

Staff Report to the Planning Commission

Applicant: Portia Halbert **Owner:** California State Parks(CSP) **APN:** 058-121-01, 059-011-06, 059-023-11, 059-011-13 Agenda Date: August 11, 2010 Agenda Item #:9 Time: After 9:00 a.m.

Project Description: Proposal for floodplain and habitat restoration on a fallow agricultural field of about 1.1 acres located along Laguna Creek (APN 059-011-06), with 9,750 cubic yards of spoils to be spread on three farm fields along Highway 1 (APNs 058-121-01, just south of the town of Davenport, APN 059-023-11, across highway 1 from the restoration site, and APN 059-011-13, immediately adjacent to the north of the restoration site).

Location: Farm fields along Highway 1, in the vicinity of the intersection of Laguna Road and Highway 1, five miles north of the City of Santa Cruz.

Supervisoral District: 3rd District (District Supervisor: Neal Coonerty)

Permits Required: Coastal Development, Agricultural Grading, Riparian Exception

Staff Recommendation:

• Approval of Application 10-0174, based on the attached findings and conditions.

Exhibits

- A. Project plans
- B. Findings
- C. Conditions
- D. Categorical Exemption (CEQA determination), issued by California State Parks
- E. Assessor's, Location, Zoning and General Plan Maps
- F. Comments/Correspondence
- G. Archaeological Survey Report; Summary and Conclusion

Parcel Information

Parcel Size:	7.23 acres, 1.1 acres to be restored
Existing Land Use - Parcel:	Commercial agriculture
8	Commercial agriculture and open space on all parcels, residential on north side of parcel 059-011-06
Project Access:	Restoration site access via Laguna Road. Three other

County of Santa Cruz Planning Department 701 Ocean Street, 4th Floor, Santa Cruz CA 95060

	parcels accessed by un-named farm access roads off of Highway 1.
Planning Area:	Bonny Doon
Land Use Designation:	A (Agriculture)
Zone District:	APN 059-011-06: CA-P-L (Commercial Agriculture with
	Agricultural Preserve and Historic Combining District).
	APN 058-121-01: CA-P, APN 059-023-11: CA,
	APN 059-011-13: CA-P
Coastal Zone:	X Inside Outside
	(All APNs)
Appealable to Calif. Coastal Comm.	\underline{X} Yes \underline{No}

Environmental Information (APN 059-011-06 – Restoration Parcel)

Geologic Hazards:	Parcel is mapped as 100-year flood plain (Exhibit F). No geologic
	hazards are mapped on any of the other parcels.
Soils:	Elder sandy loam
Fire Hazard:	Not a mapped constraint
Slopes:	1-2%
Env. Sen. Habitat:	Riparian
Grading:	9,750 cubic yards
Tree Removal:	21 trees proposed to be removed or salvaged and replanted.
Scenic:	Yes – Highway 1 corridor
Drainage:	Existing drainage adequate
Archeology:	Mapped/no physical evidence on site per surveys

Environmental Information (APN 058-121-01 – Spoils Deposition Parcel)

Geologic Hazards: Soils:	Coastal bluff – farm field Watsonville loam
Fire Hazard:	Not a mapped constraint
Slopes:	1-2%
Env. Sen. Habitat:	Coastal bluff – farm field
Grading:	3,500 cubic yards
Tree Removal:	None
Scenic:	Yes – Highway 1 corridor
Drainage:	Farm irrigation
Archeology:	Mapped/no physical evidence on site per surveys

Environmental Information (APN 059-023-11 – Spoils Deposition Parcel)

Geologic Hazards:	Coastal bluff – farm field
Soils:	Watsonville loam
Fire Hazard:	Not a mapped constraint
Slopes:	1-2%
Env. Sen. Habitat:	Coastal bluff – farm field
Grading:	1,500 cubic yards

Tree Removal:	None
Scenic:	Yes – Highway 1 corridor
Drainage:	Farm irrigation
Archeology:	Mapped/no physical evidence on site per surveys

Environmental Information (APN 059-011-13 – Spoils Deposition Parcel)

Geologic Hazards:	Coastal bluff – farm field
Soils:	Watsonville loam, Baywood loamy sand
Fire Hazard:	Not a mapped constraint
Slopes:	1-2%
Env. Sen. Habitat:	Coastal bluff – farm field
Grading:	4,500 cubic yards
Tree Removal:	None
Scenic:	Yes – Highway 1 corridor
Drainage:	Farm irrigation
Archeology:	Mapped/no physical evidence on site per surveys

Services Information

Urban/Rural Services Line:	Inside	<u>X</u> Outside
Water Supply:	N/A	
Sewage Disposal:	N/A	
Fire District:	Cal Fire	
Drainage District:	None	

History

A 1928 aerial photo of the project site shows Highway 1 on what is now Laguna Road, with the railroad tracks in place. Modern Highway 1 was built in 1953 adjacent to the railway. The restoration parcel is bounded by Highway 1 and Laguna Road. The willow forest that dominated the site was largely removed in the late 1970's for agriculture, and the parcel has been in production on and off ever since. Despite significant scouring of the floodplain in the storm events of 1982, 1986, and 1998, the stream channel has held the same location since 1928.

This project was identified by the Integrated Watershed Restoration Program (IWRP) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) as a high-priority project. IWRP began in 2002 as a countywide effort to build upon the various watershed assessments, enhancement plans and management plans completed in the County over the past 10 years. The goal of IWRP is to support local watershed partners in developing projects and to coordinate agencies that provide technical assistance, permits, and funds. The TAC was comprised of representatives from the following agencies:

County of Santa Cruz California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) California Coastal Commission NOAA Fisheries US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The TAC reviewed the plans for this project prior to the submittal to the County for permitting, and the comments received from the TAC were incorporated into the project design. Additional comments from the County Planning Department and the Drainage Division of the Department of Public Works have been either incorporated or otherwise addressed prior to the final submittal.

Project Setting

The project site is an approximately 1.1-acre area, the fallow portion of an agricultural field immediately adjacent to Laguna Creek and Highway 1. The remaining portion of the agricultural field is currently in organic strawberry production and will not be affected by the project.

The three farms that will receive the fill are all located along Highway 1 north of the project site. Two of the parcels (APNs 059-023-11 and 058-121-01) are owned by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the third is owned by the Trust for Public Lands (APN 059-011-13). All three parcels have fields that are in active production.

Detailed Project Description

The purpose of this project is to provide floodplain restoration and improve habitat for endangered species along lower Laguna Creek within Coastal Dairies State Park. Design features include lowering the field to improve flood capacity and creating an overflow area for water during high flows, creating backwater channels and areas of permanent and ephemeral wetlands, and incorporating large woody material into the floodplain and riparian area. Approximately 9,750 cubic yards of earth will be excavated to create this geometry. Access to the site exists on a 12-foot wide dirt road. Excavated soil will be deposited on three coastal farms within the Coastal Dairies State Park. Trees that are removed as a result of this project will be reincorporated into the floodplain to induce scour in certain locations and to provide vegetative cover for animals.

Zoning & General Plan Consistency

The subject property is a 7.23-acre lot, located in the Commercial Agriculture zone district, a designation which allows Agricultural uses. The proposed environmental enhancement project is a principal permitted use within the zone district and the project is consistent with the site's A (Agriculture), P (Preserve), and L (Historic) General Plan designations.

Local Coastal Program Consistency

The County's certified Local Coastal Program encourages environmental restoration as stated in General Plan Objective 5.2; "To preserve, protect and restore all riparian corridors and wetlands for the protection of wildlife and aquatic habitat, water quality, erosion control, open space,

aesthetic and recreational values and the conveyance and storage of flood waters." While the restoration site is not located between the shoreline and the first through road, two of the three fields that will receive fill are located on the coastal bluff between Highway 1 and the shoreline. These locations are not currently coastal access points, and the deposition of fill onto these agricultural fields will have no impact on coastal access. Consequently, the proposed project will not interfere with public access to the beach, ocean, or other nearby body of water, and is consistent with the County's Local Coastal Program.

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Environmental Review

California State Parks is the lead agency regarding environmental review and has made the determination that the project is categorically exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines section 15301 and 15304 (Attachment D). The Environmental Coordinator for the County of Santa Cruz has reviewed this determination and concurs that the exemptions cited above apply. No action is necessary on the part of the Planning Commission.

Conclusion

As proposed and conditioned, the project is consistent with all applicable codes and policies of the Zoning Ordinance and General Plan/LCP. Please see Exhibit "B" ("Findings") for a complete listing of findings and evidence related to the above discussion.

Staff Recommendation

• **APPROVAL** of Application Number **10-0174**, based on the attached findings and conditions.

Supplementary reports and information referred to in this report are on file and available for viewing at the Santa Cruz County Planning Department, and are hereby made a part of the administrative record for the proposed project.

The County Code and General Plan, as well as hearing agendas and additional information are available online at: www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Report Prepared By:

Matt Johnston / Santa Cruz County Planning Department 701 Ocean Street, 4th Floor Santa Cruz CA 95060 Phone Number: (831) 454-3201 E-mail: pln458@co.santa-cruz.ca.us

Report Reviewed By:

Paia Levine Principal Planner

Santa Cruz County Planning Department

LAGUNA CREEK HABITAT ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA

PROJECT AREA



SHEET INDEX

SITE PREPARATION PLAN ABBREVIATIONS, SYMBOLS, AND GENERAL NOTES COVER SHEET GRADING PLAN

SHEET 3 SHEET 2

SHEET 1

SHEET 4

- SHEET 6 SHEET 5 PHASE I GRADING PLAN LAYOUT PLAN
- FLOODPLAIN SECTIONS
- SCOUR LOG DETAILS AND SECTIONS

SHEET 8 SHEET 7

SHEET 9

- LOGJAM DETAILS AND SECTIONS
- SHEET 10 SHEET 11 EROSION CONTROL PLAN **INDICALS**

PROJECT TEAM

- 303 BIG TREES PARK ROAD FELTON, CALIFORNIA 95018 CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS PORTIA HALBERT TEL 831 335-6386 CLIENT/OWNER
- CAPITOLA, CALIFORNIA 95010 820 BAY AVENUE, SUITE 128 OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT PROJECT LEAD JIM ROBINS

BOO BANCROFT WAY, SUITE 101 BALANCE HYDROLOGICS, INC BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94710 TEL 510 704-1000 DESIGNERS

KIT CRUMP (NOAA FISHERIES) KAREN CHRISTENSEN (SCCRCD) MICHELLE LEICESTER (CDF&G) SUSAN DELEON (CDF&G) CHRIS SPOHRER (CSP) PORTIA HALBERT (CSP) JOHN AMBROSE (NOAA FISHERIES) HOWARD KOLB (RWQCB) KELLI CAMERA (SCCRCD) KATE GOODNIGHT (CCC) MIKE PODLECH JIM ROBINS (RCDSCC) TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TEL 831 464-2950

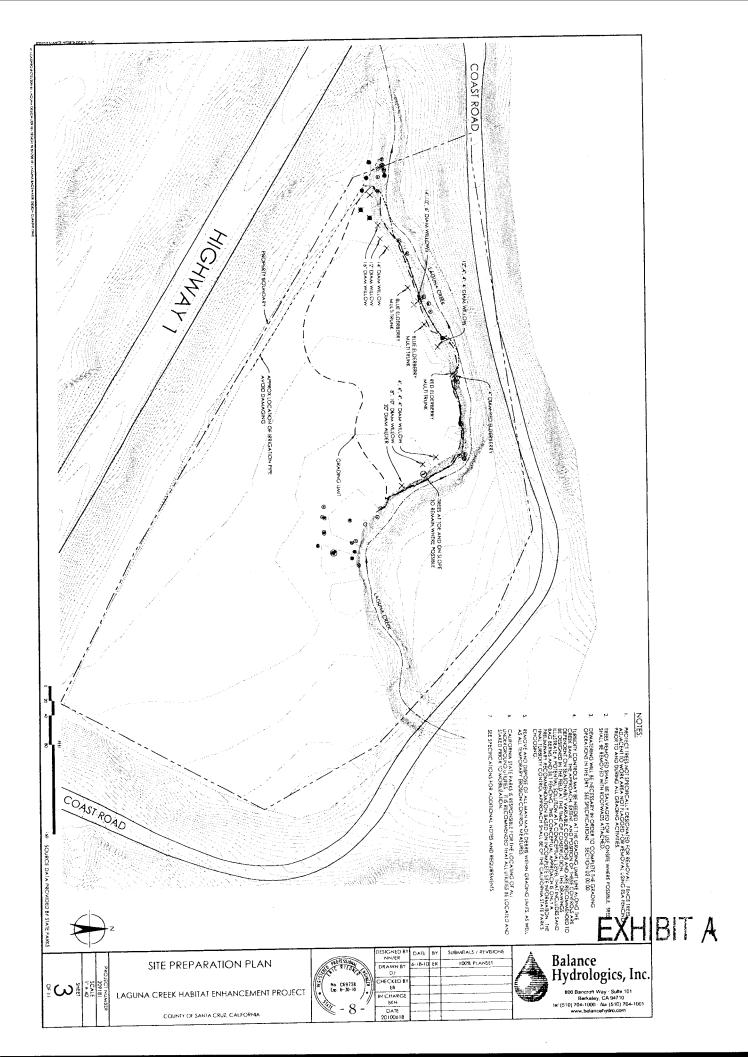
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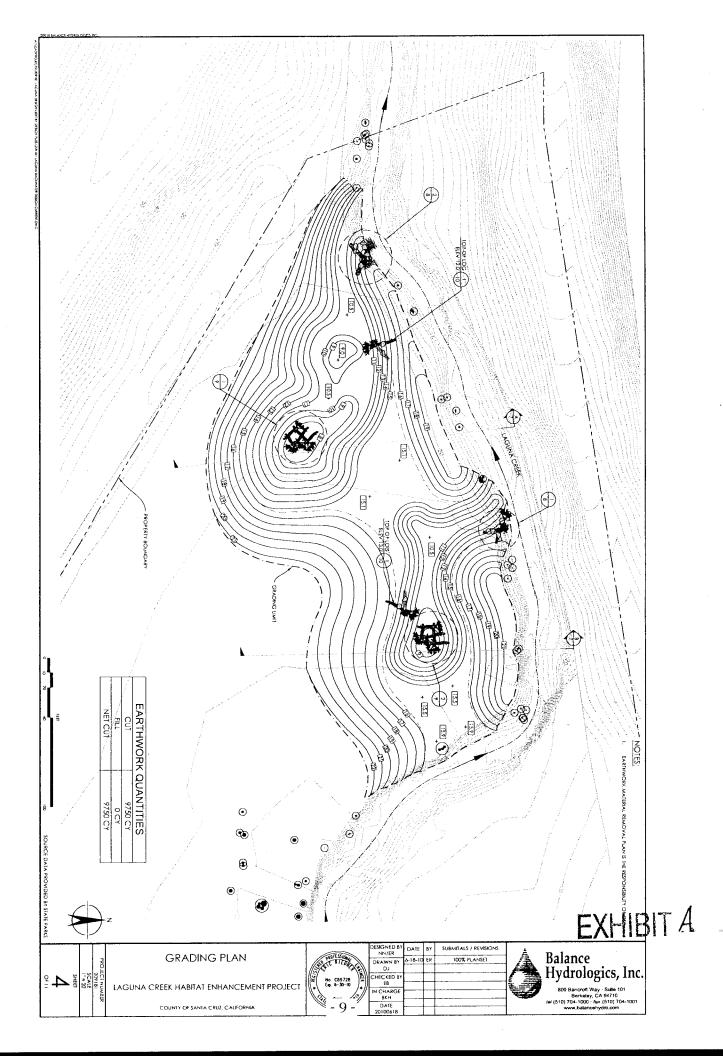
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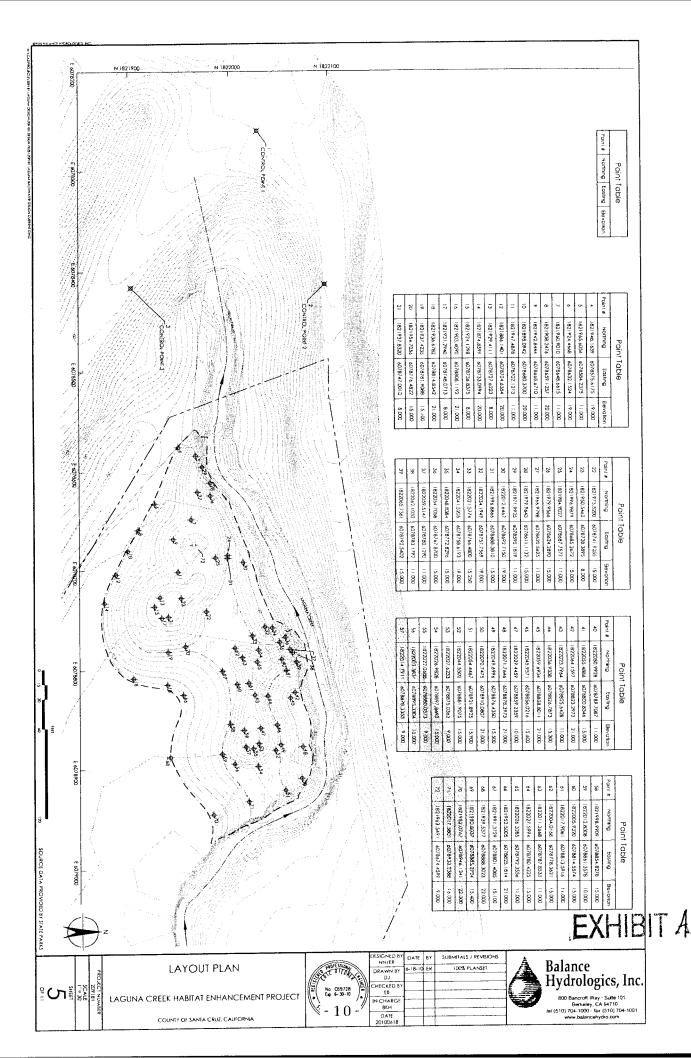
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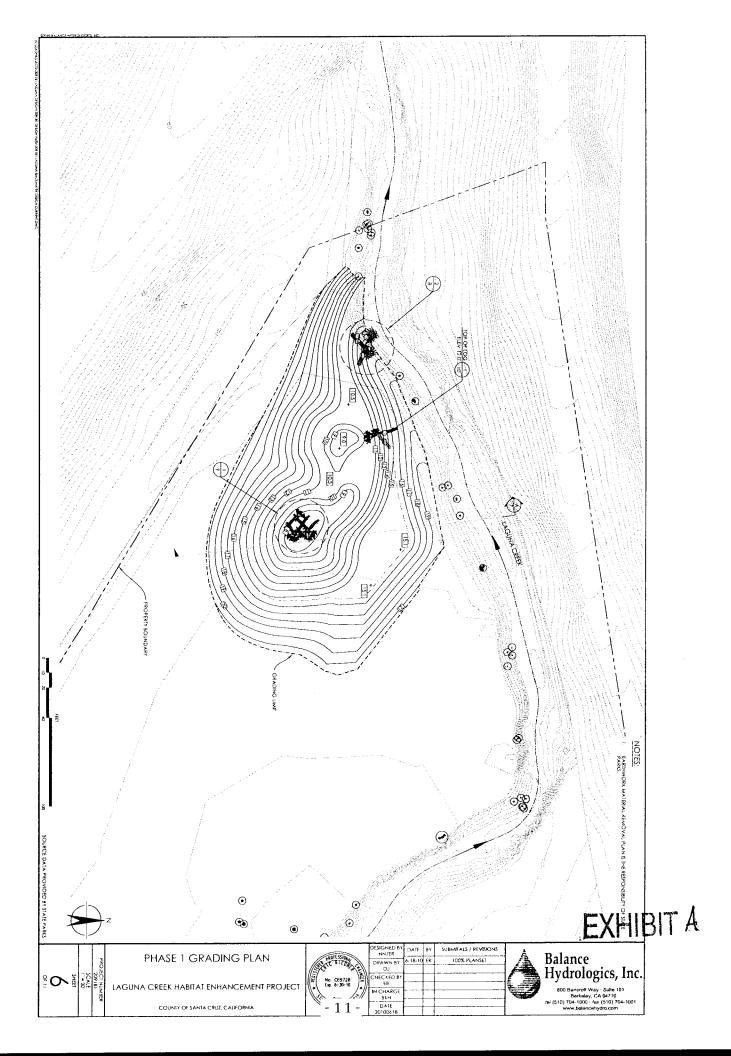
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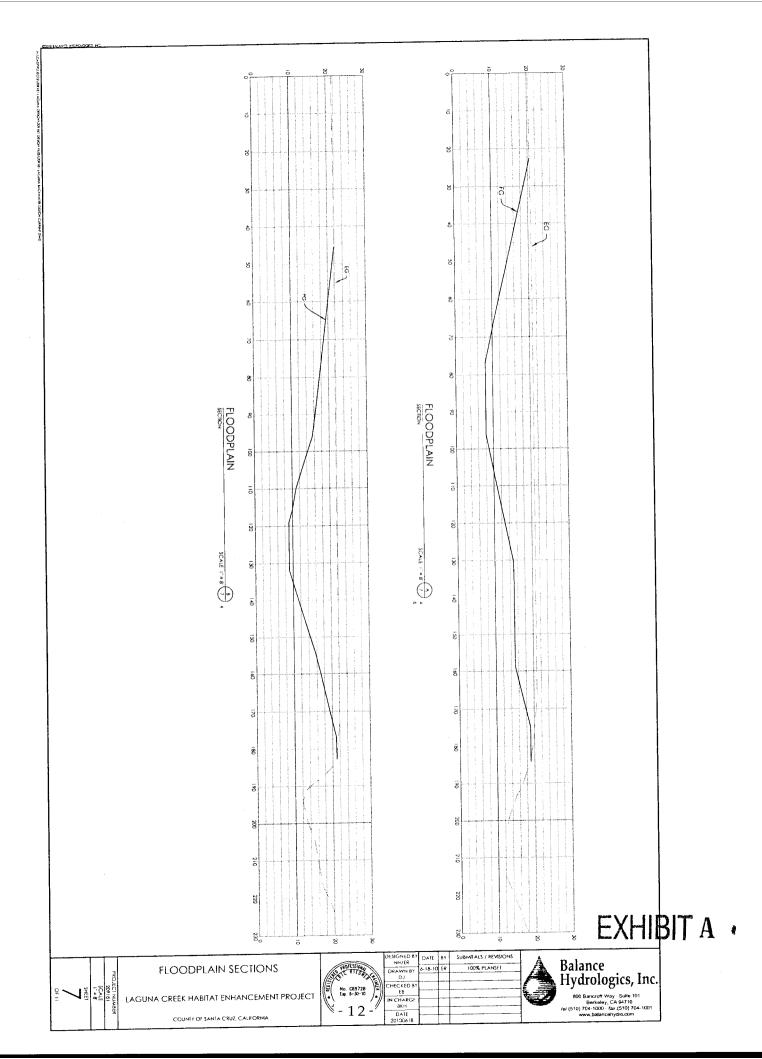
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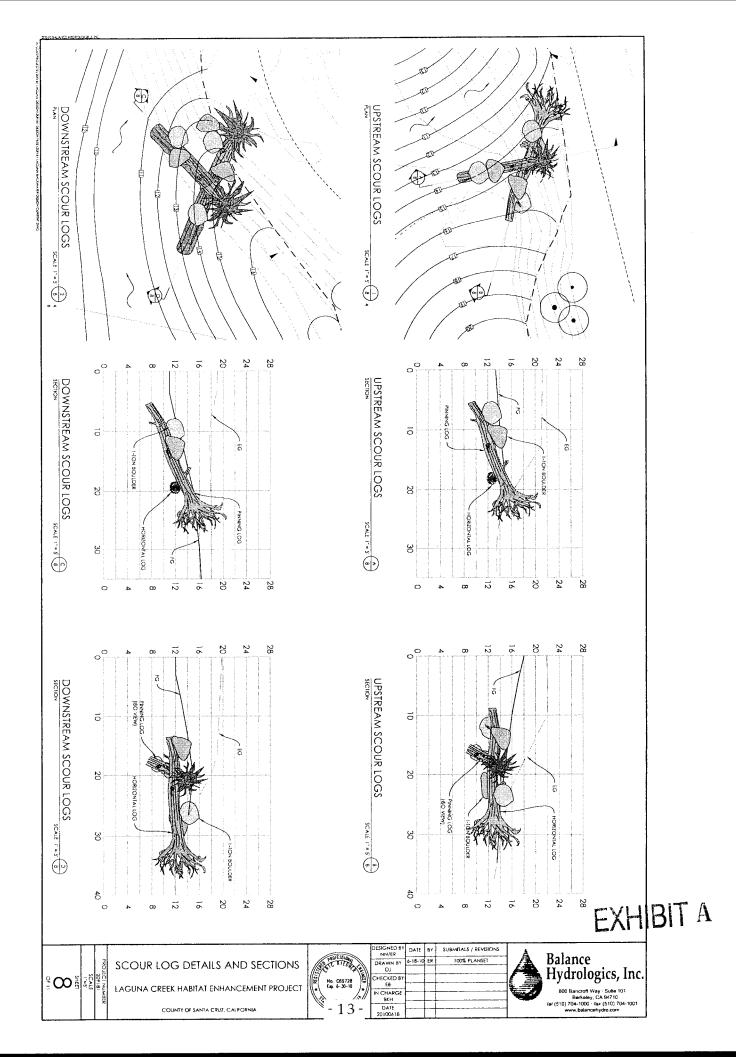


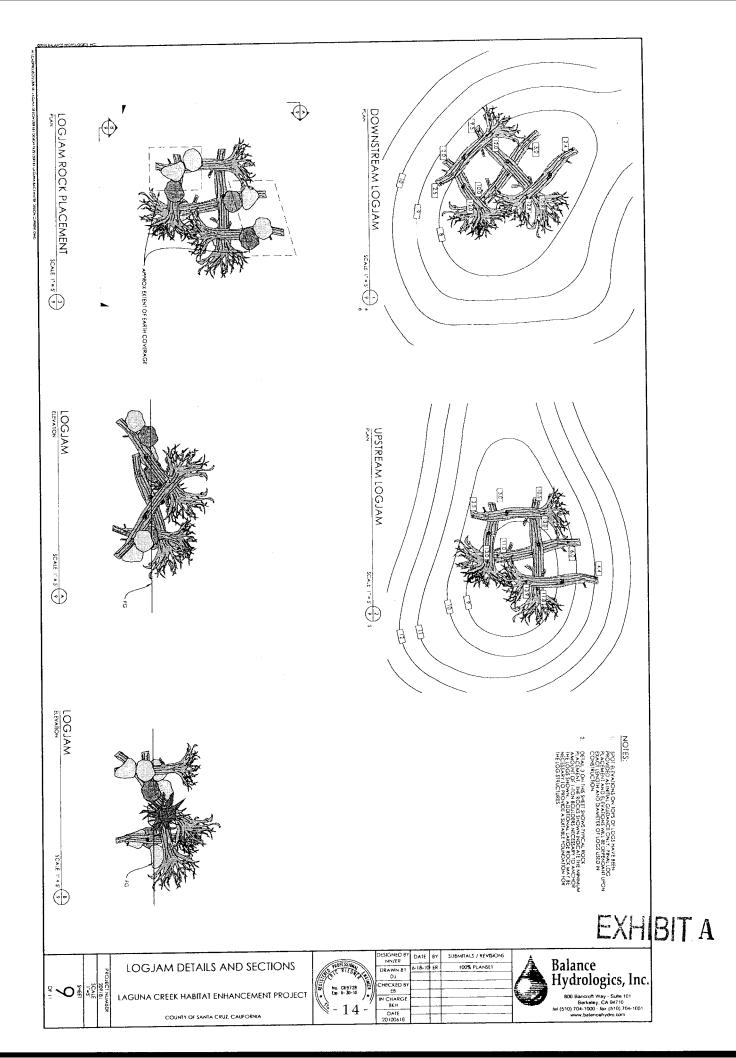


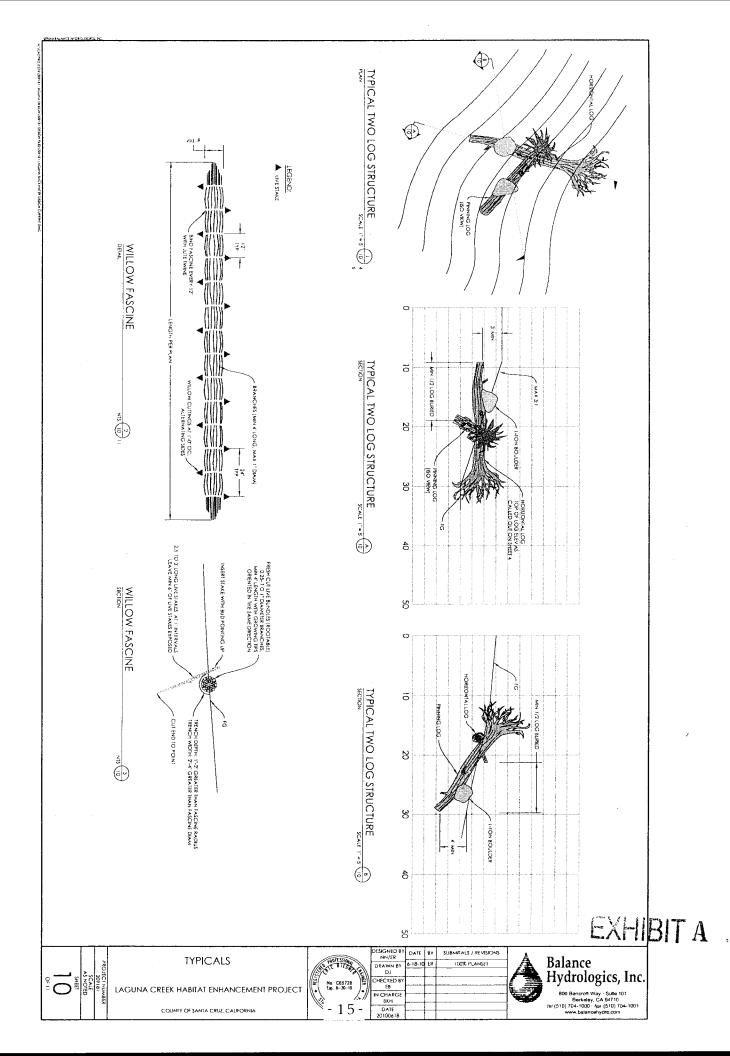














Coastal Development Permit Findings

1. That the project is a use allowed in one of the basic zone districts, other than the Special Use (SU) district, listed in section 13.10.170(d) as consistent with the General Plan and Local Coastal Program LUP designation.

This finding can be made, in that the property is zoned Commercial Agriculture and the proposed restoration project is a principal permitted use within the zone district, consistent with the site's Agriculture General Plan designation. General Plan Objective 5.2: "To preserve, protect and restore all riparian corridors and wetlands for the protection of wildlife and aquatic habitat, water quality, erosion control, open space, aesthetic and recreational values and the conveyance and storage of flood waters." The deposition of soil onto the three local agricultural fields is a common agricultural practice and should have no impact on those three parcels.

2. That the project does not conflict with any existing easement or development restrictions such as public access, utility, or open space easements.

This finding can be made, in that the proposal does not conflict with any development restrictions or easements. Three of the four parcels involved are zoned CA-P (agricultural preserve) (APNs 058-121-01, 059-011-06 and 059-011-13). The Agricultural Preserve Combining District is established to denote those lands which are restricted to agricultural, open space and compatible uses by contractual agreement. Wildlife habitat is a compatible use.

3. That the project is consistent with the design criteria and special use standards and conditions of this chapter pursuant to section 13.20.130 et seq.

This finding is not applicable, as the proposed project is not subject to section 13.20.130 of the County Code and does not include any construction that would be subject to design criteria.

4. That the project conforms with the public access, recreation, and visitor-serving policies, standards and maps of the General Plan and Local Coastal Program land use plan, specifically Chapter 2: figure 2.5 and Chapter 7, and, as to any development between and nearest public road and the sea or the shoreline of any body of water located within the coastal zone, such development is in conformity with the public access and public recreation policies of Chapter 3 of the Coastal Act commencing with section 30200.

This finding can be made, in that the restoration project site is not located between the shoreline and the first public road. Two of the three fields that will receive soil are between the ocean and Highway 1, however, neither of these are current coastal access points and the deposition of fill will have no effect on public access, recreation or visitor services. Consequently, this project will not interfere with public access to the beach, ocean, or any nearby body of water. Further, the project site is not identified as a priority acquisition site in the County Local Coastal Program.

5. That the proposed development is in conformity with the certified local coastal program.

This finding can be made, in that local coastal program encourages restoration of sensitive habitat. Particularly in General Plan Objective 5.2, as cited above; "To preserve, protect and

Application #: 10-0174 APN: 059-011-06 Owner: California State Parks

restore all riparian corridors and wetlands for the protection of wildlife and aquatic habitat, water quality, erosion control, open space, aesthetic and recreational values and the conveyance and storage of flood waters." The deposition of soil onto the three local agricultural fields is a common agricultural practice and should have no impact on those three parcels.

Required Findings for Development on Land Zoned Commercial Agriculture or Agricultural Preserve County Code Section 13.10.314(a)

1. The establishment or maintenance of this use will enhance or support the continued operation of commercial agriculture on the parcel and will not reduce, restrict or adversely affect agricultural resources, or the economic viability of commercial agricultural operations, of the area.

This finding can be made, in that proposed restoration will result in a reduction in both the period and elevation of flood events on the remainder of the parcel, improving the overall agricultural production from this parcel. The remaining agriculture field on the subject parcel will remain in production throughout the life of the project, and the area designated for habitat restoration is the least productive portion of this parcel, due to the periodic flooding. The deposition of soil onto the three local agricultural fields is a common agricultural practice and should have no impact on those three parcels.

2. The use or structure is ancillary, incidental or accessory to the principal agricultural use of the parcel or no other agricultural use of the parcel is feasible for the parcel; or the use consists of an interim public use which does not impair long-term agricultural viability, or consists of a permanent public use that will result in the production of recycled wastewater solely for agricultural irrigation and that limits and mitigates the impacts of facility construction on agriculture consistent with the requirements of Section 13.10.635; or

This finding can be made, in that facilities for the enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat is a principal permitted use on land zoned Commercial Agriculture or Agricultural Preserve. The deposition of soil onto the three local agricultural fields is a common agricultural practice and should have no impact on those three parcels.

- 3. Single family residential uses will be sited to minimize conflicts, and that all other uses will not conflict with commercial agricultural activities on site, where applicable, or in the area.
- 4. The use will be sited to remove no land from production (or potential production) if any non-farmable potential building site is available, or if this is not possible, to remove as little land as possible from production.

This finding can be made, in that the area to be restored has been located to remove the least amount of agricultural land from production as possible, and the least productive land, due to periodic flooding. The deposition of soil onto the three local agricultural fields is a common agricultural practice and should have no impact on those three parcels.

Development Permit Findings

1. That the proposed location of the project and the conditions under which it would be operated or maintained will not be detrimental to the health, safety, or welfare of persons residing or working in the neighborhood or the general public, and will not result in inefficient or wasteful use of energy, and will not be materially injurious to properties or improvements in the vicinity.

This finding can be made, in that the project is located in an area designated for Agricultural, and generally surrounded by open space or agricultural fields. While there are a few homes upstream of the proposed restoration, the project is situated such that there should be no impact to those homes. The deposition of soil onto the three local agricultural fields is a common agricultural practice and should have no impact on those three parcels.

2. That the proposed location of the project and the conditions under which it would be operated or maintained will be consistent with all pertinent County ordinances and the purpose of the zone district in which the site is located.

This finding can be made, in that the proposed restoration project is a Principle Permitted Use in the Commercial Agriculture district, and will be maintained as open space. The deposition of soil onto the three local agricultural fields is a common agricultural practice and should have no impact on those three parcels.

3. That the proposed use is consistent with all elements of the County General Plan and with any specific plan which has been adopted for the area.

This finding can be made, in that the proposed restoration project is consistent with the use and density requirements specified for the Agriculture land use designation in the County General Plan. No specific plan has been developed for this area.

The proposed restoration project will not adversely impact the light, solar opportunities, air, and/or open space available to other structures or properties. The Residential Site and Development Standards Ordinance does not apply in that the restoration project does not involve the construction of any structures.

4. That the proposed use will not overload utilities and will not generate more than the acceptable level of traffic on the streets in the vicinity.

This finding can be made, in that the proposed restoration project will generate a limited temporary increase in traffic related to trucking soil from the restoration area to the three local fields for deposition. The project will be phased over two seasons and should not have a significant impact on local or state highways.

5. That the proposed project will complement and harmonize with the existing and proposed land uses in the vicinity and will be compatible with the physical design aspects, land use intensities, and dwelling unit densities of the neighborhood.

This finding can be made, in that the proposed habitat restoration project is located in and adjacent to existing riparian habitat.

6. The proposed development project is consistent with the Design Standards and Guidelines (sections 13.11.070 through 13.11.076), and any other applicable requirements of this chapter.

This finding is not applicable, in that the proposed restoration project does not involve the construction of any structures, and all development proposed will be habitat restoration consistent with the surrounding area.

Conditions of Approval

Exhibit A:

- 1. This permit authorizes the construction of a habitat enhancement project. This approval does not confer legal status on any existing structure(s) or existing use(s) on the subject property that are not specifically authorized by this permit. Prior to exercising any rights granted by this permit including, without limitation, any construction or site disturbance, the applicant/owner shall:
 - A. Sign, date, and return to the Planning Department one copy of the approval to indicate acceptance and agreement with the conditions thereof.
 - B. Obtain a Grading Permit from the Santa Cruz County Building Official.
 - C. Submit proof that these conditions have been recorded in the official records of the County of Santa Cruz (Office of the County Recorder) within 30 days from the effective date of this permit.
- II. All construction shall be performed according to the approved plans for the Grading Permit. Prior to final building inspection, the applicant/owner must meet the following conditions:
 - A. All site improvements shown on the final approved Grading Permit plans shall be installed.
 - B. To ensure all conditions are incorporated into the project planning, the applicant shall conduct a pre-construction meeting. The meeting shall include environmental planning staff, the project biologist, project engineer, and project construction manager. The results of the surveys shall be presented at the preconstruction meeting.
 - C. Applicant shall obtain a Nesting Survey (prepared by a qualified biologist) prior to construction activities and removal of any trees, to ensure the project does not harm nesting birds in the area. If the biologist identifies active nests within the area impacted by the project, a buffer zone shall be set, dependent upon the species of bird, and no disturbance activities shall be allowed within that buffer until the birds have fledged.
 - 1. This requirement is not necessary if the tree removal is scheduled between August 16 through February 14, outside of the nesting season for birds.
 - D. Applicant shall have a California red-legged frog survey conducted by a qualified biologist within 48 hours prior to construction activities and removal of any trees, to ensure that the project does not harm any red-legged frogs it the area. If red-legged frogs are found during the course of the survey no disturbance shall occur without consultation from the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

- E. Prior to any site disturbance, the project biologist shall conduct an informational training session with all personnel that includes identification of California red-legged frogs and dusky-footed wood rats, protected status, measures to avoid harm, and measures to be implemented should any be encountered within the work area. No worker shall be allowed to work on this project without having attended such a session.
- F. Pursuant to Sections 16.40.040 and 16.42.100 of the County Code, if at any time during site preparation, excavation, or other ground disturbance associated with this development, any artifact or other evidence of an historic archaeological resource or a Native American cultural site is discovered, the responsible persons shall immediately cease and desist from all further site excavation and notify the Sheriff-Coroner if the discovery contains human remains, or the Planning Director if the discovery contains no human remains. The procedures established in Sections 16.40.040 and 16.42.100, shall be observed.

III. Operational Conditions

- A. In the event that future County inspections of the subject property disclose noncompliance with any Conditions of this approval or any violation of the County Code, the owner shall pay to the County the full cost of such County inspections, including any follow-up inspections and/or necessary enforcement actions, up to and including permit revocation.
- B. State Parks shall conduct annual monitoring and maintenance of the restoration area to ensure success of plantings and that non-native invasive vegetation does not inundate the site. A n annual report shall be submitted to the Planning Department for five years or until the State Park biologist and the County Planning Department concur that success has been met. The first report shall establish success criteria.
- IV. As a condition of this development approval, the holder of this development approval ("Development Approval Holder"), is required to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the COUNTY, its officers, employees, and agents, from and against any claim (including attorneys' fees), against the COUNTY, it officers, employees, and agents to attack, set aside, void, or annul this development approval of the COUNTY or any subsequent amendment of this development approval which is requested by the Development Approval Holder.
 - A. COUNTY shall promptly notify the Development Approval Holder of any claim, action, or proceeding against which the COUNTY seeks to be defended, indemnified, or held harmless. COUNTY shall cooperate fully in such defense. If COUNTY fails to notify the Development Approval Holder within sixty (60) days of any such claim, action, or proceeding, or fails to cooperate fully in the defense thereof, the Development Approval Holder shall not thereafter be responsible to defend, indemnify, or hold harmless the COUNTY if such failure to notify or cooperate was significantly prejudicial to the Development Approval Holder.

- B. Nothing contained herein shall prohibit the COUNTY from participating in the defense of any claim, action, or proceeding if both of the following occur:
 - 1. COUNTY bears its own attorney's fees and costs; and
 - 2. COUNTY defends the action in good faith.
- C. <u>Settlement</u>. The Development Approval Holder shall not be required to pay or perform any settlement unless such Development Approval Holder has approved the settlement. When representing the County, the Development Approval Holder shall not enter into any stipulation or settlement modifying or affecting the interpretation or validity of any of the terms or conditions of the development approval without the prior written consent of the County.
- D. <u>Successors Bound</u>. "Development Approval Holder" shall include the applicant and the successor'(s) in interest, transferee(s), and assign(s) of the applicant.

Minor variations to this permit which do not affect the overall concept or density may be approved by the Planning Director at the request of the applicant or staff in accordance with Chapter 18.10 of the County Code.

Please note: This permit expires three years from the effective date listed below unless the conditions of approval are complied with and the use commences before the expiration date.

Approval Date:		
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Effective Date:

Expiration Date:

Paia Levine Principal Planner Matt Johnston Project Planner

Appeals: Any property owner, or other person aggrieved, or any other person whose interests are adversely affected by any act or determination of the Planning Commission, may appeal the act or determination to the Board of Supervisors in accordance with chapter 18.10 of the Santa Cruz County Code.

CEQA #9232



State of California Department of Parks and Recreation

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

FROM:

TO: Office of Planning and Research 1400 Tenth Street Sacramento, CA 95814 Department of Parks and Recreation P.O. Box 942896 Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

PROJECT TITLE: Laguna Creek Habitat Enhancement

COUNTY: Santa Cruz

PROJECT LOCATION: Laguna Creek Road at State Highway #1

PARK UNIT: Coast Dairies Property adjacent to Wilder Ranch State Park

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT

Restore and enhance an approximately 400 linear foot section of land adjacent to Laguna Creek located on the Coast Dairies property to improve flood capacity and sensitive species habitat. Excavate approximately 13,500 cubic yards of soil to lower the elevation of the area; create three backwater stream channels each measuring about 10 feet by 113 feet; and create approximately 1.5 acres of permanent and ephemeral wetlands. Re-vegetate area with native riparian plants.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Santa Cruz District

EXEMPT STATUS:

X Categorical Exemption Classes: 1,4 Sections:15301, 15304

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT:

Project consists of the minor alteration of existing public facilities or topographic features involving no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination and minor alterations in the condition of land and vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry purposes; included as a "streambed restoration" and "resource management project" in the California Department of Park and Recreation's list of exempt activities in accordance with CCR 15300.4

CONTACT: Victor Roth Santa Cruz District

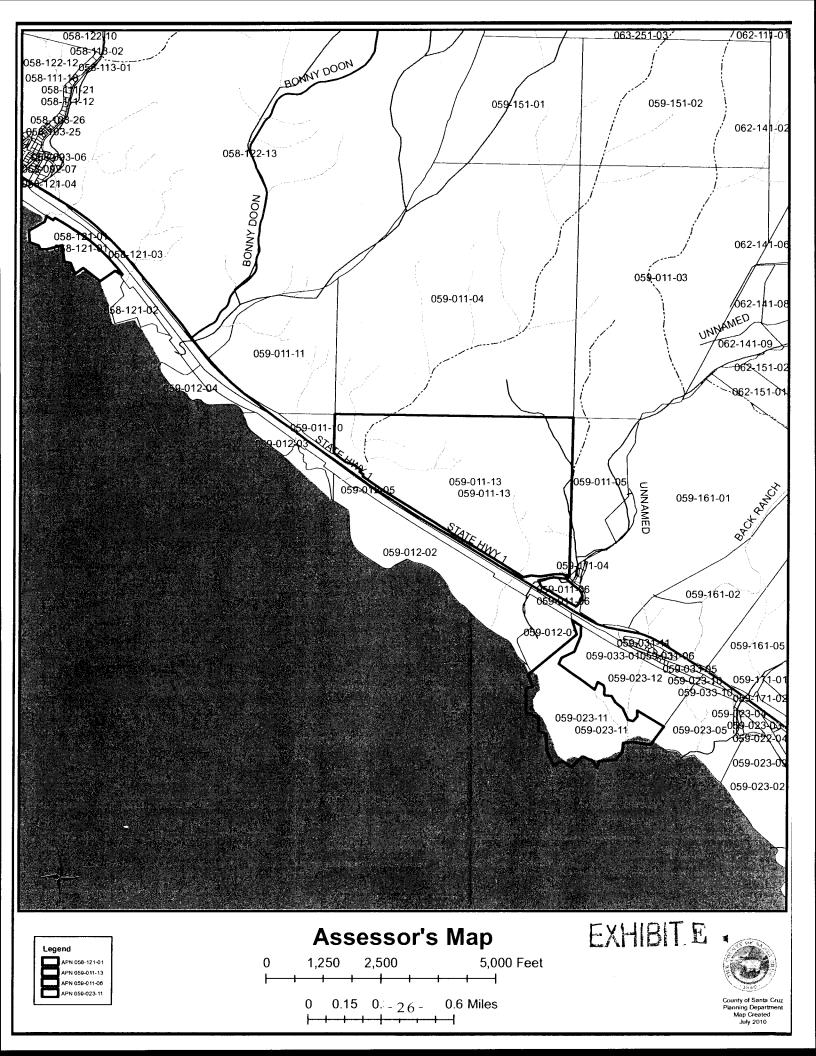
TELEPHONE: 831) 335-6385 vroth@parks.ca.gov

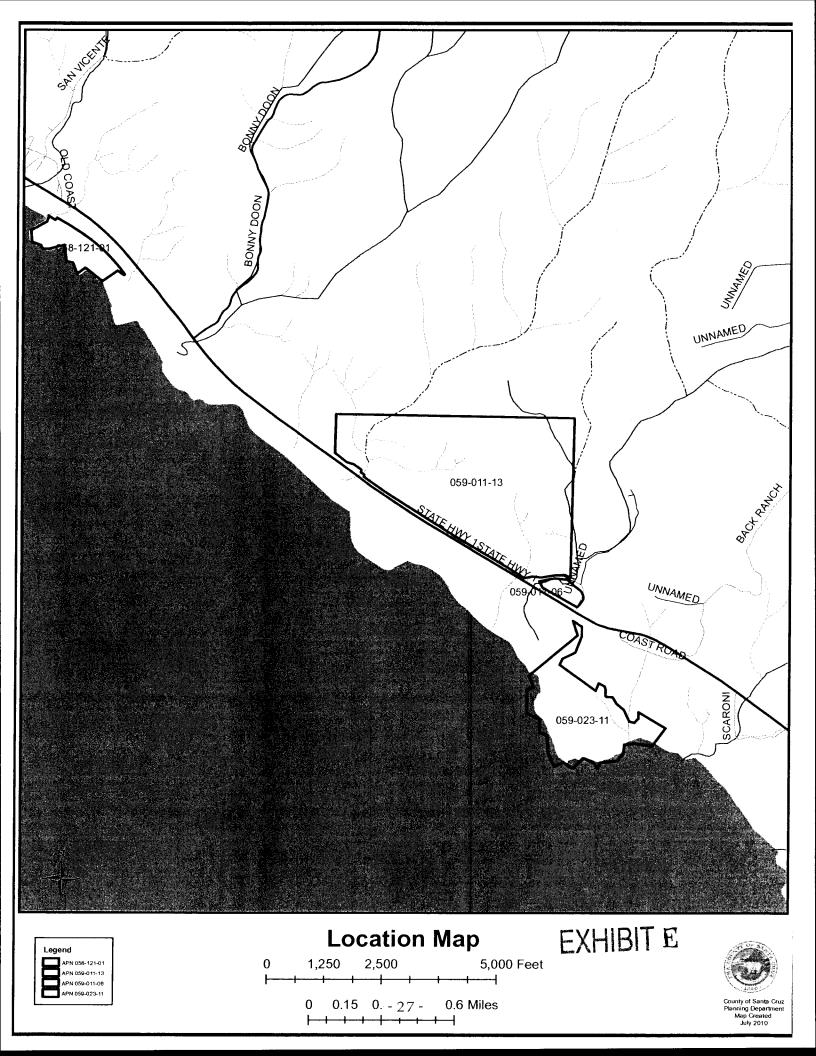
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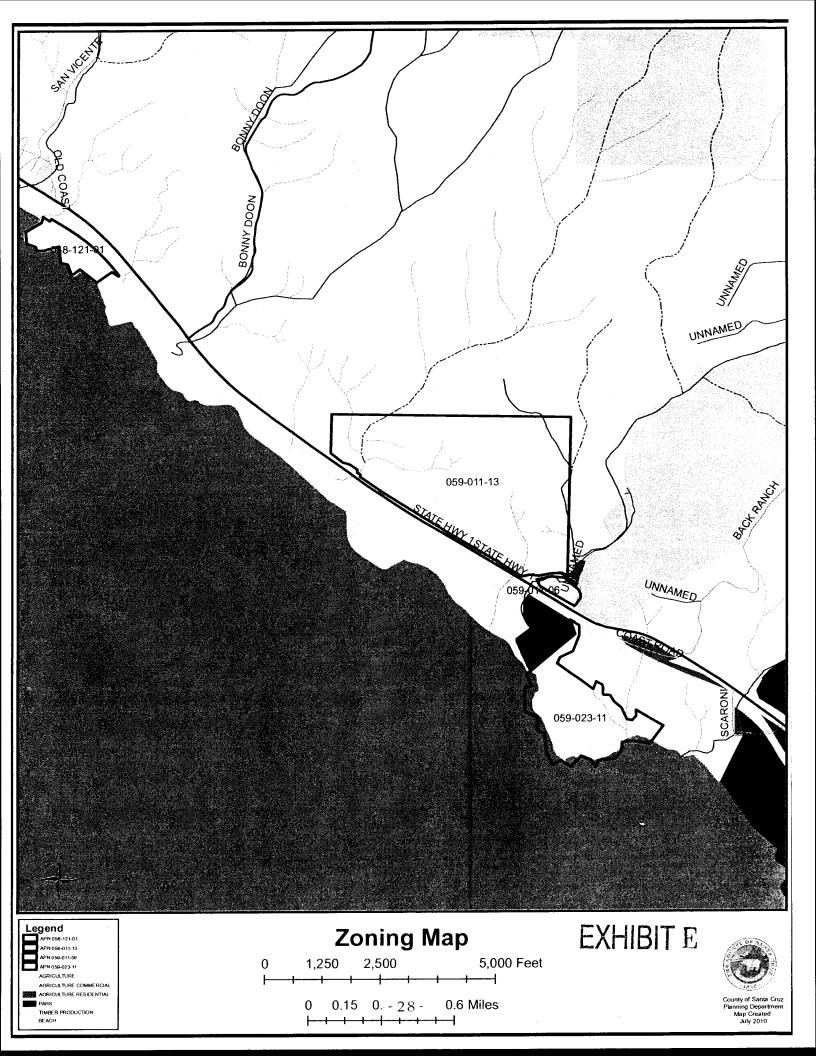
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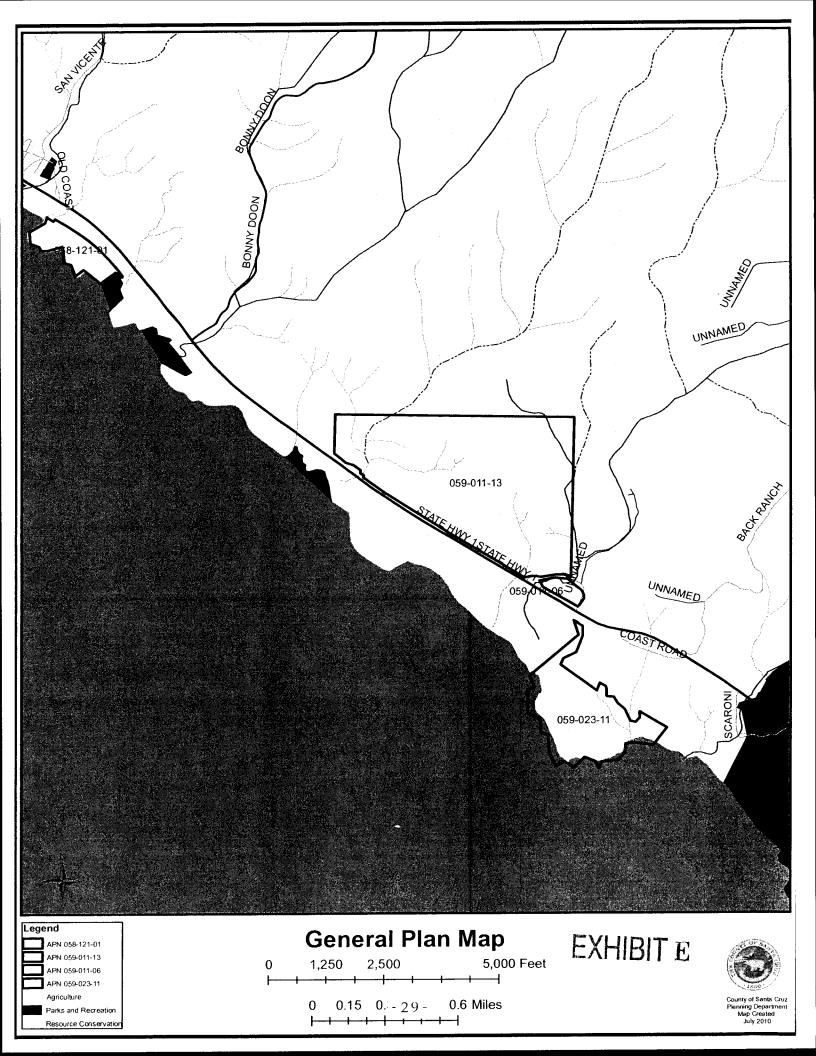
Date JUNE 9 2010

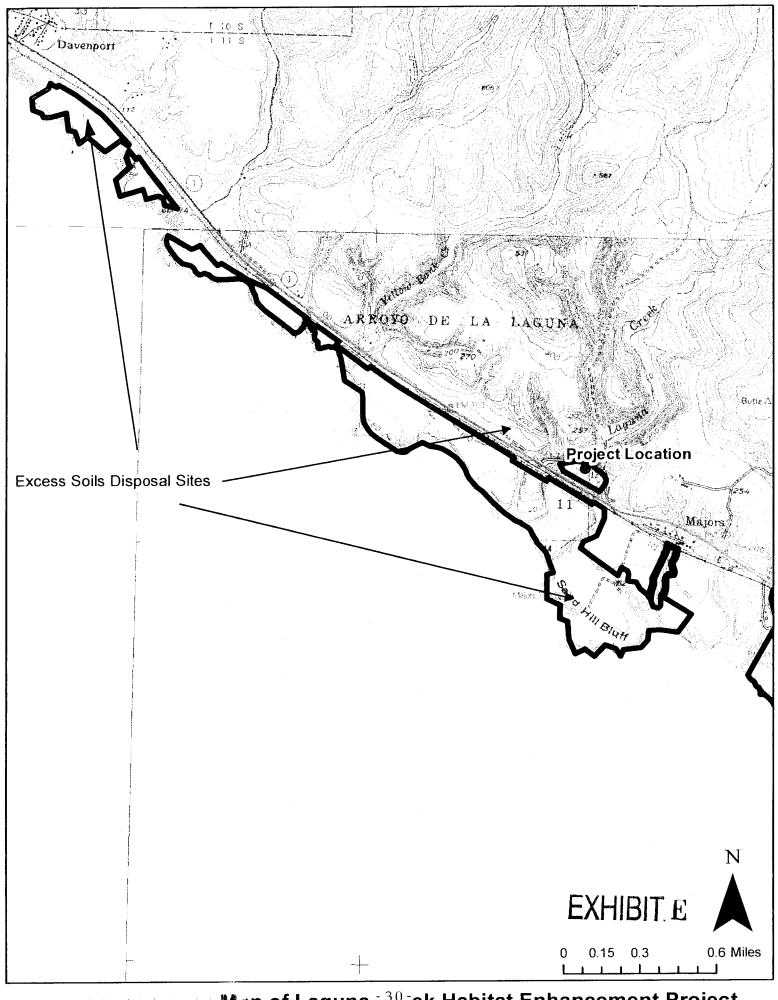
FXHIBIT D











Map of Laguna ³⁰-ek Habitat Enhancement Project

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ DISCRETIONARY APPLICATION COMMENTS

Project Planner: Matt Johnston Application No.: 10-0174 APN: 059-011-06 Date: August 2, 2010 Time: 11:05:23 Page: 1

Environmental Planning Completeness Comments

====== REVIEW ON JUNE 8, 2010 BY CAROLYN I BANTI =======

Completeness Comments ++ First Review ++

Please extend the surveyed topographic data to include the area in the vicinity of the southern property line, including the Caltrans ditch and 40-feet above the toe-of-slope for the adjacent embankment.

It appears the project scope includes grading beyond the property boundary, within the Caltrans right-of-way. Please submit an owner-agent agreement form and any permits (encroachment or otherwise) authorizing the activities proposed on the adjacent property.

Please elaborate on the current flow in the existing Caltrans ditch. How/where does the ditch outlet? If the ditch does not currently drain, how will the proposed outlet affect the channel with respect to flow velocities and potential for erosion? Please note: If there is a possibility for the proposed grading to affect the Caltrans embankment, a formal soils report may be required to provide mitigation recommendations.

Please submit the hydrologic design documents for use in review. See DPW Drainage Miscellaneous Comments for report review comments.

Please submit grading calculations, along with all supporting documentation (plan areas cross sections, etc.) Note: The grading estimate given in the project description varies by 6,000 cubic yards; please provide a more accurate estimate for preliminary grading approval.

Environmental Planning Miscellaneous Comments

====== REVIEW ON JUNE 8, 2010 BY CAROLYN I BANTI ======== Compliance Comments ++ First Review ++

The soils analysis indicates that due to soil conditions, all sideslopes must be a maximum 3:1 gradient. There are multiple locations on the grading plan where cut slopes exceed this threshold (ie: drainage path from existing Caltrans ditch, pool sideslopes). Please revise plans to conform to the recommended 3:1 gradient.

The submitted erosion control plan shows erosion control fabric over the flat areas of the created flood plain, and no erosion treatment in the pools/channels. A proper erosion control plan is imperative to the success of the project, as even under ideal construction conditions sufficient vegetative cover to prevent erosion will not be established prior to the rainy season. Please provide erosion control details for all disturbed areas, along with quantitative data that shows the erosion control will be sufficient to keep the soil in place when subjected to anticipated stream velocities.

Please submit a map of specific properties (with APNs) to receive offhauled

Project Planner:	Matt Johnston	Date:	August 2, 2010
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material, along with the general limits of the soil dispersal area on each property. Any properties receiving over 100 CY, or on which the material will be spread greater than 2-feet in depth will require an agricultural grading or grading permit, as applicable. Please see County Code Chapter 16.20 for grading application requirements.

Misc. Comments/Conditions of Approval ++ First Review ++

The County of Santa Cruz Environmental Planning division must be notified should dewatering become necessary during construction. A registered civil engineer shall prepare dewatering system plans and submit them to Environmental Planning for acceptance. The civil engineer of record shall inspect the installation of the dewatering system and conduct subsequent weekly inspections to ensure proper functioning of the system.

Provide accurate locations of the utilities to be relocated on the grading permit plans.

The project documentation submitted with the plans indicates that if pumping becomes necessary to achieve acceptable construction conditions, wastewater will be discharged from the construction area to an upland location where sediment-laden water will not drain back to the stream channel. Please locate this area on the plans. If the same party does not own this area, please provide an owner-agent agreement authorizing this activity.

Dpw Drainage Completeness Comments

LATEST COMMENTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN SENT TO PLANNER FOR THIS AGENCY

----- REVIEW ON MAY 27, 2010 BY DAVID W SIMS ----- Policy Compliance Items: None

Information Items: None

Please see miscellaneous comments.

Dpw Drainage Miscellaneous Comments

LATEST COMMENTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN SENT TO PLANNER FOR THIS AGENCY

1) A review of the flood frequency curve (Fig.3) presented in the Design Basis Memo (3/30/2010) from Balance Hydrologics finds that the project design hydrology is suspect, having uncharacteristically low flow values for flood recurrence intervals of 5 years or greater. This is important because it drives the risk assessment for mobilization of large woody debris that could block the Hwy 1 culvert, and may influence the grading elevations that the project desires to establish relative to predicted (possibly erroneous) flood line elevations. The newly constructed floodplain is being proposed at approximately 15 ft. elevation, which for the

Discretionary Comments - Continued

Project Planner: Matt Johnston Application No.: 10-0174 APN: 059-011-06 Date: August 2, 2010 Time: 11:05:23 Page: 3

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predicted 10 year flood event would create approximately 3 ft. depth flood flows across the floodplain. If the hydrology is in error the flood flows could be somewhat deeper, more energetic, with higher velocities and shear stresses than anticipated. The Stormwater reviewer is supplying (via the Project Planner) to Balance Hydrologics for their review, additional hydrology work performed for adjacent Vicente Creek, Scott Creek, and regional flood frequency boundary results for many USGS gages throughout the County. Results derived from this additional data suggests that the flood frequency curve could be expected to have flow values 100% to 200% higher than presently estimated for large storm events, exceeding the 90% confidence limit that was statistically established in the project study. There were no problems with the flow values for return frequencies of 2 years or less.

2) Final hydrologic and hydraulic studies and calculations should be stamped, signed and dated by a registered civil engineer.

3) Grading and drainage channel construction is being proposed along the property boundary with State Hwy 1. Some of the work is shown actually occurring on Cal Trans right-of-way. The applicant should show that they have obtained the necessary approvals from Cal Trans to conduct these drainage alterations across the property line.

4) The channel work extending onto Cal Trans right-of-way does not show portions of the channel side slopes and bottom width as being stabilized with erosion control fabric and hydro-seed. Portions of this channel are at higher elevation (13 to 18 ft) than the planned extended ponding depths of the back water channels and would need vegetative protection established.

5) It is not clear on the plans how the spring fed tributary routes (or will be routed) to the backwater channel(s) being constructed. Please clarify.

6) Project construction specifications for Earthwork call for 90% compaction of any fill soils. This is a degree of compaction typical of utility trench backfill and may prove to be a density that is not appropriate for a riparian zone, inhibiting good plant root penetration, infiltration, aeration, etc... Inadvertent machinery compaction in cut zones should be addressed in procedural specifications as well. Please review.

7) Construction activity resulting in a land disturbance of one acre or more, or less than one acre but part of a larger common plan of development or sale must obtain the Construction Activities Storm Water General NPDES Permit from the State Water Resources Control Board. Construction activity includes clearing, grading, excavation, stockpiling, and reconstruction of existing facilities involving removal and replacement. For more information see: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/stormwtr/constfag.html Archaeological Survey Report (ASR) And Finding of No Adverse Effect For the Laguna Creek Habitat Enhancement Project, Coast Dairies State Park, Santa Cruz County, California

By

Mark G.Hylkema Santa Cruz District Archaeologist California State Parks

July 2010



Archaeological Survey Report and Finding of No Adverse Affect For the Proposed Laguna Creek Habitat Enhancement Project, Santa Cruz County Coast, California

Project Summary:

This project proposes to improve a portion of the lower Laguna Creek floodplain and restore habitat for endangered species, and is within Coast Dairies State Park in Santa Cruz County, California (see Map 1). The work is part of the resource management program in the Santa Cruz District of State Parks (CSP) and is an effort to restore natural stream processes on the north Coast of Santa Cruz County within this important watershed. Restoration work will involve the removal of substantial amounts of soil to create stream overflow basins.

Because the proposed conservation project is operating under federal permit (Section 404), on properties under the jurisdiction of California State Parks, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 applies. Section 106 establishes procedures for the evaluation of Historic Properties and determining the potential for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to Section 106, State Laws (PRC 5024), and Park policies mandate evaluation and mitigation of potential adverse effects to historic properties. Historic properties, in regards to the Laguna Creek Habitat Restoration Project, include both prehistoric and historic archaeological features.

Treatment and determination of significance of historic properties, involves consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) through the State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), as well as other public and community members directly affected by projects using federal funds or permits. In addition, State Park policies and provisions pertaining to cultural resources established under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) require that any potentially adverse effects from project development must be identified and evaluated so that impacts to significant cultural resources can be avoided or mitigated to a level of insignificance.

The archaeological survey described in this report involved subsurface testing and found positive evidence of a previously un-recorded Late Period to early historic Mission Period archaeological site within the project Area of Direct Impact (ADI). However, the testing determined that the site, which was composed of a very thin lens of dietary marine shell, charcoal and occasional piece of Monterey chert debitage lacks sufficient integrity to meet the necessary criteria for establishing significance as set forth under Criterion D of Section 106. Therefore, the findings of this ASR have concluded that the project as proposed will not have an Adverse Affect to archaeological resources. Nonetheless, all subsurface excavations for the proposed restoration project will be monitored by a qualified archaeologist, and samples of the deposit will be recovered for archival purposes.

Conclusion and Finding of No Adverse Affect:

The archaeological deposit described in this ASR lacks sufficient integrity to qualify as significant under Section 106, Criterion D.

The volume of shell evident from the sub-surface testing effort is very limited, and the data potential for this deposit has been met through field observation and radiometric assay. Therefore, this evaluation has concluded that the Laguna Creek Habitation Enhancement Project *will not* have an adverse affect to archaeological resources.

If the project should change to include areas beyond the Area of Potential Effect evaluated in this ASR, then further archaeological review will be necessary.

All earthmoving activities within the project APE must be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. In the unlikely event that inadvertent finds are made, all work at the location of the find must temporarily halt until the archaeologist evaluates the significance of the find and provides recommendations leading to mitigation or avoidance.