Condition 57	Biological Preconstruction Surveys

Where construction will necessitate disturbance in undeveloped lots and other potentially sensitive areas, a pre-construction survey will be conducted to assess and minimize any potential impacts to sensitive resources in these areas.

Evidence of compliance:

The County will utilize its own Public Works Department biologists and qualified contract biologists to conduct pre-construction surveys. Three PWD biologists are authorized by the USFWS to conduct surveys for, and handle Morro shoulderband snails. The other PWD biologists will assist with this work.

Preconstruction surveys will follow the terms and conditions of the USFWS Biological Opinion for the Project, with a focus on detecting special status species such as Morro shoulderband snail. A capture and relocation methodology for Morro shoulderband snail was developed in coordination with USFWS, and is attached.

In addition, a modified protocol survey for Morro Bay kangaroo rat will be conducted on the Broderson site by a USFWS permitted biologist. The work will consist of a visual survey, track plate and camera stations and live-trapping. Given the extreme rarity of this species, the work will be coordinated closely with the USFWS and CDFG.

A map showing many of the survey locations is attached. In addition, there are approximately 20 parcels which support fair to good habitat for Morro shoulderband snail in the area where the service lateral will be installed; these locations will also be surveyed prior to disturbance.

No disturbance will be allowed to occur within potentially biologically sensitive areas without first conducting a pre-construction survey.

Condition Satisfied

Jason H. Niffen

Director, SLO County Planning

MAY 2, 2012

Date

Los Osos Wastewater Project

Morro shoulderband snail (MSS) capture and relocation methodology

General:

- Relocate only MSS which are or will be in harm's way due to the Project.
- Before moving rescued MSS onto a property, obtain express consent of receiving landowner.
- If MSS is found in a poor habitat quality location (e.g. a clump of veldt grass), relocate to higher quality habitat, rather than to other poor quality habitat.
- The success of MSS capture and relocation efforts is unknown, so the Service will appreciate any information regarding techniques used, problems encountered, and success.

Handling MSS:

- Gather MSS to be relocated gently, handle the shortest amount of time necessary, and place temporarily in a protective, secure container that resists overheating. Include a layer of native leaf litter in the container.
- Retain MSS in protective container the shortest amount of time necessary, but no more than one hour.
- Gently transfer MSS from protective container to base of a shrub, with aperture (main opening of shell) facing ground surface.
- Place an insulating layer of duff (up to one inch thick) over the relocated MSS.

Relocation sites:

- Generally, relocate MSS within suitable habitat at the nearest conserved, public land (with approval from the owner).
- Place MSS in or near the center of a habitat patch to maximize chance of survival; habitat edges should be avoided.
- For Broderson Leach Field disturbance area, move MSS to suitable habitat uphill or downhill of disturbance area, well away from edge of potential disturbance.
- At Mid-town, move MSS to areas of site which currently support coastal scrub and will not be disturbed by restoration grading work (this will necessitate monitoring around those areas when construction is adjacent).
- If MSS are found elsewhere in the community where suitable habitat is not present on the property, and suitable habitat does not occur close by, relocate to either: 1) Morro Bay State Park land at the northwest end of El Moro Avenue, or 2) Sweet Springs Nature Preserve (obtain permission from Morro Coast Audubon Society).

Persons relocating MSS:

- Must possess or be working under a valid 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permit
- Should possess a valid CDFG Scientific Collecting Permit

Dated 3/29/12