SEE PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED BIO REPORT

San Mateo County
Planning and Building Department
455 County Center, 2nd Floor ▪ Redwood City, CA 94063
Mail Drop: PLN 122 ▪ TEL (650) 363-4161 ▪ FAX (650) 363-4849

Biological Impact Form

(for compliance with Local Coastal Program Policy 7.5)

Applicant's Name:

Primary Permit # :

Owner/Applicant

Name:

Mailing Address:

Zip:

Phone,W:

H:

Fax:

Email Address:

Project Location

Include U.S.G.S.-Tier, Range, and Section:

Assessor's Parcel Number(s):

— — , — —

— — , — —

Applicable Planning Permit numbers:

Principal Investigators

(Note: Attach a qualification summary to the report.)

Name:

Mailing Address:

Zip:

Phone,W:

H:

Fax:

Email Address:

Report Summary

Briefly state the results of the report, habitat type, rare, endangered or unique species present, anticipated impacts, and proposed mitigation measures.

Use additional pages when necessary.

1. **PROJECT AND PROPERTY DESCRIPTION:** Describe the proposed project and property, including the size, topographic characteristics, water resources, soil types, and land uses on the property and in the vicinity up to a radius of one-quarter mile. Include a map of the area from the USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle series.

2. **METHODOLOGY:** Briefly describe the survey methods used in preparing the report and show on an appropriately scaled map the location of sample points, transects, and any additional areas surveyed in the vicinity of the project.

Note: Use additional pages when necessary.

3. **RESULTS:** At length, describe the botanical and zoological resources of the project site. To the extent possible, describe the food chain of the habitat and how the proposed project will impact those resources.

   NOTE: Use both common and scientific names and please indicate source such as Stebbins, Munz, Thomas, etc.

4. List all direct and indirect impacts of the proposed project on the habitat. Include within the discussion an elevation of the perceived cumulative biological impacts associated with the project.

Note: Use additional pages when necessary.

5. List and discuss all probable impacts to threatened, rare, endangered or unique species either listed or proposed by the Local Coastal Program, a Federal or State agency, or the California Native Plant Society, both on-site and within an area of one quarter-mile radius from the project location.

6. Tabulate by significant impact all feasible mitigation measures proposed to reduce the level of impact and explain how such measures will be successful.

7. **CERTIFICATION:** I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this biological evaluation to the best of my ability, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Date: _____ Signed: _____

Note: Use additional pages when necessary.

GUIDELINES

These guidelines for the preparation of Biological Impact Reports have been developed to assist applicants and the County in partial fulfillment of the requirements of the San Mateo County Local Coastal Program and the California Environmental Quality Act. It is the purpose of these guidelines to provide the project applicant with a standardized format defining the minimum biological information required by the County to process coastal development applications efficiently.

A Biological Impact Report is required for all proposed developments located within 100 feet of a Sensitive Habitat. Sensitive Habitats are areas in which plant or animal life or their habitats are either rare or especially valuable and those areas which meet one of the following criteria: (1) habitats containing or supporting "rare and endangered" species as defined by the State Fish and Game Commission, (2) all perennial and intermittent streams and their tributaries, (3) Coastal tidelands and marshes, (4) coastal and offshore areas containing breeding and/or nesting sites and coastal areas used by migratory and resident water-associated birds for resting and feeding, (5) areas used for scientific study and research concerning fish and wildlife, (6) lakes and ponds and adjacent shore habitat, (7) existing game and wildlife refuges and reserves, and (8) sand dunes. Such areas include riparian areas, wetlands, sand dunes, marine habitats, sea cliffs, and habitats supporting rare, endangered, and unique species. Also designated as Sensitive Habitats are those areas shown on the Sensitive Habitats Map for the Coastal Zone.

If a proposed project is determined to be within a Sensitive Habitat, the applicant is required to prepare a biologic report by a qualified professional selected jointly by the applicant and the County to be submitted prior to development review. The report will determine if significant impacts on the sensitive habitats may occur, and recommend the most feasible mitigation measures if impacts may occur. The report shall consider both any identified sensitive habitats and areas adjacent. Recommended uses and intensities within the habitat area shall be dependent on such resources, and shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade areas adjacent to the habitats. The County and the applicant shall jointly develop an appropriate program to evaluate the adequacy of any mitigation measures imposed. These mitigation measures may include the partial or complete restoration of any damaged habitats.

A. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. It is expected that the level of detail and the extent of study will be proportioned to the scale of the proposed project, the biological diversity of the site and the significance of the habitats impacted by the proposal.

2. All data should be quantified where possible.

3. Field surveys shall be performed during the season when the most critical resources on the site can best be evaluated.

4. Both common and scientific nomenclature should be used in the report. Where a common name is used in a report for the first time, a scientific name including authority will follow immediately in parentheses. The scientific name inclusion need not be repeated.

5. When the proposed project is to be phased over a number of years, discuss the impacts of the completed project as well as the impacts of each phase.

B. MAP REQUIREMENTS

Mapping of Information. All maps submitted with this report must be at a scale sufficient to show the location of the resources identified and their relationship to the project. Elevations and north direction must be indicated on all maps. In addition, at least one copy of a full scale project map (e.g., Tentative Parcel Map, Use Permit, Variance, etc.) must be submitted, showing the resources identified and project characteristics including but not limited to lot lines, roads, grading, and open space easements. For projects where only a simple schematic map is needed, the resource maps should demonstrate the resources present and indicate topographic relationships.

C. BOTANICAL INFORMATION

Describe the existing plant communities, as well as disturbed areas, and list the dominant (indicator) species of each vegetative community. Include a vegetation map (at least one copy must be on a project plan map) showing relationships to the development proposal. The extent of each plant community or habitat type on the property should be indicated in acres (or hectares); include quantitative and transect data when appropriate. Include in the report a complete listing of all plant species of concern* observed. Indicate in which community or habitat each species was found and which species are not native to the area. It is not necessary to make complete lists of plants unless it is deemed important for the project.*

D. ZOOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Provide a list of all vertebrate species observed or detected which are either directly or indirectly impacted by the project. Indicate estimates of population sizes of individuals detected or observed without necessarily doing a captive/release study. Note indications of breeding activity, i.e., nests, dens, on the property. Occurrence of each species should be related to the vegetative community or wildlife habitat types on and in the immediate vicinity of the property when possible. Relative amounts of each wildlife habitat type should be indicated, in the same manner as plant communities. Only site-specific lists are acceptable; however, listing of particular expected species may be appropriate but should be justified (migratory, estivating, nocturnal species, etc.).

Discuss invertebrates only in special situations, i.e., rare, threatened or endangered species, and unusual species concentrations, or where there is a unique relationship between an invertebrate and vertebrate or plan species.

If a species reported on the property is considered a rare or unusual occurrence in the region, verify its identification with a specific description or by photography.

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* Species of concern shall be any unique, rare, endangered, or threatened species. It shall include species used to delineate wetlands and riparian corridors. It shall also include any host, perching, or food plants used by any animals in a listed or proposed rare, endangered, threatened or unique category by either State or Federal regulations or in the Local Coastal Program.

Indicate locations and discuss areas exhibiting concentrations of a higher diversity of wildlife or wildlife signs, and discuss possible reasons for these activities, such as amphibian breeding areas, deer feeding and raptor hunting areas, etc. Such areas may reflect physical attributes of the property such as dunes, rock outcrops, streams, ponds, stands of trees, etc., which should be mapped.

E. RARE, ENDANGERED, OR SENSITIVE SPECIES AND HABITATS

The report shall contain a separate discussion of any species occurring on or using areas directly or indirectly affected by the project, which are recognized by a government agency or conservation or scientific group as being potentially depleted, declining, rare, locally endemic, endangered, or threatened, and/or any species nominated for or on a State or Federal rare, endangered, or threatened species list. The choice of plant species discussed shall be based on the California Native Plant Society list (Special Publication No. 1, 2nd ed. Powell, 1980) or more recent data. For each such species indicate the number of individuals observed on or immediately off site, the total population estimated to be present, and their exact location(s) on the vegetation map.

The report shall contain a discussion of those rare, endangered, and threatened plant and animal species expected in the project vicinity: Discuss site suitability for each such species. If the species are not found on site, discuss the reasons why not, particularly if the survey was done when the organism would not be identifiable. Additionally, discuss the known growth and food requirements of the species, including required soil types, exposure, elevation, availability of water, and season, etc. Confirm the identification of rare, endangered, or threatened plant species, by a species description or photography.

QUALIFICATIONS

1. List all relevant experience in habitat evaluation.

2. List all relevant formal educational background, e.g., a degree in botany, zoology, plant ecology, wildlife ecology, etc.

To qualify, the investigator(s) must have had at least two years of experience in field type investigation in the State of California and must have experience in writing biological reports, either for environmental documents, research publications, or agency contracts.

Generally, an investigator, unless having shown particular ability in field and report writing, must have at least a Master's degree in Botany, Zoology, Ecology, Range Science, Wildlife Studies, Limnology, Resource Management, or some very closely related natural science.

Specific ability must be shown with respect to the particular type or types of sensitive habitats being studied, e.g., wetlands, riparian corridors, San Francisco garter snake, sand dunes, etc.