

**SEASONAL BIOLOGICAL SURVEY
RESULTS FOR THE
GRAMCKOW PROPERTY PROJECT,
RANCHO MATILJA, CALIFORNIA
(COUNTY OF VENTURA PROJECT: ZO 04-0000008)**



Prepared for:

VENTURA COUNTY PLANNING DIVISION

On Behalf of:

MARTIN GRAMCKOW

July 2006

DMEC Mission Statement:

*To provide quality environmental consulting services, with integrity,
that protect and enhance the human and natural environment.*



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for the Gramckow Property Project,
Rancho Matilija, California**
(County of Ventura Project: ZO 04-0000008)

Prepared for:

Ventura County Planning Division
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California 93008
Contact: Tricia Maier, 805/654-2464

Prepared by:

David Magney Environmental Consulting
P.O. Box 1346
Ojai, California 93024-1346
Contact: David L. Magney, 805/646-6045

Prepared on Behalf of:

Martin Gramckow
816 El Toro Road
Ojai, California 93023
Phone: 805/488-3585

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SECTION 1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT LOCATION

The Gramckow property is located in the Ojai Valley portion of Ventura County, California, west of the City of Ojai and immediately north of State Route 150, also known as Baldwin Road. The property is located immediately west of the Rancho Matilija development, and east of the secondary access road (Ranch Road) into that development (Figure 1, Location of the Gramckow Project Site). The property exists within the Matilija USGS California Quadrangle at the approximate geographic coordinates of 34.42829°N latitude and 119.31521°W longitude and is at an elevation of approximately 600 feet above mean sea level. The project site consists of the southern portion of the property, as shown on Figure 2, Aerial Photograph of the Gramckow Property and Project Site. The project site is bordered by two tributaries to Live Oak Creek, referred to as the west and east tributaries. Live Oak Creek is a tributary to the Ventura River.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Martin Gramckow is applying to the County of Ventura to convert two existing lots to three legal lots. If this request is approved, Mr. Gramckow intends to develop or to sell for development the southeastern-most parcel, which would be approximately 11 acres. This future parcel will herein be referred to as the project site. The intended development for that parcel is one single-family dwelling, with associated landscape, hardscape, and outbuildings. Rincon Consultants, Inc., conducted a Biological Resources Initial Study for the County of Ventura (County of Ventura Project: ZO 04-0000008) on 15 August 2005 (Ventura County Planning Division 2005). The County is requiring two seasonal field surveys (one in early spring and one in late spring) for rare species to be conducted by a County-approved, qualified biologist. As a result, DMEC was contracted by Mr. Gramckow to conduct the seasonal surveys.

Figure 1. Location of the Gramckow Project Site

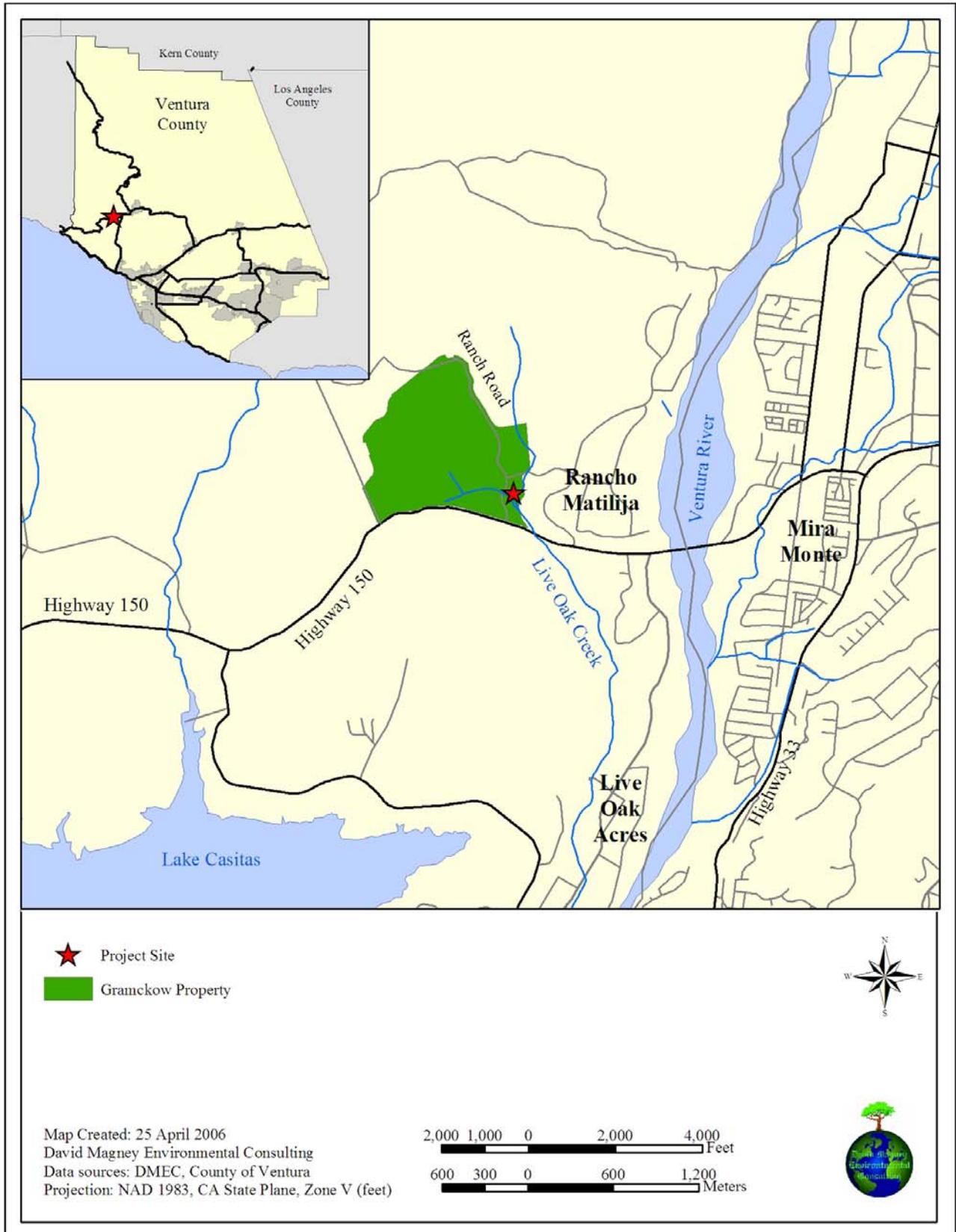
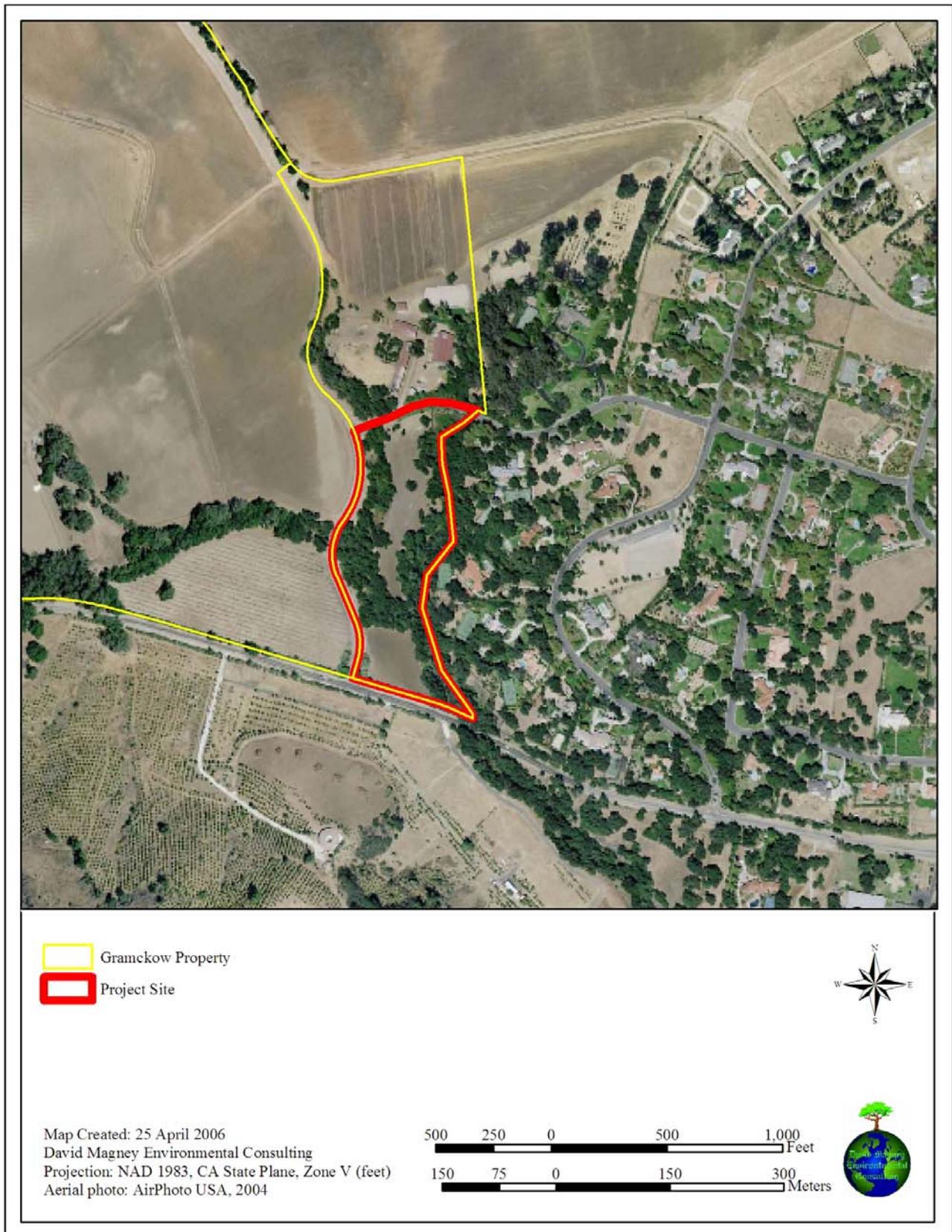


Figure 2. Aerial Photograph of the Gramckow Property and Project Site



SECTION 2. METHODS

FIELD SURVEYS

DMEC, a County-approved biological consulting firm, conducted a reconnaissance-level site survey on 16 February 2006. DMEC conducted the first seasonal biological resources surveys (early spring) of the Gramckow property on 21 (morning survey), 29 (night survey), and 30 (HGM assessment) March 2006. DMEC conducted the second seasonal biological resources survey (late spring) of the Gramckow property on 19 May 2006 to capture any late-blooming plant species that were not detected or were unidentifiable during the early spring surveys.

DMEC biologists, David Magney, Cher Batchelor, and Wendy Cole, conducted the surveys of the approximate 11-acre property to identify the native and naturalized flora and fauna onsite, including special-status plant and wildlife species and sensitive habitats. The property was walked over thoroughly to account for all observable plant and wildlife species onsite, and Global Positioning System (GPS) units were carried to track footpaths and to mark waypoints of findings of interest. The streams were walked at nighttime with flashlights in an upstream direction to identify aquatic wildlife, and stones and logs were overturned to identify amphibians, reptiles, and invertebrates observed onsite. DMEC concentrated the survey efforts in and around the areas that would be directly affected by any proposed construction activities, and in wetland/riparian areas. Figure 3, Survey Paths on the Gramckow Property Project Site, shows the areas walked and surveyed onsite.

Ventura County Planning Division requested Rincon Consultants to conduct a CEQA Initial Study for the Gramckow property. Rincon Consultants conducted a site visit on 15 August 2005 to determine the general extent of biological resources on the property. The field visit included a reconnaissance of the northwest sections and southeast sections of the property on foot, while the rest of the property was only surveyed by car. (Ventura County Planning Division 2005.)

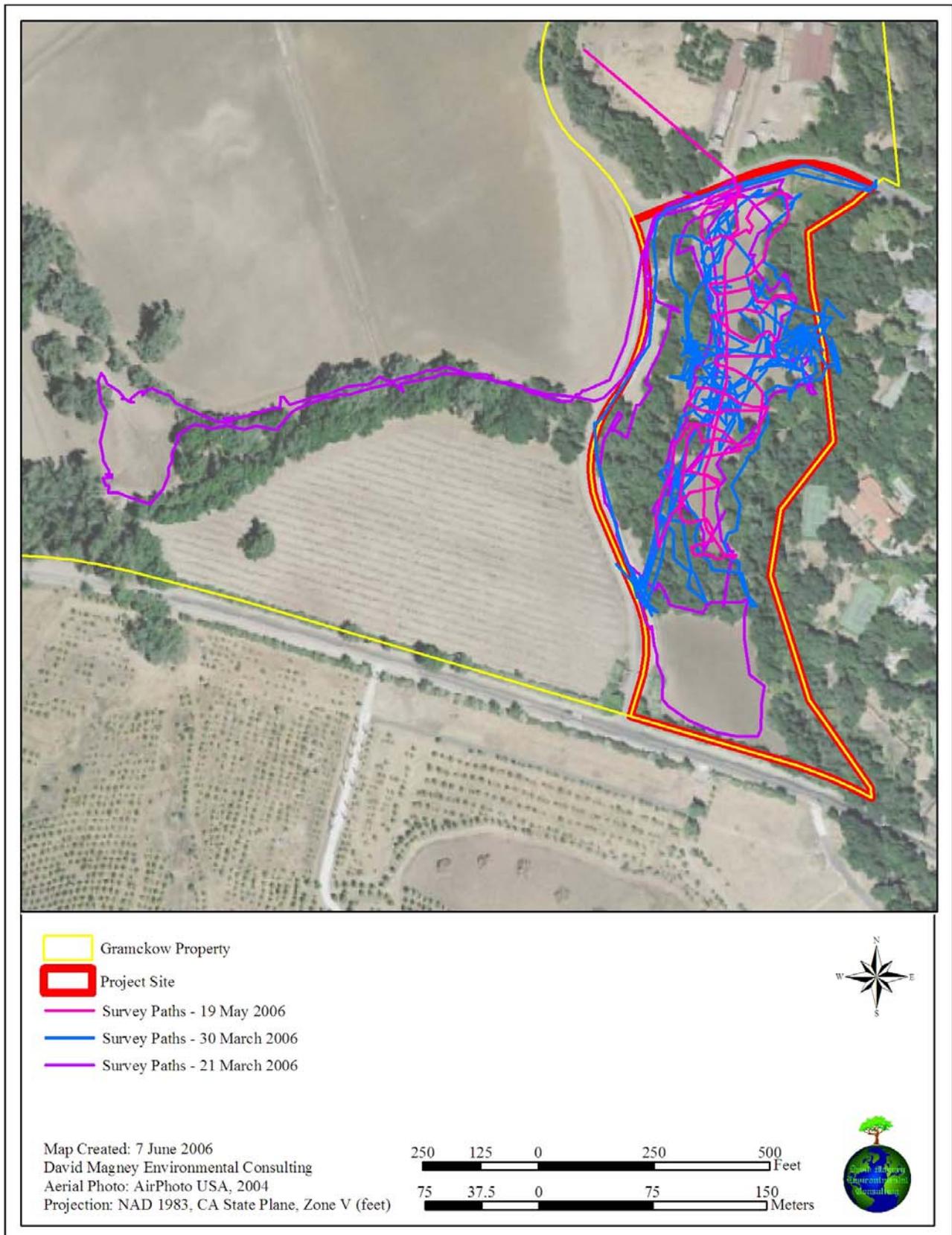
LITERATURE REVIEW

Prior to the project site visits, DMEC conducted a search of the California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG's) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) RareFind3 (CDFG 2006a) for the Matilija California USGS Quadrangle (in which the Gramckow property exists), and for the eight surrounding quadrangles, including Wheeler Springs, Ventura, Old Man Mountain, White Ledge Peak, Pitas Point, Lion Canyon, Ojai, and Saticoy. DMEC conducted this database search in order to account for any special-status species that have potential to occur in the vicinity of the project site.

DMEC also conducted a literature search of California Native Plant Society's *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California* (CNPS 2001) and the *Checklist of Ventura County Rare Plants* (Magney 2005) to account for other special-status plant species not tracked by CNDDDB with potential to occur in the vicinity of the proposed project site. Projects reviewed under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) should consider impacts to Locally Important species as potentially significant. Generally, any impacts to a population of one or more of the plants listed herein would be considered significant.

The CNDDDB Special Animals List (CDFG 2006b) was also referenced to account for any species observed that are considered special-status according to that list.

Figure 3. Survey Paths on the Gramckow Property Project Site



SPECIAL-STATUS RESOURCES DEFINITIONS

Special-status Habitats are vegetation types, associations, or sub-associations that support concentrations of special-status plant or wildlife species, are of relatively limited distribution, or are of particular value to wildlife.

Special-status species are plants and animals that are at least one of the following:

- *Listed as endangered or threatened* under Federal or California Endangered Species Acts,
- *Listed as rare* under the California Native Plant Protection Act, or
- *Considered rare* (but not formally listed) by resource agencies, professional organizations (e.g. Audubon Society, CNPS, The Wildlife Society), and the scientific community.

Listed species are those taxa that are formally listed as endangered or threatened by the federal government (e.g. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), pursuant to the Federal Endangered Species Act or as endangered, threatened, or rare (for plants only) by the State of California (i.e., California Fish and Game Commission), pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act or the California Native Plant Protection Act. Special-status species are further defined in Table 1, Definitions of Special-Status Species.

The CNPS' *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California* (CNPS 2001, 2005¹) categorizes rare California plants into one of five lists (1A, 1B, 2, 3, and 4) representing the five levels of species status, one of which is assigned to a sensitive species to indicate its status of rarity or endangerment and distribution. Table 2, California Native Plant Society List, provides a definition for each List code number. A CNPS List is a more general designation than the three separate sets of information provided in a CNPS R-E-D Code (defined in Table 3, California Native Plant Society R-E-D Code). However, the CNPS List is a significant designation in terms of a species' overall status throughout all of California, and it works well in conjunction to the specifications of the R-E-D Code.

¹ Changes to the *Inventory* as published on the CNPS website
(http://www.cnps.org/programs/Rare_Plant/inventory/changes/changes_accepted.htm).



Table 1. Definitions of Special-Status Species

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plants and animals legally protected under the California and Federal Endangered Species Acts or under other regulations. ○ Plants and animals considered sufficiently rare by the scientific community to qualify for such listing; or ○ Plants and animals considered to be sensitive because they are unique, declining regionally or locally, or are at the extent of their natural range. 	
Special-Status Plant Species	Special-Status Animal Species
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plants listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act (50 CFR 17.12 for listed plants and various notices in <i>Federal Register</i> for proposed species). ○ Plants that are Category 1 or 2 candidates for possible future listing as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act (55 CFR 6184, February 21, 1990). ○ Plants that meet the definitions of rare or endangered species under the CEQA (<i>State CEQA Guidelines</i>, Section 15380). ○ Plants considered by CNPS to be "rare, threatened, or endangered" in California (Lists 1B and 2 in CNPS 2001). ○ Plants listed by CNPS as plants needing more information and plants of limited distribution (Lists 3 and 4 in CNPS 2001). ○ Plants listed or proposed for listing by the State of California as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (14 CCR 670.5). ○ Plants listed under the California Native Plant Protection Act (California Fish and Game Code 1900 et seq.). ○ Plants considered sensitive by other federal agencies (i.e. U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management) or state and local agencies or jurisdictions. ○ Plants considered sensitive or unique by the scientific community; occurs at natural range limits (<i>State CEQA Guidelines</i>, Appendix G). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Animals listed/proposed for listing as threatened/endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act (50 CFR 17.11 for listed animals and various notices in <i>Federal Register</i> for proposed species). ○ Animals that are Category 1 or 2 candidates for possible future listing as threatened or endangered under Federal Endangered Species Act (54 CFR 554). ○ Animals that meet the definitions of rare or endangered species under the CEQA (<i>State CEQA Guidelines</i>, Section 15380). ○ Animals listed or proposed for listing by the State of California as threatened and endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (14 CCR 670.5). ○ Animal species of special concern to the CDFG (Remsen [1978] for birds; Williams [1986] for mammals). ○ Animal species that are fully protected in California (California Fish & Game Code, Sections 3511 [birds], 4700 [mammals], 5050 [reptiles, amphibians]).



Table 2. California Native Plant Society List (CNPS List)

CNPS List	Definition
1A	Presumed Extinct in California
1B	Rare or Endangered in California and elsewhere
2	Rare and Endangered in California, more common elsewhere
3	Need more information
4	Plants of Limited Distribution

The CNPS R-E-D Code is a three-numbered numeric ranking, which is assigned to a special-status species, consisting of one number (1, 2, or 3) for each of the three categories (Rarity-Endangerment-Distribution). Each number accurately describes the species' population levels and distribution patterns within each category. The three number-codes are described for each category in Table 3, California Native Plant Society R-E-D Code, and are specific for each category.

Table 3. California Native Plant Society R-E-D Code

Rarity (R)	
1	Rare, but found in sufficient numbers and distributed widely enough that the potential for extinction is low at this time
2	Distributed in a limited number of occurrences, occasionally more if each occurrence is small
3	Distributed in one to several highly restricted occurrences, or present in such small numbers that it is seldom reported
Endangerment (E)	
1	Not endangered
2	Endangered in a portion of its range
3	Endangered throughout its range
Distribution (D)	
1	More or less widespread outside California
2	Rare outside California
3	Endemic to California

The CNDDDB Element Ranking system provides a numeric global and state-ranking system for all special-status species tracked by the CNDDDB. The global rank (G-rank) is a reflection of the overall condition of an element (species or natural community) throughout its global range. The state rank (S-rank) is assigned much the same way as the global rank, except state ranks in California often also contain a threat designation attached to the S-rank. This Element Ranking system is defined below in Table 4, California Natural Diversity Database Element Ranking System.



Table 4. California Natural Diversity Database Element Ranking System

Global Ranking (G)	
G1	Less than 6 viable element occurrences (populations for species), OR less than 1,000 individuals, OR < 809.4 hectares (ha) (2,000 acres [ac]).
G2	6 to 20 element occurrences OR 809.4 to 4,047 ha (2,000 to 10,000 ac).
G3	21 to 100 element occurrences OR 3,000 to 10,000 individuals OR 4,047 to 20,235 ha (10,000 to 50,000 ac).
G4	Apparently secure; this rank is clearly lower than G3, but factors exist to cause some concern (i.e. there is some threat, or somewhat narrow habitat).
G5	Population, or stand, demonstrably secure to ineradicable due to being commonly found in the world.
GH	All sites are historic ; the element has not been seen for at least 20 years, but suitable habitat still exists.
GX	All sites are extirpated ; this element is extinct in the wild.
GXC	Extinct in the wild; exists in cultivation.
G1Q	The element is very rare, but there is a taxonomic question associated with it.
<p>Subspecies Level: Subspecies receive a T-rank attached to the G-rank. With the subspecies, the G-rank reflects the condition of the entire <u>species</u>, whereas the T-rank reflects the global situation of just the <u>subspecies</u> or <u>variety</u>. * For example: <i>Chorizanthe robusta</i> var. <i>hartwegii</i> is ranked G2T1. The G-rank refers to the whole species range (<i>Chorizanthe robusta</i>), whereas the T-rank refers only to the global condition of the variety (var. <i>hartwegii</i>).</p>	
State Ranking (S)	
S1	Less than 6 element occurrences OR less than 1,000 individuals OR less than 809.4 ha (2,000 ac). S1.1 = very threatened S1.2 = threatened S1.3 = no current threats known
S2	6 to 20 element occurrences OR 3,000 individuals OR 809.4 to 4,047 ha (2,000 to 10,000 ac). S2.1 = very threatened S2.2 = threatened S2.3 = no current threats known..
S3	21 to 100 element occurrences OR 3,000 to 10,000 individuals OR 4,047 to 20,235 ha (10,000 to 50,000 ac). S3.1 = very threatened S3.2 = threatened S3.3 = no current threats known
S4	Apparently secure within California; this rank is clearly lower than S3 but factors exist to cause some concern (i.e., there is some threat, or somewhat narrow habitat). NO THREAT RANK.
S5	Demonstrably secure to ineradicable in California. NO THREAT RANK.
SH	All California sites are historic ; the element has not been seen for at least 20 years, but suitable habitat still exists.
SX	All California sites are extirpated ; this element is extinct in the wild.
Notes	
<p>1. Other considerations used when ranking a species or natural community include the pattern of distribution of the element on the landscape, fragmentation of the population/stands, and historical extent as compared to its modern range. It is important to take an aerial view when ranking sensitive elements rather than simply counting element occurrences.</p> <p>2. Uncertainty about the rank of an element is expressed in two major ways: by expressing the rank as a range of values (e.g. S2S3 means the rank is somewhere between S2 and S3), and by adding a ? to the rank (e.g. S2?). This represents more certainty than S2S3, but less than S2.</p>	

SECTION 3. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES SURVEY RESULTS

This section discusses the general site characteristics; the property flora, fauna, and habitats, including special-status resources; and jurisdictional waters.

SITE CHARACTERISTICS

The west and east tributaries of Live Oak Creek occur along the west and east edges of the project site. State Route 150 (Baldwin Road) is immediately south of the project site. Dense old-growth *Quercus agrifolia* Alliance (Coast Live Oak Riparian Woodland) and *Platanus racemosa-Salix* Alliance (Sycamore-Willow Riparian Woodland) vegetation occurs along these tributaries to the immediate east and west of the proposed building site. Outside the boundaries of the property, the land use includes a residential development (Rancho Matilija) to the east and agricultural land to the north, south, and west.

The Gramckow project site is significantly disturbed. The proposed building site was frequently plowed, at least annually for fire hazard control, and is currently inhabited by scattered ruderal species. The rest of the property, except Live Oak Creek and tributaries, has been converted to agricultural crops or contain farm buildings. Although the riparian areas of the two tributaries are dominated by native old-growth riparian tree species, the undergrowth is dominated by escaped ornamental species and introduced invasive plant species. In particular, the groundlayer is dominated by the impenetrable brambles of *Vinca major* (Greater Periwinkle) and *Rubus discolor* (Himalayan Blackberry).

The proposed building site occurs within historical upper riparian floodplain habitat of Live Oak Creek, and is adjacent to extant riparian wetlands categorized as both Riverine System (where flowing water occurs and vegetation is largely lacking) and Palustrine System (wetland habitat dominated by riparian vegetation), according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States* (Cowardin et al. 1979).

Numerous species of wildlife are known to occur within the vicinity of Live Oak Creek and its tributaries, and frequent the Palustrine and Riverine System habitats on a seasonal basis. Local wildlife species regularly utilize the food, water, and cover resources provided by the creeks.

FLORA

The flora of the Gramckow property includes the vascular (flowering) and nonvascular (e.g. fungi, mosses, liverworts, lichens) plants existing onsite. Table 5, Plants Observed at the Gramckow Property, lists all plant species observed during the biological resources surveys conducted onsite. DMEC observed 5 species of fungus, 5 species of lichen, and 2 species of moss, all of which are native species. DMEC also observed 89 vascular plant taxa, including 38 (42%) are native species and 51 (58%) are introduced naturalized and ornamental species. The vascular plant and lichen floras of the site are relatively depauperate compared to similar-sized areas elsewhere in the region and California. Based on this ratio of natives to nonnatives, the Gramckow property is relatively disturbed in terms of native species richness.

Table 5. Plants Observed at the Gramckow Property

Scientific Name ²	Common Name	Habit ³	WIS ⁴	Family
<i>Fungi</i>				
<i>Astreus</i> cf. <i>hygrometricus</i>	False Earth Star	eFu	-	Sclerodermataceae
<i>Coriolus</i> cf. <i>versicolor</i>	Shelf Fungus	pFu	-	Polyporaceae
<i>Russula</i> cf. <i>veternosa</i>	Red-capped Russula	eFu	-	Russulaceae
<i>Russula</i> sp. (cf. <i>brunneola</i>)	Brown-capped Russula	eFu	-	Russulaceae
Polyporaceae (unidentified)	White Polypore Fungus	pFu	-	Polyporaceae
<i>Lichens</i>				
<i>Flavopunctelia</i> sp.	Flavopunctelia Lichen	FoL	-	Parmeliaceae
<i>Physcia</i> cf. sp.	Physcia Lichen	FoL	-	Physciaceae
<i>Ramalina</i> sp.	Ramalina Lichen	FrL	-	Ramalinaceae
<i>Trapelia</i> sp.	Trapelia Soil Lichen	CL	-	Trapeliaceae
<i>Xanthoria</i> cf. <i>elegans</i>	Egg-yolk Lichen	FoL	-	Teloschistaceae
<i>Mosses</i>				
<i>Bryum argenteum</i>	Crown Cap Moss	M	-	Bryaceae
<i>Grimmia</i> sp.	Grimmia Dry Rock Moss	M	-	Grimmiaceae
<i>Vascular Plants</i>				
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> *	Tree-of-Heaven	T	FACU	Hippocastinaceae
<i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i> var. <i>californica</i>	Western Ragweed	BH	FAC	Asteraceae
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i> *	Scarlet Pimpernel	AH	FAC	Primulaceae
<i>Anthemis cotula</i> *	Mayweed	AH	FACU	Asteraceae
<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	Mugwort	PH	FACW	Asteraceae
<i>Avena barbata</i> *	Slender Wild Oat	AG	.	Poaceae
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Coyote Brush	S	(FACU)	Asteraceae
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	Mulefat	S	FACW	Asteraceae
<i>Brassica rapa</i> *	Field Mustard	AH	.	Brassicaceae
<i>Bromus diandrus</i> *	Ripgut Grass	AG	(FACU)	Poaceae
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i> *	Soft Chess	AG	FACU-	Poaceae
<i>Bromus madritensis</i> ssp. <i>rubens</i> *	Red Brome	AG	.	Poaceae
<i>Calandrinia ciliata</i>	Redmaids	AH	FACU*	Portulacaceae

² * = Introduced/naturalized plant species. + = Escaped ornamental nonnative plant species. **Bold** = Special-status species. Scientific and common names follow Hickman (1993), Flora of North America Committee (2001-2004), and Boyd (1999).

³ Habit definitions: AG = annual grass or graminoid; PG = perennial grass or graminoid; AH = annual herb; PH = perennial herb; PV = perennial vine; PF = perennial fern or fern ally; S = shrub; T = tree; CL = crustose lichen; FoL = foliose lichen; FrL = fruticose lichen.

⁴ WIS = Wetland Indicator Status. The following code definitions are according to Reed (1988):
 OBL = obligate wetland species, occurs almost always in wetlands (>99% probability).
 FACW = facultative wetland species, usually found in wetlands (67-99% probability).
 FAC = facultative species, equally likely to occur in wetlands or nonwetlands (34-66% probability).
 FACU = facultative upland species, usually found in nonwetlands (67-99% probability).
 + or - symbols are modifiers that indicate greater or lesser affinity for wetland habitats.
 NI = no indicator has been assigned due to a lack of information to determine indicator status.
 * = a tentative assignment to that indicator status by Reed (1988).
 Parentheses indicate a wetland status as suggested by David L. Magney based on extensive field observations.

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Scientific Name ²	Common Name	Habit ³	WIS ⁴	Family
<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i> *	Italian Thistle	AH	.	Asteraceae
<i>Castilleja exserta</i> ssp. <i>exserta</i>	Purple Owl's-clover	AH	.	Orobanchaceae
<i>Centaurea melitensis</i> *	Tocalote	AH	.	Asteraceae
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i> *	Yellow Star Thistle	AH	.	Asteraceae
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i> *	Carob	T	.	Fabaceae
<i>Chamomilla suaveolens</i>	Pineapple Weed	AH	FACU	Asteraceae
<i>Chenopodium album</i> *	Lamb's Quarters	AH	FAC	Chenopodiaceae
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i> *	Bull Thistle	BH	FACU	Asteraceae
<i>Citrus limon</i> +	Lemon Tree	T	.	Rutaceae
<i>Claytonia perfoliata</i> ssp. <i>perfoliata</i>	Miner's Lettuce	AH	FAC	Portulacaceae
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> *	Bind Weed	PV	.	Convolvulaceae
<i>Conyza canadensis</i>	Common Horseweed	AH	.	Asteraceae
<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	Umbrella Sedge	PG	FACW	Cyperaceae
<i>Eremocarpus setegerus</i>	Dove Plant	AH	.	Euphorbiaceae
<i>Erodium botrys</i> *	Broadleaf Filaree	AH	.	Geraniaceae
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i> *	Redstem Filaree	AH	.	Geraniaceae
<i>Erodium moschatum</i> *	Whitestem Filaree	AH	.	Geraniaceae
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> +	River Red Gum	T	(FAC+)	Myrtaceae
<i>Fraxinus velutina</i>	Velvet Ash	T	FACW	Oleaceae
<i>Geranium dissectum</i> *	Dissected Geranium	AH	.	Geraniaceae
<i>Gladiolus</i> sp. +	Gladiolus	AG	.	Iridaceae
<i>Heteromeles salicifolia</i>	Toyon	S	.	Rosaceae
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i> *	Summer Mustard	PH	.	Brassicaceae
<i>Hordeum murinum</i> ssp. <i>glaucum</i> *	Summer Barley	AG	.	Poaceae
<i>Juglans californica</i> var. <i>californica</i>	Southern Calif. Black Walnut	T	FAC	Juglandaceae
<i>Juncus mexicanus</i>	Mexican Rush	PG	FACW	Juncaceae
<i>Juncus xiphioides</i>	Iris-leaved Rush	PG	OBL	Juncaceae
<i>Kickxia eletine</i> *	Sharp-leaved fluellin	AH	NI*	Scrophulariaceae
<i>Lactuca serriola</i> *	Prickly Wild Lettuce	AH	FAC	Asteraceae
<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i> *	Henbit	AH	.	Lamiaceae
<i>Lolium multiflorum</i>	Italian Ryegrass	AG	FAC*	Poaceae
<i>Lotus purshianus</i> var. <i>purshianus</i>	Pursh's Lotus	AH	.	Fabaceae
<i>Malva parviflora</i> *	Cheeseweed	AH	.	Malvaceae
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i> *	White Horehound	S	FAC	Lamiaceae
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i> *	Burclover	AH	.	Fabaceae
<i>Melilotus indica</i> *	Sourclover	A/BH	FACU+	Fabaceae
<i>Nassella pulchra</i>	Purple Needlegrass	PG	.	Poaceae
<i>Nerium oleander</i> +	Oleander	S	.	Apocynaceae
<i>Oxalis albicans</i> ssp. <i>pilosa</i>	Hairy White Wood Sorrel	PH	.	Oxalidaceae
<i>Oxalis pes-caprae</i> *	Bermuda Buttercup	PH	.	Oxalidaceae
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i> *	Canary Island Date Palm	T	.	Arecaceae
<i>Picris echioides</i> *	Bristly Ox-tongue	AH	(FACW-)	Asteraceae

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Scientific Name ²	Common Name	Habit ³	WIS ⁴	Family
<i>Piptatherum miliaceum</i> *	Smilo Grass	PG	(FACU-)	Poaceae
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> *	English Plantain	PH	FAC-	Plantaginaceae
<i>Platanus racemosa</i> var. <i>racemosa</i>	California Sycamore	T	FACW	Platanaceae
<i>Polygonum arenastrum</i> *	Common Knotweed	AH	FAC	Polygonaceae
<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i> *	Rabbitsfoot Grass	AG	FACW+	Poaceae
<i>Pseudognaphalium palustre</i>	Lowland Cudweed	AH	FACW-	Asteraceae
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i> ssp. <i>ilicifolia</i>	Holly-leaved Cherry	S	.	Rosaceae
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i> var. <i>agrifolia</i>	Coast Live Oak	T	.	Fagaceae
<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley Oak	T	FAC*	Fagaceae
<i>Raphanus sativus</i> *	Wild Radish	AH	.	Brassicaceae
<i>Ribes speciosum</i>	Fuchsia-flowered Gooseberry	S	.	Grossulariaceae
<i>Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum</i>	Water Cress	PH	OBL	Brassicaceae
<i>Rosa californica</i>	California Wild Rose	S	.	Rosaceae
<i>Rubus discolor</i> *	Himalayan Blackberry	PV	FAC	Rosaceae
<i>Rubus ursinus</i>	Pacific Blackberry	PV	FACW*	Rosaceae
<i>Rumex crispus</i> *	Curly Dock	PH	FACW-	Polygonaceae
<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	Arroyo Willow	T	FACW	Salicaceae
<i>Salix laevigata</i>	Red Willow	T	FACW	Salicaceae
<i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	Blue Elderberry	S	FAC	Caprifoliaceae
<i>Scirpus californicus</i>	California Bulrush	PG	OBL	Cyperaceae
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i> *	Common Groundsel	AH	NI*	Asteraceae
<i>Silene gallica</i> *	Windmill Pink	AH	.	Caryophyllaceae
<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i>	Blue-eyed Grass	PG	FAC	Iridaceae
<i>Sonchus asper</i> *	Prickly Sow-thistle	AH	FAC	Asteraceae
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> *	Common Sow-thistle	AH	NI*	Asteraceae
<i>Spergula arvensis</i> ssp. <i>arvensis</i> *	Stickwort	AH	.	Caryophyllaceae
<i>Stachys albens</i>	Woolly Hedge Nettle	PH	OBL	Lamiaceae
<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	Poison Oak	S/V	(FACU)	Anacardiaceae
<i>Typha domingensis</i>	Southern Cattail	PG	OBL	Typhaceae
<i>Urtica dioica</i> ssp. <i>holosericea</i>	Giant Creek Nettle	PH	FACW	Urticaceae
<i>Veronica anagallis-aquatica</i> *	Water Speedwell	PH	OBL	Veronicaceae
<i>Vicia villosa</i> ssp. <i>villosa</i>	Hairy Vetch	AH	.	Fabaceae
<i>Vinca major</i> +	Greater Periwinkle	PV	.	Apocynaceae
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	Cocklebur	AH	FAC+	Asteraceae

Rincon Consultants reported 10 plant species observed during their site visit in August 2005, including wild oat (*Avena* sp.), barley (*Hordeum* sp.), brome (*Bromus* sp.), filaree (*Erodium* sp.), Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), Arroyo Willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), Southern California Black Walnut (*Juglans californica* var. *californica*), Poison Oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.), and Oleander (*Nerium oleander*) (Ventura County Planning Division 2005), all of which were also observed by DMEC onsite.

HABITAT TYPES

The Gramckow property occurs within historical riparian habitat, and is adjacent to extant riparian wetlands. The predominant wetland habitat type onsite is classified as the Palustrine System, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) *Classification of Wetlands and Deepwater Habitats of the United States* (Cowardin et al. 1979). The areas between the two creek tributaries are agricultural fields with little vegetation except pioneering introduced plant species with a low percentage of native species.

The proposed building site is located on the flat land between the west and east tributaries of Live Oak Creek. The vegetated creek buffers are occupied by Palustrine Mixed Broad-leaved Forested Wetland, which was observed onsite as *Quercus agrifolia-Platanus racemosa* Alliance (Coast Live Oak-California Sycamore Alliance) (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf 1995).

Palustrine Mixed Broad-Leaved Forested Wetland

The Palustrine system includes all nontidal wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, emergent mosses or lichens, and all such wetlands that occur in tidal areas where salinity due to ocean-derived salts is below 0.5%. The Palustrine System is bounded by upland or by any of the other four systems (including Riverine, Lacustrine, Marine, and Estuarine). Palustrine Mixed, Broad-leaved, Forested Wetland is characterized by woody vegetation that is at least six meters tall (trees). It is dominated by riparian species with large (broad) leaves (as opposed to coniferous or needle-like leaves), and is co-dominated by both evergreen and winter-deciduous (falling during the winter season) plant species. (Cowardin et al. 1979.)

The Palustrine wetland observed and classified at the Gramckow property is also described here as *Quercus agrifolia-Platanus racemosa* Alliance (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf 1995) or Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest (Holland 1986).

Quercus agrifolia-Platanus racemosa Alliance forms a mixed-canopy, winter-deciduous and evergreen riparian woodland dominated by the native broad-leaved, winter-deciduous *Platanus racemosa* var. *racemosa* (California Sycamore) and the native broad-leaved evergreen *Quercus agrifolia* var. *agrifolia* (Coast Live Oak). *P. racemosa* has smooth, pale bark and large, densely hairy, palmately lobed leaves. It is common along streamsides or in canyons and is listed with a wetland indicator status of FACW (Reed 1988). *Q. agrifolia* is a wide-topped tree with furrowed, dark gray bark and spine-toothed, convex, dark green leaves. *Quercus agrifolia-Platanus racemosa* Alliance grows in seasonally flooded (permanently saturated at depth) wetland soils of freshwater riparian corridors, braided depositional channels of intermittent streams, springs, seeps, and riverbanks. This series may also occur on more upland rocky canyon slopes, in alluvial, open-cobbly, and rocky soils, at elevations below 1,200 meters. A shrubby thicket of evergreen and deciduous shrubs may be scattered with willow species below the 35-meter-tall, dense tree canopy, and the ground layer can be quite variable. This alliance requires sandstone or shale-derived soils. (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf 1995.)

According to Holland (1986), Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest (*Quercus agrifolia* Alliance) is an open to locally dense evergreen sclerophyllous riparian woodland dominated by Coast Live Oak. This plant community observed onsite consists of an important contribution of the broad-leaved, winter-deciduous California Sycamore. *Quercus agrifolia* (Riparian) Alliance appears to be richer in herbs and poorer in understory shrub than other riparian communities. This plant community requires bottomlands and outer floodplains along larger streams, and occurs on fine-grained, rich alluvium in canyons and valleys of coastal southern California (south of Point Conception). This habitat type is considered a sensitive plant community by CDFG (Holland 1986), and is tracked by the CNDDDB (CDFG 2006a).

The emergent tree species observed growing amongst and below the oak and sycamore canopy include *Juglans californica* var. *californica* (Southern California Black Walnut), *Quercus lobata* (Valley Oak), *Salix lasiolepis* (Arroyo Willow), and *Salix laevigata* (Red Willow). The shrubs and vines growing below include *Baccharis salicifolia* (Mulefat), *Heteromeles salicifolia* (Toyon), *Rubus ursinus* (Pacific Blackberry), *Sambucus mexicana* (Blue Elderberry), and *Toxicodendron diversilobum* (Poison Oak). The herbaceous species observed in the groundlayer below the oak and sycamore canopy include the following: *Artemisia douglasiana* (Mugwort), *Cyperus eragrostis* (Umbrella Sedge), *Juncus mexicanus* (Mexican Rush), *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* (Water Cress), *Rumex crispus* (Curly Dock), *Scirpus californicus* (California Bulrush), *Stachys albens* (Woolly Hedge Nettle), *Urtica dioica* ssp. *holosericea* (Giant Creek Nettle), and *Veronica anagallis-aquatica* (Water Speedwell). The introduced and invasive species creating competitive conditions within this habitat include *Piptatherum miliaceum* (Smilo Grass), *Ceratonia siliqua* (Carob), *Rubus discolor* (Himalayan Blackberry), and *Vinca major* (Greater Periwinkle).

Agricultural Field

Agricultural Field includes the areas on the Gramckow property that have been cleared historically and presently for annual crops or fire hazard clearance. The area between the two property creek tributaries is the Agricultural Field, and is the area proposed for future development. The Agricultural Field is highly disturbed, and can also be classified as Ruderal Grassland, especially when the annual crops have been plowed and the field has been left for pioneering introduced plant species to colonize the area.

The introduced species predominating these areas onsite include the following: *Anagallis arvensis* (Scarlet Pimpernel), *Avena barbata* (Slender Wild Oat), *Baccharis pilularis* (Coyote Brush), *Brassica rapa* (Field Mustard), *Bromus* spp. (Brome grasses), *Carduus pycnocephalus* (Italian Thistle), *Chamomilla suaveolens* (Pineapple Weed), *Chenopodium album* (Lamb's Quarters), *Convolvulus arvensis* (Bind Weed), *Erodium* spp. (Filarees), *Geranium dissectum* (Dissected Geranium), *Hirschfeldia incana* (Summer Mustard), *Hordeum murinum* ssp. *glaucum* (Summer Barley), *Lactuca serriola* (Prickly Wild Lettuce), *Malva parviflora* (Cheeseweed), *Medicago polymorpha* (Burclover), *Melilotus indica* (Sourclover), *Oxalis pes-caprae* (Bermuda Buttercup), *Picris echioides* (Bristly Ox-tongue), *Plantago lanceolata* (English Plantain), *Polygonum arenastrum* (Common Knotweed), *Raphanus sativus* (Wild Radish), *Senecio vulgaris* (Common Groundsel), and *Sonchus* spp. (Sow-thistles).

FAUNA

Palustrine and Riverine habitats provide numerous important wildlife resources for a number of wildlife, including a fauna of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and invertebrates (aquatic and terrestrial). The structure of the riparian community, in addition to the relatively high plant species diversity and richness, provides habitat necessary for foraging, nesting, and cover for many species. In addition, streams such as Live Oak Creek are important sources of water for a variety of upland wildlife species.

Riparian zones along rivers and streams are often used as migration corridors by various species of wildlife including small and large mammals, birds, and reptiles. These migration corridors often connect habitat patches, and allow for physical and genetic exchange between animal populations. Wildlife can use riparian zones for cover while traveling across otherwise open areas.

Numerous species of wildlife are known to occur within Live Oak Creek, frequenting the Palustrine and Riverine System habitats on a seasonal basis and regularly using resources provided by the creek. Table 6, Wildlife Species of the Gramckow Project Area, contains a list of animal species that were directly observed in the area of the Gramckow project site, were detected by sign (e.g. tracks, calls [vocalization], scat), or are expected based on suitable habitat onsite and in the region. Scientific nomenclature follows the AOI (1989) for birds, Burt and Grossenheider (1976) for mammals, Jennings (1983) and Stebbins (1985) for amphibians and reptiles, Moyle (1976) for fishes, and Arnett and Jacques (1981) and Hogue (1993) for invertebrates.

Seventy (70) wildlife species were observed or detected onsite, including 1 fish, 3 amphibians, 3 reptiles, 33 birds, 5 mammals, and 25 invertebrates.

Rincon Consultants reported five wildlife species, all of which were also observed by DMEC, including Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*), Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*), Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*), Northern Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), and Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) (Ventura County Planning Division 2005).

Figure 4, Wildlife Observation Locations at the Gramckow Property, shows where all wildlife were observed during the biological resources surveys conducted on the property and during the HGM Wetland Assessment (DMEC 2006) conducted within the creeks onsite.



Table 6. Wildlife Species of the Gramckow Project Area

Scientific Name ⁵	Common Name	Evidence
<i>Fish</i>		
Order Cypriniformes; Family Cyprinidae*	Minno	Observed
<i>Amphibians</i>		
<i>Batrachoseps nigriventris</i>	Black-bellied Slender Salamander	Observed
<i>Bufo boreas</i>	Western Toad	Observed
<i>Bufo boreas halophilus</i>	California Toad	Expected
<i>Hyla regilla</i>	Pacific Treefrog	Observed
<i>Rana aurora draytonii</i>	California Red-legged Frog	Expected
<i>Rana catesbiana</i> *	Bullfrog	Observed
<i>Reptiles</i>		
<i>Elgaria multicarinatus</i>	San Diego Alligator Lizard	Expected
<i>Phrynosoma coronatum (blainvillei)</i>	Coast (San Diego) Horned Lizard	Expected
<i>Sceloporous occidentalis</i>	Western Fence Lizard	Observed
<i>Thamnophis couchi</i>	Western Aquatic Garter Snake	Expected
<i>Uta stansburiana elegans</i>	California Side-blotched Lizard	Observed
<i>Cnemidophorus tigris</i>	Western Whiptail	Observed
<i>Pituophis melanoleucus</i>	Gopher Snake	Expected
<i>Salvadora hexalepis virgultea</i>	Coast Patch-nosed Snake	Expected
<i>Crotalus viridis</i>	Western Rattlesnake	Expected
<i>Birds</i>		
<i>Cathartes aura</i>	Turkey Vulture	Observed
<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	Cooper's Hawk	Expected
<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Red-shouldered Hawk	Expected
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Red-tailed Hawk	Observed
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	American Kestrel	Observed
<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>	Red-winged Blackbird	Detected (call)
<i>Aphelocoma californica</i>	Western Scrub-jay	Observed
<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	Northern Mockingbird	Observed
<i>Corvus caurinus</i>	American Crow	Observed
<i>Corvus corax</i>	Common Raven	Observed
<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	Brewer's Blackbird	Observed
<i>Molothrus ater</i>	Brown-headed Cowbird	Expected
<i>Turdus migratorius</i>	American Robin	Observed
<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Mourning Dove	Observed
<i>Ardea herodias</i>	Great Blue Heron	Expected
<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Black-crowned Night Heron	Expected
<i>Butorides virescens</i>	Green Heron	Expected
<i>Ardea alba</i>	Great Egret	Expected
<i>Egretta thula</i>	Snowy Egret	Expected
<i>Callipepla californica</i>	California Quail	Observed
<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>	Cliff Swallow	Observed
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn Swallow	Observed

⁵ An asterisk "*" after the scientific name indicates non-native species.

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Scientific Name ⁵	Common Name	Evidence
<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	Violet-green Swallow	Observed
<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>	Acorn Woodpecker	Observed
<i>Picoides nuttallii</i>	Nuttall's Woodpecker	Expected
<i>Picoides pubescens</i>	Downy Woodpecker	Expected
<i>Picoides villosus</i>	Hairy Woodpecker	Expected
<i>Colaptes auratus</i>	Northern Flicker	Observed
<i>Pipilo crissalis</i>	California Towhee	Observed
<i>Pipilo maculatus</i>	Spotted Towhee	Observed
<i>Empidonax difficilis</i>	Pacific-slope Flycatcher	Observed
<i>Myiarchus cf. cinerascens</i>	Ash-throated Gnatcatcher	Expected
<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Black Phoebe	Observed
<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Say's Phoebe	Expected
<i>Sturnella neglecta</i>	Western Meadowlark	Expected
<i>Baeolophus inornatus</i>	Oak Titmouse	Observed
<i>Calypte anna</i>	Anna's Hummingbird	Observed
<i>Carduelis psaltria</i>	Lesser Goldfinch	Expected
<i>Carduelis tristis</i>	American Goldfinch	Observed
<i>Carpodacus cassinii</i>	House Finch	Observed
<i>Ceryle alcyon</i>	Belted Kingfisher	Observed
<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	Killdeer	Detected (call)
<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Yellow Warbler	Expected
<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Common Yellowthroat	Expected
<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Dark-eyed Junco	Observed
<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	Song Sparrow	Observed
<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	White-crowned Sparrow	Expected
<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	Common Bushtit	Observed
<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> *	European Starling	Observed
Mammals		
<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	Pallid Bat	Expected
<i>Eumops perotis</i>	Western Mastiff Bat	Expected
<i>Lasiurus borealis</i>	Red Bat	Expected
<i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Hoary Bat	Expected
<i>Myotis spp.</i>	Myotis Bats	Expected
<i>Plecotus townsendii</i>	Western Big-eared Bat	Expected
<i>Tadarida brasiliensis</i>	Mexican Freetail Bat	Expected
<i>Didelphis virginiana</i>	Virginia Opossum	Expected
<i>Peromyscus maniculatus</i>	Deer Mouse	Expected
<i>Rattus rattus</i> *	Black Rat	Expected
<i>Scapanus townsendii</i>	Townsend's Mole	Expected
<i>Microtus californicus</i>	California Vole	Expected
<i>Mustela frenata</i>	Longtail Weasel	Expected
<i>Neotoma fuscipes</i>	Dusky-footed Woodrat	Detected (nests)
<i>Thomomys bottae</i>	Valley Pocket Gopher	Detected (burrows)
<i>Sciurus griseus cf.</i>	Western Gray Squirrel	Observed
<i>Sciurus niger</i> *	Eastern Fox Squirrel	Expected
<i>Spermophilus beecheyi</i>	California Ground Squirrel	Observed

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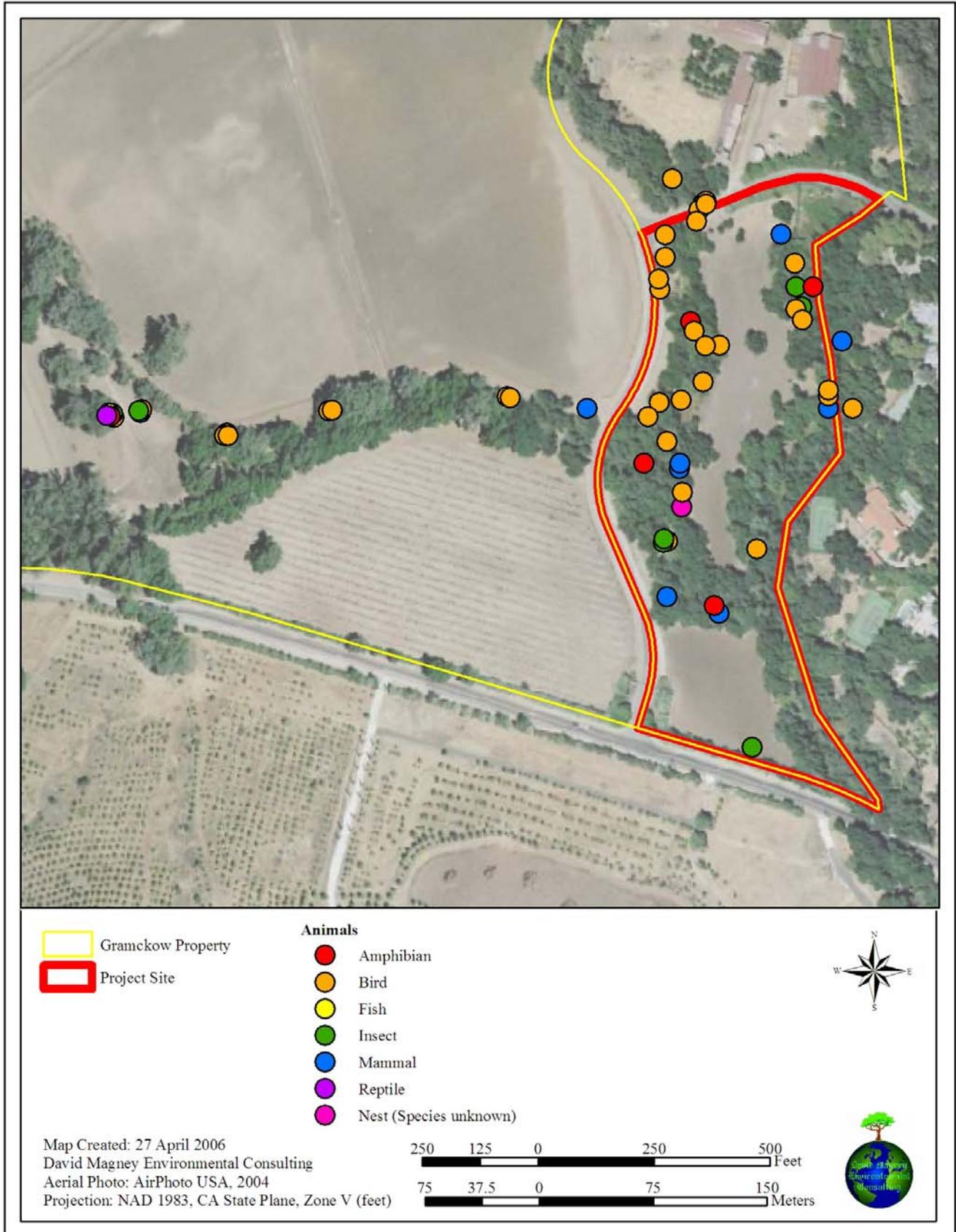
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Scientific Name ⁵	Common Name	Evidence
<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>	Striped Skunk	Expected
<i>Spilogale gracilis</i>	Western Spotted Skunk	Expected
<i>Sylvilagus auduboni</i>	Audubon Cottontail	Expected
<i>Pipistrellus hesperus</i>	Western Pipistrel	Expected
<i>Procyon lotor</i>	Raccoon	Detected (tracks)
<i>Canis latrans</i>	Coyote	Detected (scat, calls)
<i>Urocyon cinereoargenteus</i>	Gray Fox	Expected
<i>Felis concolor</i>	Mountain Lion	Expected
<i>Lynx rufus</i>	Bobcat	Detected (scat)
<i>Odocoileus hemionus</i>	Mule Deer	Detected (tracks)
<i>Ursus americanus</i>	Black Bear	Expected
Invertebrates		
Annelida	Earthworm	Observed
Araneae	Spider	Observed
Dipluridae	Funnelweb spider	Observed
Chilopoda	Centipede	Observed
Diplopoda	Millipede	Observed
Isopoda	Sowbug	Observed
Order Hemiptera (True Bugs)		
-	True Bug	Observed
Family Gerridae; <i>Gerris cf. remigis</i>	Water Strider	Observed
Order Trichoptera (Caddis Flies)		
-	Caddis fly larva	Observed
Order Coleoptera (Beetles)		
Family Chrysomelidae	Leaf Beetle	Observed
Family Carabidae; <i>Amara sp.</i>	Black soil beetle	Observed
Family Hydrophyllidae; <i>Tropisternus sp.</i>	Scavenger water beetle	Observed
Family Curculionidae	Weevil	Observed
Order Lepidoptera (Butterflies, Moths)		
Family Nymphalidae; <i>Vanessa cardui</i>	Painted Lady Butterfly	Observed
-	Moth	Observed
Order Diptera (Flies)		
Family Tipulidae; <i>Holorusia rubiginosa</i>	Giant Crane Fly	Observed
Family Rhagionidae; <i>Symphoromyia sp.</i>	Snipe Fly	Observed
Family Simuliidae; <i>Simulium sp.</i>	Black Fly	Observed
Family Culicidae; <i>Ochlerotatus triseriatus</i>	Tree Hole Mosquito	Observed
Family Cecidomyiidae; <i>Rhopalomyia californica</i>	Coyote Brush Gall Fly	Observed
Order Hymenoptera (Wasps, Bees)		
Family Apidae; <i>Apis mellifera*</i>	European Honey Bee	Observed
Family Anthophoridae; <i>Xylocopa sp.</i>	Carpenter Bee	Observed
Family Vespidae; <i>Vespula cf. pensylvanica</i>	Yellow Jacket	Observed
Family Formicidae; <i>Iridomyrmex sp.</i>	Argentine Ant	Observed
Family Cynipidae; <i>Amphibolips confluenta</i>	Oak Apple Gall Wasp	Observed

Figure 4. Wildlife Observation Locations at the Gramckow Property



SECTION 4. SPECIAL-STATUS BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

This section discusses the special-status biological resources that have potential to occur on the Gramckow property, are known to occur in the vicinity, or were observed during seasonal surveys.

Forty-three (43) special-status elements are tracked for a CNDDDB nine-quad-search (CDFG 2006a), including Matilija, Wheeler Springs, Ventura, Old Man Mountain, White Ledge Peak, Pitas Point, Lion Canyon, Ojai, and Saticoy California USGS Quadrangle. Of the 43 elements, 18 are special-status plant species, 6 are sensitive habitat types, and 19 are special-status wildlife species known to occur in the vicinity of the project site. These special-status species and habitats, either observed onsite or that have habitat requirements similar to those on the Gramckow property, are discussed in further detail in the following subsections.

Table 7, Special-Status Biological Resources Potentially Present at the Gramckow Property, summarizes the CNDDDB search of the nine quads, and provides each species' scientific and common name, status, and habitat requirements.

Figure 5, Sensitive Biological Resources Observed on the Gramckow Project Site, shows the locations of points of interest on the Gramckow property. Figure 5 illustrates the locations of the special-status plant species as well as sensitive habitats (or patches of habitat) observed onsite. The special-status resources, or points of special interest, observed by DMEC include: *Juglans californica* var. *californica* (Southern California Black Walnut), *Oxalis albicans* ssp. *pilosa* (Hairy White Wood Sorrel), active nest (potentially occupied by Mourning Dove), patches of native perennial grassland (*Nassella pulchra* [Purple Needlegrass]) with wildflower field components (*Sisyrinchium bellum* [Blue-eyed Grass]), and Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest (*Quercus agrifolia* Alliance). These sensitive biological resources, indicated in Figure 5, are discussed in further detail in the following subsections.

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Table 7. Special-Status Biological Resources Potentially Present at the Gramckow Property

Scientific Name	Common Name	G-Rank	S-Rank	Federal List	State List	CDFG	CNPS List	R-E-D Code	Habitat Requirements
PLANTS									
<i>Aphanisma blitoides</i>	Aphanisma	G2	S1.1	.	.	.	1B	2-2-2	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub. On bluffs and slopes near the ocean in sandy or clay soils. In steep decline on the islands and the mainland. 1-305m. Blooming period (MAR)APR-MAY.
<i>Astragalus didymocarpus</i> var. <i>milesianus</i>	Miles's Milk-vetch	G5T2	S2.2	.	.	.	1B	2-2-3	Coastal scrub. Clay soils. 20-90m. Blooming period MAR-MAY(JUN).
<i>Astragalus pycnostachyus</i> var. <i>lanosissimus</i>	Ventura Marsh Milk-vetch	G2T1	S1.1	Endangered	Endangered	.	1B	3-3-3	Coastal salt marsh. Within reach of high tide or protected by barrier beaches, more rarely near seeps on sandy bluffs. 1-35m. Blooming period JUN-SEP
<i>Atriplex serenana</i> var. <i>dauidsonii</i>	Davidson's Saltscale	G5T2?	S2?	.	.	.	1B	3-2-2	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub. Alkaline soil. 3-250m. Blooming period MAY-OCT.
<i>Calochortus palmeri</i> var. <i>palmeri</i>	Palmer's Mariposa Lily	G2T2	S2.1	.	.	.	1B	2-2-3	Meadows and seeps, chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest. Vernal moist places in yellow-pine forest, chaparral. 600-2245m. Blooming period MAY-JUL.
<i>Calochortus weedii</i> var. <i>vestus</i>	Late-flowered Mariposa Lily	G3?T2	S2.2	.	.	.	1B	2-2-3	Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Dry, open coastal woodland, chaparral; on serpentine. 270-1910m. Blooming period JUN-JUL.
<i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>australis</i>	Southern Tarplant	G4T2	S2.1	.	.	.	1B	3-3-2	Marshes and swamps (margins), valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Often found in disturbed sites near the coast; also in alkaline soils sometimes with Saltgrass; also vernal pools. 0-425m. Blooming period JUN-SEP.
<i>Chaenactis glabriuscula</i> var. <i>orcuttiana</i>	Orcutt's Pincushion	G5T3	S2.1	.	.	.	1B	2-3-2	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes. Sandy sites. 3-100m. Blooming period APR-JUL.
<i>Delphinium umbraculorum</i>	Umbrella Larkspur	G2G3	S2S3.3	.	.	.	1B	2-1-3	Cismontane woodland. Mesic sites. 400-1600m. Blooming period MAY-JUL.
<i>Fritillaria ojaiensis</i>	Ojai Fritillary	G1	S1.2	.	.	.	1B	3-2-3	Broadleaved upland forest (mesic), chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest. Rocky sites; one reported as "moist shale talus." 300-670m. Blooming period (FEB)APR-MAY.
<i>Horkelia cuneata</i> ssp. <i>puberula</i>	Mesa Horkelia	G4T2	S2.1	.	.	.	1B	2-3-3	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Sandy or gravelly sites. 70-810m. Blooming period APR-SEP
<i>Lasthenia glabrata</i> ssp. <i>coulteri</i>	Coulter's Goldfields	G4T3	S2.1	.	.	.	1B	2-3-2	Coastal salt marshes, playas, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pools. Usually found on alkaline soils in playas, sinks, and grasslands. 1-1400m.

Seasonal Biological Survey Results for the Gramckow Property Project

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July 2006



Scientific Name	Common Name	G-Rank	S-Rank	Federal List	State List	CDFG	CNPS List	R-E-D Code	Habitat Requirements
									Blooming period (MAR)APR-MAY.
<i>Layia heterotricha</i>	Pale-yellow Layia	G1	S1.1	.	.	.	1B	3-3-3	Cismontane woodland, Pinyon-Juniper Woodland, valley and foothill grassland. Open alkaline or clay soils. 270-1365 (2675) m. Blooming period MAR-JUN.
<i>Nolina cismontana</i>	Chaparral Nolina	G1	S1.1	.	.	.	1B	3-2-3	Chaparral, coastal scrub. Primarily on sandstone and shale substrates; also known from Gabbro. 140-1275m. Blooming period APR-JUN.
<i>Oxytheca parishii</i> var. <i>abramsii</i>	Abrams's Oxytheca	G4?T2	S2.2	.	.	.	1B	2-2-3	Chaparral. Shale to sandy places. 1150-2060m. Blooming period JUN-SEP.
<i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i>	Sanford's Arrowhead	G3	S3.2	.	.	.	1B	2-2-3	Marshes and swamps. In standing or slow-moving freshwater ponds, marshes, and ditches. 0-610m. Blooming period MAY-JUN.
<i>Sidalcea neomexicana</i>	Salt Spring Checkerbloom	G4?	S2S3	.	.	.	2	2-2-1	Alkali playas, springs, and marshes; brackish marshes; chaparral; coastal scrub; low montane conifer forest, mojavean scrub. 0-1500m. Blooming period APR-JUN.
<i>Streptanthus campestris</i>	Southern Jewel-flower	G2	S2.3	.	.	.	1B	2-1-2	Chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, Pinyon-Juniper Woodland. Open, rocky areas. 600-2790m. Blooming period MAY-JUL.
WILDLIFE									
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	Tricolored Blackbird	G2G3	S2	.	.	SC	.	.	(Nesting colony) highly colonial species, most numerous in Central Valley & vicinity. Largely endemic to California. Requires open water, protected nesting substrate, & foraging area with insect prey within a few km of the colony.
<i>Anniella pulchra pulchra</i>	Silvery Legless Lizard	G3G4T3T4Q	S3	.	.	SC	.	.	Sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation. Soil moisture is essential. They prefer soils with high moisture content.
<i>Bufo californicus</i>	Arroyo Toad	G2G3	S2S3	Endangered	.	SC	.	.	Semi-arid regions near washes or intermittent streams, including valley-foothill and desert riparian, desert wash, etc. Rivers with sandy banks, willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores; loose, gravelly areas of streams in drier parts of range.
<i>Chaetodipus californicus femoralis</i>	Dulzura Pocket Mouse	G5T3	S2?	.	.	SC	.	.	Variety of habitats including coastal scrub, chaparral & grassland in San Diego Co. Attracted to grass-chaparral edges.
<i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>	Western Snowy Plover	G4T3	S2	Threatened	.	SC	.	.	(Nesting) federal listing applies only to the pacific coastal population. Sandy beaches, salt pond levees & shores of large alkali lakes. Needs sandy, gravelly or friable soils for nesting.
<i>Choeronycteris mexicana</i>	Mexican Long-tongued Bat	G4	S1	.	.	SC	.	.	Occasionally found in San Diego Co., which is on the periphery of their range. Feeds on nectar & pollen of night-blooming succulents. Roosts in relatively well-lit caves, & in & around buildings.

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Scientific Name	Common Name	G-Rank	S-Rank	Federal List	State List	CDFG	CNPS List	R-E-D Code	Habitat Requirements
<i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo	G5T2Q	S1	Candidate	Endangered	.	.	.	(Nesting) riparian forest nester, along the broad, lower flood-bottoms of larger river systems. Nests in riparian jungles of willow often mixed with cottonwoods, w/ lower story of blackberry, nettles, or wild grape.
<i>Coelus globosus</i>	Globose Dune Beetle	G1	S1	.	.	.	.	.	Inhabitant of coastal sand dune habitat, from bodega head in Sonoma County south to Ensenada, Mexico. Inhabits foredunes and sand hummocks; it burrows beneath the sand surface and is most common beneath dune vegetation.
<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Monarch Butterfly	G5	S3	.	.	.	.	.	Winter roost sites extend along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico. Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (Eucalyptus, Monterey Pine, Cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby.
<i>Emys (=Clemmys) marmorata pallida</i>	Southwestern Pond Turtle	G3G4T2T3Q	S2	.	.	SC	.	.	Inhabits permanent or nearly permanent bodies of water in many habitat types; below 6000 ft elev. Require basking sites such as partially submerged logs, vegetation mats, or open mud banks. Need suitable nesting sites.
<i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i>	Tidewater Goby	G3	S2S3	Endangered	.	SC	.	.	Brackish water habitats along the California coast from Agua Hedionda Lagoon, San Diego Co., to the mouth of the Smith River. Found in shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches, they need fairly still but not stagnant water & high oxygen levels.
<i>Gila orcutti</i>	Arroyo Chub	G2	S2	.	.	SC	.	.	Los Angeles Basin south coastal streams. Slow water stream sections with mud or sand bottoms. Feed heavily on aquatic vegetation & associated invertebrates.
<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	California Condor	G1	S1	Endangered	Endangered	.	.	.	Require vast expanses of open savannah, grasslands, and foothill chaparral in mountain ranges of moderate altitude. Deep canyons containing clefts in the rocky walls provide nesting sites. Forages up to 100 miles from roost/nest.
<i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i>	San Diego Desert Woodrat	G5T3?	S3?	.	.	SC	.	.	Coastal scrub of southern California from San Diego County to San Luis Obispo County. Moderate to dense canopies preferred. They are particularly abundant in rock outcrops & rocky cliffs & slopes.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i>	Southern Steelhead-Southern California ESU	G5T2Q	S2	Endangered	.	SC	.	.	Federal listing refers to populations from Santa Maria River south to southern extent of range (San Mateo Creek in San Diego Co.) Southern Steelhead likely have greater physiological tolerances to warmer water & more variable conditions.
<i>Phrynosoma coronatum (blainvillii population)</i>	Coast (San Diego) Horned Lizard	G4G5	S3S4	.	.	SC	.	.	Inhabits Coastal Sage Scrub and chaparral in arid and semi-arid climate conditions. Prefers friable, rocky, or shallow sandy soils.

Seasonal Biological Survey Results for the Gramckow Property Project

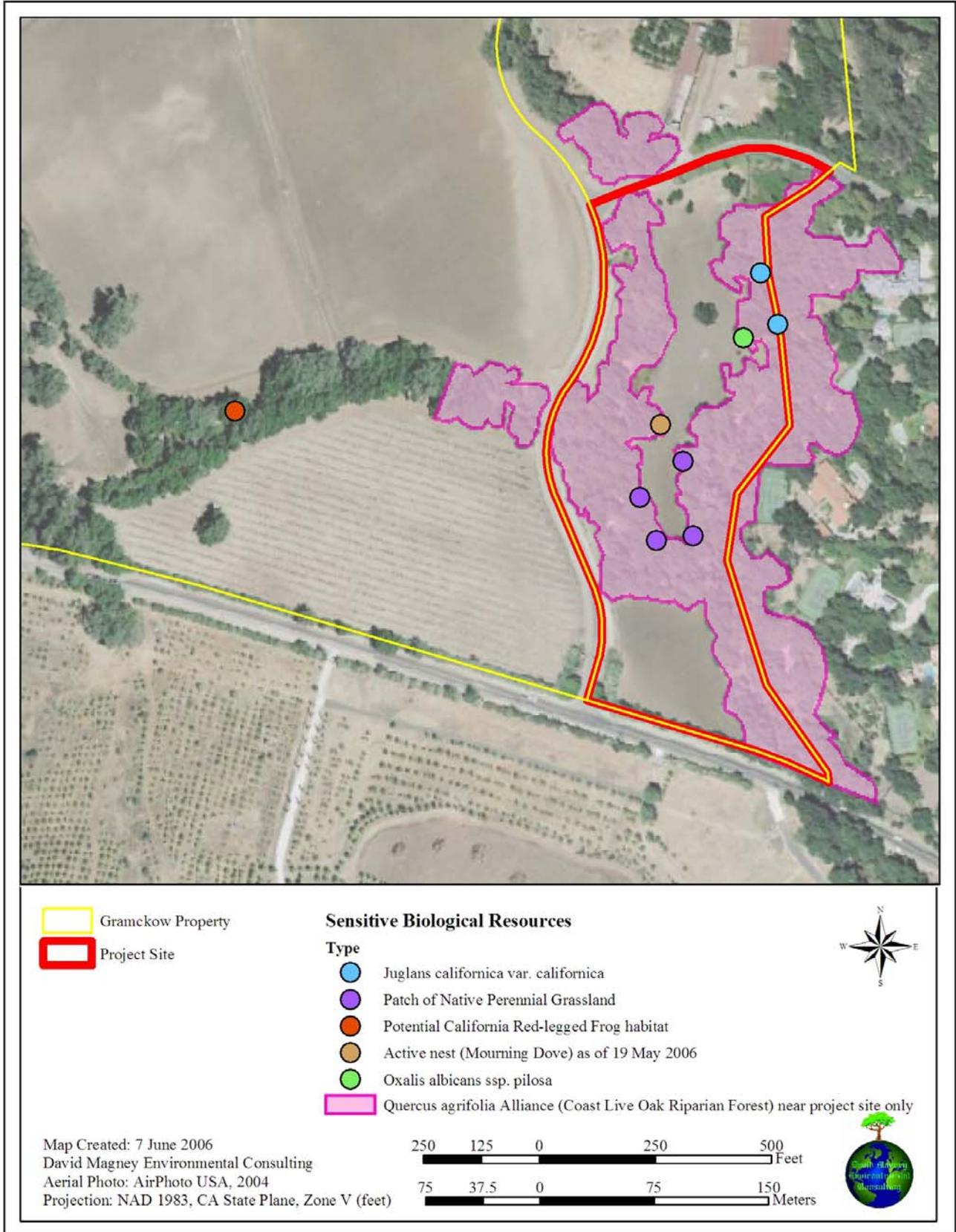
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Scientific Name	Common Name	G-Rank	S-Rank	Federal List	State List	CDFG	CNPS List	R-E-D Code	Habitat Requirements
<i>Rana aurora draytonii</i>	California Red-legged Frog	G4T2T3	S2S3	Threatened	.	SC	.	.	Lowlands & foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Must have access to estivation habitat.
<i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>	Two-striped Garter Snake	G3	S2	.	.	SC	.	.	Coastal California from vicinity of Salinas to northwest Baja California. From sea level to about 7,000 ft elevation. Highly aquatic, found in or near permanent fresh water. Often along streams with rocky beds and riparian growth.
<i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	Least Bell's Vireo	G5T2	S2	Endangered	Endangered	.	.	.	(Nesting) summer resident of southern California in low riparian in vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms; below 2000 ft. Nests placed along margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, usually willow, <i>Baccharis</i> , mesquite.
HABITATS									
California Walnut Woodland	.	G2	S2.1	.	.	.	.	.	.
Southern California Coastal Lagoon	.	G?	S?	.	.	.	.	.	.
Southern California Steelhead Stream	.	G?	S?	.	.	.	.	.	.
Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest	.	G4	S4	.	.	.	.	.	.
Southern Riparian Scrub	.	G3	S3.2	.	.	.	.	.	.
Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland	.	G4	S4	.	.	.	.	.	.

Figure 5. Sensitive Biological Resources Observed on the Gramckow Project Site



SPECIALS-STATUS PLANT SPECIES

Eighteen (18) special-status plant species are known to occur, and are tracked by CNDDDB, within the vicinity of these quadrangles and the Gramckow property, and they include the following:

- *Aphanisma blitoides* (Aphanisma);
- *Astragalus didymocarpus* var. *milesianus* (Miles's Milkvetch);
- *Astragalus pycnostachyus* var. *lanosissimus* (Ventura Marsh Milkvetch);
- *Atriplex serenana* var. *davidsonii* (Davidson's Saltscale);
- *Calochortus palmeri* var. *palmeri* (Palmer's Mariposa Lily);
- *Calochortus weedii* var. *vestus* (Late-flowered Mariposa Lily) (suitable habitat onsite);
- *Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis* (Southern Tarplant);
- *Chaenactis glabriuscula* var. *orcuttiana* (Orcutt's Pincushion);
- *Delphinium umbraculorum* (Umbrella Larkspur) (suitable habitat onsite);
- *Fritillaria ojaiensis* (Ojai Fritillary);
- *Horkelia cuneata* ssp. *puberula* (Mesa Horkelia) (suitable habitat onsite);
- *Lasthenia glabrata* ssp. *coulteri* (Coulter's Goldfields);
- *Layia heterotricha* (Pale-yellow Layia);
- *Nolina cismontane* (Chaparral Nolina);
- *Oxytheca parishii* var. *abramsii* (Abrams's Oxytheca);
- *Sagittaria sanfordii* (Sanford's Arrowhead) (suitable habitat onsite);
- *Sidalcea neomexicana* (Salt Spring Checkerbloom) (suitable habitat onsite); and
- *Streptanthus campestris* (Southern Jewelflower) (suitable habitat onsite).

Six of the 18 special-status plant species tracked by CNDDDB have habitat requirements similar to the habitats of the Gramckow property (including *Calochortus weedii* var. *vestus*, *Delphinium umbraculorum*, *Horkelia cuneata* ssp. *puberula*, *Sagittaria sanfordii*, *Sidalcea neomexicana*, and *Streptanthus campestris*); however, none of these species were observed onsite. Refer to Table 7, Special-Status Biological Resources of the Gramckow Property (above), for a complete list of all special-status resources tracked by CNDDDB, and for all species status, habitat requirements, and blooming periods.

Two (2) special-status species, not tracked by the CNDDDB nine-quad-search, were observed onsite, including *Juglans californica* var. *californica* (Southern California Black Walnut) and *Oxalis albicans* ssp. *pilosa* (Hairy White Wood Sorrel). *J. californica* var. *californica* has a status of CNPS List 4 (Plants of Limited Distribution), and was observed as an important canopy contributor throughout the *Quercus agrifolia* Alliance (Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest) existing onsite. *O. albicans* ssp. *pilosa* is considered Locally Uncommon in Ventura County with only 6 to 10 occurrences in the County, and only one plant was observed along the east boundary between the *Quercus Agrifolia* Alliance and the open Agricultural Field onsite.. Refer to Figure 5 above for the locations of these observed special-status plant species.

SPECIALS-STATUS HABITATS

Six (6) sensitive habitats are known to occur, and are tracked, within the vicinity of these quadrangles and the Gramckow property, including:

- Southern California Coastal Lagoon (*Salicornia virginica* Alliance);
- Southern Riparian Scrub (*Salix lasiolepis-Baccharis salicifolia* Alliance);
- Southern California Steelhead Stream (lacking vegetation);
- Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest (*Quercus agrifolia* Alliance) (**observed onsite**);
- Southern Sycamore Alder Riparian Woodland (*Platanus Racemosa-Alnus rhombifolia* Alliance); and
- California Walnut Woodland (*Juglans californica* var. *californica* Alliance).

One of the six sensitive habitats tracked by CNDDDB was observed on the Gramckow property (Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest [*Quercus agrifolia* Alliance]). Refer to Table 7, Special-Status Biological Resources of the Gramckow Property (above), for a complete list of all special-status resources tracked by CNDDDB. Refer to Figure 5 above for the location of this sensitive habitat, and refer to the Habitat Types subsection of Section 3, Biological Resources Survey Results, for a detailed description of this sensitive habitat observed onsite.

In addition to *Quercus agrifolia* Alliance, DMEC also observed patches of native perennial grassland. These patches were predominated by *Nassella pulchra* (Purple Needlegrass), *Bromus carinatus* (California Brome), and *Sisyrinchium bellum* (Blue-eyed Grass). These species are not sensitive as individuals or populations; however, large stands of *Nassella pulchra* Alliance (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf 1995), or Valley and Foothill Grassland (CNDDb 2006a), are listed as a sensitive habitat. Although this “habitat” was observed by DMEC onsite, the patches are too small to be considered stands of sensitive habitat. However, the area was probably predominated by openings of native perennial grassland historically. If mitigation is necessary, DMEC recommends protecting and/or enhancing these patches as much as possible.

SPECIALS-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES

Nineteen (19) special-status wildlife species are known to occur and are tracked within the vicinity of these quadrangles and the Gramckow property, and they include the following:

- *Agelaius tricolor* (Tricolored Blackbird);
- *Anniella pulchra pulchra* (Silvery Legless Lizard);
- *Bufo californicus* (Arroyo Toad);
- *Chaetodipus californicus femoralis* (Dulzura Pocket Mouse);
- *Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus* (Western Snowy Plover);
- *Coccyzus americanus occidentalis* (Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo);
- *Choeronycteris mexicana* (Mexican Long-tongued Bat);
- *Coelus globosus* (Globose Dune Beetle);
- *Danaus plexippus* (Monarch Butterfly);
- *Emys (=Clemmys) marmorata pallida* (Southwestern Pond Turtle) (suitable habitat onsite);
- *Eucyclogobius newberryi* (Tidewater Goby);
- *Gila orcutti* (Arroyo Chub);
- *Gymnogyps californianus* (California Condor);
- *Neotoma lepida intermedia* (San Diego Desert Woodrat);
- *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus* (Southern Steelhead - Southern California ESU);
- *Phrynosoma coronatum (blainvillii* population) (Coast [San Diego] Horned Lizard) (suitable habitat onsite);
- *Rana aurora draytonii* (California Red-legged Frog) (suitable habitat onsite [Refer to Figure 5]);
- *Thamnophis hammondi* (Two-Striped Garter Snake) (suitable habitat onsite); and
- *Vireo bellii pusillus* (Least Bell's Vireo).

Four of the 19 special-status wildlife species tracked by CNDDDB have habitat requirements similar to the habitats of the Gramckow property (including *Emys marmorata pallida*, *Phrynosoma coronatum blainvillii*, *Rana aurora draytonii*, and *Thamnophis hammondi*); however, none of these species were observed onsite. Table 7, Special-Status Biological Resources Potentially Present at the Gramckow Property, provides a complete list of all special-status resources tracked by CNDDDB, and lists all species' status and habitat requirements. No special-status wildlife species tracked by CNDDDB (CDFG 2006a) or listed on the Special Animals List (CDFG 2006b) were observed on the Gramckow property.

In addition to the listed species discussed above, DMEC also observed an active nest on 19 May 2006 in the middle of the project site high up in a *Quercus agrifolia* (Coast Live Oak) tree. DMEC expects that the nest is/was occupied by Mourning Doves, based on the feathers that were observed at the base of the nest. Although Mourning Dove is not special-status, all active nest are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or Fish and Game Code S3503.

SECTION 5. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Ventura County Planning Division is requiring seasonal surveys for the Gramckow property, consisting of one survey conducted in the early spring and one survey conducted in the late spring. DMEC suggests that the DMEC spring surveys of 2006, and the Rincon summer survey of 2005, is adequate to account for the existing conditions, fauna and flora, and special-status species existing on the Gramckow property. Table 7, Special-Status Biological Resources of the Gramckow Property, provides the blooming period for each special-status plant species with potential to occur onsite. DMEC's and Rincon's surveys capture the timing of these blooming periods adequately, and these species would have been detectable during the timing of those surveys if they were present onsite. The two special-status plant species observed onsite (*Juglans californica* var. *californica* [observed by DMEC and Rincon Consultants] and *Oxalis albicans* ssp. *pilosa* [observed by DMEC]), as well as the four special-status wildlife species with potential to occur onsite based on more or less suitable required habitat (including Coast Horned Lizard, California Red-legged Frog, Two-striped Garter Snake, and Southwestern Pond Turtle) all occur, or are expected to occur, only within the riparian habitat onsite. Since no development is proposed within the riparian habitat on the Gramckow property, no direct significant impacts to these species are expected as a result of construction activities onsite.

Although two special-status plant species are present at the Gramckow property (*Juglans californica* var. *californica* [Southern California Black Walnut] and *Oxalis albicans* ssp. *pilosa* [Hairy White Wood Sorrel]), both occurrences are within the riparian areas onsite, which are not proposed for any impacts except for impacts related to restoration efforts. Impacts to those special-status plant species are avoidable by flagging off the plants onsite and flagging off riparian areas onsite to keep work away from such species. In addition, the two locally rare species observed onsite are common in areas immediately adjacent to the project site; therefore, no single population would be lost due to construction activities. While DMEC does not believe the loss of individual plants of these taxa would represent a significant impact as defined by CEQA, if impacts to these species result from future development, any impacts, including cumulative impacts can be mitigated by sowing seed of the species back onsite after construction activities have been completed.

For any restoration effort to be conducted onsite, DMEC recommends collecting seeds of common native and special-status plant species in the immediate vicinity of the project site to ensure that the genetic integrity of the local landscape remains intact. Seeds may also be obtained from seed suppliers; however, if seeds are obtained from seed suppliers, DMEC recommends that all seeds originate from locations within the Ojai Valley.

In the event that mitigation measures are necessary, planting should be conducted in the fall season, and an experienced restoration ecologist should assist with the mitigation implementation and should be present onsite during plantings to ensure a successful mitigation effort. If mitigation is required, DMEC recommends eradicating invasive plant species from the project site, especially the invasive vine species onsite (*Vinca major* and *Rubus discolor*), and planting native vines (*Vitis californica* and *Rubus ursinus*). In addition, if mitigation is required, DMEC recommends protecting the native perennial grass patches onsite during any future construction activities, and to plant the periphery of the development with native perennial grassland species to act as a buffer between the creeks onsite and any future landscaping.

No special-status wildlife species tracked by CNDDDB in the vicinity of the project site were observed on the Gramckow property. Although no special-status species were observed onsite, measures should be taken to ensure no harm or impacts to any wildlife species (special-status or otherwise) results from any future construction activities. An important measure to minimize impacts to aquatic wildlife species inhabiting the project site is to ensure that the construction will be conducted during times/seasons of low channel flows. In addition, the following measures should be implemented:

- Equipment contact with the active channel should be minimized to a maximum extent;
- Sedimentation barriers should be installed and maintained;
- Turbidity levels should be monitored and minimized consistent with the project's RWQCB General Permit for storm water discharge requirements; and
- All foreign materials and litter should be removed from the channel.

Prior to grading or site-clearing activities, a qualified biologist shall survey the construction areas of the site to determine if wildlife species are foraging, frequenting, or nesting on or adjacent to the construction areas. If any wildlife species, including special-status wildlife species, are observed during construction activities, the wildlife biologist shall allow the wildlife species to escape or shall relocate the wildlife species to a preserved area with similar required habitat. If a special-status wildlife species is observed onsite, a biological monitor shall be notified in order to implement all measures necessary to protect the sensitive species.

If any special-status wildlife species are observed foraging, frequenting, or nesting during construction activities, the area in which the special-status species was observed should be flagged or fenced off to protect the wildlife species. In addition, the equipment operators shall be informed of the species' presence and provided with pictures in order to help avoid impacts to this species to the maximum extent possible. As part of the environmental training, contractors and heavy equipment operators shall be provided with photographs of expected special-status wildlife species to identify them, and to avoid harming them during construction.

To avoid violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or Fish and Game Code S3503, a qualified biologist shall survey the construction site(s) two weeks prior to initiation of site disturbance to identify any nests of birds that would be directly or indirectly affected by the construction activities. To ensure compliance with Section 3503.5 of the California Fish and Game Code, thirty days prior to the onset of construction activities, a qualified biologist shall survey within the limits of project disturbance for the presence of any active raptor and bird nests. Bird nesting typically occurs between 1 February and 30 June. Onsite nests shall be avoided and protected until vacated. If no active nests are found, no further mitigation is required.

SECTION 6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was written by Cher Batchelor. David Magney, Ms. Batchelor, and Wendy Cole conducted the biological resources surveys onsite. Teri Reynolds prepared the graphics for this report.

Mr. Martin Gramckow, property owner, provided information about the project site history and details about the proposed project.

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