
- *The County Fire Department shall be notified prior to Project development and trail improvement activities.*

**Plan Requirements and Timing.** The Fire Management and Emergency Response Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the SBCFD and the County Planning and Development Department prior to Coastal Development Permit issuance.

**Monitoring.** The Santa Barbara County Fire Department shall ensure compliance prior to Project initiation.

#### Residual Impacts

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

#### 4.9 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. Exposure to or production of permanent changes in topography, such as bluff retreat or sea level rise?			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		
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	

The discussion of geologic setting and impact analysis is primarily based on the results of the Geotechnical Report (Appendix D) and the Hydraulic Memorandum (Appendix F) prepared by Bengal Engineering, Inc., for the Baron Ranch Trail Realignment Project. The Geotechnical Report and Hydraulic Memorandum described impacts associated with development of the realigned trail, bridge crossing, and previously proposed turnaround and parking area. While plans regarding the turnaround and parking area have been revised, the previous Geotechnical Report and Hydraulic Memorandum are incorporated as part of the appendices of this IS/MND to described impacts resulting from implementation of the trail realignment and bridge crossings and provide description of the geologic and hydrologic setting.

#### Existing Setting

Baron Ranch and the associated Baron Ranch Trail are located within the Arroyo Quemado Canyon on the southern flank of the Santa Ynez Mountains within the Western Transverse Ranges physiographic province of Southern California. The Western Transverse Range consists of predominantly Cretaceous-Cenozoic sedimentary marine rock and Miocene volcanic rocks. The southern flank of the range is characterized by steep ridges and incised drainage canyons which generally contain perennial streams bounded by steep east- and west-facing slopes.

Geological hazards present in the vicinity of the Project area include steep slopes, expansive soils, soil liquefaction, and landslides. The proposed bridge crossing is located in an area along the creek corridor and underlain by loose to medium density cohesionless soils which, when saturated, are susceptible to liquefaction in the event of an earthquake, which could cause foundation settlement and lateral spreading forces. A layer of highly-expansive dark soil has developed across the top of the terrace deposits in the vicinity of the proposed turnaround area.

Landslides along the California coast are a common phenomenon, especially along the coastal terrace platforms, such as that of the Gaviota Coast. Several landslides are known within the vicinity of the Project, particularly near the proposed bridge installment, and landslides are also a potential issue within the vicinity of the proposed vehicle turnaround.

#### County Environmental 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:

- The Project area 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.
- 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.
- The project proposes construction of a cut slope over 15 feet in height as measured from the lowest finished grade.
- The project is located on slopes exceeding 20% grade.

#### Impact Discussion

**a. Less than Significant.** As discussed in the Geotechnical Report, no known fault passes or extends toward the Project area, and threat of seismic rupture is considered low (Appendix D). Although the Project is located within an area that is susceptible to seismic and geologic hazards, the proposed multi-use trail would not involve any paving or structures which may expose persons to additional threat from seismic or geologic hazards. In addition, the proposed Project would not result in an increase in population or employment opportunities within this area. Therefore, the proposed trail improvements would not pose seismic risks beyond those that already exist in the area and impacts would be less than significant.

**b, c, d, e, i, j, k. Less than Significant.** Proposed trail improvements would take place along portions of the existing Baron Ranch Trail and agricultural access roads located on the southern slopes of the Santa Ynez Mountain Range. Trail realignment and bridge installation would result in minimal rates of deposition, erosion, or siltation as no grading is proposed for these aspects of the Project. Development of the parking turnaround area would require grading of a slope that

has a gradient range of 10 to 15 degrees, which is within the effective friction of the underlying soils/materials. Grading of the slope for the proposed turnaround would be minimal and involve an estimated 40 cubic yards of cut and 150 cubic yards of fill. To support development of the turnaround, approximately 110 cubic yards of fill material would be obtained from an onsite stockpile of soils, to reduce the slope of the turnaround area and provide a stable and compacted road base. Grading operations would be required to comply with the County's standards for grading related BMPs, erosion control, and drainage requirements. Due to minimal extent of grading activities, impacts are considered to be less than significant.

**f, g, h, i. No Impact.** There are no unique geological features located within the Project area, and the Project would not require the use of a septic system. In addition, the Project would not involve activities which would result in modified hydrologic channels, beach sedimentation, or mineral extraction. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in substantial changes to the geological resources and topography of the Project area and no impact would occur.

Cumulative Impacts

As identified above, 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.

Required Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts have been identified. Therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

**4.10 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	

### Existing Setting

Baron Ranch is located in the Arroyo Quemado watershed east of and adjacent to the Cañada De La Piña watershed. Located on the eastern ridge of Cañada De La Piña, approximately 2,000 feet from the Arroyo Quemado Canyon, lies the Tajiguas Landfill. The Tajiguas Landfill is a Class III non-hazardous solid waste disposal facility owned and operated by the Santa Barbara County Public Works Department, Resource Recovery & Waste Management District (RRWMD). A high pressure gas pipeline and transmission corridor exists along the southern portion of the site parallel and adjacent to U.S. Highway 101. This corridor includes two high pressure natural gas transmission and distribution lines owned and operated by Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) and the crude oil Plains All American Pipeline L.P. (PAAPLP). In addition, a fuel tank is located within the Baron Ranch agricultural support buildings (Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration 2016).

### County Environmental Thresholds

The County's safety threshold addresses involuntary public exposure from projects involving significant quantities of hazardous materials. The threshold addresses the likelihood and severity of potential accidents to determine whether the safety risks of a project exceed significant levels.

### Impact Discussion

**a, Less than Significant.** The Baron Ranch Trail is located adjacent to the existing agricultural operations throughout Arroyo Quemado Canyon, which include avocado and cherimoya orchards. There is a chance that pesticides could be in the soil; however, no soil which has been used in agricultural operations would be removed from the site. Additionally, the potential use of pesticides for avocado and cherimoya production could affect trail users as a result of pesticide drift. The County and the California Department of Pesticide Regulation regulate the spraying of pesticides within the County. Implementation of the trail would introduce the public to properties which have likely experienced use of chemical pesticides or currently engage in pesticide application; however, trail improvements would limit public interaction with and access to the orchards and potential impacts would be less than significant.

**b, c, d, e, g, h. No Impact.** Improvements to and operation of the Baron Ranch Trail would be used for recreational purposes and it is not anticipated that the Project would result in the use, storage, transportation or disposal of hazardous materials. Construction and operation of the proposed turnaround is not anticipated to threaten the operation or increase risk of upset from adjacent underground utility and oil transmission pipelines, as these pipelines are located approximately 24 inches to 48 inches below ground surface (bgs). The Southern California Gas Company 5' diameter gas pipeline is buried to a minimum depth of 30 inches bgs, the 25' diameter gas pipeline is buried to a minimum depth of 36 inches bgs, and the 25' diameter PAAPLP oil transmission pipeline is buried to a minimum depth of 48 inches bgs and a minimum of 24 inches bgs where geology is encountered. Both pipelines are identified in the field and would require pre-construction notification to the easement grantees prior to any grading or development activities as described in the Project Description (Section 1.6). Grading activities to support the proposed vehicle turnaround would require minimal resurfacing (e.g., estimated maximum depth of 12 inches) of the existing slope. Therefore, the potential for

construction or operation of the Project to affect the operation of these pipelines is considered less than significant.

Additionally, implementation of proposed trail improvements would not interfere with existing emergency response times or evacuation plans. As the Project is recreational in nature, no aspect of the proposed trail improvements would result in the handling of hazardous materials, nor would the Project result in the contamination of any public water supplies. Therefore, due to the nature of the trail and proposed improvements, and the distance from the nearest developed areas of the County, the proposed Project would have no impact on these resources.

**f. Less than Significant.** The Project area is located within 3,500 feet of the Tajiguas Landfill. While the Tajiguas Landfill is a Class III non-hazardous solid waste disposal facility, the site does include an ancillary facility which contains a storage area for household hazardous waste. The landfill is subject to stringent inspection and monitoring programs to ensure proper storage and handling of solid waste, and since the sites operation, no hazardous waste leaks have been detected. Due to regulations and management practices applying to agricultural operations and solid waste disposal operations of the Tajiguas Landfill, impacts associated with the exposure and foreseeable upset of the release of hazardous materials to the public would be less than significant.

Cumulative Impacts

The proposed Project would not result in the storage, use, disposal, or transportation of hazardous materials. As such, the Project’s impacts to hazardous materials and risk of upset are not cumulatively considerable.

Required Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts have been identified. Therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

**4.11 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

The Project is located within the rural regions of the Gaviota Coast in an unincorporated area of the County, and located within the traditional territory of the Chumash Native American tribe. Onsite development exclusively includes an agricultural support building and utility infrastructure, located approximately 0.60 mile north of the proposed bridge installation and

adjacent to the proposed trail realignment. No historical buildings or sites are located within close proximity to the Project area.

County Environmental Thresholds

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 and b. No Impact.** A Phase I Archaeological Investigation addressing the importance and descriptions of cultural and historical onsite resources was prepared by Amec Foster Wheeler which determined that no structures or formal landscape features currently exist within the Project area (2016). The proposed development does not include the demolition or alteration of structures in excess of 50 years in age, nor would the project alter the contextual nature of the site in a manner which would significantly degrade the historical significance of any existing structures. As a result, no impacts to historic resources are anticipated.

Cumulative Impacts

Since the Project would not result in any substantial change in the historic character of the site, it would not have any cumulatively considerable effect on the region’s historic resources.

Required Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts have been identified. Therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

**4.12 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	

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
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

Baron Ranch is located east of the Tajiguas Landfill and consists of three agricultural zoned parcels owned by the County and used for agricultural production of crops primarily consisting of avocado and cherimoya. Much of Baron Ranch remains largely undeveloped, with unpaved agricultural roads to access the Ranch and orchards. Adjacent to the proposed Trail realignment section is a single agricultural support building. In fall of 2016, the agricultural lease for Baron Ranch ended. As such, the County has ceased agricultural production and agriculture is now going fallow. During this time, the County has made plans to demolish agriculturally related maintenance structures along the west side of the Creek. Such activities may occur concurrently with the permitting process of this Project.

Approximately 50 acres of Baron Ranch is being used for native plant and habitat restoration, and approximately 30 acres of Baron Ranch will be permanently protected within a conservation easement. In December of 2010, the existing Baron Ranch Trail was completed and opened to the public for restricted recreational use by trail hikers from dawn to dusk on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday.

County Environmental Threshold

The County's Thresholds and Guidelines Manual contains no specific thresholds for land use. Generally, a potentially significant impact can occur if a project would result in substantial growth inducing effects.

### Impact Discussion

To determine if the Project would be compliant with applicable policies and regulations from elements of the Santa Barbara County Comprehensive Plan and California Coastal Act, a supplemental analysis of the Project's consistency with these land use plans and policies has been provided as the Land Use Policies and Consistency Analysis included as Appendix E.

**a. Less than Significant.** The proposed Project would result in trail realignment, installment of a bridge for trail use, construction of an at-grade stream crossing, fencing, expansion of trail use, and development of a vehicle turnaround serving users of the Baron Ranch Trail. While the Project area is zoned for agricultural use (AG-II-320), Baron Ranch is utilized for open space and orchard agriculture. The Coastal Land Use Plan for the County of Santa Barbara indicates that low intensity recreational facilities (e.g., hiking trails) may be permitted on agriculture zoned lands subject to a development permit so long as the Project conforms to all other policies specified in the land use plan. As the project would result in improvements to the existing Baron Ranch Trail and recreational uses are permitted on agriculture zoned lands, the Project would not result in incompatibility with surrounding land uses. Increased recreational use of the trail could conflict with existing Baron Ranch activities; however, the Project's trail realignment to the west of agricultural production areas would reduce potential conflicts by separating recreational and agricultural uses. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact on existing land uses.

**b. Less than Significant.** The Baron Ranch Trail is located on the inland 100-AG-0 and coastal AG-II-320 (Agriculture) zoned County owned lands of Baron Ranch. As such, the Project is subject to the standards and regulations established by County of Santa Barbara Comprehensive Plan (Comprehensive Plan). The Comprehensive Plan establishes standards and regulations for any development located within County jurisdiction. Additionally, portions of Baron Ranch and several aspects of the proposed Project are located within the coastal zone and are therefore, subject to the standards and regulations described in the Coastal Land Use Plan Element of the Comprehensive Plan. As described by the Project Land Use Policies and Consistency Analysis (Appendix E), implementation of the proposed Project would not result in any inconsistencies with applicable elements of the Comprehensive Plan, and preventative measures/mitigation incorporated in the Project plan would ensure the consistency of any potential discrepancies. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact to applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations of the County.

**c. No Impact.** The Project proposes minor accessibility related developments and a trail realignment that would facilitate increased public access and use of the Baron Ranch Trail. Implementation of the Project would not result in any substantial increases in population and the Project would have no impact.

**e, f, g. No Impact.** Baron Ranch does not contain any housing developments or established communities. The nearest community to the Project area are the rural residences located along Arroyo Quemada Lane, south of the Project area and across U.S. Highway 101 corridor. The proposed Project would not result in the physical divide or demolition of any established communities or dwelling units, nor would the Project result in the displacement of housing or persons, necessitating the construction of additional housing elsewhere. Therefore, the Project would have no impact.

**h. No Impact.** Due to the recreational nature of the Project and proposed development on agriculture zoned lands, the proposed Project would not result in the substantial loss of any open space. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on this resource.

**i. No Impact.** Development under the proposed Project would not result in any social or economic effects which would result in any physical changes. Installation of the proposed bridge and construction of the turnaround area would require use and staging of construction equipment within County right-of-way and along Calle Real. Therefore, construction and operation activities would not result in impacts to the U.S. Highway 101 or social/economic impacts associated with major roadway construction.

**j. No Impact.** The proposed Project area is not located within close proximity to any airports and Project implementation would not result in any conflicts with adopted airport safety zones or airport operations. Therefore, the proposed Project would have no impact.

Cumulative Impacts

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

Required Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts have been identified. Therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

**4.13 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		

Existing Setting

The Project is located within Arroyo Quemado Canyon which includes a small portion of the proposed Project area inside the 65 decibel (dB(A)) noise contours of U.S. Highway 101. A single private residence is located on the ridge of the southeast limits of the canyon, approximately 1,500 feet from the main ranch gate. Furthermore, the residential community of Arroyo Quemado is approximately 1,400 feet southwest of the proposed turnaround, and is located south of U.S. Highway 101 and within the 65 dB(A) noise contours of this roadway. Both the single residence and coastal community are considered to be noise-sensitive uses.

### County Environmental Thresholds

Noise is generally defined as unwanted or objectionable sound which is measured on a logarithmic scale and expressed in decibels (dB(A)). 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 ( $L_{dn}$ ) are noise indices which account for differences in intrusiveness between day- and night-time uses. County noise thresholds are:

- Expose exterior (outdoor) living areas in excess of 65 CNEL, or expose interior (indoor) noise levels in excess of 45 CNEL or more
- Substantially increase the ambient noise levels for noise-sensitive receptors in adjoining areas, considered to be an increase of 5 dB, even if the exterior noise level would remain less the 65 CNEL, as determined on a case-by-case level
- Noise from grading and construction activity proposed within 1,600 feet of sensitive noise receptors including: residential dwellings; transient lodging; hospitals and other long-term care facilities; public or private educational facilities; libraries, churches; and places of public assembly.

### Impact Discussion

**a. No Impact.** Given the nature of the existing noise environment and recreational activities associated with trail use, implementation of the proposed Project would not result in the generation of long-term onsite noise which would exceed County thresholds. A negligible increase in ambient noise is anticipated to result from recreational use of the proposed Trail. The Project is not located within the proximity of an airport land use zone or within two miles of a public airport, or private airstrip. As the Project would not expose a noise-sensitive receptor or substantial population to excessive noise levels, the Project is considered to have no impact in this regard.

**b. Less than Significant with Mitigation.** The proposed Project would result in short-term construction activities and associated equipment operation, which would generate noise that may potentially exceed County thresholds. Improvements to the Trail would involve the construction of a bridge, minimal grading of a small area for a gravel turnaround, and installment of signs and gates along the Trail. The nearest sensitive receptors include the private residence located approximately 1,500 feet up the slope from the proposed turnaround and the residential community located across U.S. Highway 101, approximately 1,400 feet southwest of the proposed turnaround. Equipment required to complete the bridge installation and slope grading for the vehicle turnaround could include light trucks, a bull dozer, a small crane, backhoe, tractor, and other small construction equipment (e.g., hammer drills, pickaxes, chainsaws, shovels, etc.). This equipment would also be used for the installment of gates, fencing, and signs. The operation of such equipment would result in the temporary generation of additional noise for a construction period estimated between 30 and 60 days. However, implementation of proposed mitigation measures NOI-1 and NOI-2 would ensure that impacts associated with construction related noise would be less than significant.

**c. Less than Significant.** The proposed Project would not substantially increase ambient noise levels in adjoining areas. Noise sensitive uses on the proposed project site would not be exposed

to or impacted by off-site noise levels exceeding County thresholds. A negligible increase in ambient noise is anticipated to result from recreational use of the proposed Trail (U.S. Forest Service 2015). Therefore, impacts are considered less than significant.

#### Cumulative Impacts

The implementation of the Project is not anticipated to result in any substantial noise effects. Therefore, the Project would not contribute in a cumulatively considerable manner to noise impacts.

#### Required Mitigation Measures

The following mitigation measures would reduce the Project's noise effects to a less than significant level:

**MM NOI-1** *Construction Equipment: Stationary construction equipment used on proposed turnaround would generate noise in excess of 65 dBA at the Project boundaries and therefore must be shielded and located as far towards the interior of the construction site as practical to minimize the noise levels at the surrounding residential units to the south and north.*

**Plan Requirements and Timing:** The equipment area must be designated on final grading and Trail construction plans. Equipment and shielding must remain in the designated location throughout construction activities.

**Monitoring:** County staff or designee must conduct periodic field inspections to verify compliance during construction activities.

**MM NOI-2** *Construction Hours: The Applicant, including all contractors and subcontractors shall limit construction activity, including equipment maintenance and site preparation, to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. No construction, other than scheduled Trail maintenance activities, shall occur on weekends or State holidays. Any subsequent amendment to the Comprehensive General Plan, applicable Community or Specific Plan, or Zoning Code noise standard upon which these construction hours are based shall supersede the hours stated herein.*

**Plan Requirements and Timing:** One sign stating these restrictions must be provided by the applicant and posted on site. This requirement must be printed on final grading and construction plans prior to the issuance of either a grading permit or a land use development permit. Signs shall be posted prior to commencement of construction and maintained throughout construction.

**Monitoring:** The Applicant shall demonstrate that required signs are posted prior to grading/building permit issuance and pre-construction meeting. Building inspectors and permit compliance staff shall spot check and respond to complaints.

Residual Impact

With the incorporation of these measures, residual impacts resulting from Project noise generation would be less than significant.

**4.14 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	

Existing Setting

Police protection is provided by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff’s Department. Irrigation-related water demand at Baron Ranch is met entirely by onsite wells and a surface reservoir. All sewage and wastewater generated onsite is controlled or managed by onsite septic systems. Electricity services required to meet demand generated by agricultural operations are provided by Southern California Edison.

Impact Discussion

**a, b, c, d, e. No Impact.** Due to the rural nature of the Project area, public services are limited (Amec Foster Wheeler 2015). Given the rural setting, lack of surrounding development, and recreational nature of the proposed trail improvements, implementation of the Project would not induced growth or result in the generation of additional demand for public services within the area. No restrooms are proposed as part of the Project. This level of new development would not have a significant impact on existing police protection or health care services. The Project would not generate any growth that would impact schools. The proposed Project would not generate solid waste in excess of County thresholds. No additional drainages or water quality control facilities would be necessary to serve the Project. Therefore, the Project would have no impact to public facilities.

Cumulative Impacts

The proposed Project would not contribute to cumulative impacts associated with public services.

Required Mitigation Measures

No impacts have been identified. Therefore, mitigation is not necessary

**4.15 RECREATION**

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact/Beneficial 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	

Existing Setting

The scenic vistas, beaches, and panoramic coastal hillsides and mesas that characterize the Gaviota coastline are popular venues for a variety of recreational activities including hiking, camping, swimming, picnicking, fishing, and surfing. Recreational opportunities are located within the Gaviota Coast in areas managed by County, state, and federal parks, as well as several private facilities (Amec Foster Wheeler 2015).

Baron Ranch is owned by Santa Barbara County and is managed by the County Public Works Department’s Resource Recovery & Solid Waste Division. The Trail was opened to the public in December 2010, and is currently use-restricted to foot traffic only; mountain bikes, dogs, and equestrians are currently prohibited. Signs have been placed at the trailhead indicating use restrictions. In addition, signs have been posted throughout the length of the Trail to reduce the potential for conflicts between agricultural and recreational uses. Presently, this Trail is open to the public only three days per week with users limited to hikers only, limiting access by a wide range of user groups that are generally permitted on most County and LPNF trails (Amec Foster Wheeler 2015).

County Environmental Thresholds

The Thresholds and Guidelines Manual contains no threshold for park and recreation impacts. However, the Board of Supervisors has established a minimum standard ratio of 4.7 acres of recreation/open space per 1,000 people to meet the needs of a community. The Santa Barbara County Parks Department maintains more than 1,497 acres of parks and open spaces, as well as 84 miles of trails and coastal access easements.

Impact Discussion

**a, b, c. No Impact/Beneficial Impact.** The proposed Project would result in the development of beneficial recreational facilities, including a multi-use bridge crossing over the Creek and vehicle turnaround supporting access for equestrian trailers. Additionally, use of the Trail will be extended to other users besides just hikers and include bikers and equestrians, and realignment of the Trail would minimize the potential for conflicts between recreational and agricultural uses.

The proposed Project would not significantly affect operations and use of the full extent of the Trail, including the upper segment within the LPNF; rather, implementation of the Project would result in improved access to the active and passive recreational opportunities provided by these trails, potentially alleviating congestion experienced along other Santa Barbara Front County trails. Therefore, impacts to nearby recreational resources, including the coastal and inland portions of the Trail and the Baron Ridge Trail, are considered to be beneficial.

Cumulative Impacts

Since the Project would not affect recreational resources, it would not have a cumulatively considerable effect on recreational resources within the County.

Required Mitigation Measures

No impacts have been identified. Therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

**4.16 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?			X		
ingress/egress?			X		
general road capacity?				X	
emergency access?				X	
h. Impacts to Congestion Management Plan system?				X	

Existing Setting

Access to the Project area from the Trail is provided via the Calle Real frontage road north of U.S. Highway 101. Calle Real is accessed by an unmarked at-grade turnoff from U.S. Highway 101, approximately 2.5 miles northwest of Refugio State Park and 2 miles southeast of the View Point turnoff. The Calle Real frontage ends approximately 0.75 miles from the turnoff. No signage or formal exit occurs for the existing Trail, and travelers on US Highway 101 would likely have to cross a paved median for either ingress or egress. The paved median and a sign indicate where cross traffic would occur. Line-of-sight from the turnout is consistent with

California Department of Transportation guidelines. Posted traffic speed limits are 65 miles per hour in the vicinity of the turnoff.

Vehicles which currently actively access the site include the personal vehicles of Baron Ranch Trail users; County employee and contractor vehicles and trailers associated with Baron Ranch restoration activities; farm employee personal vehicles, farm operation vehicles, and large trucks for transportation of orchard harvests; and occasional school buses.

The Gaviota Coast Plan Draft EIR states the average daily trips (ADT) are 30,200 between El Capitan State Beach Road and Highway 1 (Las Cruces Road). Further, the Gaviota Coast Plan Draft EIR states there are 218 ADTs along Calle Real east of Refugio Road, which represents the nearest analyzed roadway to the proposed Project (County of Santa Barbara 2016).

Existing informal parking for the Trail is provided on the shoulders of the road along Calle Real outside of the Baron Ranch main property gate.

#### County Environmental Thresholds

According to the County's Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual, a significant traffic impact would occur when:

- The addition of project traffic to an intersection increases the volume to capacity (V/C) ratio by the value provided below, or sends at least 15, 10 or 5 trips to an intersection operating at LOS D, E or F.

<b>LEVEL OF SERVICE (including project)</b>	<b>INCREASE IN VOLUME/CAPACITY GREATER THAN</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>0.20</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>0.15</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>0.10</b>
	<b>Or the addition of:</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>15 trips</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>10 trips</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>5 trips</b>

- Project access to a major road or arterial road would require a driveway that would create an unsafe situation, or would require a new traffic signal or major revisions to an existing traffic signal
- Project adds traffic to a roadway that has design features (e.g., narrow width, road side ditches, sharp curves, poor sight distance, inadequate pavement structure) or receives use which would be incompatible with substantial increases in traffic (e.g. rural roads with use by farm equipment, livestock, horseback riding, or residential roads with heavy pedestrian or recreational use, etc.) that will become potential safety problems with the addition of project or cumulative traffic. Exceeding the roadway capacity designated in the Circulation Element may indicate the potential for the occurrence of the above impacts.
- Project traffic would utilize a substantial portion of an intersection(s) capacity where the intersection is currently operating at acceptable levels of service (A-C) but with

cumulative traffic would degrade to or approach LOS D (V/C 0.81) or lower. Substantial is defined as a minimum change of 0.03 for intersections which would operate from 0.80 to 0.85 and a change of 0.02 for intersections which would operate from 0.86 to 0.90, and 0.01 for intersections operating at anything lower.

Impact Discussion

In this case, Project traffic would not impact a street or intersection that is operating at a LOS D, E, or F, and the Project would constitute a negligible fraction of the capacity of area roadways and intersections. The Project does not propose unsafe driveways; impede pedestrian, bicycle, or transit access; nor would it otherwise cause or exacerbate an unsafe traffic condition.

The proposed Project’s contribution to peak hour traffic represents a negligible increase over existing traffic levels and would not exceed the threshold of significance.

**a. Less the Significant.** Implementation of the proposed Project would result in additional traffic trips associated with the transportation of construction materials to and from the Project area. Trail realignment, bridge installation, and turnaround construction activities would be limited to a temporary period of time, between 30 and 60 construction days. Construction vehicles would be staged onsite. Additional traffic trips associated with construction of the Project would result primarily from the commute to and from the site by the trail and construction crew. Construction vehicles and crews are likely to travel to the Project site from the cities of Santa Barbara or Goleta using the U.S. Highway 101. While construction of the proposed Project would likely increase vehicle trips along existing roadways, the average daily trip (ADT) volume resulting of construction of the Project is not anticipated to substantially affect operations of exiting roadways. Further, construction vehicle trips would be limited to a period of approximately 30 to 60 days and would result in negligible short-term impacts to existing traffic volumes along local and regional transportation systems.

The Gaviota Coast Plan Draft EIR states there is an existing ADT volume of 30,200 between El Capitan State Beach Road and Highway 1 (Las Cruces Road) (2016). Further, the Gaviota Coast Plan Draft EIR approximates an ADT of 218 along Calle Real east of Refugio Road, which represents the nearest analyzed roadway to the proposed Project. Based on weekday trip generation rates proposed by Association of Transportation Engineers (ATE) for the recreational use of a local trailhead, implementation of the proposed Project would result in the generation of approximately 39 ADT, with approximately 5.3 AM Peak Hour Trips and 1.8 PM Peak Hours Trips (Table 4.16-1).

**Table 4.16-1 Proposed Project Additional Trip Generation**

Land Use	Size	ADT		AM Peak Hour		PM Peak Hour	
		Rate	Trips	Rate	Trips	Rate	Trips
Trail Parking	15 Spaces	2.59	39	0.35	5.3	0.12	1.8

Source: (Scott Schell 2016)

As a result, the proposed Project impact to ADTs is considered negligible and well under the Rural Policy Capacity of 33,000 ADTs for this roadway (County of Santa Barbara 2016a). The addition of this traffic onto roadways in the Project area would not result in significant traffic or other transportation related impacts.

Future users of the proposed Trail are anticipated to primarily use the existing Baron Ranch trailhead to access the proposed Trail. Visitors arriving via motorized vehicles would park along existing road shoulders located outside the Baron Ranch main gate along Calle Real. Vehicle access to Baron Ranch would be restricted past the proposed turnaround and recreational users would proceed to the Trail from existing parking areas via horse, bike, or by foot. Vehicular ingress to Calle Real from northbound U.S. Highway 101 and egress onto southbound U.S. Highway 101 would require crossing U.S. Highway 101 at an unsignalized crossing; however, given the small increase in trip generation associated with the Project relative to existing baseline, the Project would not result in significant hazardous or unsafe traffic conditions (U.S. Forest Service 2015). In addition, the planned transition of Baron Ranch agricultural operations to the east side of the Creek would result in reduced vehicle trips associated with agricultural operations and maintenance due to the reduced size of active agricultural orchards. Reduction in existing Baron Ranch vehicle trips may offset trip generation associated with the proposed Project. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts to existing roadways.

**b. No Impact.** Traffic that would be generated by the Project would not result in significant impacts to public streets that would require new roads or a significant amount of increased roadway maintenance.

**c. Less than Significant.** Vehicle parking for Baron Ranch Trail users and equestrian trailers would continue to be provided by existing road shoulders along Calle Real, immediately east of the entrance gate. These road shoulders have been historically used for parking for Baron Ranch Trail since the opening of the trail (County of Santa Barbara 2016b). Road shoulder parking in this area and along Calle Real could accommodate parking by additional trail user groups – including vehicles towing large equestrian trailers - expected to recreate at Baron Ranch following implementation of the proposed Project. Segments of Calle Real immediately west of Baron Ranch, may occur within Caltrans right-of-way. Project implementation is not expected to result in demand for additional parking facilities beyond those historically available or disrupt onsite and offsite parking facilities. Impacts are therefore are considered less than significant.

**d, e. No Impact.** Recreational user groups would continue to access the Trail via personal vehicle or bicycle. No alternative modes of transportation service the Project site or nearby vicinity. As such, the proposed Project would not result in significant transit- or transportation-related impacts.

**f, g. No Impact.** The Project would not create a traffic hazard for motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, or transit users, or affect emergency access. Current signage and sight distance for the Calle Real and U.S. Highway 101 intersection is appropriate under Caltrans standards. The Caltrans sight distance standard for stopping on a highway or expressway with design speed of 65 mph is 660 feet (Caltrans 2014). At the at-grade intersection of Calle Real and U.S. Highway 101, sight distance looking east, as well as west from the median opening, is estimated to exceed over 3,000 feet (Google Earth Pro 2016). Large trucks and vehicles towing trailers regularly

access the site, and roadway ingress/egress at this at-grade crossing does not present any additional complications with construction and implementation of the proposed Project. In a previous Environmental Assessment for the Trail Construction and Maintenance of the Baron Ridge Trail, the existing ingress/egress conditions of the at-grade intersection of Calle Real and U.S. Highway 101 were found to not present any significant hazards to motorists (U.S. Forest Service 2015). Furthermore, additional traffic trips generated by the Project would be incremental, and impacts to traffic safety, as well as access to and from the site would be less than significant.

**h. No Impact.** Roadways and intersections in the Project area operate at acceptable levels of service and are not subject to Congestion Management Plan requirements. Implementation of the proposed Project would not affect roadway or intersection operations, and no impacts would occur in this regard.

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 traffic. Therefore, the Project’s contribution to the regionally significant traffic congestion is not considerable, and is less than significant.

Required Mitigation Measures

No impacts have been identified. Therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

**4.17 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, sea level rise, or seawater intrusion?				X	

Will the proposal result in:	Poten. Signif.	Less than Signif. with Mitigation	Less Than Signif.	No Impact	Reviewed Under Previous Document
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 over-commitment of any groundwater basin? Or, a significant increase in the existing overdraft or over-commitment 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		

Existing Setting

The Project area is within the Arroyo Quemado watershed located along the southern slopes of the Santa Ynez Mountains on the Gaviota Coast. The Baron Ranch Trail is enclosed within the Arroyo Quemado Canyon and side valleys, bordered to the west, north, and east by the Santa Ynez Mountains and by the Pacific Ocean to the south. The watershed is drained by Arroyo Quemado Creek and contains commercial orchards, accessible by dirt roads, a 2,100 square foot agricultural support building, and one support reservoir that stores water for the agricultural operations which has been pumped from several onsite groundwater wells. There is little development within the watershed and only minimal coverage by impermeable surfaces.

Arroyo Quemado Creek flows south through the main canyon, adjacent to the dirt orchard roads and the Baron Ranch Trail. Blocked by the U.S. Highway 101, the Creek must pass through an embankment at the U.S. Highway 101 before meeting the ocean adjacent to private residential housing units along the shoreline. Seasonal precipitation in the area is estimated around 20 inches at the proposed bridge installation location, with precipitation estimated around 30 inches at higher elevations in the watershed.

County Environmental Thresholds

A project is determined to have a significant effect on water resources if it would exceed established threshold values which have been set for each overdrafted groundwater basin. These values were determined based on an estimation of a basin's remaining life of available water storage. If the project's net new consumptive water use [total consumptive demand adjusted for recharge less discontinued historic use] exceeds the threshold adopted for the basin, the project's impacts on water resources are considered significant.

A project is also deemed to have a significant effect on water resources if a net increase in pumpage from a well would substantially affect production or quality from a nearby well.

A significant water quality impact is presumed to occur if the project:

- Is located within an urbanized area of the County, and the project construction or redevelopment individually or as a part of a larger common plan of development or sale would disturb one (1) or more acres of land;
- Increases the amount of impervious surfaces on a site by 25% or more;
- Results in channelization or relocation of a natural drainage channel;
- Results in removal or reduction of riparian vegetation or other vegetation (excluding non-native vegetation removed for restoration projects) from the buffer zone of any streams, creeks or wetlands;
- Is an industrial facility that falls under one or more of categories of industrial activity regulated under the NPDES Phase I industrial storm water regulations (facilities with effluent limitation; manufacturing; mineral, metal, oil and gas, hazardous waste, treatment or disposal facilities; landfills; recycling facilities; steam electric plants; transportation facilities; treatment works; and light industrial activity);
- Discharges pollutants that exceed the water quality standards set forth in the applicable NPDES permit, the Regional Water Quality Control Board's (RWQCB) Basin Plan or otherwise impairs the beneficial uses<sup>5</sup> of a receiving water body;
- Results in a discharge of pollutants into an "impaired" water body that has been designated as such by the State Water Resources Control Board or the RWQCB under Section 303 (d) of the Federal Water Pollution Prevention and Control Act (i.e., the Clean Water Act); or
- Results in a discharge of pollutants of concern to a receiving water body, as identified by the RWQCB.

### Impact Discussion

**a, c. Less than Significant.** The proposed Project would include the installation of 65-foot pedestrian bridge over the Creek for use by trail hikers, bicyclists, and equestrians. Concrete support structures will be constructed on banks of the creek to provide structural support for the bridge. While installation of the bridge would displace riparian vegetation along the creek banks, the construction and operation of the bridge would not alter the course of water movement within the creek. As discussed in the Hydraulic Memo prepared by Bengal Engineering, Inc. (Appendix F), the proposed bridge may improve hydrologic conveyance along Arroyo Quemado Creek due to minor creek bank protection improvements. In addition, the bridge installation would not affect the ability for the Creek to convey flows anticipated of a 100-year storm. Further, the proposed trail realignment to the western side of the creek and upper creek at-grade crossing would not impact existing stream courses or surface waters, and would not disrupt or alter the flow of the creek. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

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<sup>5</sup> Beneficial uses for Santa Barbara County are identified by the Regional Water Quality Control Board in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin, or Basin Plan, and include (among others) recreation, agricultural supply, groundwater recharge, fresh water habitat, estuarine habitat, support for rare, threatened or endangered species, preservation of biological habitats of special significance.

**b, d, i. Less than Significant.** The proposed trail realignment and turnaround would consist of natural and graveled surfaces and would not contain any pavement or other impermeable surfaces. In addition, the proposed bridge over the Creek would be located outside of the bed of the creek and would therefore not affect percolation rates. The trail would be realigned along an existing dirt ranch access road which would not impact surface runoff rates. Construction and grading of the proposed turnaround would result in increased amounts of loose sediments, but potential for these sediments to be discharged into the Creek is low. Runoff from the proposed turnaround would follow existing patterns, flowing downslope towards Calle Real to the southeast. The Project would include implementation of BMPs such as revegetation and erosion control measures (e.g., silt fencing, straw bales, hydroseed, etc.). In addition, standard permit conditions required by Santa Barbara County Planning and Development require preparation of an erosion and sediment control plan and the implementation of erosion control measures such as hydroseeding, straw blankets, and silt fences, as well as designated equipment wash-out areas and sediment containment areas. Together, these proposed Project elements and standard conditions would reduce the potential for pollution of surface water quality in the Project area. As the proposed Project would not substantially increase the amount of impermeable surface within the Project area and is required to comply County regulations pertaining to grading and construction activities, impacts to surface waters from runoff or stormwater pollutants are not expected. Therefore, impacts to surface water quality would be less than significant.

**e, f. No Impact.** As discussed above, proposed aspects of the Project would not result in the alteration of surface water flows, and would thus not alter the course or flow of flood water. In addition, the FEMA Flood Map Service Insurance Rate Map does not identify the Project area as being located within a designated 100-year flood plain (FEMA 2012). As described in the Hydraulic Memo, the proposed bridge installation would not affect hydraulic conveyance along the Creek, as well as adequately convey a 100-year flood frequency, and may even improve conveyance at this location (Appendix F). Furthermore, the Project would be located outside of a tsunami inundation zone (California Emergency Management Agency 2009). Therefore, the proposed Project would have a less than significant impact to flooding or flood control.

**g-k. No Impact.** The proposed Baron Ranch Trail realignment and trail improvements would not affect water resources as the Trail would be realigned to use existing dirt ranch roads; the proposed bridge and turnaround would not require water for maintenance. As no proposed development would require water resources, 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.

#### Required Mitigation Measures

No significant impacts have been identified. Therefore, mitigation is not necessary.

## 5.0 INFORMATION SOURCES

### County Departments Consulted

Police, Fire, Public Works, Flood Control, Parks, Environmental Health, Special Districts,

Regional Programs, Other:

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### Comprehensive Plan

<u>  X  </u> Seismic Safety/Safety Element	<u>  X  </u> Conservation Element
<u>  X  </u> Open Space Element	<u>  X  </u> Noise Element
<u>  X  </u> Coastal Land Use Plan	<u>      </u> Circulation Element
<u>  X  </u> ERME	<u>  X  </u> Land Use

### Other Sources

<u>  X  </u> Field work	<u>  X  </u> Ag Preserve maps
<u>  X  </u> Calculations	<u>  X  </u> Flood Control maps
<u>  X  </u> Project plans	<u>  X  </u> Other technical references
<u>      </u> Traffic studies	(reports, survey, etc.)
<u>  X  </u> Records	<u>  X  </u> Planning files, maps, reports
<u>  X  </u> Grading plans	<u>  X  </u> Zoning maps
<u>      </u> Elevation, architectural renderings	<u>  X  </u> Soils maps/reports
<u>  X  </u> Published geological map/reports	<u>      </u> Plant maps
<u>  X  </u> Topographical maps	<u>  X  </u> Archaeological maps and reports
	<u>      </u> Other

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## 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. 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 Impact	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, contribute significantly to greenhouse gas emissions or significantly increase energy consumption, 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 during preparation of this MND, the proposed Project would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment, 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, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, nor would it eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. In addition, due to the Trail’s primary realignment along existing dirt roads 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 4.5, *Biological Resources*, for further detail). Thus, impacts associated with biological resources are less than significant.

**2. Less than Significant.** 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 individually limited significant impacts that cannot be mitigated to a less than significant level. Therefore, the Project's impacts would be less than significant.

**4. Less than Significant.** Implementation of the proposed trail improvements 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.** Based on the information, facts, and technical opinions provided in this report, there is no cause for disagreement such that further investigation through an EIR is warranted. The findings of this report are consistent with the technical studies, investigations, and memorandums prepared for this Project and presented in the above IS/MND.

## **8.0 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES**

There are **no impacts** which cannot 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 100 - 320 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 is not a principally permitted use under the zone district, but can be permitted with the approval of a Conditional Use Permit. Further, 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 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 establish trails for horses and hiking which is a compatible use with the surrounding land uses, (3) the Project would place the Trail in areas that are currently not used for agriculture use and are undesirable for urban uses, and (4) the proposed passive recreational uses on the Trail are consistent with the County of Santa Barbara polices for recreational trails (see Section, 4.12, *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 the Community Services Department:

- 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 PROJECT DESCRIPTION and identified additional mitigation measures 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: N/A

PROJECT EVALUATOR: Claude Garciacelay

DATE: 1/31/2017

**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: 1/31/2017

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ NEGATIVE DECLARATION DATE: 1/31/2017

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ REVISION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ FINAL NEGATIVE DECLARATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**12.0 ATTACHED ITEMS**

- A Development Plans
- B County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors Action Summary
- C Cultural Resources and Native American Consultation
- D Geotechnical Report
- E Land Use Policies and Consistency Analysis
- F Bridge Hydraulic Memorandum

## 13.0 REFERENCES

### County of Santa Barbara.

- County of Santa Barbara. 2008 (revised July 2015). *Environmental Thresholds and Guidelines Manual*. Planning and Development Department.
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# **Attachment A**

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## Response to Comments

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT, PARKS DIVISION  
INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE  
DECLARATION**

*Baron Ranch Trail Realignment Project*

**Response to Comments**

This section includes the comments received during circulation of the Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND) for the Baron Ranch Trail Realignment Project and responses to those comments. The IS-MND was circulated for a 30-day public review period that began February 9, 2017 and concluded on March 8, 2017. The City received one comment letter on the Draft IS-MND during the public comment period. The commenter and the page number on which the commenter's letter appears are listed below.

<b>Letter No. and Commenter</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
1. Krista Nightingale, Air Quality Specialist	3

The comment letter and responses follow. The comment letter is assigned a unique number with each comment individually numbered as well.



**Santa Barbara County  
Air Pollution Control District**

March 7, 2017

Claude Garciacelay  
Santa Barbara County  
Planning & Development and Community Services Department  
123 E. Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: APCD Comments on the Draft Negative Declaration of the Baron Ranch Trail Realignment,  
16CUP-00000-00029

Dear Mr. Garciacelay:

The Air Pollution Control District (APCD) has reviewed the Draft Negative Declaration (ND) for the referenced project. The project proposes to maintain and manage an approximate 6.0-mile long segment of the existing Baron Ranch Trail, which includes realignment of a 1.35-mile segment, as well as construction of a horse trailer turnaround, bridge crossings, and installation interpretive trail and wayfinding signs. The subject property, identified in the Assessor Parcel Map Book as APN 081-150-032, 081-100-005, 081-090-009, and 081-090-007, is located within the County-owned lands of Baron Ranch, at 14550 Calle Real in the unincorporated Gaviota Coast area.

Air Pollution Control District staff offers the following comments on the Draft ND:

- 1. Section 4.3 Air Quality, Existing Setting, page 23: Please note that Santa Barbara County also has a non-attainment status for the state 24-hour particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) standard. | 1-1
- 2. Section 4.3 Air Quality, County Environmental Thresholds, page 23: Please reformat the thresholds, so it reads "not to exceed the APCD health risk public notification thresholds adopted by the APCD Board; and" as just one bullet point. | 1-2

If you or the project applicant have any questions regarding these comments, please feel free to contact me at (805) 961-8893 or via email at [NightingaleK@sbcapcd.org](mailto:NightingaleK@sbcapcd.org).

Sincerely,

Krista Nightingale,  
Air Quality Specialist  
Technology and Environmental Assessment Division

cc: TEA Chron File

*Letter 1*

**COMMENTER:** Krista Nightingale, Air Quality Specialist, Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District

**DATE:** March 7, 2017

**RESPONSE 1-1:** Thank you, your comments are appreciated. Text in Section 4.3, Air Quality, has been revised to include the County's non-attainment status for the state 24-hour particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) standard.

**RESPONSE 1-2:** Appropriate revisions to the text have been provided based on the suggested edits.