



County of Santa Cruz

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, 4TH FLOOR, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 454-2580 FAX: (831) 454-2131

KATHLEEN MOLLOY PREVISICH, PLANNING DIRECTOR

www.sccoplanning.com

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, the following project has been reviewed by the County Environmental Coordinator to determine if it has a potential to create significant impacts to the environment and, if so, how such impacts could be solved. A Negative Declaration is prepared in cases where the project is determined not to have any significant environmental impacts. Either a Mitigated Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is prepared for projects that may result in a significant impact to the environment.

Public review periods are provided for these Environmental Determinations according to the requirements of the County Environmental Review Guidelines. The environmental document is available for review at the County Planning Department located at 701 Ocean Street, in Santa Cruz. You may also view the environmental document on the web at www.sccoplanning.com under the Planning Department menu. If you have questions or comments about this Notice of Intent, please contact Todd Sexauer of the Environmental Review staff at (831) 454-3511.

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs or activities. If you require special assistance in order to review this information, please contact Bernice Shawver at (831) 454-3137 to make arrangements.

PROJECT: San Vicente Creek Watershed Clematis Control Project

APP #: 171089

APN(S): 058-011-10; 063-071-01

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project proposes to treat and control the invasive plant *Clematis vitalba* (Clematis) on approximately 30 acres within Santa Cruz County's San Vicente Creek watershed. Clematis, a non-native invasive plant, has infested approximately 70 acres within the San Vicente Creek watershed (30 acres on the San Vicente Redwoods property owned by Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) and Sempervirens Fund (SVF), and 40 acres on the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Coast Dairies property). The infestation poses a threat to anadromous fish and other wildlife habitat, water quality, and ecosystem health (including coast redwood habitat) throughout the lower watershed.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project is located within the San Vicente Creek riparian corridor, on the east side of Highway 1, adjacent to the Bonny Doon and North Coast community planning areas, in the unincorporated County of Santa Cruz.

EXISTING ZONE DISTRICT: TP

APPLICANT: Peninsula Open Space Trust

OWNER: Peninsula Open Space Trust

PROJECT PLANNER: John Cairns

EMAIL: john.cairns@santacruzcounty.us

ACTION: Negative Declaration with Mitigations

REVIEW PERIOD: October 13, 2017 through November 13, 2017

This project will be considered at a public hearing by the Zoning Administrator. The time, date and location have not been set. When scheduling does occur, these items will be included in all public hearing notices for the project.



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MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

**Project: San Vicente Creek Watershed
Clematis Control Project**

APN(S): 058-011-10; 063-071-01

Project Description: The project proposes to treat and control the invasive plant *Clematis vitalba* (Clematis) on approximately 30 acres within Santa Cruz County's San Vicente Creek watershed. Clematis, a non-native invasive plant, has infested approximately 70 acres within the San Vicente Creek watershed (30 acres on the San Vicente Redwoods property owned by Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) and Sempervirens Fund (SVF), and 40 acres on the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Coast Dairies property). The infestation poses a threat to anadromous fish and other wildlife habitat, water quality, and ecosystem health (including coast redwood habitat) throughout the lower watershed.

Project Location: The proposed project is located within the San Vicente Creek riparian corridor, on the east side of Highway 1, adjacent to the Bonny Doon and North Coast community planning areas, in the unincorporated County of Santa Cruz.

Owner: Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) & Sempervirens Fund (SVF)

Applicant: POST and SVF

Staff Planner: John Cairns

Email: john.cairns@santacruzcounty.us

This project will be considered at a public hearing by the Zoning Administrator. The time, date and location have not been set. When scheduling does occur, these items will be included in all public hearing notices for the project.

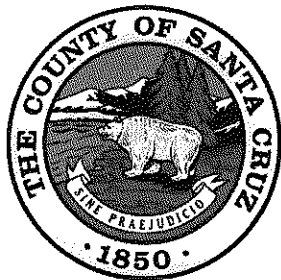
California Environmental Quality Act Mitigated Negative Declaration Findings:

Find, that this Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the decision-making body's independent judgment and analysis, and; that the decision-making body has reviewed and considered the information contained in this Mitigated Negative Declaration and the comments received during the public review period; and, that revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the project applicant would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur; and, on the basis of the whole record before the decision-making body (including this Mitigated Negative Declaration) that there is no substantial evidence that the project as revised will have a significant effect on the environment. The expected environmental impacts of the project are documented in the attached Initial Study on file with the County of Santa Cruz Clerk of the Board located at 701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor, Santa Cruz, California.

Review Period Ends: November 13, 2017

Date: _____

TODD SEXAUER, Environmental Coordinator
(831) 454-3511



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CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) INITIAL STUDY/ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Date: September 11, 2017

Application Number: 171089

Project Name: San Vicente Creek
Watershed Clematis
Control Project

Staff Planner: John Cairns

I. OVERVIEW AND ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

APPLICANT: Peninsula Open Space Trust
(POST) **APN(s):** 058-011-10; 063-071-01

OWNER: Peninsula Open Space Trust
(POST) & Sempervirens Fund (SVF) **SUPERVISORAL DISTRICT:** 3

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project is located within the San Vicente Creek riparian corridor, on the east side of Highway 1, adjacent to the Bonny Doon and North Coast community planning areas, in the unincorporated County of Santa Cruz (Figure 1, Project location, attached). The County of Santa Cruz is bounded on the north by San Mateo County, on the south by Monterey and San Benito counties, on the east by Santa Clara County, and on the south and west by the Monterey Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

SUMMARY PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project proposes to treat and control the invasive plant *Clematis vitalba* (Clematis) on approximately 30 acres within Santa Cruz County's San Vicente Creek watershed. Clematis, a non-native invasive plant, has infested approximately 70 acres within the San Vicente Creek watershed (30 acres on the San Vicente Redwoods property owned by Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST) and Sempervirens Fund (SVF), and 40 acres on the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Coast Dairies property). The infestation poses a threat to anadromous fish and other wildlife habitat, water quality, and ecosystem health (including coast redwood habitat) throughout the lower watershed. The population has been identified as a "Red Alert" by the California Invasive Plant Council, as one of only two documented occurrences in the state. Additionally, this invasive vegetation management project was identified as a priority in the in the San Vicente Creek Watershed Plan for Salmonid Recovery, published in 2014 by the Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County. The proposed project would entail the removal of the 30 acres of Clematis by a variety of methods (discussed further below) over a period of three years. Figure 2 depicts the project site and

management units. Within 2 years' time, POST and SVF plans to be working with BLM to construct a plan to eradicate the remaining 40 acres of Clematis downstream from the project. This plan would be predicated upon the treatment methods proven most effective in this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: *All of the following potential environmental impacts are evaluated in this Initial Study. Categories that are marked have been analyzed in greater detail based on project specific information.*

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics and Visual Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Supply/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

DISCRETIONARY APPROVAL(S) BEING CONSIDERED:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Plan Amendment | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coastal Development Permit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Division | <input type="checkbox"/> Grading Permit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rezoning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Riparian Exception |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Development Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> LAFCO Annexation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewer Connection Permit | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Land Clearing Permit |

OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES WHOSE APPROVAL IS REQUIRED (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

Permit Type/Action

Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (1602)
Coastal Development Permit (LCP)

Agency

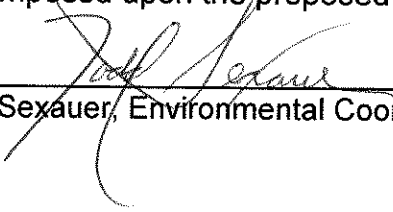
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
California Coastal Commission (via LCP)

DETERMINATION:

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that 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 or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that 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.
- I find that 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.



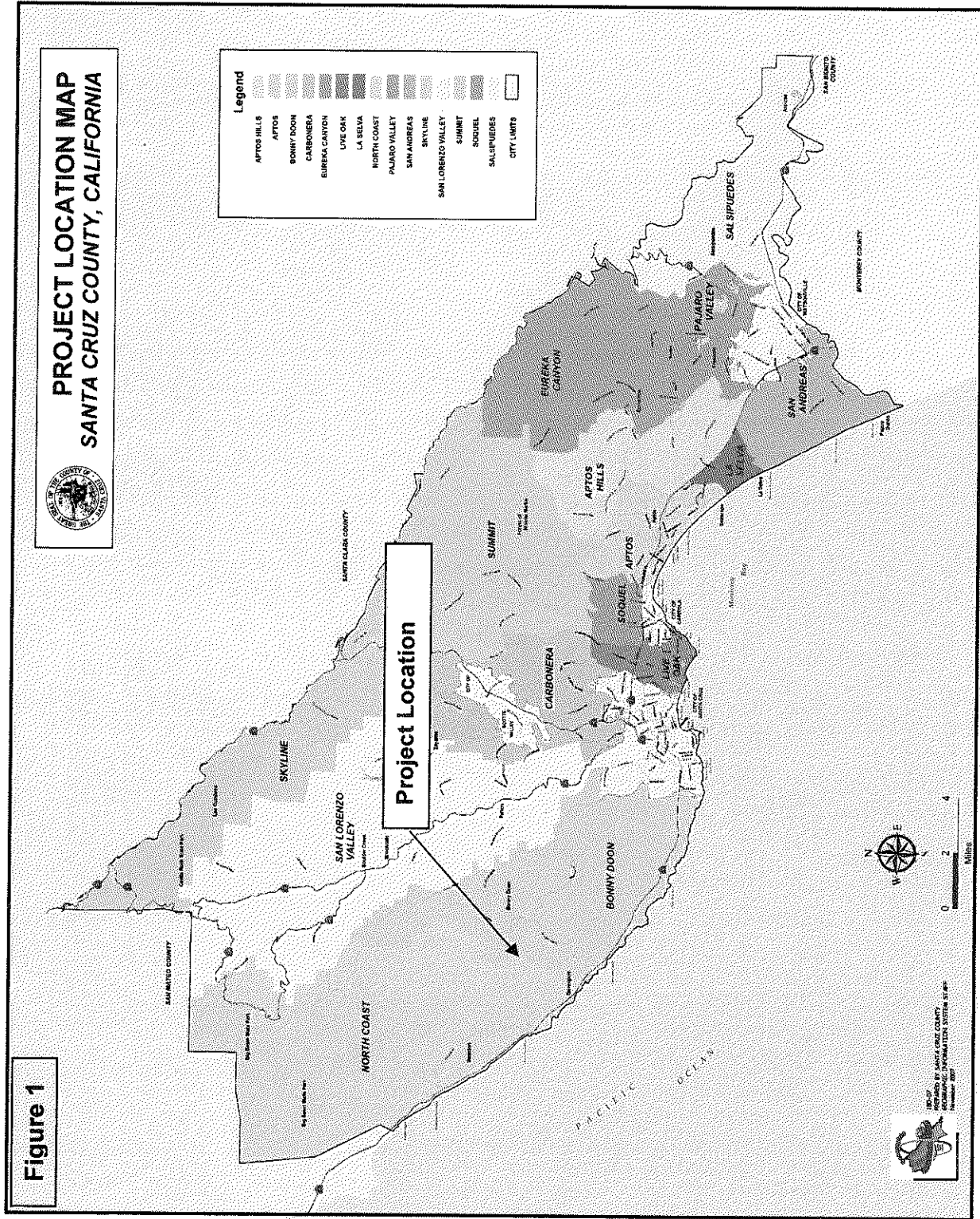
Todd Sexauer, Environmental Coordinator

10-5-17

Date



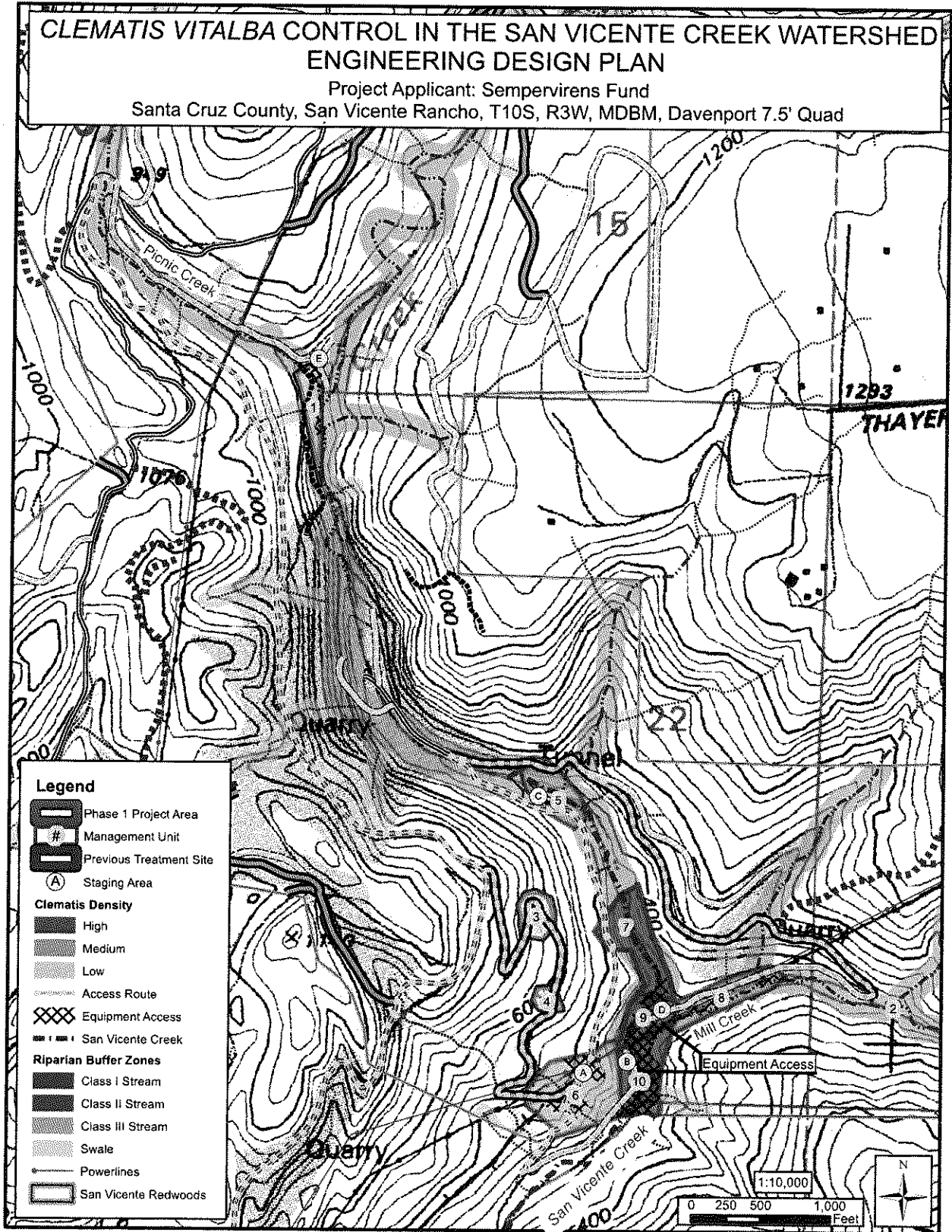
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Figure 2





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II. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS:

Parcel Size (acres): 837 acres (project area 30 acres)
 Existing Land Use: Open Space
 Vegetation: Native Riparian & Nonnative Invasive
 Slope in area affected by project: 0 - 30% 31 - 100% N/A
 Nearby Watercourse: San Vicente Creek; Mill Creek
 Distance To: Site is located directly within the riparian corridor.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND CONSTRAINTS:

Water Supply Watershed:	Yes	Fault Zone:	No
Groundwater Recharge:	Yes	Scenic Corridor:	No
Timber or Mineral:	Yes/Partial	Historic:	No
Agricultural Resource:	No	Archaeology:	Yes/Partial
Biologically Sensitive Habitat:	Yes	Noise Constraint:	No
Fire Hazard:	Yes/Partial	Electric Power Lines:	Yes
Floodplain:	No	Solar Access:	No
Erosion:	Yes/Partial	Solar Orientation:	No
Landslide:	Yes	Hazardous Materials:	No
Liquefaction:	No	Other:	

SERVICES:

Fire Protection:	CRZ-FSA48	Drainage District:	Zone 7
School District:	Pacific Elementary SD, Bonny Doon Union SD	Project Access:	Yes
Sewage Disposal:	CSA-12	Water Supply:	N/A

PLANNING POLICIES:

Zone District:	CA	Special Designation:	
General Plan:	R-M		
Urban Services Line:	<input type="checkbox"/> Inside	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outside	
Coastal Zone:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Inside	<input type="checkbox"/> Outside	

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND SURROUNDING LAND USES:

Natural Environment

Santa Cruz County is uniquely situated along the northern end of Monterey Bay approximately 55 miles south of the City of San Francisco along the Central Coast. The Pacific Ocean and