

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 26, 2005
To: Sam Gennawey
From: Kim Svitenko – P&D Consultants
Subject: Yucaipa Biological Resources Constraints and Needs

Regarding biological constraints and needs for the Yucaipa project, here is a list of the items that will have to be addressed:

- Obtain a copy of the San Bernardino Valley-Wide Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). The MSHCP is not available on line.
- Obtain any previous biological studies/reports conducted at the project site as reference material.
- Complete the vegetation mapping and delineate habitat types. Identify project impacts to habitat types.
- Many threatened, endangered, and special status plants and animals have been identified in the California Native Diversity Data Base search as potentially occurring in the project region. Completing the vegetation mapping will further identify if appropriate habitat exists on site to support any special status species. Some species may be covered under the MSHCP. If they are covered then focused surveys may not be required. However, some species although covered under the MSHCP, may still have a requirement for focused surveys if they are not considered adequately conserved under the MSHCP. If the project area is within critical habitat for any identified sensitive species then focused surveys will be required.
- Identify sensitive habitats (e.g. oak woodland). If oaks are to be impacted by project development then an oak tree permit issued from the County must be obtained and a mitigation plan must be written.
- Identify drainages by conducting a wetland delineation. The state has a “no net loss” of wetlands.
- Conduct focused surveys for identified special status plants and animals during the appropriate blooming/breeding seasons. Completing the vegetation mapping will determine if suitable habitat is present on the site for any listed special-status species. Potential focused surveys may be needed for the following species:

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Southwestern willow flycatcher
Coastal California gnatcatcher
Western burrowing owl
Least Bell's vireo
San Bernardino kangaroo rat
Stephens' kangaroo rat
San Diego pocket mouse
Plummer's mariposa lily
Slender-horned spineflower
Santa Ana woollystar
Parry's spineflower
Robinson's pepper-grass
Narrow-leaved cottonwood
Parish's checkerbloom

- Write a detailed biological assessment report for the project area identifying all potential project impacts to biological resources. The report will include (but is not limited to): wetland delineation, all focused surveys, delineate existing and impacted habitat, outline impacts to individual species, and a mitigation plan for all species and habitats.
- The resource agencies prefer on-site restoration and will sometimes approve the purchase of mitigation bank credit within the project watershed. With the size of the project area the resource agencies may also require that a resource management plan be written.
- Complete the permit package. Obtain a Section 404 (ACOE) and 401 Water Quality Permit (Regional Board), and a 1602 Permit (CDFG) for impacts to jurisdictional areas.
- Under ordinary circumstances, if a federally listed Threatened and/or Endangered species is documented as occurring on a site, then consultation with the USFWS is required to determine whether the proposed action would either result in "take" that would jeopardize the

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continued existence of the species or “may affect” or a “no effect” determination. The USFWS will not authorize take if they determine it would “jeopardize” the species in question. If the species is covered under the MSHCP then “take” may be permitted pursuant to Section 10(a) of the FESA. A federally listed species is protected from unauthorized “take” pursuant to Section 7 of the FESA. If the species is not covered under the MSHCP then a Section 7 and subsequent BO will be issued by the USFWS. Sometimes the USFWS requests that the applicant writes the BO and submit it for their concurrence. This assists in stream lining the permitting process.

- Incorporate wildlife corridor and connectivity to adjacent open space areas into the project design.
- No more than 30 day prior to the start of construction a raptor survey must be conducted.
- A biological monitor must be on-site during the initial stages of project grading.

Went through the literature search data. Within our study area, five prehistoric sites have been previously recorded: SBR-429, SBR-908, SBR-912, SBR-913, and SBR-915.

SBR-429 was originally recorded in 1935 as a mineralized burial discovered during the construction of a catch basin. In 1965 the site was updated and states that the site contained several burials, pottery, fire-altered rock, and ground and flaked stone artifacts. The site is located immediately south of I-10 adjacent to the rest stop.

SBR-908 was originally recorded in 1939 and updated in 1947 and consisted of pottery, fire-altered rock, and ground and flaked stone artifacts. The 1947 record says that the surface has been destroyed. The site is located north of I-10.

SBR-912 was recorded in 1947 and is described as a processing station. Apparently one man who cultivated the ridge 350 ft NE of the site ploughed up a burial with shell beads. The site was revisited in 1999 and no artifacts were noted; there is a note on the 1947 record that is dated 1976 and states that the site has been destroyed by grading activity. The site is located north of I-10.

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SBR-913 was first recorded in 1947; however, the site record really doesn't say much. A second record for the site dated 1965 describes the site as having cremations and burials with associated artifacts. The site was revisited in 1999 and no artifacts were noted; there is a note on the 1947 record that is dated 1976 and states that the site has been destroyed by road construction. The site is located north of I-10.

SBR-915, recorded in 1976, is described as a very important site as it contains some very early artifacts (discoidals), apparently some of the artifacts were discovered at depth of 20 ft when someone graded the knoll; portions of the site were destroyed during the construction of I-10. The site is located south and immediately adjacent to the I-10.

Hope this helps, I'll keep you posted if I dig up more info.

~Melinda

