



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING

VICTOR HOLANDA, AICP
DIRECTOR

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

FROM: JEFF OLIVEIRA, ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST

VIA: ELLEN CARROLL, ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR *JN for EC*

DATE: APRIL 11, 2006

SUBJECT: SUBMITTAL OF A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE SANTA MARGARITA LAKE TRAIL PROJECT; ED05-224 (300127)

RECOMMENDATION

Approve and adopt the attached Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Santa Margarita Lake Trail Project (ED05-224).

DISCUSSION

In 2002, County Parks was able to obtain 1,280 acres north of Santa Margarita Lake under a federal grant program known as the Recreation and Public Purposes Act. Under this program, the County obtained the property for a minimal cost; however, a condition of this acquisition was the development of a roughly five mile trail corridor and the establishment of a primitive camping site on a portion of the 1,280 acres.

Prior to acquiring the site, County Parks hired the California Conservation Corps (CCC), the Morro Group, Inc., and Bertrando & Bertrando to review site resources and determine the location of a trail corridor. In the early 2000s, the CCC identified a trail corridor. The Morro Group evaluated biological resources onsite as well as potential trail impacts, and Bertrando & Bertrando evaluated the site's cultural resources as well as potential trail/camping impacts. Once a trail route was determined, County Parks submitted the project for environmental review.

As proposed, the project would include construction of a five-mile long trail and primitive camping site north of Santa Margarita Lake. The trail would be three to five feet wide, have a natural surface, and be multi-use (i.e., for equestrians, hikers and mountain bikes). The project would result in the disturbance of roughly five acres of the 1,280 acre parcel. The project's mitigated negative declaration determined the project would have potential aesthetic, biological, geological (erosion), hazard, and water impacts. As indicated in the attached document, all impacts can be adequately mitigated.

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The mitigated negative declaration was released for public comments on February 2, 2006. The public review period for this document ended on March 6, 2006. No comments were received.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

The Department of General Services is responsible for the proposed Santa Margarita Lake Trail and subsequent Mitigated Negative Declaration. Santa Margarita Lake Trail Project has been endorsed by the County Parks and Recreation Commission and the County Trails Committee. The County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, the California Department of Fish and Game and the California Department of Forestry were given referrals for this project. Their responses are listed in Appendix A of the Mitigated Negative Declaration. Referrals were also sent to the County Public Works Department, the Native American Heritage Commission and the Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council, however, no replies were received.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION

Construction of the project is anticipated to cost roughly \$100,000. The California Conservation Corps will provide roughly \$30,000 of this amount in donated labor. A Proposition 40 Grant will be used to pay for the remainder (i.e., \$60,000) of project construction. Future maintenance costs are anticipated to be minimal as this area is currently available for public access and the new trail will be monitored and partially maintained by volunteers.

RESULTS

Adoption of this Mitigated Negative Declaration will complete the environmental review phase and allow project construction. The California Conservation Corps (CCC) will construct the project in the late spring of 2006.

Attachments:

- ▶ Environmental Determination ED05-224

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County File Number: ED05-224

SCH Number:

County General Services
Santa Margarita Lake Trail
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION & INITIAL STUDY

GENERAL SERVICES
2006 JAN 20 11:11-13

Abstract

Proposal by the County Parks Division of the General Services Department to allow the construction of a five-mile long trail (The Greatest Trail in the World) and primitive camping sites within Santa Margarita Lake Regional Park. The trail would be a three to five feet wide, natural surface, multi-use trail. Signage (i.e., trail locations, sensitive wildlife and vegetation, safety, fire hazard, etc.) would be constructed along the trail. A primitive camping site including a pre-fabricated restroom with a pit toilet and equestrian staging posts would be located north of Santa Margarita Lake, at the eastern or western terminus of the trail. The trail would be utilized by hikers, bikers, and equestrians. An existing unimproved parking and staging area located on the west side of River Road would be utilized for parking. No fencing is proposed along the trail alignment. The trail would not be ADA accessible. Span bridges would be constructed over four major drainage crossings. The trail would be constructed using manual tools and vegetation removal. The project would result in the disturbance of approximately five acres of an approximately 1,280-acre parcel. The proposed project is within the Open Space land use category and connects to Santa Margarita Truck Trail in two locations approximately 400 feet (western terminus) and 2,000 feet (eastern terminus) north of Santa Margarita Lake, approximately 4.5 miles east of West Pozo Road (western terminus) and approximately three miles west of River Road (eastern terminus). The site is in the Las Pilitas planning area.

Comments on this document are due by March 6, 2006 and should be sent to Jeff Oliveira, County Department of Planning and Building, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408.

The following persons may be contacted for additional information concerning this document:

Jeff Oliveira, Environmental Specialist
Co. Department of Planning & Building
County Government Center, Room 310
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
(805) 781-5600

Jan DiLeo
County General Services
County Government Center
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
(805) 781-5200

This proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration has been issued by:

1-24-06
Date

Ellen Carroll
Ellen Carroll, Environmental Coordinator
County of San Luis Obispo

The project proponent, who agrees to implement the mitigation measures for the project, is:

1/20/06
Date

Duane Leib
Duane Leib, General Services Director
County of San Luis Obispo

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San Luis Obispo County
Department of Planning and Building
environmental division

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE FORM

NOTICE: During environmental review, this project required consultation, review or development of mitigation measures by the California Department of Fish and Game. Therefore, the applicants will be assessed user fees pursuant to section 711.4 of the California Fish and Game Code.. The California Environmental Quality Act (Section 21089) provides that this project is not operative, vested or final until the filing fees are paid.

Lead Agency: County of San Luis Obispo Date: December 5, 2005
 County: San Luis Obispo Project No. _____
 Project Title: Santa Margarita Lake Trail

Project Applicant

Name: County General Services Department Parks Division
 Address: 1087 Santa Rosa Street
 City, State, Zip Code: San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
 Telephone #: (805) 781-5200

Please remit the following amount to the **County Clerk-Recorder:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report	\$	850.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negative Declaration	\$	1250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> County Clerk's Fee	\$	<u>25.00</u>
Total amount due:		\$1,250

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Checks should be made out to the "**County of San Luis Obispo**". Payment must be received by the County Clerk, 1144 Monterey Street, Suite A, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040, within two days of project approval.

NOTE: Filing of the Notice of Determination for the attached environmental document requires a filing fee in the amount specified above. If the fee is not paid, the Notice of Determination cannot be filed.

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COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION & NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (jo)

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION NO. ED05-224

DATE: February 2, 2006

PROJECT/ENTITLEMENT: County General Services Department Santa Margarita Lake Trail

APPLICANT NAME: County General Services Department Parks Division
ADDRESS: 1087 Santa Rosa Street San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
CONTACT PERSON: Jan DiLeo **Telephone:** (805) 781-5200

PROPOSED USES/INTENT: Request by County General Services to allow construction of a five-mile long trail and primitive camping site within Santa Margarita Lake Regional Park. The trail would be a three to five foot wide, natural surface, multi-use trail connecting to the Santa Margarita Truck Trail in two locations approximately 400 feet (western terminus) and 2,000 feet (eastern terminus) north of Santa Margarita Lake. Improvements would include a primitive camping site, pre-fabricated restroom, signage, equestrian staging posts and four span bridges, which will result in the disturbance of approximately five acres on an approximate 1,280-acre parcel.

LOCATION: The proposed project is within the Open Space land use category, and is located approximately 4.5 miles east of West Pozo Road (western Terminus) and approximately three miles west of Toro River Road (eastern terminus), in the Las Pilitas planning area approximately 6 miles northwest of the village of Pozo. The site is in the Las Pilitas planning area.

LEAD AGENCY: County of San Luis Obispo Department of Planning & Building
 County Government Center, Rm. 310
 San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040

OTHER POTENTIAL PERMITTING AGENCIES: California Department of Fish and Game
 , Regional Water Quality Control Board , U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Additional information pertaining to this environmental determination may be obtained by contacting the above Lead Agency address or (805) 781-5600.

COUNTY "REQUEST FOR REVIEW" PERIOD ENDS AT5 p.m. on February 16, 2006
30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD begins at the time of public notification

Notice of Determination

State Clearinghouse No. _____

This is to advise that the San Luis Obispo County _____ as *Lead Agency*
 Responsible Agency approved/denied the above described project on _____, and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

The project will not have a significant effect on the environment. A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the project. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted for this project. Findings were made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Negative Declaration with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the General Public at:

Department of Planning and Building, County of San Luis Obispo,
 County Government Center, Room 310, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408-2040

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County of San Luis Obispo

Signature	Name	Date	Public Agency
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**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
INITIAL STUDY SUMMARY - ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST**

Project Title & No. San Luis Obispo County Santa Margarita Lake Trail ED05-224

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: The proposed project could have a "Potentially Significant Impact" for at least one of the environmental factors checked below. Please refer to the attached pages for discussion on mitigation measures or project revisions to either reduce these impacts to less than significant levels or require further study.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards/Hazardous Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Circulation
<input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Water
<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Services/Utilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Use

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation, the Environmental Coordinator finds that:

- The proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- The proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- The proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- Although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

MORRO GROUP, INC.
Prepared by (Print)

[Signature]
Signature

12/05/05
Date

Jeff Oliveira
Reviewed by (Print)

[Signature]
Signature

Ellen Carroll,
Environmental Coordinator
(for)

1/20/06
Date

[Handwritten initials]

Project Environmental Analysis

The County's environmental review process incorporates all of the requirements for completing the Initial Study as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines. The Initial Study includes staff's on-site inspection of the project site and surroundings and a detailed review of the information in the file for the project. In addition, available background information is reviewed for each project. Relevant information regarding soil types and characteristics, geologic information, significant vegetation and/or wildlife resources, water availability, wastewater disposal services, existing land uses and surrounding land use categories and other information relevant to the environmental review process are evaluated for each project. Exhibit A includes the references used, as well as the agencies or groups that were contacted as a part of the Initial Study. The Environmental Division uses the checklist to summarize the results of the research accomplished during the initial environmental review of the project.

Persons, agencies or organizations interested in obtaining more information regarding the environmental review process for a project should contact the County of San Luis Obispo Environmental Division, Rm. 310, County Government Center, San Luis Obispo, CA, 93408-2040 or call (805) 781-5600.

A. PROJECT

DESCRIPTION: Proposal by the County Parks Division of the General Services Department to allow the construction of a five-mile long trail (The Greatest Trail in the World) and primitive camping sites within Santa Margarita Lake Regional Park. The trail would be a three to five feet wide, natural surface, multi-use trail. Signage (i.e., trail locations, sensitive wildlife and vegetation, safety, fire hazard, etc.) would be constructed along the trail. A primitive camping site including a pre-fabricated restroom with a pit toilet and equestrian staging posts would be located north of Santa Margarita Lake, at the eastern or western terminus of the trail. The trail would be utilized by hikers, bikers, and equestrians. An existing unimproved parking and staging area located on the west side of River Road would be utilized for parking. No fencing is proposed along the trail alignment. The trail would not be ADA accessible. Span bridges would be constructed over four major drainage crossings. The trail would be constructed using manual tools and vegetation removal. The project would result in the disturbance of approximately five acres of an approximately 1,280-acre parcel. The proposed project is within the Open Space land use category and connects to Santa Margarita Truck Trail in two locations approximately 400 feet (western terminus) and 2,000 feet (eastern terminus) north of Santa Margarita Lake, approximately 4.5 miles east of West Pozo Road (western terminus) and approximately three miles west of River Road (eastern terminus). The site is in the Las Pilitas planning area.

The County Parks Division purchased the project parcel from the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in 2002. The Development Plan issued by BLM includes a requirement for the construction of a "trail system, primitive picnic areas, and primitive camping sites". The Development Plan includes a variety of conditions pertaining to biological resources. These conditions are summarized in the Biological Resources Section of this Initial Study, and a copy of the Development Plan is in Appendix A.

The proposed trail would be located on APNs 070-351-029 and 070-361-013. The trailheads would be accessed via Santa Margarita Truck Trail and McNeil Truck Trail, generally unimproved roads providing access to two private properties (070-341-012 and 070-381-003) adjacent to West Pozo Road and River Road, respectively, and the Federal Land properties immediately north of Santa Margarita Lake (070-341-018, 019; 070-351-026, 070-381-005, 007; 070-372-001; and, 070-221-021). No additional grading is proposed on Santa Margarita Truck Trail or McNeil Truck Trail.

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ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBERS: 070-341-012, 018, 019;
070-351-026, 029; 070-361-013; 070-381-003, 005, 007; 070-
372-001; 070-221-021

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT # 5

B. EXISTING SETTING

PLANNING AREA: Las Pilitas

LAND USE CATEGORY: Open Space

COMBINING DESIGNATION(S): Sensitive Resource Area, Flood Hazard

EXISTING USES: Access roads, trails, horse campsite, boat campsite, undeveloped

TOPOGRAPHY: Gently to very steeply sloping

VEGETATION: Chaparral, mixed oak woodland, pine trees, riparian vegetation, grasses, forbs

PARCEL SIZE: 1,280 acres

SURROUNDING LAND USE CATEGORIES AND USES:

<i>North:</i> Rural Lands, Agriculture; undeveloped, scattered residences and accessory structures	<i>East:</i> Rural Lands; undeveloped, scattered residences and accessory structures
<i>South:</i> Open Space, Recreation; Santa Margarita Lake	<i>West:</i> Open Space, Rural Lands; undeveloped, scattered residences and accessory structures

C. ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

During the Initial Study process, several issues were identified as having potentially significant environmental effects (see following Initial Study). Those potentially significant items associated with the proposed uses can be minimized to less than significant levels.

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**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST**

1. AESTHETICS - Will the project:	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Create an aesthetically incompatible site open to public view?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Introduce a use within a scenic view open to public view?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Change the visual character of an area?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Create glare or night lighting which may affect surrounding areas?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) <i>Impact unique geological or physical features?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) <i>Other _____</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting. The 1,280-acre project site is located north of Santa Margarita Lake, approximately 4.5 miles east of West Pozo Road, and three miles west of River Road (refer to Figures 1 through 3). The area is undeveloped, with the exception of an unimproved road (Santa Margarita Truck Trail) that follows the northern contours of the lake, rough trails, and two primitive campsites adjacent to the lake. The project site is characterized by gently to very steeply sloping ridgelines and canyons vegetated with chaparral, mixed oak and pine woodland, riparian corridors, grasses, and forbs. The visual character of the area has very high scenic qualities, with very unique rock outcrops and geologic formations.

Impact. The County General Services Department Parks Division proposes to construct a five-mile trail (The Greatest Trail in the World) across the project site. The trail would consist of a cleared, natural surface, and range in width from three to five feet. The trail would not be ADA accessible. Based on the remote location of the trail, it would not be visible from any public roads. Portions of the trail would be visible as seen from the lake, and recreation areas located on the southern side of the lake. Construction of the trail would require vegetation removal and minor grading on steeply sloping topography, which may result in erosion and down-gradient sedimentation. If significant erosion occurs, significant visual impacts would result.

Additional trail components would include signage, primitive camping sites including one pre-fabricated restroom, and span bridges over narrow canyons and drainages. The trail alignment would not be significantly visible from the lake or access roads in the area due to the varying intervening topography and surrounding dense vegetation. No lighting is proposed, and the proposed trail would not significantly affect the visual character of the area. The most visible physical components of the project would be the proposed restroom facility and span bridges over drainages.

Mitigation/Conclusion. The Parks Division agrees to prepare and implement an erosion and sedimentation control plan including: 1) temporary measures for implementation during construction, and 2) permanent measures to be maintained for the life of the project (refer to Section 6, Geology and Soils and Exhibit B, GS-1 and GS-2). Implementation of these measures would minimize the area disturbed by the proposed project and reduce potential visual impacts to less than significant.

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To ensure that the proposed restroom and span bridges are compatible with the visual character of the area, the Parks Division agrees to utilize dark, muted, colored facilities and bridge materials (refer to Exhibit B, V-1). Information and safety signage would not significantly impair existing visual resources. Implementation of these measures would ensure that visual impacts are less than significant.

2. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

- Will the project:

	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Convert prime agricultural land to non-agricultural use?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Impair agricultural use of other property or result in conversion to other uses?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Conflict with existing zoning or Williamson Act program?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Other _____</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting. The proposed project site is located within the Open Space land use category. Surrounding land use categories include Open Space, Rural Lands, and Agriculture. The project site and immediately adjacent land do not support agricultural land uses due to the steep topography, rocky soils, and dense vegetation. The soil types mapped by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Survey for the 1,280-acre parcel are: Arbuckle-Positas complex (15-30% slopes), Dibble clay loam (50-75% slopes), Gaviota-San Andreas association, very steep (30-75% slopes), Millsholm-Dibble clay loams (30-75% slopes), Millsholm-Rock outcrop complex (50-75% slopes), Rock outcrop-Gaviota complex (30-75% slopes), and Ryer clay loam (2-9% slopes). The proposed trail alignment would be located on Gaviota-San Andreas association, very steep (30-75% slopes) and Rock outcrop-Gaviota complex (30-75% slopes). As described in the NRCS Soil Survey, these soils are considered Class "VIIe" and "VIIIe" (non-irrigated). No conservation easements or Williamson Act contracts are established on the affected parcels.

Impact. The proposed project was referred to the County Agriculture Department for review. The Agriculture Department did not respond with any comments or concerns (Lynda Auchinachie; September 12, 2005). The proposed trail and camping sites would be located on public lands, and would not be located in close proximity to intensive agricultural activities. Based on the location of the proposed trail alignment, no significant impacts to agriculture would occur.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

3. AIR QUALITY - Will the project:

	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Violate any state or federal ambient air quality standard, or exceed air quality emission thresholds as established by County Air Pollution Control District?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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3. AIR QUALITY - Will the project:	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
b) Expose any sensitive receptor to substantial air pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Create or subject individuals to objectionable odors?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be inconsistent with the District's Clean Air Plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting. The project site is located within a remote, generally undeveloped area, and is in the regional vicinity of the Black Mountain air quality monitoring station. Based on the latest air monitoring station information, the trend in air quality in the general area is improving (APCD Annual Summary Report; 2003).

The Air Pollution Control District (APCD) estimates that automobiles currently generate about 40% of the pollutants responsible for ozone formation. Nitrous oxides (NOx) and reactive organic gasses (ROG) pollutants (vehicle emission components) are common contributors towards this chemical transformation into ozone. Dust, or particulate matter less than ten microns (PM10) that become airborne and which find their way into the lower atmosphere, can act as the catalyst in this chemical transformation to harmful ozone. In part, the land use controls currently in place for new development relating to ROG and NOx (i.e., application of the CEQA Air Quality Handbook) have helped reduce the formation of ozone. The Air Pollution Control District (APCD) has developed the CEQA Air Quality Handbook to evaluate project specific impacts and help determine if air quality mitigation measures are needed, or if potentially significant impacts could result. To evaluate long-term emissions, cumulative effects, and establish countywide programs to reach acceptable air quality levels, a Clean Air Plan has been adopted (prepared by APCD).

Impact. As proposed, construction of the trail and primitive camping areas would result in the disturbance of approximately five acres. This would result in short-term vehicle emissions and creation of dust during grading. A majority of trail construction methods would be limited to hand tools and small machinery. The resulting airborne pollutants created during these activities would be considered less than significant. The trips generated by visitors to the proposed trail would be minimal (approximately 12 average daily trips). Only ten persons would be permitted at a time within the primitive camping site. A parking area would be located within an existing unimproved parking and staging area on the western side of River Road.

Mitigation/Conclusion. Based on the nature of the proposed project, no significant impacts to air quality were identified, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Will the project:	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Result in a loss of unique or special status species or their habitats?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Will the project:	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
b) Reduce the extent, diversity or quality of native or other important vegetation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Impact wetland or riparian habitat?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Introduce barriers to movement of resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or factors which could hinder the normal activities of wildlife?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting. The following habitats were observed on the proposed project site: chaparral, mixed oak woodland, riparian scrub, and rock outcrop. Based on the latest California Diversity database and other biological references, the following species or sensitive habitats were identified in the vicinity of the project site:

Plants: Hoover's bent grass (*Agrostis hooveri*); Santa Lucia manzanita (*Arctostaphylos luciana*); Santa Margarita manzanita (*Arctostaphylos pilosula*); San Luis mariposa lily (*Calochortus obispoensis*); San Luis Obispo mariposa lily (*Calochortus simulans*); Late-flowered mariposa lily (*Calochortus weedii* var. *vestus*); dwarf calycadenia (*Calycadenia villosa*); Cambria morning-glory (*Calystegia subacaulis* ssp. *episcopalism*); San Luis Obispo sedge (*Carex obispoensis*); straight-awned spineflower (*Chorizanthe rectispina*); leafy tarplant (*Deinandra increscens* ssp. *foliosa*); yellow-flowered eriastrum (*Eriastrum luteum*); stinkbells (*Fritillaria agrestis*); Ojai fritillary (*Fritillaria ojaiensis*); San Luis Obispo County lupine (*Lupinus ludovicianus*); San Luis Obispo County bush mallow (*Malacothamnus niveus-syn jonesii*); Palmer's monardella (*Monardella palmeri*); and Mason's neststraw (*Stylocline masonii*).

Wildlife: Southern steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*); California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*); California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*); foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*); arroyo toad (*Bufo californicus*); western spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus hammondi*); silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*); California horned lizard (*Phrynosoma coronatum frontale*); southwestern pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata pallida*); two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondi*); California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*); Cooper's hawk (nesting) (*Accipiter cooperi*); sharp-shinned hawk (nesting) (*Accipiter striatus*); ferruginous hawk (wintering) (*Buteo regalis*); northern harrier (nesting) (*Circus cyaneus*); white-tailed kite (nesting) (*Elanus leucurus*); osprey (nesting) (*Pandion haliaaetus*); golden eagle (nesting and wintering) (*Aquila chrysaetos*); bald eagle (nesting and wintering) (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*); prairie falcon (nesting) (*Falco mexicanus*); peregrine falcon (nesting) (*Falco peregrinus anatum*); burrowing owl (burrow sites) (*Athene cuniculara*); short-eared owl (nesting) (*Asio flammeus*); long-eared owl (nesting) (*Asio otus*); California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*); California horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris actia*); Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (*Aimophila ruficeps canescens*); tricolored blackbird (nesting colony) (*Agelaius tricolor*); loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*); Townsend's western big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii townsendii*); western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis*); western red bat (*Lasiurus blossevillii*); pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*); small-footed myotis (*Myotis ciliolabrum*); fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*); Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*); pocketed free tail bat (*Nyctinomops (Tadarida) femorosaccus*); San Joaquin pocket mouse (*Perognathus inornatus*)

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inornatus); Salinas pocket mouse (*Perognathus inornatus psammophilus*); mountain lion (*Felis concolor*); and American badger (*Taxidea taxus*).

Habitats: The Salinas River and Santa Margarita Lake support habitat for Southern steelhead and California red-legged frog.

Special-status Plant Species. The project site was surveyed in October 2001 (Morro Group, Inc.; November 6, 2001), and seasonal floristic surveys were conducted in April, May, and June 2005 (Morro Group, Inc.; August 30, 2005). Based on the results of these surveys, the following three special-status plant species are present within a 300-foot corridor along the trail alignment: Santa Margarita manzanita, San Luis Obispo mariposa lily, and bush mallow (refer to Figure 5).

Santa Margarita Manzanita

Santa Margarita manzanita is an evergreen shrub that occurs in chaparral and closed-cone coniferous forests communities, on sandstone substrates. It is a California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List 1B (rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere) species that typically flowers from December through March. Based on the *Botanical Survey Report*, previous documents identified four individuals of this species within the northeastern portion of the property and noted that the four specimens displayed characteristics of both Santa Margarita manzanita and big-berry manzanita, and suggested that the plants may have represented hybrids of these two very similar species. Big-berry manzanita is the dominant species of manzanita found along the trail route during the 2005 surveys, although many specimens displayed characteristics of Santa Margarita manzanita.

San Luis Obispo Mariposa Lily

San Luis Obispo mariposa lily is a CNPS List 1B species found in chaparral, coastal scrub, grassland, and freshwater seep habitats of dry, granitic soils. This species blooms from April to May. Two occurrences of San Luis Obispo mariposa lily were observed along the trail route within annual grassland areas in small openings in the chaparral, on south-facing slopes. Approximately 50 individuals were present in the northernmost occurrence, while the smaller western occurrence contained approximately 20 individuals.

San Luis Obispo County Bush Mallow

San Luis Obispo County bush mallow is a CNPS List 4 (limited distribution watch list) perennial shrub known to occur on rocky or sandy soils within the Pozo area, Atascadero, near Shandon, the La Panza Range, and the lower Cuyama Valley. Seven occurrences of this species were observed along the eastern and middle portions of the trail route. The occurrences were typically composed of three to eight shrubs on south or west facing slopes.

Special-status Wildlife Species. The project site was surveyed in October 2001 (Morro Group, Inc.; November 6, 2001), and April, May, and June 2005 (Morro Group, Inc.; August 30, 2005). Based on the results of these surveys, the following twelve species have been documented, or are likely to occur, in proximity to the trail alignment: California horned lizard, prairie falcon, peregrine falcon, mountain lion, western red bat, small-footed myotis, fringed myotis, Yuma myotis, pocketed free tail bat, pallid bat, Townsend's western big-eared bat, and western mastiff bat. Habitat for California red-legged frog and steelhead trout is not present within the trail alignment or camping areas.

Coast Horned Lizard

Coast horned lizard is a State Species of Concern, and occurs in sandy washes, flood plains, and wind-blown deposits in a wide variety of habitats. This species forages on the ground in open areas, usually between shrubs and frequently near ant nests. This species was observed during a 2005 survey.

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Prairie Falcon

Nesting prairie falcon are State Species of Concern. This species are residents of San Luis Obispo County, and require sheltered cliff ledges for cover and nesting. Nests are typically characterized by a simple scrape overlooking a large, open area. During 2005 surveys, an adult prairie falcon was observed near Douglas Canyon on the project site. An active prairie nest was observed south of the proposed western trail loop, and an adult prairie falcon was observed flying into the nest to feed chicks. The closest portion of the proposed trail is located on the opposite side of the ridge approximately 350 feet northeast of the nest. The nest is not visible from the trail due to intervening topography. Additional potential nesting habitat was observed within large rock formations within Douglas Canyon and Pitch Pine Canyon.

Peregrine Falcon

Nesting peregrine falcons are a State Endangered species. This species requires habitat very similar to that of prairie falcons, but unlike the latter species, peregrines are commonly found along the coast and ocean. An active nest of peregrine falcons is located within the Crags, a rocky formation near the White Oak area of Santa Margarita Lake Regional Park. This species was not observed during the 2001 or 2005 surveys, but may occur within the same habitat noted previously for prairie falcon.

Western Red Bat

The western red bat is a sensitive bat species that roosts in forests and woodlands. Western red bat was not observed during 2001 and 2005 site surveys (evening/night observations not conducted), but this species may potentially roost in trees and shrubs of canyon areas.

Small-footed Myotis

Small-footed myotis is a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sensitive bat species that roosts within buildings, caves, crevices, and mines, and occasionally under bridges and tree bark. This species was not observed during the 2001 and 2005 surveys, but may potentially roost within the rock outcrop habitat.

Fringed Myotis

Fringed myotis is a BLM sensitive bat species occurring in pinyon-juniper, valley foothill hardwood, and hardwood-conifer habitats between 4000-7000 feet. This species may roost in caves, mines, buildings, and crevices. Separate day and night roosts may be established. This species was not observed during 2001 and 2005 surveys, but may potentially roost within the rock outcrop habitat.

Yuma Myotis

Yuma myotis is a BLM sensitive bat species occurring within forests and open woodlands with nearby sources of water (ponds, streams, and stock tanks). This species roosts in building, mines, caves, and crevices, but has been observed roosting within abandoned swallow nests and under bridges. Though Yuma myotis were not observed during 2001 and 2005 site visits (no evening surveys conducted), it is expected that the abundance of rock outcrop habitat and associated caves and fissures could potentially support this species.

Pocketed Free Tail Bat

Pocketed free tail bat is a State Special Concern Species that prefers crevices in cliffs as roosting sites, though caves and buildings may also be used. While seemingly unlikely to occur on the parcel, this species was trapped by the Forest Service near Santa Margarita Lake. This species was not observed during 2001 and 2005 surveys, but it may potentially roost within the rock outcrop habitat located throughout the parcel.

Pallid Bat

The pallid bat is a State Special Concern Species and BLM sensitive species. Suitable habitat roosting habitat includes crevices in rocky outcroppings, caves, mines, hollow trees, and buildings.

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Maternal colonies typically rear young in appropriate habitats between March 1 and August 31. Though pallid bat was not observed during 2001 and 2005 site visits (no evening surveys conducted), it is expected that the abundance of rock outcrop habitat and associated caves and fissures could potentially support this species.

Townsend's Big-Eared Bat

Townsend's big-eared bat is a State Special Concern Species and BLM sensitive species. This species establishes separate day and night roost locations, which may include caves, mines, tunnels, or buildings. This species was not observed during 2001 and 2005 surveys, but may potentially roost within the rock outcrop habitat.

Western Mastiff Bat

Western mastiff bat is a State Special Concern Species and BLM sensitive species found in semi-arid to arid habitats, including conifer and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub, annual and perennial grasslands, palm oases, chaparral, desert scrub, and urban environments. Preferred roosting sites include crevices in high cliffs, high buildings, trees, and tunnels. This species was not observed during 2001 and 2005 surveys, this species may nevertheless roost within rock outcrop habitats located throughout the site.

Mountain Lion

Mountain lions are a State Special Protected species, and are distributed throughout California in mountainous and coastal habitats. This species was not observed during the biological surveys. Mountain lions require extensive areas of riparian vegetation and brush, interspersed with irregular terrain such as rock outcrops and tree-brush edges. They are uncommonly seen at and near Santa Margarita Lake and are known from the northern portions of the project site at the interfaces of residential developments. While unlikely to be seen, this species undoubtedly exists throughout the project site.

Native and Other Important Vegetation. Mixed oak woodland and oak savannah habitats are present on the project site. Blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*), and interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*) are located along the trail route.

Wetland and Riparian Habitat. Several watercourses drain from the project parcel southward into Santa Margarita Lake. Five prominent drainages intersect the proposed trail route. Two unnamed drainages are located near the southwest corner of the parcel, and Jackass Canyon and Pitch Pine Canyon support tributaries to the lake (refer to Figure 5). The Douglas Canyon drainage flows into the Pitch Pine Canyon drainage near the trail alignment. These drainages and their associated riparian corridors were surveyed during the October 2001 and 2005 site visits. These canyons and their associated drainages contain surface flow during the rainy season and for some months thereafter with only scattered areas supporting standing water for any substantial portion of the year. As such, these drainages are ephemeral, and potentially seasonally intermittent, creeks.

During the October 2001 site surveys, water was absent from both of the unnamed drainages. Standing water was present within small sandstone pools of Jackass Canyon, Douglas Canyon and Pitch Pine Canyon. Vegetation within all noted drainages was similar, and included deer grass, southern goldendrod, brown-headed rush, and creeping wild-rye. Species noted in association with standing water included cattail, common spikerush, and two species of rushes. Infrequently, and primarily near the confluence points near Santa Margarita Lake, these drainages included shrubby/tree components such as red willow and California sycamore. Wetland habitat was observed in association with several of the noted drainages. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the California Department of Fish and Game consider wetland and riparian habitat sensitive, jurisdictional areas.

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Wildlife. In addition to the species noted above, the project site supports habitat for a variety of wildlife species including deer, coyote, bobcat, black bear, squirrels, mice, lizards, snakes, raccoon, skunk, and wood rat. Several bird species were observed on the project site including plain titmouse, mourning dove, northern flicker, acorn woodpecker, California towhee, Stellar's jay, western bluebird, bushtit, California quail, red-tailed hawk, and red-shouldered hawk. Other birds that are expected to occur within these habitats on a regular basis include western screech-owl, Cooper's hawk, golden eagle, great horned owl, common barn owl, and wild turkeys. Oak woodland, riparian areas, and rock outcrops provide habitat for nesting, roosting, and wintering birds.

Impact. The County Parks Division proposes to construct a trail through the project site, which would connect to an existing unpaved road near the northern boundary of the lake. The proposed trail would include primitive camping sites at the eastern or western terminus of the trail. Campsite facilities would be limited to a pre-fabricated restroom and equestrian staging posts. Motorized vehicles would be prohibited.

Special-status Plant Species.

Santa Margarita Manzanita

In some areas along the western portion of the trail, both Santa Margarita and big-berry manzanita species are co-dominant shrubs along with chamise, and will be difficult to avoid completely. Manzanita along the eastern portion of the trail are larger and less dense, and can likely be more easily avoided during trail construction.

San Luis Obispo Mariposa Lily

The northern occurrence of San Luis Obispo mariposa lily is located in a swath across the proposed trail alignment. Based on the current trail alignment, individuals of this species would be removed within the trail corridor.

San Luis Obispo County Bush Mallow

Based on the location of documented occurrences, this species can be avoided during trail construction. Inadvertent removal or impacts to this species, such as trampling, may occur if special precautions are not implemented.

Special-status Wildlife Species. Based on the results of biological surveys, thirteen special-status wildlife species and/or their habitat are present on the project site, and in the vicinity of the trail corridor, including western spadefoot toad, California horned lizard, prairie falcon, peregrine falcon, mountain lion, and western red bat, small-footed myotis, fringed myotis, Yuma myotis, pocketed free tail bat, pallid bat, Townsend's western big-eared bat, and western mastiff bat.

A majority of these species are associated with the rock outcrop habitat found at several locations within the project parcel. Mountain lion and coast horned lizard are expected to occur throughout the project parcel. It is unlikely that the proposed project will adversely affect mountain lion due to their scarcity and secretive behavior; however, potential interactions with mountain lions can be dangerous. Lion dens and sensitive birds and bats nesting/roosting in fissures, caves, or ledges of rock outcrops could be indirectly affected by designing trails too close to such habitats. Active raptor nests were noted approximately 350 feet northeast of the proposed trail. Additional potential nesting habitat was observed within large rock formations within Douglas Canyon and Pitch Pine Canyon. Due to intervening topography, the nest would not be visible from the trail.

Native and Important Vegetation. The proposed trail would be located within oak woodland and oak savannah habitats. Construction of the trail would not require removal of any oak trees. The Parks Division proposes to use hand tools to construct the trail within oak woodland habitats to avoid

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significant impacts to the root zones of individual oak trees. Based on proposed trail construction methods, impacts to oak trees and oak woodland would be insignificant.

Wetland and Riparian Habitat. Construction and use of trails may directly or indirectly disturb ephemeral drainages. CDFG recommends avoidance of drainages where feasible via span bridges.

Wildlife. Depending on the timing of project construction, proposed development activities could result in disturbance of nesting birds. Section 3503 of the Fish and Game Code prohibits such impacts. Based on the location of the proposed trail, bat roosting habitats within rock outcrops would be avoided. In addition, no trees are proposed for removal. General use of the trail is not expected to significantly impact the behavior of other wildlife species; however, signage should be installed to educate trail users regarding sensitivity towards wildlife and their habitat.

In addition to the impacts described above, introducing the public to a natural wildlife area may result in disturbance, destruction, and harm to sensitive plant species, wildlife, and habitats. Harmful actions may include vegetation removal, diversions off the trail alignment, and littering.

Mitigation/Conclusion. The Development Plan issued by the BLM in association with the land sale of the project parcel including several conditions pertaining to biological resources, including 1) avoiding direct disturbance to major drainages, 2) implementation of erosion control measures, 3) minimizing tree removal, 4) avoiding special-status species and nesting/roosting habitat during trail and campsite construction, and 5) movement of horned lizards from construction areas (refer to Appendix A). In addition, sensitive species training is required prior to construction, and implementation of an aggressive signage program is required to educate the trail construction crew and trail users about sensitive species and their habitat to minimize harm to natural resources during operation of the trail. The Parks Division is required to comply with these conditions (refer to Exhibit B, BR-1).

Special-status Plant Species. Special-status plant species occurrences were documented in the field via Global Positional System (GPS), as shown in Figure 5. This data can be utilized in the field to avoid inadvertent disturbance of individuals and their habitat during trail construction. The proposed project was referred to Bob Stafford with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). Based on review of the proposed project, and *Botanical Survey Report*, Mr. Stafford concluded that San Luis Obispo mariposa lily and San Luis Obispo County bush mallow can be avoided during trail construction. Based on the density of manzanita along the western trail alignment, it is not feasible to completely avoid removal of manzanita plants. Mr. Stafford approved removal of juvenile manzanita along the western alignment where avoidance is not feasible (personal communications; August 31, 2005). CDFG also recommends additional mitigation including implementation of pre-construction surveys, staff training, and installation of informational signage along the trail route (Bob Stafford; August 31, 2005).

Consistent with BLM Development Plan Conditions and CDFG recommendations, the County Parks Division agrees to redesign the final trail alignment to avoid removal of San Luis Obispo County bush mallow and San Luis Obispo mariposa lily (BR-2). Manzanita occurrences along the trail route consist of scattered Santa Margarita manzanita interspersed with the common big berry manzanita, and some specimens appear to be hybrids between the two species. Much of the manzanita occurrences mapped along the western portions of the trail consist of juvenile growth that has occurred following the Las Pilitas fire, while the eastern occurrence consists of larger, more mature specimens.

Due to the density of manzanita along the ridgeline portions of the western trail route, total avoidance is not practical in this area. Manzanita impacts along the western portion of the trail should be minimized where possible, and necessary removals should be limited to the smallest or youngest individuals (BR-2). CDFG reviewed the *Botanical Survey Report* and approved removal of such

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immature manzanita plants if avoidance is not feasible. Manzanita species present along the east trail portion also consist of scattered Santa Margarita manzanita interspersed with the common big berry manzanita, but individual specimens are larger and less densely clustered. The Parks Division has agreed to avoid manzanita plants along the eastern trail segment. To minimize inadvertent or unnecessary impacts, the Parks Division has agreed to install temporary construction fencing or flagging during construction to clearly define the trail route (BR-3).

Special-status Wildlife Species. California horned lizard, prairie falcon, peregrine falcon, mountain lion, western red bat, small-footed myotis, fringed myotis, Yuma myotis, pocketed free tail bat, pallid bat, Townsend's western big-eared bat, and western mastiff bat. BLM conditions and CDFG recommendations include pre-construction surveys (BR-4) and sensitive species training for all crewmembers that will be actively participating in trail construction activities (BR-5). Material covered within this training should include, at a minimum, a description of those species with the potential to be adversely affected by the project, the regulatory setting of protecting such species, and a description of measures to be incorporated into the project to minimize such adverse effects. As discussed above, an aggressive sign program shall be implemented by the Parks Division to educate trail users regarding sensitive wildlife species, including cautionary information regarding mountain lions (BR-6).

Native and Important Vegetation. The County Parks Division is not proposing any mature, living tree removal, and impacts to the root zones of oak trees would be minimized by the use of hand tools. No additional mitigation measures are necessary (BR-7).

Wetland and Riparian Habitat. The Parks Division has agreed to avoid direct impacts to ephemeral drainages and wetland areas by constructing span bridges over identified drainage courses (Jackass Canyon, Douglas Canyon, and Pitch Pine Canyon) (BR-8). Bridge footings shall be constructed outside of the bed and bank of the drainages. Indirect impacts to drainages and wetland areas would be minimized upon implementation of measures required by BLM and recommended by CDFG, including implementation of an erosion and sedimentation control plan, construction crew training, and an aggressive sign program. In addition, the boundaries of trail construction areas shall be clearly marked in the field, the use of heavy equipment shall be prohibited, and disturbed areas shall be restored (BR-9). If the installation of span bridges cannot completely avoid the bed and bank of the drainages, the Parks Division is required to consult with CDFG, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and obtain appropriate permits/authorizations (if necessary).

Wildlife. Based on CDFG's review of the proposed project, and distance and intervening topography between the proposed trail alignment and noted active raptor nests, potential impacts to sensitive wildlife would be mitigated by implementation of pre-construction surveys, staff training, and installation of informational signage along the trail route (Bob Stafford; August 31, 2005).

Vegetation removal or trimming for trail or campsite/picnic area development shall be conducted within those portions of the year when birds are not nesting (September through February). If vegetation removal is necessary during the later spring, summer, and/or early fall, a qualified biologist shall inspect the project alignments to determine the locations of active nests (BR-10). Project activities shall be modified to avoid impacts to active nests. Unavoidable impacts to such nests may require the issuance of take permits issued under section 2081 of the Fish and Game code.

Based on implementation of measures required by BLM, and additional mitigation measures described above and listed in Exhibit B, impacts to biological resources would be insignificant.

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5. CULTURAL RESOURCES - <i>Will the project:</i>	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Disturb pre-historic resources?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Disturb historic resources?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Disturb paleontological resources?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Other _____</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting. The project site is located within a region historically occupied by the Obispeño Chumash and Southern Salinan Native Americans. Based on the presence of rock outcrops and the proximity of the Salinas River, a *Cultural Resource Inventory* including a records search and surface survey was conducted (Bertrando & Bertrando Research Consultants; May 7, 2002). Based on the results of the records search, four archaeological sites are documented west and south of the project parcel, and one archaeological site was located within the proposed trail route. BLM archaeologists documented this site in 1982, and observed resources were collected. The proposed trail alignment and a majority of the project parcel were surveyed for evidence of cultural materials. Based on the results of the field survey, no historical or archaeological materials were observed, including within the previously discussed archaeological site (Bertrando & Bertrando; May 7, 2002). The project site is located within a known region of paleontological sensitivity.

Impact. Based on the results documented in the *Cultural Resource Inventory*, no significant cultural resources are present within the proposed trail route and primitive camping areas, and impacts to cultural resources would not occur. Based on the nature of the proposed trail, which would consist of rough surface grading, the potential for paleontological discovery and destruction is unlikely.

Mitigation/Conclusion. Based on the results of technical reports, the nature of the proposed ground disturbance, and the location of the proposed project, impacts to cultural resources would not occur. In the event cultural resources are discovered during trail construction, the County Parks Division is required to halt work in the area of the discovery, and contact the appropriate agencies (refer to Exhibit B, CR-1).

6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS - <i>Will the project:</i>	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Result in exposure to or production of unstable earth conditions, such as landslides, earthquakes, liquefaction, ground failure, land subsidence or other similar hazards?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Be within a CA Dept. of Mines & Geology Earthquake Fault Zone (formerly Alquist Priolo)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Result in soil erosion, topographic changes, loss of topsoil or unstable soil conditions from project-related improvements, such as vegetation removal, grading, excavation, or fill?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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6. GEOLOGY AND SOILS - <i>Will the project:</i>	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
d) <i>Change rates of soil absorption, or amount or direction of surface runoff?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) <i>Include structures located on expansive soils?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) <i>Change the drainage patterns where substantial on- or off-site sedimentation/ erosion or flooding may occur?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) <i>Involve activities within the 100-year flood zone?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) <i>Be inconsistent with the goals and policies of the County's Safety Element relating to Geologic and Seismic Hazards?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) <i>Preclude the future extraction of valuable mineral resources?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) <i>Other _____</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting/Impact.

GEOLOGY – The topography of the project site is gently to very steeply sloping. The area proposed for development is outside of the Geologic Study Area designation. The landslide risk potential is considered high. The liquefaction potential during a ground-shaking event is considered low. No active faulting is known to exist on or near the subject property. The project is not within a known area containing serpentine or ultramafic rock or soils. Based on the size and type of the proposed project, geologic impacts would be insignificant.

DRAINAGE – The area proposed for the trail is outside the 100-year Flood Hazard designations associated with Santa Margarita Lake. Several canyons throughout the project site facilitate the flow of stormwater into the lake. The proposed trail crosses two main drainages within Jackass Canyon, Douglas Canyon, and Pitch Pine Canyon. As described in the NRCS Soil Survey, the soils mapped within the trail alignment are considered well drained. Construction of the proposed trail and camping areas would not interfere with existing drainage patterns, or within the 100-year floodplain. Based on the location and type of the project, drainage impacts would be insignificant.

SEDIMENTATION AND EROSION – The soil types mapped along the project alignment are Gaviota-San Andreas association, very steep (30-75% slopes) and Rock outcrop-Gaviota complex (30-75% slopes). As described in the NRCS Soil Survey, the soil surface is considered to be very highly erodible. The shrink-swell characteristic is low. Construction of the proposed trail would require vegetation removal and minor grading of approximately five acres. Erosion and down-gradient sedimentation are likely to occur if best management practices are not implemented prior to, during, and for the lifetime of the project.

Mitigation/Conclusion. Consistent with BLM requirements, the County Parks Division has agreed to prepare an erosion and sedimentation control plan including best management practices (BMPs)

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designed to avoid erosion during construction of the trail and measures to minimize erosion during the use of the trail. The plan shall consist of graphic and narrative information of sufficient clarity to indicate the nature, extent, location and placement recommendations of the erosion and sedimentation control measures proposed. The location of all practices, methods and devices shall be shown on the grading plan, or on a separate plan attached to the grading plan. The plan shall contain, but need not be limited to, all of the following information:

1. Grading limits shall be graphically defined on the plan and staked or flagged before site disturbance begins.
2. Proposed methods and a description of the practices to be used to protect exposed erodible areas during and after construction, including temporary and permanent mulching, seeding, or other recognized surface stabilization measures.
3. Proposed temporary and final methods and a description of the practices to be used to prevent erosive surface runoff, including earth or paved interceptors and diversions, energy absorbing structures, or devices and techniques to reduce the velocity of runoff water.
4. The type, location, and extent of pre-existing and undisturbed vegetation on the site.
5. Descriptions of proposed methods to limit access routes and stabilize all access points, and to delineate clearing limits, easements, setbacks, sensitive areas, buffer areas and drainage courses (refer to Exhibit B, GS-1).

Erosion issues shall be monitored for up to three years following construction of the trail (GS-2). Implementation of these measures would mitigate potential geology and soils impacts to less than significant.

7. HAZARDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Will the project:	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Result in a risk of explosion or release of hazardous substances (e.g. oil, pesticides, chemicals, radiation) or exposure of people to hazardous substances?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Interfere with an emergency response or evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose people to safety risk associated with airport flight pattern?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Increase fire hazard risk or expose people or structures to high fire hazard conditions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Create any other health hazard or potential hazard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting. The project site is located within a very high fire hazard zone. The County Department of Forestry/County Fire (CDF) currently provides fire protection. The closest CDF station is located in Pozo, within a 20-minute response zone. The project site is not located in an area of known hazardous material contamination and does not include the use of hazardous materials. The project site is not expected to conflict with any regional evacuation plan.

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Impact. The proposed project does not include any habitable structures. The County Parks Division proposes to establish up to one primitive camping site near the western or eastern trailheads, including a restroom/pit toilet facility. Due to the remote location of the campsites, and very high fire hazard, the risk of wildfire as a result of campfires is high. The proposed project was referred to CDF for review. CDF noted potential fire hazards during construction activities, including the potential for fire-starting sparks from grinding, welding, cutting activities, use of vehicles and motorized equipment, and vegetation burning (Robert Lewin, CDF; October 5, 2005).

Mitigation/Conclusion. The Parks Division currently prohibits campfires within remote camping areas during the high fire season (July through September). The proposed campsite(s) would be equipped with a Fire Suppression Station, including shovels and soil, and campfires would only be permitted within a designated fire pit/area. In addition, informational signage regarding the fire hazard shall be posted within camping areas, along the trail alignment, and in applicable informational brochures. In compliance with CDF recommendations, all construction crew staff shall be notified of potential fire hazards during trail construction, and shall comply with fire safety measures (refer to Exhibit B, H-1, H-2). Implementation of proposed measures, and additional measures included in Exhibit B would mitigate potential fire hazard impacts to less than significant.

8. NOISE - Will the project:	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Expose people to noise levels which exceed the County Noise Element thresholds?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Generate increases in the ambient noise levels for adjoining areas?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Expose people to severe noise or vibration?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Other</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting/Impact. The proposed trail would not be located in the vicinity of any major roads. The primary source of noise in the area is limited to boat use on Santa Margarita Lake. Operation of the proposed trail would be limited to hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. No motorized vehicles would be allowed. Primitive camping sites would not include connections to electricity or generators. Use of the trail and camping areas would not generate a significant amount of noise.

Mitigation/Conclusion. Based on the location and type of project, no significant noise impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

9. POPULATION/HOUSING - Will the project:	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g., through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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9. POPULATION/HOUSING - <i>Will the project:</i>	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
b) <i>Displace existing housing or people, requiring construction of replacement housing elsewhere?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Create the need for substantial new housing in the area?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Use substantial amount of fuel or energy?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) <i>Other _____</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting/Impact. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in a need for new housing, displace existing housing, or use a substantial amount of fuel or energy to construct or maintain. No significant population or housing impacts were identified.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant population or housing impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/UTILITIES <i>- Will the project have an effect upon, or result in the need for new or altered public services in any of the following areas:</i>	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Fire protection?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Police protection (e.g., Sheriff, CHP)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Schools?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Roads?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) <i>Solid Wastes?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) <i>Other public facilities?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) <i>Other _____</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting/Impact. CDF and the County Sheriff serve the project site. The closest CDF station is in Pozo, approximately ten miles east of the project site. The closest Sheriff station is in San Luis Obispo, approximately fifteen miles from the project site. In addition, a Park Ranger is onsite at Santa Margarita Lake Regional Park. Implementation of the proposed project would not significantly increase the demand for public services or utilities.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

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11. RECREATION - Will the project:	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Increase the use or demand for parks or other recreation opportunities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Affect the access to trails, parks or other recreation opportunities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting/Impact. The proposed project site is located within Santa Margarita Lake Regional Park, which includes 7,122 acres owned by San Luis Obispo County, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). The proposed trail and primitive camping sites would be located on property transferred to the County from the BLM. Existing recreational resources within the park include boating, fishing, camping, group and individual picnic areas, a children's play area, nature study, swimming, and trails. The Parks Department reports that over 170,000 persons visit the park annually (*Recreation and Public Purposes Act Application for Acquisition of 1,280 acres of BLM Land Adjacent to Santa Margarita Lake Regional Park; December 2000*).

The proposed project consists of a trail, and is consistent with the *County Trails Plan* and *Santa Margarita Lake Natural Area Resource Management Plan*. The intent of the trail is to provide improved access to recreational opportunities and the Santa Margarita Lake area, and to comply with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) conditions of purchase. Development of the trail would help ease the demand for recreational resources in San Luis Obispo County.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

12. TRANSPORTATION/ CIRCULATION - Will the project:	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) Increase vehicle trips to local or areawide circulation system?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Reduce existing "Levels of Service" on public roadway(s)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Create unsafe conditions on public roadways (e.g., limited access, design features, sight distance, slow vehicles)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Provide for adequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Result in inadequate internal traffic circulation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. J. [Signature]

**12. TRANSPORTATION/
CIRCULATION - Will the project:**

	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
g) <i>Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., pedestrian access, bus turnouts, bicycle racks, etc.)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) <i>Result in a change in air traffic patterns that may result in substantial safety risks?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) <i>Other _____</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting. The proposed trail would be accessed from River Road via Santa Margarita Truck Trail and McNeil Truck Trail, generally unimproved roads providing access to two private properties (070-341-012 and 070-381-003) adjacent to West Pozo Road and River Road, respectively, the Federal Land properties immediately north of Santa Margarita Lake (070-341-018, 019; 070-351-026, 070-381-005, 007; 070-372-001; and, 070-221-021), one primitive horse campsite, one primitive boat campsite, and a trail system located along the northern side of the lake. The northern trail system is accessible by boat, and River Road. There is an existing parking and staging area on the western side of River Road. For boat access, there is an existing staging and parking area and boat dock on the southern side of the lake within the Regional Park. Based on an average daily trip (ADT) rate of 2.28 ADT per acre of improvements (ITE Manual 2005), existing trails on the northern side of the lake generate approximately up to 12 trips per day.

Impact. No additional grading or improvements are proposed on Santa Margarita Truck Trail and McNeil Truck Trail. The proposed trail would also be accessed via boat. The proposed primitive camping sites would accommodate a maximum of ten campers, and the proposed trail would be five miles long. Campsites would be regulated by the Park Ranger. A parking area is proposed on the western side of River Road, within an existing approximately 30,000-square foot unimproved parking and staging area. Based on an average daily trip (ADT) rate of 2.28 ADT per acre of improvements, implementation of the proposed project would generate up to 12 trips per day. The total trip generation for trail use accessed by River Road is approximately 24 ADT. Estimated trip generation would not significantly impact level of service. The proposed parking area is adequate to hold 24 vehicles and equestrian trailers.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant traffic impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

13. WASTEWATER - Will the project:

	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Violate waste discharge requirements or Central Coast Basin Plan criteria for wastewater systems?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Change the quality of surface or ground water (e.g., nitrogen-loading, daylighting)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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13. WASTEWATER - Will the project:	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
c) <i>Adversely affect community wastewater service provider?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Other</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting/Impact. The proposed project does not include the construction of any new septic systems or leachfields. The Parks Division proposes to provide one prefabricated restroom facility in association with the primitive campsite(s). The restroom would consist of a privacy structure over a pit toilet, similar to existing restroom facilities located within the primitive horse campsite and boat campsite. The pit would be supported by wood on four sides, and the bottom would be open to allow fluids to percolate.

To avoid impacts to the reservoir, the Parks Division proposes to comply with the California Department of Health Services Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management's Draft Guidelines for Evaluating Applications for Recreational Use Permits at Domestic Water Supply Reservoirs (Draft, November 15, 2000). Guidelines include: 1) a minimum 100-foot setback from the high water level of the reservoir, and 2) required closure of the pit when it is filled within 18 inches of the floor slab. Closure of the pit is anticipated to occur in ten to fifteen years. Based on the project's proposed design, significant impacts resulting from wastewater would not occur.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No significant wastewater impacts were identified, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

14. WATER - Will the project:	Potentially Significant	Impact can & will be mitigated	Insignificant Impact	Not Applicable
a) <i>Violate any water quality standards?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) <i>Discharge into surface waters or otherwise alter surface water quality (e.g., turbidity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, etc.)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) <i>Change the quality of groundwater (e.g., saltwater intrusion, nitrogen-loading, etc.)?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) <i>Change the quantity or movement of available surface or ground water?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) <i>Adversely affect community water service provider?</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) <i>Other</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Setting/Impact. The proposed trail crosses three main tributaries that flow into Santa Margarita Lake. The soil surface is considered very highly erodible, and construction and use of the trail may result in erosion and down-gradient sediment discharge into drainages, resulting in a potentially significant impact. The Sensitive Resource Area designation on the project site applies to the Santa Margarita

Lake watershed, and prohibits the use of off-road vehicles. Motorized vehicles would be prohibited. The proposed project is limited to a trail, primitive camping sites, and a prefabricated restroom/pit toilets, which do not require the use of water. As discussed in Section 13 (Wastewater), the Parks Division proposes to implement measures recommended by the California Department of Health Services Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management, including a minimum 100-foot setback from the high water line and thresholds for closure. Based on implementation of these guidelines, significant impacts to water supply would not occur.

Mitigation/Conclusion. As discussed in Section 6 (Geology and Soils), the County Parks Division has agreed to prepare an erosion and sedimentation control plan including best management practices (BMPs) designed to avoid erosion during construction of the trail and measures to minimize erosion during the use of the trail, such as water diversion devices, straw wattles, and revegetation of disturbed slopes. Erosion issues shall be monitored annually following construction of the trail. Implementation of these measures would mitigate potential water quality impacts to less than significant.

15. LAND USE - Will the project:	Inconsistent	Potentially Inconsistent	Consistent	Not Applicable
a) Be potentially inconsistent with land use, policy/regulation (e.g., general plan [county land use element and ordinance], local coastal plan, specific plan, Clean Air Plan, etc.) adopted to avoid or mitigate for environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Be potentially inconsistent with any habitat or community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Be potentially inconsistent with adopted agency environmental plans or policies with jurisdiction over the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be potentially incompatible with surrounding land uses?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Setting/Impact. The proposed project has been reviewed for consistency with policy and regulatory documents relating to the environment and appropriate land use (e.g. County Land Use Ordinance, Las Pilitas Area Plan, County Trails Master Plan, and Santa Margarita Lake Natural Area Resource Management Plan). The project is found to be consistent with these policy and regulatory documents. The project site is not located within the boundaries of a Habitat Conservation Plan. Surrounding land uses include scattered residences, undeveloped land, and recreational uses. The proposed project is consistent with these land uses because it includes a trail system and primitive camping areas within a recreational area.

Mitigation/Conclusion. No land use inconsistencies were identified, and no mitigation measures are necessary.

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16. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE - Will the project:

Potentially Significant

Impact can & will be mitigated

Insignificant Impact

Not Applicable

a) *Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?*

b) *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)*

c) *Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?*

For further information on CEQA or the county's environmental review process, please visit the County's web site at "www.sloplanning.org" under "Environmental Review", or the California Environmental Resources Evaluation System at "http://ceres.ca.gov/topic/env_law/ceqa/guidelines/" for information about the California Environmental Quality Act.

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Exhibit A - Initial Study References and Agency Contacts

The County Planning or Environmental Division has contacted various agencies for their comments on the proposed project. With respect to the subject application, the following have been contacted (marked with a ☒) and when a response was made, it is either attached or in the application file:

<u>Contacted</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Response</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Public Works Department	No Response
<input type="checkbox"/>	County Environmental Health Division	Not Applicable
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	County Agricultural Commissioner's Office	Attached
<input type="checkbox"/>	County Parks and Recreation Division	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	County Assessor Department	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	Air Pollution Control District	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regional Water Quality Control Board	Not Applicable
<input type="checkbox"/>	CA Department of Conservation	Not Applicable
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CA Department of Fish and Game	Attached
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CA Department of Forestry	Attached
<input type="checkbox"/>	CA Department of Transportation	Not Applicable
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Native American Heritage Commission	No Response
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Santa Margarita Area Advisory Council	No Response

** "No comment" or "No concerns"-type responses are usually not attached

The following checked ("☒") reference materials have been used in the environmental review for the proposed project and are hereby incorporated by reference into the Initial Study. The following information is available at the County Planning and Building Department.

Project File for the Subject Application
County documents

- Airport Land Use Plans
- Annual Resource Summary Report
- Building and Construction Ordinance
- Coastal Policies
- Framework for Planning (Coastal & Inland)
- General Plan (Inland & Coastal), including all maps & elements; more pertinent elements considered include:
 - Agriculture & Open Space Element
 - Energy Element
 - Environment Plan (Conservation, Historic and Esthetic Elements)
 - Housing Element
 - Noise Element
 - Parks & Recreation Element
 - Safety Element
- Land Use Ordinance
- Real Property Division Ordinance
- Trails Plan
- Solid Waste Management Plan

Las Pilitas Area Plan and Update EIR

South County Circulation Study
Other documents

- Archaeological Resources Map
- Area of Critical Concerns Map
- Areas of Special Biological Importance Map
- California Natural Species Diversity Database
- Clean Air Plan
- Fire Hazard Severity Map
- Flood Hazard Maps
- Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey for SLO County
- Regional Transportation Plan
- Uniform Fire Code
- Water Quality Control Plan (Central Coast Basin – Region 3)
- GIS mapping layers (e.g., habitat, streams, contours, etc.)

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In addition, the following project specific information and/or reference materials have been considered as a part of the Initial Study:

Bertrando & Bertrando Research Consultants. May 7, 2002. *Cultural Resource Inventory of a 1500 Acre Parcel Santa Margarita Lake San Luis Obispo County, CA.*

Bureau of Land Management. November 6, 2002. *Management Plan for Santa Margarita Lake Land conveyance Under the R&PP Act to County of San Luis Obispo BLM case serial number CACA 42826.*

Bureau of Land Management. November 6, 2002. *Development Plan for Santa Margarita Lake Land conveyance Under the R&PP Act to County of San Luis Obispo BLM case serial number CACA 42826.*

California Department of Health Services Division of Drinking Water and Environmental Management. November 15, 2000. *Draft Guidelines for Evaluating Applications for Recreational Use Permits at Domestic Water Supply Reservoirs.*

Morro Group, Inc. November 6, 2001. *Biological Resource Evaluation.*

Morro Group, Inc. August 30, 2005. *Biological Survey Report.*

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Exhibit B - Mitigation Summary Table

Aesthetics

- V-1** The color and material of all structural improvements (i.e., restrooms, tables, benches, bridges) shall consist of dark, muted colors.

Biological Resources

- BR-1** The Parks Division agrees to implement all conditions listed in the *Development Plan for Santa Margarita Lake Land Conveyance Under the R&PP Act to County of San Luis Obispo BLM Case Serial Number CACA 42826* (November 6, 2002).
- BR-2** **During trail construction**, San Luis Obispo County bush mallow and San Luis Obispo mariposa lily shall be avoided. Santa Margarita manzanita located along the eastern trail segment shall be avoided. Santa Margarita manzanita located along the western trail segment shall be avoided where feasible, and if avoidance is not feasible, only juvenile specimens are permitted for removal.
- BR-3** **Prior to trail construction**, the boundaries of construction areas shall be clearly defined in the field. Temporary construction fencing and/or flagging shall be installed within sensitive plant and habitat areas to avoid inadvertent disturbance. The use of heavy equipment shall be prohibited.
- BR-4** **Prior to trail construction**, the Parks Division shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct a pre-construction survey for special-status species including nesting/roosting birds and bats. Special-status species and other observed wildlife shall be avoided during trail construction and maintenance activities.
- BR-5** **Prior to trail construction**, the Parks Division shall retain a qualified biologist to conduct a sensitive species and habitat training for all crewmembers that will be actively participating in trail construction activities. Material covered within this training should include, at a minimum, a description of those species and habitats with the potential to be adversely affected by the project, the regulatory setting of protecting such species and habitats, and a description of measures to be incorporated into the project to minimize such adverse effects.
- BR-6** **Prior to operation of the trail**, the Parks Division shall implement an aggressive signage program including educational information regarding the sensitivity of special-status species, wildlife, and habitat areas, and the importance of back-country stewardship.
- BR-7** **During trail construction**, no mature, living trees (diameter greater than four inches) are permitted for removal. The trail alignment shall avoid disturbance within tree root zones where feasible, and hand tools shall be utilized.
- BR-8** **During trail construction**, span bridges shall be constructed over identified drainages to avoid impacts to tributaries to Santa Margarita Lake. Bridge footings and associated structural supports shall be installed outside of the bed and bank of the drainage. If avoidance is not feasible, the Parks Division shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and obtain appropriate permits/authorizations (if necessary).
- BR-9** **Following completion of construction-related activities**, all disturbed and barren areas not intended to remain barren (i.e., trails, campsites, picnic areas) shall be revegetated with

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appropriate native vegetation to reduce the risk of erosion from the site and sedimentation into off-site drainages. Areas experiencing only temporary disturbance shall be replanted with only native species that are characteristic of various habitats of the project area.

BR-10 During trail construction and maintenance activities, vegetation removal or trimming for trail or campsite/picnic area development and maintenance should be conducted within those portions of the year when birds are not nesting (September through February). If removal of mature vegetation is necessary during the later spring, summer, and/or early fall, a qualified biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey to determine the locations of active nests. Project activities should be modified to avoid impacts to active nests.

Cultural Resources

CR-1 In the event archaeological resources are unearthed or discovered during any construction activities, the following standards apply:

- a. Construction activities shall cease, and the Environmental Coordinator and Department of Planning and Building shall be notified so that the extent and location of discovered materials may be recorded by a qualified archaeologist, and disposition of artifacts may be accomplished in accordance with state and federal law.
- b. In the event archaeological resources are found to include human remains, or in any other case where human remains are discovered during construction, the County Coroner is to be notified in addition to the Environmental Coordinator and Department of Planning and Building so that proper disposition may be accomplished.

Geology and Soils

GS-1 Prior to trail construction, the Parks Division shall prepare and implement an erosion and sedimentation control plan including temporary measures for implementation during construction, and permanent measures to be maintained for the life of the project. The plan shall consist of graphic and narrative information of sufficient clarity to indicate the nature, extent, location and placement recommendations of the erosion and sedimentation control measures proposed. The location of all practices, methods and devices shall be shown on the grading plan, or on a separate plan attached to the grading plan. The plan shall contain, but need not be limited to, all of the following information:

- a. Grading limits shall be graphically defined on the plan and staked or flagged before site disturbance begins.
- b. Proposed methods and a description of the practices to be used to protect exposed erodible areas during and after construction, including temporary and permanent mulching, seeding, or other recognized surface stabilization measures.
- c. Proposed temporary and final methods and a description of the practices to be used to prevent erosive surface runoff, including earth or paved interceptors and diversions, energy absorbing structures, or devices and techniques to reduce the velocity of runoff water.
- d. The type, location, and extent of pre-existing and undisturbed vegetation on the site.
- e. Descriptions of proposed methods to limit access routes and stabilize all access points, and to delineate clearing limits, easements, setbacks, sensitive areas, buffer areas and drainage courses.

GS-2 The project manager shall submit a trail maintenance report to the Planning and Building Department Division of Environmental and Resource Management **at the end of an initial period of three years from the date of completion of trail construction,** identifying areas of the trail where erosion damage has resulted in the need for significant an/or repeat repair or rebuilding of the trail bed. In the event that an area of the trail is identified as having a

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significant or repetitive maintenance problem due to drainage and/or erosion, mitigation measures to correct the problems(s) will be proposed in the three-year trail maintenance report to be approved by the Environmental Coordinator and implemented by the project manager within twelve months of the report date.

Hazards

- H-1 Prior to trail construction**, the County Parks Division shall provide all trail construction crewmembers with a list of fire safety measures including the following information:
- a. Emergency access shall be maintained during construction.
 - b. No person shall use or operate any devices from which a spark, fire, or flame may originate, without doing both of the following:
 - 1) First clearing away all flammable material, including snags, from the area around such operation for a distance of 10 feet.
 - 2) Maintain one serviceable round point shovel with an overall length of not less than 46 inches and one backpack pump water-type fire extinguisher fully equipped and ready for use at the immediate area during the operation.
 - c. No person shall use, operate, or allow to be used or operated, any internal combustion engine which uses hydrocarbon fuels unless the engine is equipped with a spark arrester, maintained in effective working order or the engine is constructed, equipped, and maintained for the prevention of fire.
 - 1) Spark arresters affixed to the exhaust system of engines or vehicles subject to this section shall not be placed or mounted in such a manner as to allow flames or heat from the exhaust system to ignite any flammable material.
 - 2) A spark arrester is a device constructed of nonflammable materials specifically for the purpose of removing and retaining carbon and other flammable particles over 0.0232 of an inch in size from the exhaust flow of an internal combustion engine that uses hydrocarbon fuels or which is qualified and rated by the United States Forest Service.
 - 3) Engines used to provide motive power for trucks, truck tractors, buses, and passenger vehicles, except motorcycles, are not subject to this section if the exhaust system is equipped with a muffler as defined in the Vehicle Code.
 - 4) Turbocharged engines are not subject to this section if all exhausted gases pass through the rotating turbine wheel, there is no exhaust bypass to the atmosphere, and the turbocharger is in effective mechanical condition.
 - d. A Burning Permit is required for the burning of any natural vegetation. Burning of any other material is prohibited.
 - e. Project supervisors and staff shall be aware of the following typical wildland fire causes:
 - 1) Discarded cigarettes.
 - 2) Faulty exhaust systems.
 - 3) Engines not having required spark arrester.
 - 4) Parking vehicles on dry vegetation.
 - 5) Sparks from welding, grinding, and cutting operations.
 - 6) Open flame devices used adjacent to combustible materials.
 - 7) Illegal burning of debris.
 - 8) Combustible debris adjacent to exhaust systems.
 - 9) Leaking fuel systems on motorized equipment.

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- H-2 During operation of the proposed trail and primitive campsites**, campfires shall be prohibited during the high fire season (red flag conditions). Campsites shall be equipped with Fire Suppression Stations. Informational signage shall be posted warning trail users and campers of the very high fire hazard. In addition, fire safety information shall be listed in applicable informational brochures.

Appendix A
Development Plan
For
Santa Margarita Lake Land Conveyance Under the R&PP Act

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DEVELOPMENT PLAN
for
SANTA MARGARITA LAKE LAND CONVEYANCE UNDER THE R&PP ACT
to
COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
BLM case serial number CACA 42826

The San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors agrees to develop the following lands according to the following guidelines:

T30S, R14E, MDM

Section 2 Lot 7, Lot 8, Lot 9, W1/2 of Lot 10, Lot 12, N1/2SW1/4, SW1/4SW1/4
Section 3 Lot 4, W1/2 of Lot 5, S1/2E1/2 of Lot 6, Lot 9, Lot 10, Lot 11, Lot 13, S1/2
Section 4 SE1/4

containing 1299.81 acres, more or less

- a. To develop the lands primarily for public recreation, but also for watershed protection and scenic preservation.
- b. To design and construct a trail system, primitive picnic areas, and primitive camping sites on the lands, in substantial conformity with the information shown on the attached Tables 3A, 3B, and 3C.
- c. To the extent feasible, locate proposed trails and development to avoid direct disturbance of major drainages.
- d. To minimize the potential for indirect disturbance of drainages located both on- and off-site, and to preserve trail integrity, implement appropriate erosion control measures.
- e. The final project design shall consider the location of all significant trees (e.g., may include those native trees in excess of 4 inches diameter at breast height), and the number of significant trees removed shall be minimized to the extent possible.
- f. Prior to final design of the proposed project, a qualified botanist should be retained to conduct focused surveys for special-status plants potentially occurring within areas proposed for development and within 300 feet of areas proposed for development. These surveys should be conducted during the April-June period to maximize the likelihood of finding rare plants in identifiable (flowering) condition. Trail alignments and picnic

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area/campsite footprints should be sited to avoid sensitive plants found during the focused surveys.

g. All verified occurrences of sensitive plant species revealed during the survey work should be reported to the NDDDB by the qualified botanist within 30 days of the observation.

h. The County should conduct sensitive species training for all crew members that will be actively participating in site grading, or trail clearing, activities. Material covered within this training should include, at a minimum, a description of those species with the potential to be adversely affected by the project, the regulatory setting of protecting such species, and a description of measures to be incorporated into the project to minimize such adverse effects.

i. All homed lizards within the project area shall be carefully moved out of the trail alignment and project area as trail and site grading is conducted. The previously noted training should discuss such relocation techniques.

j. Prior to final trail alignment, focused surveys for rare falcons (both prairie and peregrine) should be conducted within those areas of suitable rock outcrop habitats near the planned trails/campsites. Such surveys should be conducted during the appropriate season, which is typically April-May for both species (Baicich & Harrison 1997). If such locations include active nesting sites, the CDFG should be consulted to determine an appropriate distance to locate the trail from the nest sites.

k. The CDFG may require seasonal closures for trails located proximal to active falcon nest sites. Early consultation with the CDFG will be useful.

l. An aggressive signage program, is advised to educate project users of the sensitivity of various species, and of the importance of back country stewardship.

m. Application of mitigation measures for falcons should also provide protection to sensitive bat species potentially located within the rock outcrop habitat of the subject lands. Consultation with the CDFG regarding the effects of trails on sensitive bat species is advised.

n. Vegetation removal or trimming for trail or campsite/picnic area development should be conducted within those portions of the year when birds are not nesting (i.e., winter and early spring). If vegetation removal is necessary during the later spring, summer, and/or early fall, a qualified biologist should inspect the project alignments to determine the locations of active nests. Project activities should be modified to avoid impacts to active nests. Unavoidable impacts to such nests may require the issuance of take permits issued under section 2081 of the Fish and Game code.

o. Any changes to this Development Plan by the County will require the prior approval of



the Bureau of Land Management's authorized officer.

p. Failure to substantially follow this approved Development Plan may result in action by the Bureau of Land Management to revest title to the United States.

for the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors:

D. Leib

Duane P. Leib, Deputy Director of General Services,
pursuant to Board Resolution Number 2000-398

10-9-02

Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM
AND LEGAL EFFECT

JAMES B. LINDHOLM, JR.
COUNTY COUNSEL

By *Rita Sciaroni*
Deputy County Counsel

Date: 10/3/02

approved by the Bureau of Land Management:

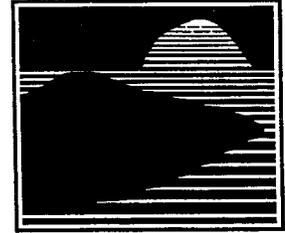
R. Fellows

Ron Fellows
Field Office Manager
Bakersfield Field Office

11/6/02

Date

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PROJECT REFERRAL

**MORRO
GROUP, INC.**
Environmental Services

DATE: August 31, 2005
TO: California Department of Fish and Game
FROM: Shawna Scott, Morro Group, Inc.
SUBJECT: Applicant: County General Services Department, Parks Division
Project: Santa Margarita Lake Trail Project CEQA Determination

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Construct a multi-use, natural surface trail approximately three to five feet in width and five miles long, place signage along the trail route, and establish two primitive camping sites with an option for a pre-fabricated restroom north of Santa Margarita Lake.

PART 1 IS THE ATTACHED INFORMATION ADEQUATE FOR YOU TO DO YOUR REVIEW?

- YES (Please go on to Part II)
- NO (Call me ASAP to discuss what else you need. We have only 30 days in which we must accept the project as complete or request additional information.)

PART II ARE THERE SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS, PROBLEMS OR IMPACTS IN YOUR AREA OF REVIEW?

- NO (Please go on to Part III)
- YES (Please describe impacts, along with recommended mitigation measures to reduce the impacts to less-than-significant levels, and attach to this letter)

PART III INDICATE YOUR RECOMMENDATION FOR FINAL ACTION. Please attach any conditions of approval you recommend to be incorporated into the project's approval, or state reasons for recommending denial. **IF YOU HAVE "NO COMMENT", PLEASE INDICATE OR CALL (805) 543-7095 extension 111.**

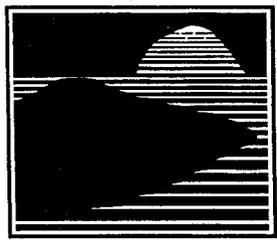
Area around San Luis mariposa lilies should be avoided during trail construction

Response Date: 9-31-05 Name: Robert Stafford

Please return this letter with your comments by September 2, 2005.

*BS
39*

#1070



PROJECT REFERRAL

MORRO GROUP, INC.
Environmental Services

DATE: August 11, 2005
TO: Lynda Auchinachie, County Agriculture Department
2156 Sierra Way, Ste. A
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
FROM: Shawna Scott, Morro Group, Inc.
SUBJECT: Applicant: County General Services Department, Parks Division
Project: Santa Margarita Lake Trail Project CEQA Determination

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Construct a multi-use, natural surface trail approximately three to five feet in width and five miles long, place signage along the trail route, and establish two primitive camping sites with an option for a pre-fabricated restroom north of Santa Margarita Lake.

PART I IS THE ATTACHED INFORMATION ADEQUATE FOR YOU TO DO YOUR REVIEW?

- YES (Please go on to Part II)
- NO (Call me ASAP to discuss what else you need. We have only 30 days in which we must accept the project as complete or request additional information.)

PART II ARE THERE SIGNIFICANT CONCERNS, PROBLEMS OR IMPACTS IN YOUR AREA OF REVIEW?

- NO (Please go on to Part III)
- YES (Please describe impacts, along with recommended mitigation measures to reduce the impacts to less-than-significant levels, and attach to this letter)

PART III INDICATE YOUR RECOMMENDATION FOR FINAL ACTION. Please attach any conditions of approval you recommend to be incorporated into the project's approval, or state reasons for recommending denial. **IF YOU HAVE "NO COMMENT", PLEASE INDICATE OR CALL (805) 543-7095 extension 111.**

Response Date: 9/12/05 Name: LYNDA L. AUCHINACHIE

BS
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Please return this letter with your comments by September 2, 2005.



CDF/San Luis Obispo County Fire Department

635 N. Santa Rosa • San Luis Obispo • California 93405

October 5, 2005

Shawna Scott, Morro Group
1422 Monterey Street, Suite C200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Subject: Santa Margarita Lake Trail Project CEQA Determination

Dear Ms. Scott,

I have reviewed the project referral for the Santa Margarita Trail Project. This project is located in an area prone to wildland fires; therefore, the following fire prevention mitigations should apply during construction activities:

Emergency access must be maintained during construction.

Grinding, welding and cutting torch activities must be in compliance with Public Resources Code, Section 4427, which specifies clearance and fire suppression tool requirements

Internal combustion engines must be in compliance with Public Resources Code, Section 4442, which specifies spark arrester requirements. Vehicles equipped with exhaust and muffler systems as defined in the Vehicle Code are exempt from spark arrester requirements. Turbocharged engines are exempt from spark arrester requirements.

A Burning Permit is required for the burning of any natural vegetation. Burning of any other material is prohibited.

Project supervisors and employees should be aware of the following typical wildland fire causes on such projects:

- Discarded cigarettes.
- Faulty exhaust systems.
- Engines not having required spark arrester.
- Parking vehicles on dry vegetation.
- Sparks from welding, grinding and cutting operations.
- Open flame devices used adjacent to combustible materials.
- Illegal burning of debris.

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- Combustible debris adjacent to exhaust systems.
- Leaking fuel systems on motorized equipment.

If I can provide additional information or assistance, please call 543-4244.

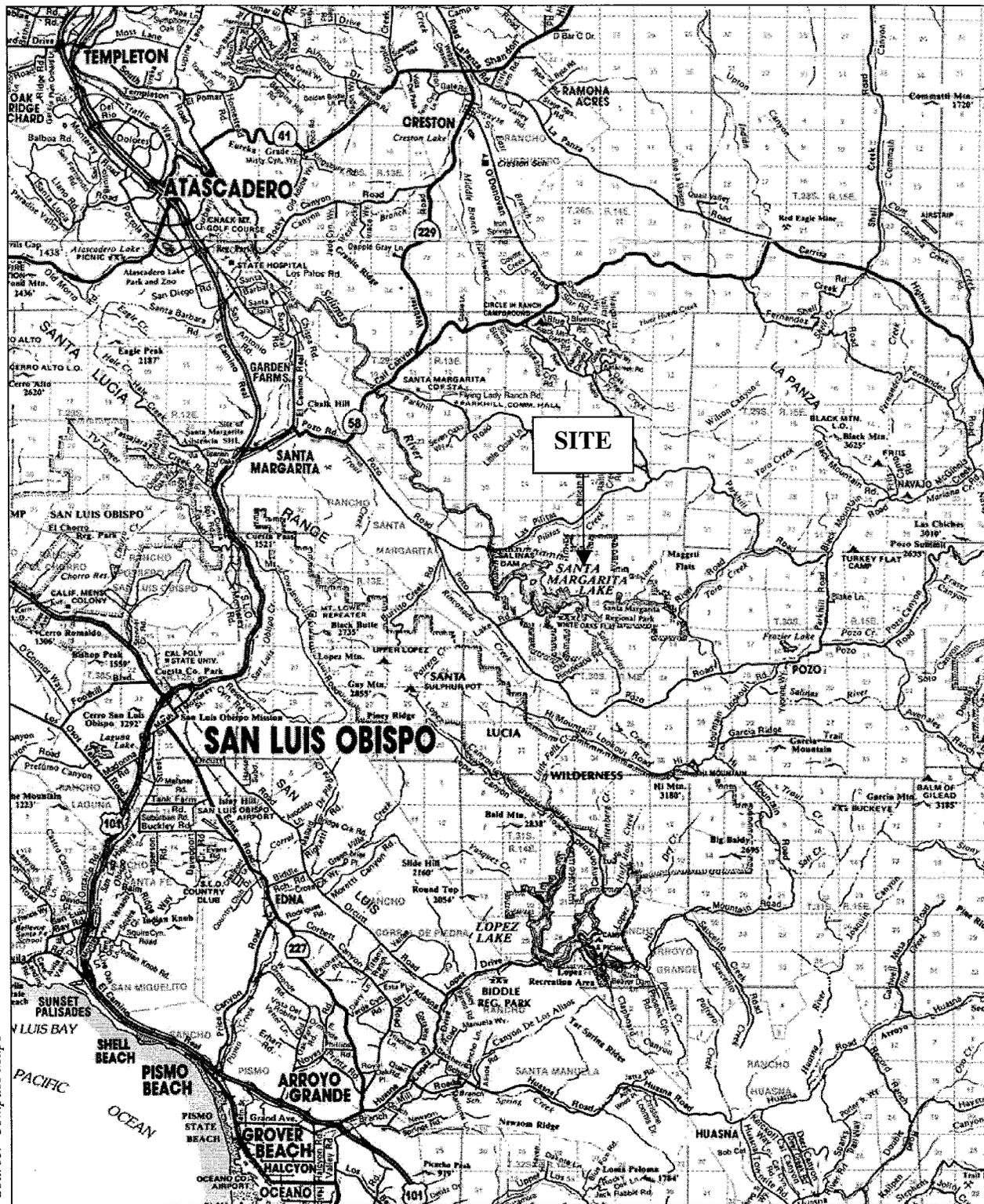
Sincerely,



Robert Lewin, Fire Marshal
Battalion Chief

cc: Tim Eckles, Battalion Chief





Source: Compass Maps

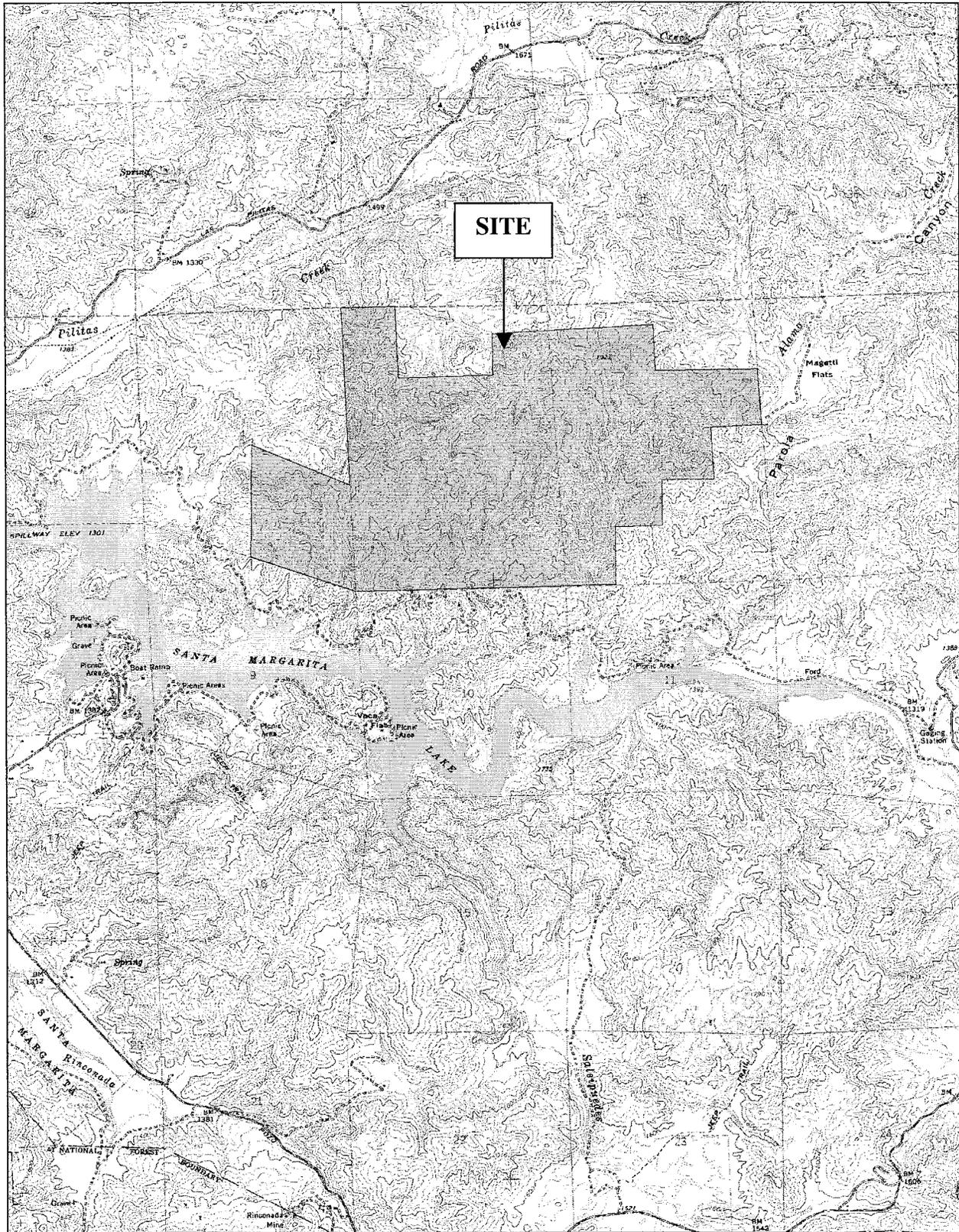


NORTH
Not to Scale

Morro Group, Inc.

VICINITY MAP
FIGURE 1

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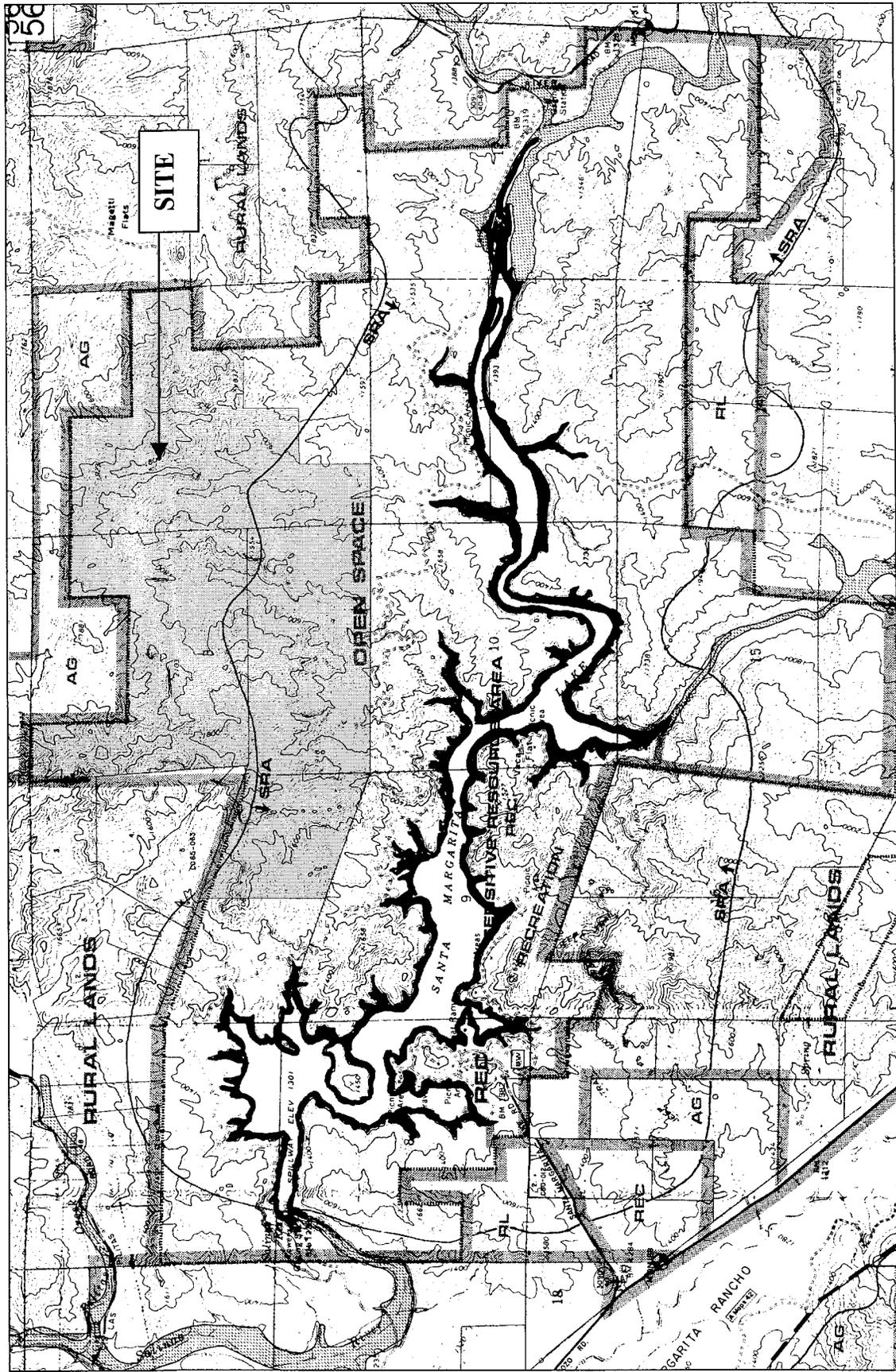
Source: USGS Quadrangle



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USGS LOCATION MAP
FIGURE 2

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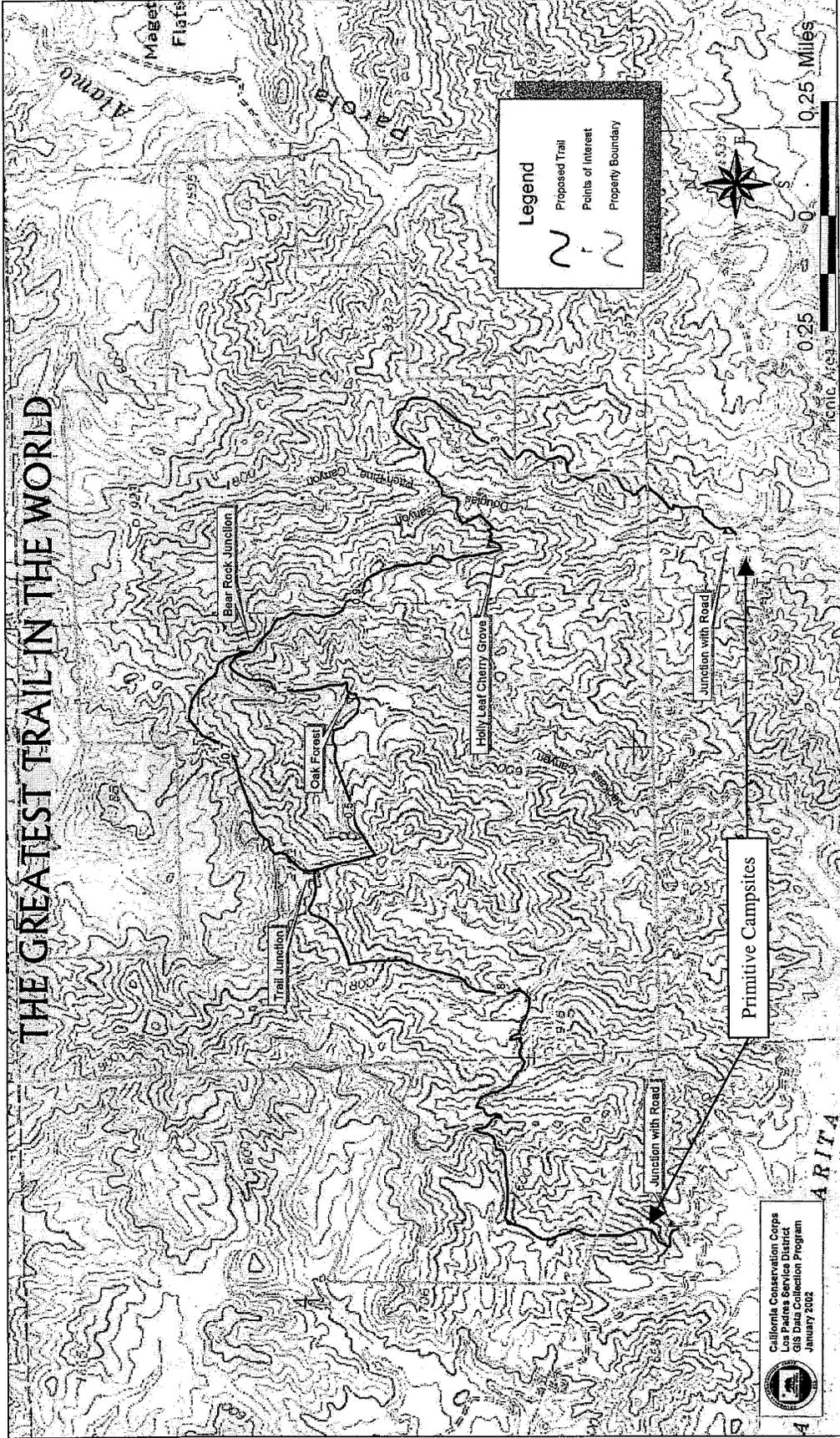
Source: County of San Luis Obispo

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LAND USE CATEGORY
FIGURE 3



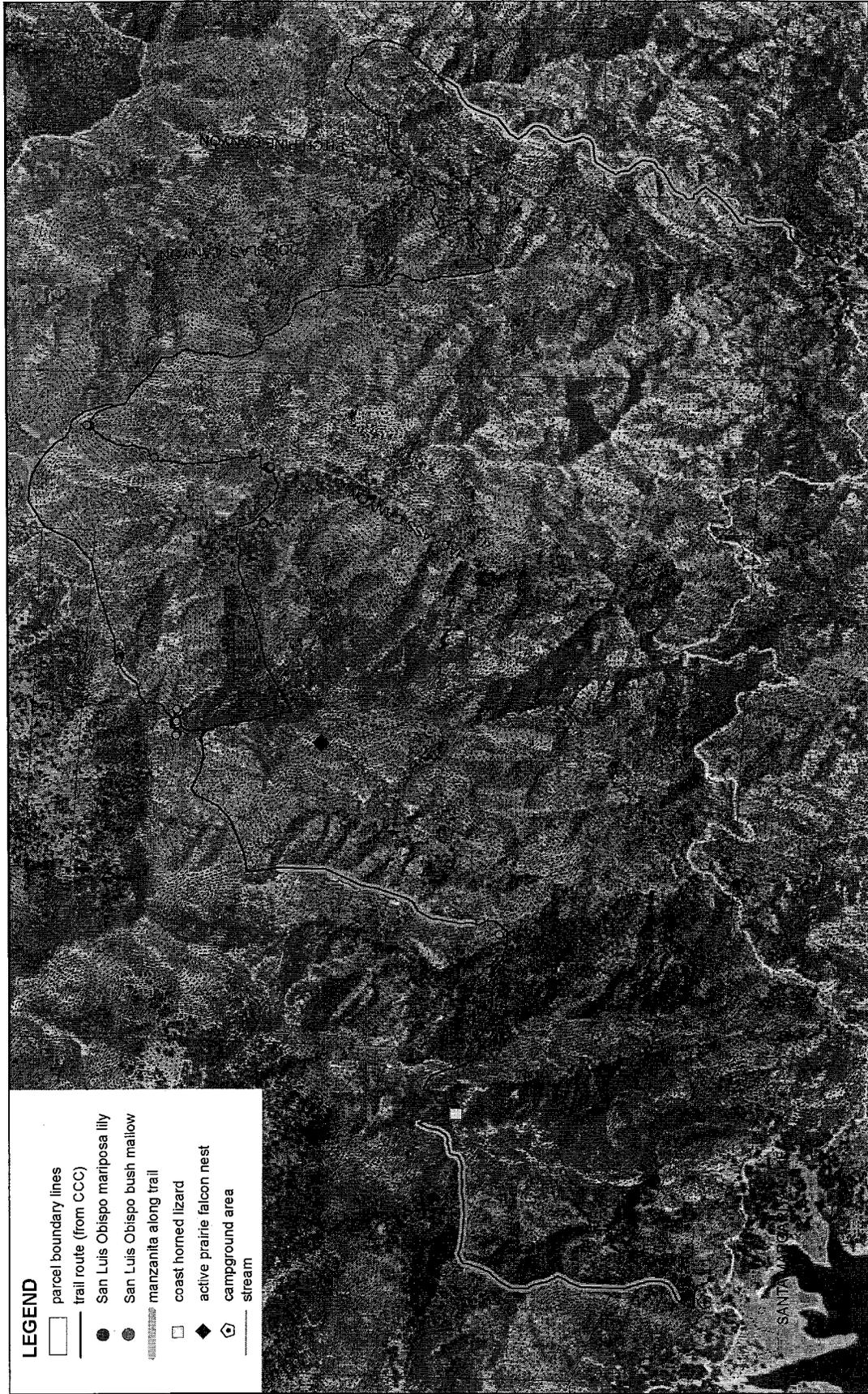
Source: California Conservation Corps

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PROPOSED TRAIL ALIGNMENT
FIGURE 4



Source: California Conservation Corps/Morro Group, Inc.

S.P.D.



NORTH
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BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES
FIGURE 5