



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060  
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TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

### NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PERIOD

#### SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

APPLICANT: County of Santa Cruz Public Works

APPLICATION NO.: 09-0236

APN: County Right-of-Way

The Environmental Coordinator has reviewed the Initial Study for your application and made the following preliminary determination:

XX Negative Declaration  
(Your project will not have a significant impact on the environment.)

XX Mitigations will be attached to the Negative Declaration.

       No mitigations will be attached.

       Environmental Impact Report  
(Your project may have a significant effect on the environment. An EIR must be prepared to address the potential impacts.)

As part of the environmental review process required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), this is your opportunity to respond to the preliminary determination before it is finalized. Please contact Matt Johnston, Environmental Coordinator at (831) 454-3201, if you wish to comment on the preliminary determination. Written comments will be received until 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the review period.

Review Period Ends: September 30, 2009

Matt Johnston, staff planner

Phone (831) 454-03291

Date: August 27, 2009

NAME: Lockewood Lane Signal  
APPLICATION: 09-0236  
A.P.N: County Right of Way

### **NEGATIVE DECLARATION MITIGATIONS**

- A. In order to ensure that the mitigation measures and conditions set forth in the proposed project description are communicated to the various parties responsible for constructing the project, prior to any disturbance the applicant shall convene a pre-construction meeting on the site. The following parties shall attend: The project engineer, project contractor supervisor, Santa Cruz County Environmental Planning staff, and project biologists. Results of pre-construction biotic surveys will be collected at that time and all protection measures shall be inspected.
- B. In order to avoid and minimize impacts to sensitive habitat and protected species, the mitigations recommended in the Biological Assessment and the Natural Environment Study (May 5, 2009) shall be implemented. These mitigations include, but are not limited to, the following:
- a) In order to mitigate impacts to Sandhills habitat beyond the restoration of temporarily disturbed areas on site proposed in the project restoration plan, the applicant shall provide proof of purchase of credits from the Zayante Sandhills Conservation Bank for an area no less than 0.28 acres. The proof of purchase shall be presented to Environmental Planning Staff at the pre-construction meeting.
  - b) In order to avoid and minimize impacts to the Mount Herman June beetle, work shall be scheduled outside of the mid-May through mid-August adult activity period, and the project entomologist shall be on site to observe all grading activities.
  - c) In order to avoid any impacts to nesting Cooper's hawks, if feasible work will be scheduled between August 1 and March 1 to avoid the nesting season. Work done between October 15<sup>th</sup> and April 15 will require additional winter grading approval from the County Planning Department. If work must take place during the nesting season, prior to disturbance a qualified biologist shall perform a survey no more than 30 days prior to initial disturbance to determine if any Cooper's hawks are nesting within 300 feet of the project disturbance limits. If active nests are encountered, the biologist shall apply an appropriate buffer, between 50 and 300 feet, based on distance from the project area and natural features that may help buffer the nest from noise or other disturbances. The buffered area shall be clearly fenced to ensure no disturbance occurs in that area until the young birds have fledged.
  - d) In order to avoid impacts to hoary bats, no more than 30 days prior to tree removal, the County shall hire a qualified bat ecologist to conduct focused surveys for hoary bats within the project impact area. If bats are found roosting in any trees to be removed, the bat ecologist shall obtain all necessary permits to exclude the bats prior to tree removal.
  - e) In order to mitigate any potential impacts to San Francisco dusky footed woodrats, the following measures shall be implemented;
    - 1. Prior to nest disturbance, the biologist shall obtain from CDFG a scientific collection permit for the trapping of the dusky-footed woodrats.
    - 2. Nests shall be disturbed/dismantled only during the non-breeding season, between October 1 and December 31.
    - 3. At least two weeks prior to construction, the qualified biologist shall survey the project disturbance area to confirm the woodrat nest location and locate any other nests that may have been built in the project vicinity that may be affected by the proposed development.
    - 4. Prior to nest disturbance, woodrats shall be trapped at dusk of the night set for relocation of the nest(s).
    - 5. Any existing nest that may be disturbed by construction activities shall be

mostly dismantled and the material spread in the vicinity of identified nest relocation site(s).

6. In order to avoid the potential health effects associated with handling rodents and their milieu, all workers involved in the handling of the woodrats or the nest materials should wear protective gear to prevent inhalation of contaminant particulates, contact with conjunctiva (eyes), and protection against flea bites; a respirator, eye protection and skin protection should all be used.
  7. Dismantling shall be done by hand, allowing any animals not trapped to escape either along existing woodrat trails or toward other available habitat.
  8. If a litter of young is found or suspected, nest material shall be replaced, and the nest left alone for 2-3 weeks before a recheck to verify that young are capable of independent survival before proceeding with nest dismantling.
  9. Woody debris shall be collected from the area and relocated nests shall be partially constructed in an area determined by the qualified biologist to be both suitable for the woodrats and far enough away from the construction activities that they will not be impacted.
  10. Woodrats that were collected at dusk shall be released 2 hours before dawn near the newly constructed nests to allow time for woodrats to find refuge.
  11. Once construction of the roadway is complete, the biologist shall survey the nest area to note whether the new nests are in use, the woodrats have built new nests, or the nest area has been completely abandoned. This information shall be submitted in a letter report to the Environmental Planning Section of the Planning Department, and the local CDFG biologist.
- f) In order to mitigate impacts to oak woodland, the applicant shall remove all acacia with the project area of impact and revegetated those areas with locally collected and propagated oak trees. Trees to be retained shall be protected from damage by placing fencing along the drip line. The fencing shall be put in place prior to the pre-construction meeting and shall remain in place for the duration of the project.

