

## **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

The County of Ventura Resource Management Agency (RMA) Planning Division, as the designated Lead Agency, has reviewed the following project:

1. **Applicant:** Ventura County, Resource Management Agency
2. **Location:** The project location is the Santa Rosa Valley in unincorporated Ventura County.
3. **Assessor's Parcel No.:** various
4. **Parcel Size:** various
5. **General Plan Designation:** various
6. **Zoning Designation:** various
7. **Responsible and/or Trustee Agencies:** Responsible and/or trustee agencies may include the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).
8. **Project Description:** The proposed Santa Rosa Valley Trail Master Plan will recognize a network of existing and proposed multi-use and equestrian trails. The trail system is classified into three primary types:
  - On-Street Bikeways – paved routes for bicyclists on road rights-of-way;
  - On-Street Equestrian Trail Connections – equestrian routes on paved roadways or unpaved, soft shoulders; and
  - Off-Street Unpaved Equestrian Trails – unpaved equestrian routes that are physically separated from road facilities.

These three types of facilities are further categorized based on whether they are “existing” or “proposed”. There are three types of “Proposed” Off-Street Trails: 1) those currently being used as a trail but lacking a formal easement or use agreement; 2) those where there is currently no easement/use agreement nor active use; and 3) one instance where there is an easement/use agreement but no active use. Only the trails that fall into categories 2 and 3 represent new proposed trail locations and use.



Design standards in the Trail Master Plan will inform the width of trail improvements, as well as their type of surface, minimum setbacks from private property and creekbeds, and barriers or fencing. New off-street, unpaved multi-use trails will be six to 10 feet wide where room for a double track is available and four to six feet wide where constrained to a single track. In new residential developments, the Trail Master Plan calls for additional multi-use trails along roadways to be at least four feet wide. Future designated bike lanes on Santa Rosa Road will be at least five feet wide, with a barrier against drainages and a buffer against multi-use paths.

In accordance with Section 15070 of the California Code of Regulations, the RMA Planning Division determined that this proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment; however, mitigation measures are available that would reduce the impacts to less than significant levels. Therefore, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been prepared and the applicant has agreed to implement the mitigation measures.

**List of Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts Identified:**

Air Quality: dust emissions. Biological Resources: special-status plant and animal species, sensitive plant communities, waters and wetlands, and wildlife corridors. Agriculture: land use compatibility. Cultural Resources: archaeological resources. Hazards: fault rupture, landslides. Mitigation measures are included in the MND to address these issues.

The draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was circulated for a 30-day public review period that began on August 15, 2014, and ended on September 15, 2014. The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was available for public review on the County Resource Management Agency's website at [www.ventura.org/rma](http://www.ventura.org/rma) (select "Santa Rosa Valley Trail Master Plan") and at the County of Ventura, Resource Management Agency, 800 S. Victoria Ave., Ventura, CA, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. The County did not receive any written public comments during this review period.



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Chris Stephens, Director  
Resource Management Agency  
County of Ventura

December 2, 2014  
Date

## **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

### **A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

**Applicant:** Ventura County, Resource Management Agency

**Location:** The project location is the Santa Rosa Valley in unincorporated Ventura County.

**Assessor's Parcel No.:** various

**Parcel Size:** various

**General Plan Designation:** various

**Zoning Designation:** various

**Responsible and/or Trustee Agencies:** Responsible and/or trustee agencies may include the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

**Project Description:** The proposed Santa Rosa Valley Trail Master Plan will recognize a network of existing and proposed multi-use and equestrian trails. The trail system is classified into three primary types:

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no active use. Only the trails that fall into categories 2 and 3 represent new proposed trail locations and use.

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**B. STATEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL FINDINGS:**

State law requires the RMA Planning Division, as the lead agency for the proposed project, to prepare an Initial Study (environmental analysis) to determine if the proposed project could significantly affect the environment. Based on the findings contained in the attached Initial Study, it has been determined that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment; however, mitigation measures are available that would reduce the impacts to less than significant levels. Therefore, a Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared and the applicant has agreed to implement the mitigation measures.

**C. LIST OF POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IDENTIFIED:**

Air Quality: dust emissions. Biological Resources: special-status plant and animal species, sensitive plant communities, waters and wetlands, and wildlife corridors. Agriculture: land use compatibility. Cultural Resources: archaeological resources. Hazards: fault rupture, landslides. Mitigation measures are included in the MND to address these issues.

**D. PUBLIC REVIEW:**

**Legal Notice Method:** Direct mailing to all property owners adjacent to proposed off-street trails in the Trail Master Plan, distribution through the Santa Rosa Valley Municipal Advisory Council, and a legal notice in the *Ventura County Star*.

**Document Posting Period: August 15, 2014, through September 15, 2014**

**Public Review:** During the document posting period, the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was available for public review on the County Resource Management Agency's website at [www.ventura.org/rma](http://www.ventura.org/rma) (select "Santa Rosa Valley Trail Master Plan") and at the County of Ventura, Resource Management Agency, 800 S. Victoria Ave., Ventura, CA, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.



**Comments:** The public was encouraged to submit written comments to Chris Stephens, no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 15, 2014, to the address listed above, or to e-mail comments to [chris.stephens@ventura.org](mailto:chris.stephens@ventura.org).

**E. CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION:**

Prior to approving the project, the decision-making body of the Lead Agency must consider this Mitigated Negative Declaration and all comments received on the Mitigated Negative Declaration if it finds that all the significant effects have been identified and that the proposed mitigation measures will reduce those effects to less than significant levels.

**Prepared by:**

**Reviewed for Release to the Public by:**



Jonathan Berlin  
Associate Environmental Planner  
Rincon Consultants, Inc.



Chris Stephens, Director  
Resource Management Agency  
County of Ventura

**Recommended for Approval by Lead Agency by:**

Chris Stephens, Director  
Resource Management Agency  
County of Ventura

## INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

### for the Santa Rosa Valley Trail Master Plan

#### Section A – Project Description

1. **Name of Applicant:** Ventura County, Resource Management Agency
2. **Project Location:** The project planning area is the approximately 6,000-acre community of Santa Rosa Valley in unincorporated Ventura County. This rural residential community is situated between unincorporated agricultural land and the City of Camarillo to the west, the City of Moorpark to the north, the City of Thousand Oaks to the south and southeast, and unincorporated agricultural land in the Tierra Rejada Valley to the east. The Santa Rosa Valley also borders Wildwood Regional Park, managed by the Conejo Open Space Conservation Agency (COSCA), to the south.

Figure 1 shows the regional location of the area, and Figure 2 shows the Santa Rosa Valley and its immediate vicinity. Santa Rosa Road bisects the planning area on an east-west access and provides primary access to the region's highway network, which includes US Highway 101 to the southwest; Moorpark Road, Tierra Rejada Road, State Route 23, and State Route 118 to the northeast; and Moorpark Road and US Highway 101 to the southeast.

3. **General Plan Land Use Designation and Zoning Designation of the Planning Area:** The planning area for the Santa Rosa Valley Trail Master Plan encompasses approximately 6,000 acres. Table 1 shows the existing land use designations and zoning in the Santa Rosa Valley. Land use designations under the Ventura County General Plan include Existing Community (primarily along the north side of Santa Rosa Road), Rural, and Open Space. The planning area is zoned primarily Rural Exclusive (RE) and Rural Agricultural (RA), with a strip of Open Space (OS) along the northern boundary and to the southwest, and pockets of Agricultural Exclusive to the south.

**Table 1**  
**Land Use Designation and Zoning**

<b>COUNTY OF VENTURA GENERAL PLAN LAND USE DESIGNATIONS</b>	Existing Community Rural (2 Ac. Min.) Open Space (10 Ac. Min.)
<b>COUNTY OF VENTURA ZONING DESIGNATIONS</b>	RE - 1 ac. RE - 2 ac. RE - 2.875 ac. av. RE - 4 ac. RE - 5 ac. RE - 10 ac. RA - 1 ac. RA - 2 ac. RA - 4 ac. RA - 5 ac. RA - 10 ac. RA - 20 ac. AE - 40 ac. OS (10 ac.) OS (40 ac.)

*RE = Rural Exclusive      OS = Open Space*  
*RA = Rural Agricultural      ac. = acre*  
*AE = Agricultural Exclusive*

- 4. Description of the Environmental Setting:** The Santa Rosa Valley has a rural residential character, with the densest zoning allowing for one dwelling unit on a minimum of one acre. No commercial centers such as retail strips or office parks are located in the area. Over the last several decades, this community has developed with a substantial equestrian component. During this time, a network of informal and formal equestrian trails has been established and developed. In addition, many of the residential properties in the valley include facilities such as barns and arenas to support horse ownership. In 2012, the County opened Phase II of the long-planned Santa Rosa Valley Park, which features equestrian riding facilities, including a training area.

Topographically, the Santa Rosa Valley runs in an east-west direction with hills to the north and Mountclef Ridge to the south. The valley floor is relatively flat, with more pronounced hills in the eastern portion of the planning area. Arroyo Santa Rosa drains diagonally to the southwest across the planning area, until its confluence with Arroyo Conejo at the northwest corner of Santa Rosa Valley Park. To the west of the planning area, Arroyo Conejo flows through the Oxnard Plain where it joins with Calleguas Creek and drains into the Pacific Ocean at Point Mugu. The Santa Rosa Valley forms part of the larger Calleguas Creek watershed.

The two-lane Santa Rosa Road serves as the principal artery for circulation in the planning area, providing connectivity to Camarillo to the west. At the eastern boundary of the planning area, Santa Rosa Road terminates at Moorpark Road, which leads to the City of Moorpark to the north and to the City of Thousand Oaks to south (via the steep Norwegian Grade). The existing trail system in the Santa Rosa Valley also provides local and regional connectivity for equestrians, pedestrians, and mountain bikers. A community-based organization, Santa Rosa Valley Trail, Inc. (SRVTI), has obtained several easements for multi-use trail connections, including but not limited to the Thelma Connector Trail, the Rosita

Trail, and the Donnelly Trail. Multiple existing trails link the planning area to an extensive multi-use trail network managed by COSCA in Wildwood Regional Park to the south.

5. **Project Description:** The proposed Santa Rosa Valley Trail Master Plan (hereafter referred to as the Trail Master Plan) will recognize a network of existing and proposed multi-use and equestrian trails. Figure 3 shows a map of existing and proposed trails in the planning area, drawn from the Trail Master Plan. This figure classifies the trail system into three primary types:

- On-Street Bikeways – paved routes for bicyclists on road rights-of-way;
- On-Street Equestrian Trail Connections – equestrian routes on paved roadways or unpaved, soft shoulders; and
- Off-Street Unpaved Equestrian Trails – unpaved equestrian routes that are physically separated from road facilities.

As shown in Figure 3, these three types of facilities are further categorized based on whether they are “existing” or “proposed”. For On-Street Facilities, most facilities are shown as “Proposed” because, even though they are currently used for equestrian and/or bicycle travel, they are not signed or striped for those purposes. For Off-street Trails, “Existing” facilities are those where there is an easement or other use agreement and the trail is currently in use. There are three types of “Proposed” Off-Street Trails: 1) those currently being used as a trail but lacking a formal easement or use agreement; 2) those where there is currently no easement/use agreement nor active use; and 3) one instance where there is an easement/use agreement but no active use. Only the trails that fall into categories 2 and 3 represent new proposed trail locations and use.

The Trail Master Plan identifies new on-street bikeways and equestrian facilities to be developed in order to improve the connectivity of the Santa Rosa Valley’s existing trail system and safety for trail users. Adoption of the proposed Trail Master Plan, in itself, will not directly involve the construction of trail improvements, but will facilitate the future development of such improvements. Thus, this Initial Study evaluates the environmental impacts associated with the Trail Master Plan at a programmatic level.

For the purpose of evaluating programmatic environmental impacts, this Initial Study focuses on the subset of proposed trails that will entail new construction and physical disturbance of the ground. Figure 4 shows this subset of proposed trails in the context of the Santa Rosa Valley’s existing trail network. Any proposed trails that are not shown in Figure 4 will merely involve the installation of signage and/or striping of pavement. For example, many proposed on-street equestrian trail connections will consist of installing signage and high-visibility crossings to formalize equestrian access and to alert motorists to equestrian use. In addition, the proposed bikeways on Santa Rosa Road will, for the most part, be sited in areas with existing paved shoulders that remain today as surplus right-of-way from when the roadway was slated for widening to four lanes.

However, the Trail Master Plan identifies “pinch points” where the paved right-of-way narrows from just west of Vista Arroyo Drive/Andalusia Drive West to Orions Flight Way. In this area, the future construction of bike lanes could require widening of the paved extent of Santa Rosa Road. Some off-street unpaved trail improvements, such as along Santa Rosa Road and Arroyo Conejo to the west of Santa Rosa Valley Park, also will involve grading and the construction of trail beds. Figure 4 shows these proposed facilities along Santa Rosa Road as trails requiring new construction.

Design standards in the Trail Master Plan (Attachment 2) will inform the width of trail improvements, as well as their type of surface, minimum setbacks from private property and creekbeds, and barriers or fencing. New off-street, unpaved multi-use trails will be six to 10 feet wide where room for a double track is available and four to six feet wide where constrained to a single track. In new residential developments, the Trail Master Plan calls for additional multi-use trails along roadways to be at least four feet wide. Future designated bike lanes on Santa Rosa Road will be at least five feet wide, with a barrier against drainages and a buffer against multi-use paths.

The Trail Master Plan provides guidelines for trail amenities such as staging areas and drinking water. An example site for the construction of a staging area overlooking the Santa Rosa Valley is identified along Barranca Road; while a schematic design for horse trailers, hitching rails, benches, and maps is included, this site is only shown for conceptual purposes, to illustrate possible site amenities and space needs. The Trail Master Plan is not recommending this specific site and should a site be identified in the future, it will require a project-level environmental analysis to assess its impacts on wildlife habitat, watercourses, agricultural lands, etc.

Figures 5 and 6, respectively, show photographs of existing off-street trail and roadway conditions in the planning area, with references to proposed trail improvements.

It is important to note that the proposed trail improvements in the Trail Master Plan are neither scheduled nor funded at this point. To mitigate potential environmental impacts whenever these trail improvements are implemented in the future, this programmatic Initial Study includes prescriptive mitigation measures with performance standards that will apply during planning, construction, and/or operation of these individual trail facilities.

6. **List of Responsible and Trustee Agencies:** A “responsible agency” is a public agency other than the “lead agency” that has discretionary approval authority over certain components of a project. Responsible agencies may include the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). USACE has permitting authority over any construction and dredging in wetlands and/or navigable waters of the United States, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. USFWS is a responsible agency for projects affecting species protected by the U.S. Endangered Species Act or Bald Eagle

Protection Act. RWQCB serves as a responsible agency for projects requiring waste and pollutant discharge permits. A “trustee agency” refers to a state agency that has jurisdiction over natural resources held in trust for the people of California but does not have a legal authority over approving or carrying out the project. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) may serve as a trustee agency for future trail improvements affecting streambeds, wildlife, and habitats of rare or endangered species.

7. **Methodology for Evaluating Cumulative Impacts:** To evaluate the cumulative impacts of the proposed project, this Initial Study evaluates the effects of the Trail Master Plan relative to buildout of the Ventura County General Plan, as documented in the County’s Subsequent Environmental Impact Report for Focused General Plan Update from June 2005. This plan-based approach is more appropriate than a project-based approach (i.e., a list of pending and approved projects in the vicinity of the planning area) because of the programmatic nature of the Trail Master Plan. Under this analysis, the project is evaluated for a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant impact throughout Ventura County.

For a more detailed discussion of the list and plans approach to evaluating cumulative impacts, see the CEQA Guidelines S 15130(b)(1).

## Section B - Initial Study Checklist and Discussion of Responses

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>RESOURCES:</b>								
<b>1. Air Quality (VCAPCD)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) Exceed any of the thresholds set forth in the air quality assessment guidelines as adopted and periodically updated by the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD), or be inconsistent with the Air Quality Management Plan?			X				X	
b) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 1 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X				X		

## **Impact Discussion:**

1a. The planning area is located within the Ventura County Air Basin and is under the jurisdiction of two air quality management agencies. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is responsible for regulating mobile emission sources (vehicles) and the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) regulates stationary sources. For purposes of identifying established air quality impact thresholds, the VCAPCD considers operational air quality impacts to be significant if a project will generate more than 25 pounds per day of Reactive Organic Compounds (ROC) or Nitrogen Oxides (NOx). The VCAPCD has not adopted significance thresholds for construction-related emissions since such emissions are temporary.

Construction-Related Impacts. The proposed Trail Master Plan will facilitate the construction of trail facilities that will generate temporary emissions of air pollutants and fugitive dust due from the operation of construction equipment. Grading activities along unpaved areas have the potential to generate fugitive dust through the exposure of soil to wind erosion and dust entrainment. The construction of bike lanes on Santa Rosa Road also could generate emissions from the laying of asphalt.

Due to the programmatic nature of this analysis, it is not possible to accurately quantify future construction emissions for trail improvements. Furthermore, the VCAPCD has not adopted significance thresholds for construction-related emissions since such emissions are temporary. Given that the generation of emissions during construction of the project will be temporary, impacts will be less than significant. Nevertheless, in order to reduce emissions during construction activities to the extent feasible, Mitigation Measure 1A is recommended.

Operational Impacts. Implementation of the proposed Trail Master Plan will involve improvements to the Santa Rosa Valley's trail system. These improvements could generate a modest increase in vehicle trips, by attracting trail users from outside the planning area. However, the Trail Master Plan will not be expected to substantially increase the number of vehicle trips for recreational purposes. The trail improvements are intended primarily to serve the local equestrian community, rather than to accommodate regional users. Furthermore, an existing staging area, Santa Rosa Valley Park, already accommodates recreational users from the larger region, by providing parking for motor vehicles and serving as a gateway to Wildwood Regional Park.

On balance, operation of the proposed trail improvements will incrementally improve regional air quality, by facilitating the increased use of non-motorized modes of recreation and transportation. By providing an opportunity for zero- to low-emission transportation, the proposed trail alignment will be expected to have a nominally beneficial effect on overall emissions in the air basin. As such, implementation of the proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with the goals of the VCAPCD to improve air quality. In addition, the Trail Master Plan will not facilitate the construction of new housing or the creation of new, long-term employment opportunities that could cause an increase in the community's population. Therefore, the proposed project will not exceed VCAPCD thresholds and no adverse impact will occur. By extension, the project will not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant impacts related to regional and local air quality.

1b. The proposed Trail Master Plan is consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 1 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, specifically Section 1.2, Air Quality (Sections 1.2.1, 1.2.2, and 1.2.3). The project is consistent with the Ventura County Air Quality Management Plan.

### **Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

Although impacts related to emissions generated during construction activities will be less than significant without mitigation, Mitigation Measure 1A is recommended to reduce construction-generated emissions to the extent feasible.

#### **1A: Dust Control Plan for Construction Emissions**

**Purpose:** To minimize fugitive dust emissions during construction of trail improvements.

**Requirement:** It is recommended that the implementing entity of any trail that requires grading activities prepare a Dust Control Plan to implement standard emission controls during all phases of construction. This plan should include, but not be limited to, the following measures:

- Minimize equipment idling time.
- Maintain equipment engines in good condition and in proper tune as per manufacturers' specifications.
- Lengthen the construction period if it occurs during smog season (May through October), to minimize the number of vehicles and equipment operating at the same time.
- Use alternatively fueled construction equipment, such as compressed natural gas (CNG), liquefied natural gas (LNG), or electric, if feasible.
- The area disturbed by grading operations should be minimized to prevent excessive amounts of dust.
- Pre-grading activities should include watering the area to be graded before commencement of grading operations. Application of water (preferably reclaimed, if available) should penetrate sufficiently to minimize fugitive dust during grading activities.
- Fugitive dust produced during grading, excavation, and construction activities should be controlled by the following activities:
  - a) All trucks should be required to cover their loads as required by California Vehicle Code §23114.
  - b) All graded material, exposed soil areas, and active portions of the construction site, including unpaved on-site roadways, should be treated to prevent fugitive dust. Treatment should include, but not necessarily be limited to, periodic watering, application of environmentally-safe soil stabilization materials, and/or roll-compaction as appropriate. Watering should be done as often as



necessary and reclaimed water should be used whenever possible.

- Signs should be posted on-site limiting traffic to 15 miles per hour or less.
- During periods of high winds, all clearing, grading, or earth moving, operations should be curtailed to the degree necessary to prevent fugitive dust created by on-site activities and operations from being a nuisance or hazard, either offsite or on-site. The site superintendent/supervisor should use his/her discretion in determining when winds are excessive.
- Adjacent streets and roads should be swept at least once per day, preferably at the end of the day, if visible soil material is carried over to adjacent streets and roads.
- Personnel involved in grading operations, including contractors and subcontractors, should be advised to wear respiratory protection in accordance with California Division of Occupational Safety and Health regulations.
- All material transported offsite should be either sufficiently watered or securely covered to prevent excessive amounts of dust.

**Documentation:** The implementing entity should submit the Dust Control Plan to the County Planning Division for review and approval.

**Timing:** The Dust Control Plan should be submitted and approved prior to the issuance of a grading permit.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** County Planning Division staff should, in consultation with the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD), review and, if found adequate, approve the submitted Dust Control Plan. County staff and/or VCAPCD staff may periodically conduct site inspections to assure compliance with the Dust Control Plan. The VCAPCD has primary responsibility to investigate, respond, and resolve any citizen complaints regarding dust from the project site.

Sources: VCAPCD, 2007 Air Quality Management Plan, May 2008. County of Ventura, Air Quality Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>2A. Water Resources – Groundwater Quantity (WPD)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Directly or indirectly decrease, either individually or cumulatively, the net quantity of groundwater in a groundwater basin that is overdrafted or create an overdrafted groundwater basin?		X				X		
2) In groundwater basins that are not overdrafted, or are not in hydrologic continuity with an overdrafted basin, result in net groundwater extraction that will individually or cumulatively cause overdrafted basin(s)?		X				X		
3) In areas where the groundwater basin and/or hydrologic unit condition is not well known or documented and there is evidence of overdraft based upon declining water levels in a well or wells, propose any net increase in groundwater extraction from that groundwater basin and/or hydrologic unit?		X				X		
4) Regardless of items 1-3 above, result in 1.0 acre-feet, or less, of net annual increase in groundwater extraction?		X				X		
5) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 2A of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X				X		

### Impact Discussion:

2a-1 through 2a-4. The planning area is located within the service area of the Camrosa Water District (District). The District's water supply is derived from groundwater and water imported from outside of Ventura County. Groundwater is obtained from the three principal groundwater basins within the District. From east to west, they are the Tierra Rejada Basin, the Santa Rosa Basin, and the Pleasant Valley Basin. Groundwater is pumped from five nine District-owned and operated wells and is delivered into Camrosa's

distribution system. The existing water demands within the District's service area exceed the availability of local groundwater, and if recent drought conditions continue this imbalance will worsen. As a result of the existing water demands, the District supplements its local groundwater supply with water imported from outside the County.

The proposed Trail Master Plan will generate minimal demand for groundwater. In estimating the cost of trail improvements, the Trail Master Plan assumes that bike lanes and equestrian trails along Santa Rosa Road between Rosita Road and Vista Grande will be separated by buffer plantings with drought-tolerant landscaping, served by water-wise irrigation. The Design Standards and Guidelines section of the Trail Master Plan also states that drinking fountains and water troughs should only be considered at trailheads and staging areas with existing water service. In addition, water use might be needed for dust control during construction. In unincorporated Ventura County, any project which will result in 0.15 acre-feet, or less, of net annual increase in groundwater extraction will not have a significant project or cumulative effect on groundwater quantity. The minimal potential water demand facilitated by the Trail Master Plan will not exceed this threshold, and impacts will be less than significant.

2a-5. The proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 2A of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines.

**Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

None.

*Sources: Camrosa Water District, Santa Rosa Basin Groundwater Management Plan, August 2013. County of Ventura, Air Quality Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>2B. Water Resources - Groundwater Quality (WPD)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Individually or cumulatively degrade the quality of groundwater and cause groundwater to exceed groundwater quality objectives set by the Basin Plan?		X				X		
2) Cause the quality of groundwater to fail to meet the groundwater quality objectives set by the Basin Plan?		X				X		
3) Propose the use of groundwater in any capacity and be located within two miles of the boundary of a former or current test site for rocket engines?	X				X			
4) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 2B of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X				X		

### Impact Discussion:

2b-1 and 2b-2. The planning area is located within the Arroyo Santa Rosa Groundwater Basin (Groundwater Basin). As the basin is a source for the District, groundwater quality within the basin is a major concern for the District and for the people who rely on it for potable water. The District's Santa Rosa Basin Groundwater Management Plan (Basin Plan) from August 2013 includes the following four Basin Management Objectives:

- 1) Protect and enhance groundwater quality;
- 2) Sustain a safe, reliable local groundwater supply;
- 3) Improve understanding of groundwater elevations, Basin yield and hydrogeology; and
- 4) Maintain public awareness and confidence, and honor the public trust.

The District considers the Groundwater Basin vulnerable to contaminants from sources including but not limited to agricultural run-off (fertilizers, pesticides, etc.), petroleum storage, and septic systems. As shown in Table 2, the Groundwater Basin is currently impacted by four contaminants: nitrates, chloride, sulfate, and total dissolved solids. Concentrations of these contaminants, as recorded in the Groundwater Basin between 1997 and 2011, have exceeded objectives set for the Groundwater Basin by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

**Table 2**  
**Arroyo Santa Rosa Groundwater Basin Quality**

<b>Constituent</b>	<b>RWQCB Groundwater Basin Plan Objective</b>	<b>Maximum Concentration</b>	<b>Exceeds RWQCB Objective?</b>
Chloride	150 mg/L	249 mg/L	Yes
Nitrate	45 mg/L	179 mg/L	Yes
Sulfate	300 mg/L	489 mg/L	Yes
Total Dissolved Solids	900 mg/L	1,492 mg/L	Yes

*Source: Camrosa Water District, Santa Rosa Basin Groundwater Management Plan, 2013.*

Concentrations of nitrate have historically exceeded Basin Plan objectives. Nitrates in the water supply represent a human health concern because the undeveloped digestive tracts of infants convert nitrate to nitrite, which is toxic and reduces the blood's ability to carry oxygen.

In an equestrian community such as the Santa Rosa Valley, horse manure can contribute to nitrate pollution. Other sources of nitrates within the Santa Rosa Valley include fertilizers used for agriculture and private septic systems for residential uses. Horses excrete nitrogen from the digestion of proteins in urine and additional undigested nitrogen in feces. A 1,000-pound horse produces from 35 to 50 pounds of wet manure (feces plus urine) daily, or approximately 9.1 tons per year. Typically, a ton of horse manure contains 11 pounds of nitrogen, among other nutrients. Thus, an average horse will excrete an estimated 100 pounds of nitrogen per year. It should be noted that nitrogen in urine is likely to rapidly volatilize to ammonia gas, rather than leach to groundwater. Nitrogen from feces converts to ammonium or nitrate over several years but can leach to groundwater. Considering the adverse affects of horse manure on groundwater, and the nitrate-impacted state of groundwater in the Santa Rosa Valley, the County has imposed limits on the number of horses allowed in new housing developments in the area. For example, for the approved but not yet built Wildwood Preserve development to the south of Santa Rosa Road, the total number of horses allowed in the development at any one time will be limited.

Nevertheless, the Trail Master Plan will not facilitate a substantial increase in equestrian use in the nitrate-impacted Santa Rosa Valley. It is important to note that equestrian activities associated with the staging area at Santa Rosa Valley Park and on the existing trail system are existing conditions and not attributable to the proposed project. Proposed trail improvements are intended to improve connectivity in this already well-established and extensive trail system. Many trail improvements shown in Figure 3 will involve formalizing existing equestrian use on unmarked trails. Entirely new unpaved trails open to equestrian use will be spurs between existing trails. Furthermore, trail improvements will be expected to serve an existing equestrian community rather than generating substantial additional use. Finally, if a new staging area is developed in the future, it will be subject to project-level environmental analysis and conditions (e.g. development and implementation of a manure management plan) to ensure any potential impacts to groundwater quality are mitigated. Therefore, implementation of the

Trail Master Plan will not result in substantial additional nitrate loading of the groundwater basin.

The addition of paved surface for bike lanes will result in a nominal increase in impervious surface in the Santa Rosa Valley. In general, the addition of impervious surfaces can impair groundwater recharge. However, as noted in the Project Description, the majority of Santa Rosa Valley has surplus paved right-of-way with which to mark bike lanes without the addition of pavement. The relatively small amount of area that will be covered with impervious surfaces at “pinch points” will not result in a significant reduction in groundwater recharge.

The construction, use, and maintenance of the Trail Master Plan will have a less than significant impact, individually and cumulatively, related to degrading the quality of groundwater and attaining groundwater quality objectives set by the Basin Plan.

2b-3. The planning area is not located within two miles of the boundary of a former or current test site for rocket engines.

2b-4. The proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 2B of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines.

**Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

None.

*Sources: Camrosa District, Santa Rosa Basin Groundwater Management Plan, August 2013. County of Ventura, Wildwood Preserve Final EIR, April 2009. North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, Pollutants in Groundwater: Health Effects, 1997. Westendorf, Rutgers Equine Science Center, 2009. Westendorf and Krogmann, Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension, 2004.*

### **Item C - Surface Water Quantity**

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>2C. Water Resources - Surface Water Quantity (WPD)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Increase surface water consumptive use (demand), either individually or cumulatively, in a fully appropriated stream reach as designated by SWRCB or where unappropriated surface water is unavailable?		X				X		
2) Increase surface water consumptive use (demand) including but not limited to diversion or dewatering downstream reaches, either individually or cumulatively, resulting in an adverse impact to one or more of the beneficial uses listed in the Basin Plan?		X				X		
3) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 2C of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X				X		

### **Impact Discussion:**

2c-1 through 2c-3. As discussed under Item 2A, the District supplements its local groundwater supply with water imported from outside the County. The proposed Trail Master Plan will generate minimal demand for this imported water. In estimating the cost of trail improvements, the Trail Master Plan assumes that bike lanes and equestrian trails along Santa Rosa Road between Rosita Road and Vista Grande will be separated by buffer plantings with drought-tolerant landscaping, served by water-wise irrigation. The Design Standards and Guidelines section of the Trail Master Plan also states that drinking fountains and water troughs should only be considered at trailheads and staging areas with existing water service. In addition, water use might be needed for dust control during construction.

Furthermore, trail improvements will not substantially increase the amount of impervious surfaces and will not affect the drainage of water to Arroyo Santa Rosa. Therefore, the project will not involve development that will adversely affect surface water quantity. The project also will be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 2c of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines.

### **Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

None.

*Sources: Camrosa Water District, Santa Rosa Basin Groundwater Management Plan, August 2013. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

### **Item D - Surface Water Quality**

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>2D. Water Resources - Surface Water Quality (WPD)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Individually or cumulatively degrade the quality of surface water causing it to exceed water quality objectives as contained in Chapter 3 of the three Basin Plans?		X				X		
2) Directly or indirectly cause storm water quality to exceed water quality objectives or standards in the applicable MS4 Permit or any other NPDES Permits?		X				X		
3) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 2D of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X				X		

### **Impact Discussion:**

2d-1 and 2d-2. During the construction of proposed trail improvements, grading will temporarily create the potential for increased erosion and siltation. However, the County will require that the proposed Trail Master Plan be implemented in accordance with conditions and requirements established by the Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAS000002 and Ventura Stormwater Quality Management Ordinance No. 4142. These regulations require the preparation and approval of a Stormwater Pollution Control Plan (SWPCP) prior to issuance of grading permits. The SWPCP will require that



Best Management Practices (BMPs) be implemented during construction to reduce impacts related to water quality, erosion and siltation during construction. Examples of BMPs that may be implemented during construction include the use of geotextiles and mats, temporary drains and swales, silt fences, and sediments traps. In addition, even where grading does not require a permit, the Countywide program requires the utilization of BMPs.

The operation of proposed trail improvements also could potentially have adverse effects on surface water quality. The proposed bike lanes on Santa Rosa Road will require widening of the paved surface of the roadway near Santa Rosa Elementary School. This minor increase in impervious surface in the Calleguas Creek watershed could result in a corresponding increase in the volume of stormwater runoff; a detailed analysis will be completed as part of the environmental review conducted for the road improvement project. Regardless, upon completion, individual trail improvements will be required to comply with provisions of the Ventura County Stormwater Quality Urban Impact Mitigation Plan (SQUIMP) or the Countywide program, which require implementation of BMPs to reduce adverse effects to water quality. Examples of BMPs include:

- Convey runoff safely from the tops of slopes and stabilize disturbed slopes;
- Utilize natural drainage systems to the maximum extent practicable;
- Control, reduce, or eliminate flow to natural drainage systems to the maximum extent practicable;
- Stabilize permanent channel crossings;
- Vegetate slopes with first consideration given to native or drought tolerant species;
- Materials with the potential to contaminate storm water shall be: (1) placed in an enclosure such as, but not limited to, a cabinet, shed, or similar structure that prevents contact with runoff or spillage to the storm water conveyance system; or (2) protected by secondary containment structures such as berms, dikes, or curbs;
- Storage areas shall be paved and sufficiently impervious to contain leaks and spills;
- Storage areas shall have a roof or awning to minimize collection of storm water within the secondary containment area;
- Trash container areas shall have drainage from adjoining roofs and pavement diverted around the area(s); and
- Trash container areas shall be screened or walled to prevent off-site transport of trash.

In addition, the Trail Master Plan's maintenance recommendations include monthly sweeping of paved surfaces, which will reduce the deposition of nutrients, sediment, and pollutants from bike lanes and on-street equestrian facilities into waterways.

Overall, implementation of the proposed project will not individually or cumulatively degrade the quality of surface water causing it to exceed water quality objectives as contained in Chapter 3 of the Los Angeles Basin Plan or to exceed water quality objectives or standards in the applicable MS4 Permit (Ventura Countywide Municipal Stormwater NPDES Permit CAS004002), or any other NPDES permits. Individually and cumulatively under buildout of the General Plan, the Trail Master Plan will have a less than significant impact on surface water quality.

2d-3. The proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 2d of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>3A. Mineral Resources – Aggregate (Plng.)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Be located on or immediately adjacent to land zoned Mineral Resource Protection (MRP) overlay zone, or adjacent to a principal access road for a site that is the subject of an existing aggregate Conditional Use Permit (CUP), and have the potential to hamper or preclude extraction of or access to the aggregate resources?	X				X			
2) Have a cumulative impact on aggregate resources if, when considered with other pending and recently approved projects in the area, the project hampers or precludes extraction or access to identified resources?					X			
3) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 3A of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

## Impact Discussion:

3a-1 and 3a-2. Aggregate resources consist of sand, gravel, and crushed rock used in the construction industry. The *Ventura County Zoning Ordinance* includes Mineral Resource Protection (MRP) overlay zones for areas where important mineral resources do or may exist and the extraction of these resources may be a compatible land use. The planning area is not located on or immediately adjacent to land subject to the County's Mineral Resource Protection (MRP) overlay zone, nor is it adjacent to a principal access road to an existing aggregate Conditional Use Permit (CUP). Therefore, the Trail Master Plan will have no impact on the extraction of or access to aggregate resources.

3a-3. The applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 3a of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines are: Resources Goals 1.4.1-1 through 1.4.1-3 and Resources Policies 1.4.2-6 through 1.4.2-8. Based on the above discussion in Items 3A-1 and 3A-2, the proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 3A.

## Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

*Source: County of Ventura, GIS and Mapping website, 2014. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>3B. Mineral Resources – Petroleum (Plng.)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Be located on or immediately adjacent to any known petroleum resource area, or adjacent to a principal access road for a site that is the subject of an existing petroleum CUP, and have the potential to hamper or preclude access to petroleum resources?	X				X			
2) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 3B of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

## Impact Discussion:

3b-1. During construction of the proposed trail improvements, petroleum-based fuel could be used for the operation of machinery. However, the proposed project will not adversely affect petroleum resources because there are sufficient resources to meet local needs. Petroleum resources are considered a worldwide, national and statewide resource, which is beyond the scope of local governments to effectively manage or control. Additionally, according to Figure 1.4.7, Petroleum Resources Map of the Ventura County General Plan Resources Appendix, no significant petroleum resources are known to exist in the planning area. Therefore, implementation of the project will have no impact to petroleum resources.

3b-2. The applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 3b of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines are: Resources Goals 1.4.1-1 through 1.4.1-4 and Resources Policies 1.4.2-1, 1.4.2-4, 1.4.2-5, 1.4.2-6, 1.4.2-8, and 1.4.2-9. Based on the above discussion, the proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 3B.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

*Source: Ventura County General Plan, Resources Appendix, June 2011. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>4. Biological Resources</b>								
<b>4A. Species</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project, directly or</b>								
1) Impact one or more plant species by reducing the species' population, reducing the species' habitat, fragmenting its habitat, or restricting its reproductive capacity?			X				X	
2) Impact one or more animal species by reducing the species' population, reducing the species' habitat, fragmenting its habitat, or restricting its reproductive capacity?			X				X	

## Impact Discussion:

4a-1 and 4a-2. For the purposes of this Initial Study, special-status species are: those plants and animals listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as threatened or endangered by the USFWS under the federal Endangered Species Act; those listed or proposed for listing as rare, threatened, or endangered by CDFW under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA); animals designated as “Species of Special Concern,” “Fully Protected,” or “Watch List” by the CDFW; and plants with a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) of 1, 2, 3, and 4, which are defined as:

- *List 1A = Plants presumed extinct in California;*
- *List 1B.1 = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere; seriously endangered in California (over 80 percent of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat);*
- *List 1B.2 = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere; fairly endangered in California (20-80 percent occurrences threatened);*
- *List 1B.3 = Rare or endangered in California and elsewhere, not very endangered in California (<20 percent of occurrences threatened or no current threats known);*
- *List 2 = Rare, threatened or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere;*
- *List 3 = Plants needing more information (most are species that are taxonomically unresolved; some species on this list meet the definitions of rarity under CNPS and CESA);*
- *List 4.1 = Plants of limited distribution (watch list), seriously endangered in California;*
- *List 4.2 = Plants of limited distribution (watch list), fairly endangered in California (20-80 percent occurrences threatened); and*
- *List 4.3 = Plants of limited distribution (watch list), not very endangered in California.*

Sensitive species also include trees that are protected pursuant to the County's tree protection regulations.

Queries of the USFWS Information Planning and Conservation (IPaC) System, California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Online Inventory of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants of California were conducted (Table 3). The query of the CNDDDB included the planning area plus a 5-mile buffer and is also depicted in Figure 8. The query of the CNPS Online Inventory of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants of California included the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles that the planning area is located within (*Moorpark, Simi, Newberry Park and Thousand Oaks*).

Federally designated critical habitat for Lyon's pentachaeta (*Pentachaeta lyonii*) is located adjacent to and south of the southern border of the planning area. No other federally designated critical habitat occurs within or adjacent to the planning area.

**Table 3**  
**Special-Status Animal and Plant Species Known to Occur within the Planning Area or Regional Vicinity<sup>1</sup>**

Common Name Scientific Name	Status Fed/State ESA Global Rank/State Rank CDFW or CRPR	Habitat Requirements	Source
<b>Amphibians</b>			
California red-legged frog <i>Rana draytonii</i>	FT/-- G2G3/S2S3 SSC	Semi-permanent or permanent water at least 2 feet deep, bordered by emergent or riparian vegetation, and upland grassland, forest or scrub habitats for estivation and dispersal.	USFWS
western spadefoot <i>Spea hammondi</i>	--/-- G3/S3 SSC	Open areas with sandy or gravelly soils, including mixed woodlands, grasslands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, sandy washes, lowlands, river floodplains, alluvial fans, playas, alkali flats, foothills, and mountains. Rain pools that do not support bullfrogs, fish, or crayfish are required for breeding.	CNDDB
<b>Birds</b>			
Southwestern willow flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	FE/SE G5T1T2/S1 --	For nesting, requires dense riparian habitats (cottonwood/willow and tamarisk vegetation) with microclimatic conditions dictated by the local surroundings. Saturated soils, standing water, or nearby streams, pools, or cienegas are a component of nesting habitat that also influences the microclimate and density vegetation component. Habitat not suitable for nesting may be used for migration and foraging.	USFWS
California condor <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	FE/SE G1/S1 FP	Forages in open foothill grasslands and oak savannah. Roosts in large trees, dead snags, and on large cliffs. Breeds in remote mountainous areas of pine forest or chaparral with cliffs and large rock outcrops and caves.	USFWS
least Bell's vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	FE/SE G5T2/S2 --	Low dense brushy riparian vegetation in vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms; below 2000 feet.	USFWS CNDDB
bank swallow <i>Riparia riparia</i>	--/ST G5/S2S3 --	Colonial nester. Nests primarily in riparian and other lowland habitats west of the desert. Requires vertical banks/cliffs with fine-textured/sandy soils near streams, rivers, lakes, ocean to dig nesting holes.	CNDDB
coastal California gnatcatcher <i>Polioptila californica californica</i>	FT/-- G3T2/S2 SSC	Obligate, permanent resident of coastal sage scrub below 2500 ft in southern California. Low, coastal sage scrub in arid washes, on mesas & slopes. Not all areas classified as coastal sage scrub are occupied.	USFWS CNDDB
southern California rufous-crowned sparrow <i>Aimophila ruficeps canescens</i>	--/-- G5T2T4/S2S3 WL	Resident in southern California sage scrub and sparse mixed chaparral. Frequents relatively steep, rocky hillsides with grass and forb patches.	CNDDB
white-tailed kite <i>Elanus leucurus</i>	--/-- G5/S3 FP	Occurs throughout most of California's coastal and valley regions excluding the Cascade, Sierra Nevada, Mojave Desert, and Peninsular Ranges. Grasslands, dry farmed agricultural fields, savannahs and relatively open oak woodlands, and other relatively open lowland scrublands.	CNDDB

**Table 3**  
**Special-Status Animal and Plant Species Known to Occur within the Planning Area or Regional Vicinity<sup>1</sup>**

Common Name Scientific Name	Status Fed/State ESA Global Rank/State Rank CDFW or CRPR	Habitat Requirements	Source
<b>Fish</b>			
arroyo chub <i>Gila orcuttii</i>	--/-- G2/S2 SSC	Native to streams from Malibu Creek to San Luis Rey River Basin. Introduced into streams in Santa Clara, Ventura and Santa Ynez. Occurs in slow water stream sections with sand and mud bottom. Feeds heavily on aquatic vegetation and invertebrates.	CNDDDB
southern steelhead - southern California DPS <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i>	FE/-- G5T2Q/S2 SSC	Fresh water, fast flowing, highly oxygenated, clear, cool stream where riffles tend to predominate pools; small streams with high elevation headwaters close to the ocean that have no impassible barriers; spawning: high elevation headwaters.	CNDDDB
<b>Invertebrates</b>			
Vernal Pool fairy shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	FT/-- G3/S2S3 --	Endemic to the grasslands of the Central Valley, Central Coast Mountains, and South Coast Mountains. Inhabits, small clear-water sandstone-depression pools and grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt-flow depression pools.	USFWS
Riverside fairy shrimp <i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>	FE/-- G1/S1 --	Occurs in areas of tectonic swales/earth slump basins in grassland & coastal sage scrub .Inhabits seasonally astatic pools filled by winter/spring rains. Hatch in warm water later in the season.	USFWS CNDDDB
<b>Mammals</b>			
western mastiff bat <i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>	--/-- G5T4/S3? SSC	Occurs in open semi-arid to arid habitats such as coniferous and deciduous woodlands, coastal scrub and chaparral. Roosting sites are usually crevices in cliff faces, high buildings, trees and tunnels.	CNDDDB
pallid bat <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	--/-- G5/S3 SSC	Deserts, grasslands, shrublands, woodlands, and forest. Most common in open, dry, habitats with rocky area for roosting. Roost must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites.	CNDDDB
San Diego desert woodrat <i>Neotoma lepida intermedia</i>	--/-- G5T3?/S3? SSC	Inhabits coastal scrub of southern California from San Diego to San Luis Obispo Counties. Moderate to dense canopies preferred, but are also particularly abundant in rock outcrops, rocky cliffs and slopes.	CNDDDB
<b>Reptiles</b>			
western pond turtle <i>Actinemys pallida (=Emys marmorata)</i>	--/-- G3G4/S3 SSC	Rivers, ponds, freshwater marshes; nests in upland areas (sandy banks or grassy open fields) up to 1,640 feet from water.	CNDDDB
two-striped garter snake <i>Thamnophis hammondi</i>	--/-- G3/S2 SSC	Occurs near pools, creeks, cattle tanks, and other water sources, often in rocky areas, within oak woodland, chaparral, scrub communities, and coniferous forest.	CNDDDB
coast horned lizard <i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>	--/-- G4G5/S3S4 SSC	Frequents a wide variety of habitats, most common in lowlands along sandy washes with scattered low bushes. Open areas for sunning, bushes for cover, patches of loose soil for burial and abundant supply of ants and other insects.	CNDDDB
<b>Plants</b>			
White-veined monardella <i>Monardella hypoleuca</i> ssp. <i>hypoleuca</i>	--/-- G4T2T3/S2S3 1B.3	Bloom period: April-December. Occurs in chaparral and cismontane woodland. Elevations: 50-1524m.	CNDDDB CNPS

**Table 3**  
**Special-Status Animal and Plant Species Known to Occur within the Planning Area or Regional Vicinity<sup>1</sup>**

Common Name Scientific Name	Status Fed/State ESA Global Rank/State Rank CDFW or CRPR	Habitat Requirements	Source
Plummer's mariposa-lily <i>Calochortus plummerae</i>	--/-- G4/S4 4.2 *	Bloom period: May-July. Occurs in granitic and rocky soils within chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, as well as foothill and valley grassland. Elevations: 100-1700m	CNDDB CNPS
California Orcutt grass <i>Orcuttia californica</i>	FE/CE G1/S1 1B.1 *	Bloom period: April-August. Occurs in vernal pools. Elevations: 15-660m.	USFWS CNDDB CNPS
Verity's dudleya <i>Dudleya verityi</i>	FT/-- G1/S1 1B.1	Bloom period: May-June. Occurs in volcanic, rocky soils within chaparral, cismontane woodland and coastal scrub. Elevations: 60-120m.	USFWS CNDDB CNPS
Southern curly-leaved monardella <i>Monardella sinuata</i> ssp. <i>sinuata</i>	--/-- G2/S2 1B.2 *	Bloom period: April-September. Occurs in sandy soils within chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal dunes and coastal scrub (openings). Elevations: 0-300m.	CNDDB CNPS
Conejo buckwheat <i>Eriogonum crocatum</i>	--/SR G1/S1 1B.2 *	Bloom period: April-July. Occurs in rocky Conejo volcanic outcrops within chaparral, coastal scrub, as well as valley and foothill grassland. Elevations: 50-580m.	CNDDB CNPS
Round-leaved filaree <i>California macrophylla</i>	--/-- G2/S2 1B.1	Bloom period: March-May. Occurs in clay soils within cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grassland. Elevations: 15-1200m.	CNDDB CNPS
Lyon's pentachaeta <i>Pentachaeta lyonii</i>	FE/CE G2/S2 1B.1	Bloom period: March-august. Occurs in rocky, clay soils within chaparral (openings), coastal scrub, as well as valley and foothill grassland. Elevations: 30-630m.	USFWS CNDDB CNPS
Marcrescent dudleya <i>Dudleya cymosa</i> ssp. <i>marcescens</i>	FT/SR G5T2/S2 1B.2	Bloom period: April –July. Occurs in volcanic, rocky soil within chaparral. Elevations: 150-520m.	USFWS CNDDB CNPS
Conejo dudleya <i>Dudleya parva</i>	FT/-- G2/S2 1B.2	Bloom period: May –June. Occurs in rocky or gravelly, clay or volcanic soils within coastal scrub as well as valley and foothill grassland. Elevations: 60-450m.	USFWS CNDDB CNPS
Braunton's milk-vetch <i>Astragalus brauntonii</i>	FE/-- G2/S2 1B.1	Bloom period: January-August. Occurs in areas with recent burns or disturbed areas in soils composed of sandstone within carbonate layers within chaparral, coastal scrub as well as valley and foothill grassland. Elevations: 4-640m.	USFWS CNDDB CNPS
Santa Susana tarplant <i>Deinandra minthornii</i>	--/SR G2/S2 1B.2	Bloom period: July-November. Occurs in rocky soils within chaparral and coastal scrub. Elevations: 280-760m.	CNDDB CNPS
chaparral nolina <i>Nolina cismontana</i>	--/-- G2/S2 1B.2	Bloom period: March-July. Occurs in sandstone or gabbro within chaparral and coastal scrub. Elevations: 140-1275m.	CNDDB CNPS
Blochman's dudleya <i>Dudleya blochmaniae</i> ssp. <i>blochmaniae</i>	--/-- G2T2/S2 1B.1	Bloom period: April-June. Occurs in rocky often clay and serpentinite soils within coastal bluff scrub, chaparral, coastal scrub, as well as valley and foothill grassland. Elevations: 5-450m.	CNDDB CNPS



**Table 3**  
**Special-Status Animal and Plant Species Known to Occur within the Planning Area or Regional Vicinity<sup>1</sup>**

Common Name Scientific Name	Status Fed/State ESA Global Rank/State Rank CDFW or CRPR	Habitat Requirements	Source
Agoura Hills dudleya <i>Dudleya cymosa</i> ssp. <i>agouensis</i>	FT/-- G5T1/S2 1B.2	Bloom period: May-June. Occurs in rocky, volcanic soils within cismontane woodland. Elevations: 200-500m.	CNDDDB CNPS
Southern tarplant <i>Centromadia parryi</i> ssp. <i>australis</i>	--/-- G3T2/S2 1B.1 *	Bloom period: May-November. Occurs in marshes and swamps (margins), vernal pools as well as valley and foothill grassland (vernally mesic). Elevations: 0-480m.	CNDDDB CNPS
Chaparral ragwort <i>Senecio aphanactis</i>	--/-- G3?/S2 2B.2	Bloom period: January-April. Occurs sometimes in alkaline soils within chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub. Elevations: 15-800m.	CNDDDB CNPS
Gambel's watercress <i>Rorippa gambellii</i>	FE/CT G1/S1 1B.1	Bloom period: April-October. Occurs in marshes and swamps (freshwater or brackish). Elevations: 5-330m.	USFWS
Marsh Sandwort <i>Arenaria paludicola</i>	FE/SE G1/S1 1B.1	Bloom period: May-August. Occurs in sandy openings within marshes and swamps (freshwater or brackish). Elevations: 3-169m.	USFWS
San Fernando Valley Spineflower <i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>fernandina</i>	FC/CE G2T1/S1 1B.1	Bloom period: April-July. Occurs in sandy coastal scrub as well as valley and foothill grassland. Elevations: 150-1220m.	USFWS
Santa Monica Mountains dudleya <i>Dudleya cymosa</i> ssp. <i>ovatifolia</i>	FT/-- G5T1/S1 1B.1	Bloom period: March-June. Occurs in rocky volcanic or sedimentary soils within chaparral and coastal scrub. Elevations: 150-1675m.	USFWS
Spreading navarretia <i>Navarretia fossalis</i>	FT/-- G1/S1 1B.1	Bloom period: April-June. Occurs in chenopod scrub, marshes and swamps (assorted shallow freshwater), vernal pools and playas. Elevations: 30-655m.	USFWS
Ojai navarretia <i>Navarretia ojaiensis</i>	--/-- G1/S1 1B.1	Bloom period: May-July. Occurs in openings within chaparral and coastal scrub as well as occurs in valley and foothill grasslands. Elevations: 275-620m	CNPS
dune larkspur <i>Delphinium parryi</i> ssp. <i>blochmaniae</i>	--/-- G4T2/S2 1B.2	Bloom period: April-June. Occurs in maritime chaparral and coastal dunes. Elevations: 0-200m	CNPS
mesa horkelia <i>Horkelia cuneata</i> var. <i>puberula</i>	--/-- G4T1/S1 1B.1	Bloom period: February-September. Occurs in gravelly or sandy soils within coastal scrub, cismontane woodlands and maritime chaparral. Elevations: 70-810m	CNPS
western spleenwort <i>Asplenium vespertinum</i>	--/-- G3?/S3.2 4.2	Bloom period: February-June. Occurs in rocky soils within chaparral, cismontane woodland and coastal scrub. Elevations: 180-1000m	CNPS

**Table 3**  
**Special-Status Animal and Plant Species Known to Occur within the Planning Area or Regional Vicinity<sup>1</sup>**

Common Name Scientific Name	Status Fed/State ESA Global Rank/State Rank CDFW or CRPR	Habitat Requirements	Source
Catalina mariposa lily <i>Calochortus catalinae</i>	--/-- G3/S3.2 4.2	Bloom period: February-June. Occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub, cismontane woodlands as well as valley and foothill grassland. Elevations: 15-700m	CNPS
club-haired mariposa lily <i>Calochortus clavatus</i> var. <i>clavatus</i>	--/-- G4T3/S3 4.3	Bloom period: May-June. Usually occurs in serpentinite, clay or rocky soils within chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub as well as valley and foothill grassland. Elevations: 75-1300m	CNPS
island mountain-mahogany <i>Cercocarpus betuloides</i> var. <i>blancheae</i>	--/-- G5T3/S3.3 4.3	Bloom period: February-May. Occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest and chaparral. Elevations: 30-600m	CNPS
small-flowered morning-glory <i>Convolvulus simulans</i>	--/-- G3/S3.2 4.2	Bloom period: March-July. Occurs in clay and serpentinite seeps within chaparral (openings), coastal scrub, as well as valley and foothill grassland. Elevations: 30-700m	CNPS
Mt. Pinos larkspur <i>Delphinium parryi</i> ssp. <i>purpureum</i>	--/-- G4T3/S3.3 4.3	Bloom period: April-July. Occurs in sandy coastal scrub as well as valley and foothill grassland. Elevations: 1000-2600m	CNPS
fragrant pitcher sage <i>Lepechinia fragrans</i>	--/-- G3/S3.2 4.2	Bloom period: April-July. Occurs in sandy coastal scrub as well as valley and foothill grassland. Elevations: 20-1310m	CNPS
ocellated Humboldt lily <i>Lilium humboldtii</i> ssp. <i>ocellatum</i>	--/-- G4T3/S3.2 4.2	Bloom period: April-July. Occurs in sandy coastal scrub as well as valley and foothill grassland. Elevations: 30-1800m	CNPS
Michael's rein orchid <i>Piperia michaelii</i>	--/-- G3/S3.2 4.2	Bloom period: April-July. Occurs in sandy coastal scrub as well as valley and foothill grassland. Elevations: 3-915m	CNPS

Sources: CNDDDB (CDFW, 2014); USFWS IPaC (2014), and CNPS Rare Plant Inventory (2014).

\* = Ventura County Locally Important Animal/Plant List (Ventura County, 2012).

<sup>1</sup> = Regional vicinity refers to within 5-miles of the planning area (CNDDDB) or within the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles that the planning area is located within (CNPS).

FT = Federally Threatened

SE = State Endangered

FC = Federal Candidate Species

ST = State Threatened

FE = Federally Endangered

SR = State Rare

FS = Federally Sensitive

SS = State Sensitive

DL = Delisted

FP = Fully Protected

SSC = CDFW Species of Special Concern

G-Rank/S-Rank = Global Rank and State Rank as per NatureServe and CDFW's CNDDDB RareFind5.

CRPR (California Rare Plant Rank):

1A=Presumed Extinct in California

1B=Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and elsewhere

2=Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, but more common elsewhere

3=Need more information (a Review List)

4=Plants of Limited Distribution (a Watch List)

CRPR Threat Code Extension:

.1=Seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree and immediacy of threat)

.2=Fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened)

.3=Not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened)

As shown in Table 3, there are 52 special-status plant and animal species identified by the USFWS IPaC, CNDDDB, and CNPS Online Inventory of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants of California within or in the vicinity of the planning area. Twenty one of these species are given high levels of protection through listing under FESA or CESA. The remaining species shown in Table 3 are either animals designated as “Species of Special Concern,” “Fully Protected,” or “Watch List” by the CDFW or plants with a California Rare Plant Rank. Most special-status species have very limited ranges and specific habitat requirements. Special-status species may also tend to be associated with sensitive habitats, such as riparian habitats and drainages. Five of the 52 special-status species have been documented within the planning area by the CNDDDB (see Figure 8): least Bell’s vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), arroyo chub (*Gila orcuttii*), western pond turtle (*Actinemys pallida*), southern curly-leaved monardella (*Monardella sinuata* ssp. *sinuata*) and conejo buckwheat (*Eriogonum crocatum*).

Because of the programmatic nature of the Trail Master Plan, a precise, project-level analysis of the specific impacts of individual trail projects on special-status species is not possible at this time. Overall, those projects that occur within urban/developed habitats are less likely to contain habitat for special-status species compared to undeveloped habitats (see Item 4b and Figure 8). However, some special-status species may exist where some proposed trail improvements requiring construction are located. For instance, as discussed below under Item 4c, trail improvements requiring new construction which intersect or occur near creeks and drainages are within suitable habitat for species such as California red-legged frog (Federally Threatened and State Species of Special Concern), steelhead – Southern California Distinct Population Segment (DPS) (Federally Endangered and State Species of Special Concern), and arroyo chub (State Species of Special Concern). Other proposed trail improvements could impact sensitive species that occupy upland habitats. For example, coast horned lizards (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*), a State Species of Special Concern, may be present in scrub, grassland, and some woodland habitats which are prevalent within the planning area; as discussed below under Item 4b, trails requiring new construction intersect with these habitat types. Several special-status bat species also may be affected if they occur within woodland habitats that located adjacent to proposed trails requiring construction. Furthermore, the wide variety of habitats within the planning area, such as shrubland and woodland habitats that new construction projects intersect, can support many species of nesting birds including the least Bell’s Vireo, coastal California gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila californica californica*) and white-tailed kite (*Elanus luecurus*). Disturbance of special-status plants could result in reductions in local population size, habitat fragmentation, or lower reproductive success.

Direct impacts to special-status species include injury or mortality as a result of ground disturbance or the removal of native habitat during trail construction. Direct impacts also include the loss or modification of habitat, resulting in mortality or otherwise altering foraging and breeding behavior substantially enough to cause injury. The construction of trails also can have indirect impacts on sensitive species by facilitating the spread of invasive non-native species. For example, the spread of certain weed species can reduce the biodiversity of native habitats, potentially eliminating special-status plant species and reducing the availability of suitable forage and breeding sites for special-status animal species. Indirect impacts could also result from increased access by

humans and domestic animals (especially dogs), whose presence fosters the spread of non-native invasive plant species and disrupts the normal behaviors of animal species. Due to a range of direct and indirect adverse effects from trail construction, the proposed Trail Master Plan has a potentially significant impact on special-status species without mitigation.

No impacts to critical habitat including Lyon's pentachaeta are anticipated as no critical habitat intersects new construction projects.

Given that proposed trails requiring construction intersect with woodland or forest type habitats, as discussed below under Item 4b, ground-disturbing activities associated with these trails also could directly impact trees through trimming, removal or directly and indirectly through disturbance of tree root systems. Impacts on protected trees are potentially significant without mitigation.

### **Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

Because of the programmatic nature of the Trail Master Plan, the following mitigation measures apply to all proposed trail improvements requiring construction and ground disturbance, as depicted in Figures 4, 8, 9, and 10. During future environmental review of individual proposed trail improvements, these mitigation measures may be amended as necessary to respond to site-specific conditions, as implementation of Mitigation Measure 4A-a will involve evaluating impacts to biological resources for each individual project based on final design and conditions on-site at the time of project implementation. Impacts to sensitive species from adoption of the Trail Master Plan will be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

#### **4A-a: Biological Resources Screening and Assessment**

**Purpose:** To determine impacts to biological resources on a project-by-project basis when final designs are completed.

**Requirement:** On a project-by-project basis, upon completion of final design, a preliminary biological resource screening shall be performed as part of the environmental review process to determine whether the project has any potential to impact biological resources. If it is determined that the project has no potential to impact biological resources, no further action is required. If the project will have the potential to impact biological resources, prior to construction, a qualified biologist shall conduct an Initial Study Biological Assessment (ISBA) or similar type of study to document the existing biological resources within the project footprint plus a buffer and to determine the potential impacts to those resources. The ISBA shall evaluate the potential for impacts to all biological resources including, but not limited to special-status species, nesting birds, wildlife movement, sensitive plant communities/critical habitat, Essential Fish Habitat, and other resources judged to be sensitive by local, state, and/or federal agencies. Pending the results of the ISBA, design alterations, further technical studies (e.g., protocol surveys) and/or consultations with the USFWS, CDFW and/or other local, state, and federal agencies may be required. The following mitigation measures

[4A-b) through 4A-j] shall be incorporated, as applicable, into the ISBA for projects where specific resources are present or may be present and impacted by the project. Specific surveys described in the mitigation measures below may be completed as part of the ISBA where suitable habitat is present.

**Documentation:** The implementing entity shall provide to the Planning Division an ISBA prepared by a County-approved biologist.

**Timing:** Upon completion of final design.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The ISBA shall be submitted to the Planning Division for review and approval.

#### **4A-b: Special-Status Plant Species Surveys**

**Purpose:** To determine the presence of and extent of impacts to special-status plant species.

**Requirement:** If completion of the project-specific ISBA determines that special-status plant species may occur on-site, surveys for special-status plants shall be completed prior to any vegetation removal, grubbing, or other construction activity of each segment (including staging and mobilization). The surveys shall be floristic in nature and shall be seasonally-timed to coincide with the target species identified in the project-specific ISBA. All plant surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist approved by the implementing agency no more than one year before initial ground disturbance so that sufficient time is allotted to develop a restoration plan and complete agency consultations, if necessary. All special-status plant species identified on-site shall be mapped onto a site-specific aerial photograph and topographic map. Surveys shall be conducted in accordance with the most current protocols established by the CDFW, USFWS, and the local jurisdictions if said protocols exist. A report of the survey results shall be submitted to the implementing agency, and the CDFW and/or USFWS, as appropriate, for review and approval.

**Documentation:** The implementing entity shall provide to the Planning Division a botanical survey report prepared by a County-approved biologist for those individual trail improvements for which the project-specific ISBA determines that special-status plant species may occur on-site.

**Timing:** No more than two years before initial ground disturbance.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The botanical survey report shall be submitted to the implementing agency, and the CDFW and/or USFWS, as appropriate, for review and approval.

#### **4A-c: Special-Status Plant Species Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation**

**Purpose:** To avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential impacts to species status plant species.

**Requirement:** If State listed or California Rare Plant List 1B species are found during special-status plant surveys [pursuant to mitigation measure 4A-b], then the trail segment as shown in the Master Plan

shall be relocated and/or re-designed to avoid impacting these plant species. Rare plant occurrences that are not within the immediate disturbance footprint, but are located within 50 feet of disturbance limits shall have brightly colored protective fencing installed at least 30 feet beyond their extent, or other distance as approved by a qualified biologist, to protect them from harm.

**Documentation:** The locations of list 1B special-status plant species and of protective fencing shall be identified on project-specific plans.

**Timing:** Prior to initial ground disturbance.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The Planning Division shall maintain a copy of the approved plans in the project file. The implementing entity shall verify that the temporary fencing has been installed in accordance to the approved plans to the satisfaction of the Planning Division.

#### **4A-d: Restoration and Monitoring**

**Purpose:** To prepare a plan which addresses compensation for the potential removal of special-status plant species during construction.

**Requirement:** If special-status plant species cannot be avoided and will be impacted by a project implemented under the Trail Master Plan, the total number and/or total acreage for each special-status plant species shall be determined prior to initiation of ground disturbance activities in any areas containing such species and shall be restored on-site at a minimum of a 2:1 ratio for each species. A restoration plan shall be prepared and submitted to the jurisdiction overseeing the project for approval. (If a state listed plant species will be impacted, the restoration plan shall be submitted to the CDFW for approval). The plan shall be in place for no less than five years.

The restoration plan shall include, at a minimum, the following components:

- Description of the project/impact site (i.e., location, responsible parties, areas to be impacted by habitat type);
- Goal(s) of the compensatory mitigation project [type(s) and area(s) of habitat where special-status plant species will be established as well as specific functions and values of habitat type(s);
- Description of the proposed compensatory mitigation site (location and size, ownership status, existing functions and values);
- Implementation plan for the compensatory mitigation site (rationale for expecting implementation success, responsible parties, schedule, site preparation, planting plan);
- Maintenance activities during the monitoring period, including weed removal as appropriate (activities, responsible parties, schedule);
- Monitoring plan for the compensatory mitigation site, including no less than quarterly monitoring for the first year

(performance standards, target functions and values, target acreages to be established, restored, enhanced, and/or preserved, annual monitoring reports);

- Success criteria based on the goals and measurable objectives; said criteria are to be determined based on the species to be mitigated.
- An adaptive management program and remedial measures to address any shortcomings in meeting success criteria;
- Notification of completion of compensatory mitigation and agency confirmation; and
- Contingency measures (initiating procedures, alternative locations for contingency compensatory mitigation, funding mechanism).

**Documentation:** The implementing entity shall provide to the Planning Division a restoration plan prepared by a County-approved biologist for those projects that cannot avoid special-status plant species.

**Timing:** The plan shall be prepared prior to issuing of construction permits.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The restoration plan shall be submitted to the implementing agency, and the CDFW and/or USFWS, as appropriate, for review and approval.

#### **4A-e: Endangered/Threatened Species Habitat Assessment and Protocol Surveys**

**Purpose:** To determine the presence of and potential project impacts to Endangered/Threatened Species.

**Requirement:** Specific habitat assessment and protocol surveys are established for several federally and State Endangered or Threatened species. If the results of the ISBA determine that suitable habitat may be present for any such species, protocol habitat assessments/surveys shall be completed in accordance with CDFW and/or USFWS protocols prior to issuance of any construction permits. If through consultation with the CDFW and/or USFWS it is determined that protocol habitat assessments/surveys are not required, said consultation shall be documented prior to issuance of any construction permits. Each protocol has different survey and timing requirements. The applicant for each project shall be responsible for ensuring they understand the protocol requirements.

**Documentation:** The implementing entity shall provide to the Planning Division the appropriate species-dependent habitat assessment/protocol survey report prepared by a County-approved biologist in accordance with CDFW and/or USFWS protocols.

**Timing:** Prior to the issuance of any construction permits.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The habitat assessment/protocol survey report(s) shall be submitted to the implementing agency, and the CDFW and/or USFWS, as appropriate, for review and approval.

#### **4A-f: Endangered/Threatened Species Avoidance and Minimization**

**Purpose:** To avoid and minimize potential impacts to endangered/threatened species.

**Requirement:** Considering the programmatic nature of this analysis, the potential impacts from any given project implemented under the Trail Master Plan are highly variable. If federal and/or state listed species are identified on a project site, consultation with USFWS and/or CDFW will be required, and additional permits and additional mitigation may be required. However, several avoidance and minimization measures can be applied for a variety of species to reduce the potential for impact, with the final goal of no net loss of the species. That said, The following measures may be applied to aquatic and/or terrestrial species. The following measures can be selected as appropriate given site conditions at the time of construction and the types of activities being conducted.

- Ground disturbance shall be limited to the minimum necessary to complete the project. The project limits of disturbance shall be flagged. Areas of special biological concern within or adjacent to the limits of disturbance shall have highly visible construction fencing installed between said area and the limits of disturbance.
- All projects occurring within/adjacent to aquatic habitats (including riparian habitats and wetlands) shall be completed between April 1 and October 31, if feasible, to avoid impacts to sensitive aquatic species.
- All projects occurring within or adjacent to sensitive habitats that may support federally and/or state Endangered/Threatened species shall have a CDFW and/or USFWS-approved biologist present during all initial ground disturbing/vegetation clearing activities. Once initial ground disturbing/vegetation clearing activities have been completed, said biologist shall conduct daily pre-activity clearance surveys for Endangered/Threatened species. Alternatively, and upon approval of the CDFW and/or USFWS, said biologist may conduct site inspections at a minimum of once per week to ensure all prescribed avoidance and minimization measures are being fully implemented.
- No Endangered/Threatened species shall be captured and relocated without expressed permission from the CDFW and/or USFWS.
- If at any time during construction of the project an Endangered/Threatened species enters the construction site or otherwise may be impacted by the project, all project activities shall cease. A CDFW/USFWS-approved biologist shall document the occurrence and consult with the CDFW and/or USFWS as appropriate.



- For all projects occurring in areas where Endangered/Threatened species may be present and are at risk of entering the project site during construction, exclusion fencing shall be placed along the project boundaries prior to start of construction (including staging and mobilization). The placement of the fence shall be at the discretion of the CDFW/USFWS-approved biologist. This fence shall consist of solid silt fencing placed at a minimum of 3 feet above grade and 2 feet below grade and shall be attached to wooden stakes placed at intervals of not more than 5 feet. The fence shall be inspected weekly and following rain events and high wind events and shall be maintained in good working condition until all construction activities are complete.
- All vehicle maintenance/fueling/staging shall occur not less than 100 feet from any riparian habitat or water body. Suitable containment procedures shall be implemented to prevent spills. A minimum of one spill kit shall be available at each work location near riparian habitat or water bodies.
- No equipment shall be permitted to enter wetted portions of any affected drainage channel.
- All equipment operating within streams shall be in good conditions and free of leaks. Spill containment shall be installed under all equipment staged within stream areas and extra spill containment and clean up materials shall be located in close proximity for easy access.
- If project activities could degrade water quality, water quality sampling shall be implemented to identify the pre-project baseline, and to monitor during construction for comparison to the baseline.
- If water is to be diverted around work sites, a diversion plan shall be submitted (depending upon the species that may be present) to the CDFW, RWQCB, USFWS, and/or National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for their review and approval prior to the start of any construction activities (including staging and mobilization). If pumps are used, all intakes shall be completely screened with wire mesh not larger than five millimeters to prevent animals from entering the pump system.
- At the end of each work day, excavations shall be secured with cover or a ramp provided to prevent wildlife entrapment.
- All trenches, pipes, culverts or similar structures shall be inspected for animals prior to burying, capping, moving, or filling.
- The CDFW/USFWS-approved biologist shall remove invasive aquatic species such as bullfrogs and crayfish from suitable aquatic habitat whenever observed and shall dispatch them in a humane manner and dispose of them properly.
- If any federally and/or state protected species are harmed, the CDFW/USFWS-approved biologist shall document the circumstances that led to harm and shall determine if project

activities should cease or be altered in an effort to avoid additional harm to these species. Dead or injured special-status species shall be disposed of at the discretion of the CDFW and USFWS. All incidences of harm shall be reported to the CDFW and USFWS within 48 hours.

**Documentation:** The implementing entity shall provide to the Planning Division monthly monitoring reports prepared by a County-approved biologist to verify adherence to the above avoidance and minimization measures.

**Timing:** During construction.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The Planning Division shall maintain copies of the monthly monitoring reports.

#### **4A-g: Non-Listed Special-Status Animal Species Avoidance and Minimization**

**Purpose:** To avoid and minimize potential impacts to non-listed special-status species.

**Requirements:** Several State Species of Special Concern or Locally Important Species may be impacted by projects implemented under the Trail Master Plan. Because of the programmatic approach of the Trail Master Plan, the ecological requirements and potential for impacts is highly variable among these species. Depending on the species identified in the ISBA, several of the measures identified under Mitigation Measure 4-Af shall be applicable to the project. In addition, measures should be selected from among the following to reduce the potential for impacts to non-listed special-status animal species depending upon the site conditions at the time of construction and the activities being conducted:

- For non-listed special-status terrestrial amphibians and reptiles, coverboard surveys shall be completed within three months of the start of construction. The coverboards shall be at least four feet by four feet and constructed of untreated plywood placed flat on the ground. The coverboards shall be checked by a qualified biologist once per week for each week after placement up until the start of vegetation removal. All non-listed special-status and common animals found under the coverboards shall be captured and placed in five-gallon buckets for transportation to relocation sites. All relocation sites shall be reviewed by the project sponsor and shall consist of suitable habitat. Relocation sites shall be as close to the capture site as possible but far enough away to ensure the animal(s) is not harmed by construction of the project. Relocation shall occur on the same day as capture. CNDDB Field Survey Forms shall be submitted to the CDFW for all special-status animal species observed.
- Pre-construction clearance surveys shall be conducted within 14 days of the start of construction (including staging and mobilization). The surveys shall cover the entire disturbance

footprint plus a minimum 200 foot buffer, if feasible, and shall identify all special-status animal species that may occur on-site. With approval from the sponsor agency, all non-listed special-status species, including Locally Important Species, shall be relocated from the site either through direct capture or through passive exclusion. A report of the pre-construction survey shall be submitted to implementing agency for their review and approval prior to the start of construction.

- A qualified biologist shall be present during all initial ground disturbing activities, including vegetation removal to recover special-status animal species unearthed by construction activities.
- Upon completion of the project, a qualified biologist shall prepare a Final Compliance report documenting all compliance activities implemented for the project, including the pre-construction survey results. The report shall be submitted within 30 days of completion of the project.
- If special-status bat species may be present and impacted by the project, a qualified biologist shall conduct within 30 days of the start of construction presence/absence surveys for special-status bats in consultation with the CDFW where suitable roosting habitat is present. Surveys shall be conducted using acoustic detectors and by searching tree cavities, crevices, and other areas where bats may roost. If active roosts are located, exclusion devices such as netting shall be installed to discourage bats from occupying the site. If a roost is determined by a qualified biologist to be used by a large number of bats (large hibernaculum), bat boxes shall be installed near the project site. The number of bat boxes installed will depend on the size of the hibernaculum and shall be determined through consultations with the CDFW. If a maternity colony has become established, all construction activities shall be postponed within a 500-foot buffer around the maternity colony until it is determined by a qualified biologist that the young have dispersed. Once it has been determined that the roost is clear of bats, the roost shall be removed immediately.

**Documentation:** The implementing entity shall provide to the Planning Division monthly monitoring reports prepared by a County-approved biologist to verify adherence to the above avoidance and minimization measures.

**Timing:** During construction.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The Planning Division shall maintain copies of the monthly monitoring reports.

#### **4A-h: Preconstruction Surveys for Nesting Birds**

**Purpose:** To prevent impacts to birds and their nests that are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code.

**Requirement:** For construction activities occurring during the nesting season (generally February 1 to August 31), surveys for nesting birds covered by the California Fish and Game Code and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 14 days prior to land clearing/vegetation removal. The surveys shall include the entire segment disturbance area plus a 300 foot buffer around the site. If active nests are located, all construction work shall be conducted outside a buffer zone from the nest to be determined by the qualified biologist. The buffer shall be a minimum of 300 feet for most birds and 500 feet for raptors, as recommended by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. This setback can be increased or decreased based on the recommendation of the County-approved biologist and approval from the Planning Division. The buffer area(s) shall be closed to all construction personnel and equipment until the adults and young are no longer reliant on the nest site. A qualified biologist shall confirm that breeding/nesting is completed and young have fledged the nest prior to removal of the buffer. A report of these preconstruction nesting bird surveys shall be submitted to the Planning Division.

**Documentation:** The implementing entity shall provide to the Planning Division a nesting bird survey report prepared by a County-approved biologist documenting the results of the initial nesting bird survey and a plan for continued surveys and avoidance of nests in accordance with the requirements above. The monitoring of occupied nests shall be documented in the monthly reports for measures 4A-f and 4A-g.

**Timing:** No more than 14 days prior to land clearing/vegetation removal and during construction.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The Planning Division shall maintain copies of the initial survey report and monthly monitoring reports.

#### **4A-i: Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP)**

**Purpose:** To educate construction personnel of the sensitive biological resources that may occur within the project area as well as the mitigations measures developed to reduce impacts to those resources.

**Requirements:** Prior to initiation of construction activities (including staging and mobilization), all personnel associated with project construction shall attend WEAP training, conducted by a qualified biologist, to aid workers in recognizing special-status resources that may occur in the project area. The specifics of this program shall include identification of the sensitive species and habitats, a description of the regulatory status and general ecological characteristics of sensitive resources, and review of the limits of construction and mitigation measures required to reduce impacts to biological resources within the work area. A fact sheet conveying this information shall also be prepared for distribution to all contractors, their employers, and other personnel involved with construction of the project. All employees shall sign a form documenting that they have

attended the WEAP and understand the information presented to them. The form(s) shall be submitted to the implementing agency to document compliance.

**Documentation:** The implementing entity shall provide to the Planning Division a project-specific fact sheet as well as sign-in forms documenting those personnel in attendance of WEAP training to be included in the monthly reports for measures 4A-f and 4A-g.

**Timing:** Prior to and during construction activities.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The Planning Division shall maintain copies of the monthly monitoring reports.

#### **4A-j: Tree Protection**

**Purpose:** To avoid and mitigate for potential impacts to trees protected by the County.

**Requirements:** If it is determined that construction may impact trees protected by the County, the implementing agency shall procure all necessary tree removal permits. A tree protection and replacement plan shall be developed by a certified arborist as appropriate. The plan shall include, but will not be limited to, an inventory of trees within the construction site, setbacks from trees and protective fencing, restrictions regarding grading and paving near trees, direction regarding pruning and digging within root zone of trees, and requirements for replacement and maintenance of trees. If protected trees will be removed, replacement tree plantings of like species in accordance with local agency standards, but at a minimum ratio of 2:1 (trees planted to trees impacted), shall be installed on-site or at an approved off-site location and a restoration and monitoring program shall be developed in accordance with 4A-d and shall be implemented for a minimum of seven years or until stasis has been determined by certified arborist. If a protected tree shall be encroached upon but not removed, a certified arborist shall be present to oversee all trimming of roots and branches.

**Documentation:** The implementing entity shall provide to the Planning Division a tree protection and replacement plan prepared by a County-approved certified arborist for those trail improvements that cannot avoid impacts to trees protected by the County.

**Timing:** The plan shall be prepared prior to issuing of construction permits.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The tree protection and replacement plan shall be submitted to the County for review and approval.

Sources: CDFW, CNDDDB, 2014. CNPS, *Online Inventory of Rare, Threatened and Endangered Plants of California*. County of Ventura, *Locally Important Animal/Plant List*, 2012. USFWS, *Critical Habitat Portal*, 2014. USFWS, *Environmental Conservation Online System: Information, Planning and Conservation System (IPaC)*, 2014.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>4B. Ecological Communities - Sensitive Plant Communities</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Temporarily or permanently remove sensitive plant communities through construction, grading, clearing, or other activities?			X				X	
2) Result in indirect impacts from project operation at levels that will degrade the health of a sensitive plant community?			X				X	

### Impact Discussion:

4b-1 and 4b-2. Because of the geographic scale of this programmatic Initial Study, the habitats found within the planning area are initially presented using the CDFW California Wildlife Habitat Relationships (CWHR) habitat classification system which depicts a broad illustration of the habitat types found within the planning area. A description of each of these habitats adapted from *A Guide to Wildlife Habitats of California* (Mayer and Laudenslayer, 1988) is presented below. The vegetation classifications from the State Vegetation Alliances and Associations, which are based on *A Manual of California Vegetation, Second Edition* (Sawyer et al., 2009), that are found within these general habitat types are also presented in Table 4. The estimated acreage of each alliance within the planning area is also presented in Table 4. Thirteen of these alliances are considered high priority by the CDFW. It should be noted that these habitats likely show site-specific variation and that in many areas it is expected that two or more habitats may blend with one another. Habitats which occur within populated areas can also show variation because of a greater exposure to anthropogenic influences such as the introduction of exotic plant species and as such urban and other developed habitat types are not described by the State Vegetation Alliances and Associations.

*Valley Foothill Riparian.* This habitat type is associated with drainages, particularly those with low velocity flows, flood plains, and gentle topography. This habitat is generally comprised of a sub-canopy tree layer dominated by cottonwoods (*Populus* sp.), sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), and/or valley oak and an understory shrub layer typically consisting of willows (*Salix* spp.) and/or mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*).

*Coastal Oak Woodland.* Coastal oak woodlands are common to mesic coastal foothills of California. The woodlands do not form a continuous belt, but occur in a mosaic closely associated with mixed chaparral, coastal scrub and annual grasslands. These woodlands are commonly dominated by coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). At drier sites other species such as blue oak and foothill pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) may also be interspersed. The understory of dense stands tends to be composed of shade tolerant shrubs and herbaceous plant species such as toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*). In areas with more open canopies the understory may be more dominated by grassland and shrub species such as California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), and poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*).

*Eucalyptus Forest.* This habitat type ranges from single-species thickets with little or no shrubby understory to scattered trees over a well-developed herbaceous and shrubby understory. In most cases, eucalyptus forms a dense stand with a closed canopy. Blue gum eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*) and red gum eucalyptus (*E. camaldulensis*) are the most common eucalyptus species found in these stands. The understory of these areas tends to have extensive patches of leaf litter.

*Coastal Scrub.* This habitat type is typically dominated by shrub species with mesophytic leaves and shallow root systems. This habitat type can differ in composition depending upon proximity to the coastline. California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) tends to be common in all coastal scrub habitats.

*Mixed Chaparral.* Mixed Chaparral is a structurally homogeneous brushland type dominated by shrubs with thick, stiff, heavily cutinized evergreen leaves. Shrub height and crown cover vary with age since last burn, precipitation, aspect, and soil type. At maturity, cismontane Mixed Chaparral typically is a dense, nearly impenetrable thicket. On poor sites, serpentine soils or transmontane slopes, shrub cover may be considerably reduced and shrubs may be shorter. Leaf litter and standing dead material may accumulate in stands that have not burned for several decades.

*Annual Grasslands.* This habitat type is composed primarily of non-native annual herbs and forbs and typically lacks shrub or tree cover. The physiognomy and species composition of annual grasslands is highly variable and also varies considerably on a temporal scale. Grazing is a common land use within this habitat type. Common grass species include wild oats (*Avena* sp.), soft chess brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), and red brome (*Bromus madritensis*). Common forb species can include species of filaree (*Erodium* sp.), and bur clover (*Medicago* sp.).

*Urban.* This habitat type is also a completely man-made habitat comprising residential, commercial, and industrial developed areas. Plant species within urban habitats are typically comprised of ornamental and other non-native invasive plant species, with large developed areas lacking vegetation.

*Cropland.* This habitat type is characterized by areas in active agriculture and is an entirely man-made habitat. The structure of vegetation can vary in size, shape, and growing pattern. The dominant cropland use is row crops. Typical crops consist of grasses and forbs. Subcategories of cropland habitat classifications include, but are not limited to, dryland grain crop, irrigated hayfield crop and irrigated row and field crop.

**Table 4**  
**Vegetation Alliances and Habitat Types within the Planning Area**

Vegetation Alliance	Acreage Found in the Planning Area	Intersects a Trail Improvement Requiring Construction?
<b>Herbaceous Alliances</b>		
<i>Leymus condensatus</i> (Giant wild rye grassland) <sup>1</sup>	2.36	No
<i>Avena</i> (barbata, fatua) (Wild oats grasslands) Semi-natural Stands	431.59	Yes
<b>Shrubland Alliances</b>		
<i>Opuntia littoralis</i> (Coast prickly pear scrub) <sup>1</sup>	173.30	Yes
<i>Artemisia californica</i> (California sagebrush scrub)	355.27	Yes
<i>Artemisia californica-Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> (California sagebrush-California buckwheat scrub)	33.00	No
<i>Artemisia californica-Salvia mellifera</i> (California sagebrush-black sage scrub)	4.76	Yes
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i> (Coyote brush scrub) <sup>2</sup>	240.25	Yes
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i> (Mulefat thickets)	5.51	Yes
<i>Ceanothus megacarpus</i> (Big pod Ceanothus chaparral)	7.97	No
<i>Cercocarpus montanus</i> (Birch leaf mountain mahogany chaparral)	2.93	No
<i>Encelia californica</i> (California brittle bush scrub) <sup>1</sup>	12.80	Yes
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i> (California buckwheat scrub) <sup>2</sup>	38.29	Yes
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i> (Toyon chaparral) <sup>1</sup>	7.00	Yes
<i>Diplacus aurantiacus</i> (Bush monkeyflower scrub) <sup>1</sup>	0.45	No
<i>Salvia leucophylla</i> (Purple sage scrub)	40.29	Yes
<i>Salvia mellifera</i> (Black sage scrub) <sup>2</sup>	328.88	Yes
<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i> (Poison oak scrub)	6.19	No
<i>Malacothamnus fasciculatus</i> (Bush mallow scrub)	46.69	Yes
<i>Rhus integrifolia</i> (Lemonade berry scrub) <sup>1</sup>	124.94	Yes
<b>Forest and Woodland Alliances</b>		
<i>Eucalyptus (globulus, camaldulensis)</i> (Eucalyptus groves) Semi-natural Stands	13.92	Yes
<i>Juglans californica</i> (California walnut groves) <sup>1</sup>	4.17	No
<i>Platanus racemosa</i> (California sycamore woodlands) <sup>1</sup>	17.23	No
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i> (Coast live oak woodland) <sup>2</sup>	46.01	Yes
<i>Salix laevigata</i> (Red willow thickets) <sup>1</sup>	25.99	Yes
<i>Schinus (molle, terebinthifolius)</i> – <i>Myoporum laetum</i> (Pepper tree or Myoporum groves) Semi-natural Stands	40.11	No
<b>Anthropogenic Habitats</b>		
Agriculture	595.82	Yes
Urban/Developed	1,978.54	Yes

<sup>1</sup>Vegetation alliances that are considered high priority by the CDFW.

<sup>2</sup>Vegetation alliances that contain associations that are considered high priority by the CDFW.



Because of the programmatic nature of the Trail Master Plan, a precise, project-level analysis of the specific impacts associated with individual trail projects on sensitive habitats is not possible at this time. Thirteen vegetation alliances and/or associations considered high priority by the CDFW occur within the planning area as indicated in Table 4, nine of which intersect proposed trails requiring new construction (Figure 9). These sensitive vegetation alliances include *Heteromeles arbutifolia* (Toyon chaparral) and *Juglans californica* (California walnut groves), which will likely be impacted by new construction projects implemented under the Trail Master Plan.

Direct impacts to sensitive habitats include loss of habitat during construction of the project from grading and clearing. Indirect impacts include habitat degradation caused by the introduction of invasive plant species incidentally from construction equipment and through selection of invasive landscape plants, as well as erosion of disturbed areas and increased human activity. Thus, impacts to sensitive habitats will be potentially significant without mitigation.

### **Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

Because of the programmatic nature of the Trail Master Plan, the following mitigation measures apply to all proposed trail improvements requiring construction and ground disturbance, as depicted in Figures 4 8, 9, and 10. During future environmental review of individual proposed trail improvements, these mitigation measures may be amended as necessary to respond to site-specific conditions, as implementation of Mitigation Measure 4A-a will involve evaluating impacts to biological resources (including sensitive communities) for each individual project based on final design and conditions on-site at the time of project implementation. Impacts from implementation of the Trail Master Plan to sensitive communities will be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

#### **4B-a: Sensitive and Riparian Habitat Restored**

**Purpose:** To mitigate for potential impacts to habitats considered sensitive by the CDFW and riparian habitats.

**Requirement:** Loss of habitats considered sensitive by the CDFW and riparian habitat shall be mitigated at a minimum ratio of 2:1 (acres of habitat restored to acres impacted), and shall occur on-site or as close to the impacted habitat as possible. A mitigation and monitoring plan shall be developed by a qualified biologist in accordance with mitigation measure 4A-d above and shall be implemented for no less than five years after construction of the segment, or until the local jurisdiction and/or the permitting authority (e.g., CDFW or USACE) has determined that restoration has been successful.

**Documentation:** The implementing entity shall provide to the Planning Division a mitigation and monitoring plan prepared by a County-approved biologist for those trail improvements that cannot avoid impacts to sensitive and riparian habitats.

**Timing:** The plan shall be prepared prior to issuance of construction permits.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The mitigation and monitoring plan shall be submitted to the Planning Division, and the CDFW as appropriate, for review and approval.

#### **4B-b: Landscaping Plan**

**Purpose:** To prevent usage of and spread of noxious, invasive, and/or non-native plant species for landscaping.

**Requirements:** If landscaping is proposed for a specific project, a qualified biologist/landscape architect shall prepare a landscape plan for that project. This plan shall indicate the locations and species of plants to be installed. Drought tolerant, locally native plant species shall be used. Noxious, invasive, and/or non-native plant species that are recognized on the Federal Noxious Weed List, California Noxious Weeds List, and/or California Invasive Plant Council rankings shall not be permitted. Species selected for planting shall be similar to those species found in adjacent native habitats.

**Documentation:** The implementing entity shall provide to the Planning Division a landscape plan prepared by a County-approved biologist/landscape architect for all trail improvements with a landscaping component.

**Timing:** The plan shall be prepared prior to issuance of construction permits.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The landscape plan shall be submitted to the Planning Division, for review and approval.

#### **4B-c: Invasive Weed Prevention and Management Program**

**Purpose:** To prevent invasion of native habitat by non-native plant species.

**Requirement:** Prior to start of construction for each project, an Invasive Weed Prevention and Management Program shall be developed by a qualified biologist to prevent invasion of native habitat by non-native plant species. A list of target species shall be included, along with measures for early detection and eradication. All disturbed areas shall be hydroseeded with a mix of locally native species upon completion of work in those areas. In areas where construction is ongoing, hydroseeding shall occur where no construction activities have occurred within six weeks since ground disturbing activities ceased. If exotic species invade these areas prior to hydroseeding, weed removal shall occur in consultation with a qualified biologist and in accordance with the restoration plan.

**Documentation:** The implementing entity shall provide to the Planning Division an Invasive Weed Prevention program prepared by a County-approved biologist for all trail improvements involving construction and ground disturbance. Implementation of the program shall be documented in the monthly reports for measures 4A-f and 4A-g.

**Timing:** The program shall be developed prior to issuance of construction permits.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The Invasive Weed Prevention Program and monthly reports shall be submitted to for review and approval and copies maintained by the Planning Division.

*Sources: CDFW, California Wildlife Habitat Relationships, 2008. CDFW, State Vegetation Alliances and Associations, 2010. Mayer and Laudenslayer, editors, A Guide to Wildlife Habitats of California, 1988. Sawyer et. al., A Manual of California Vegetation, 2009. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Wetlands Inventory, 2014.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>4C. Ecological Communities - Waters and Wetlands</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Cause any of the following activities within waters or wetlands: removal of vegetation; grading; obstruction or diversion of water flow; change in velocity, siltation, volume of flow, or runoff rate; placement of fill; placement of structures; construction of a road crossing; placement of culverts or other underground piping; or any disturbance of the substratum?			X				X	
2) Result in disruptions to wetland or riparian plant communities that will isolate or substantially interrupt contiguous habitats, block seed dispersal routes, or increase vulnerability of wetland species to exotic weed invasion or local extirpation?			X				X	
3) Interfere with ongoing maintenance of hydrological conditions in a water or wetland?			X				X	
4) Provide an adequate buffer for protecting the functions and values of existing waters or wetlands?			X				X	

### Impact Discussion:

4c-1 through 4c-4. The planning area also contains wetlands mapped by the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI). A general description of each of the classifications is provided below and are depicted in Figure 10. The approximate acreages of each wetland type found within the planning area are also presented in Table 5.

***Freshwater Emergent Wetlands.*** Freshwater emergent wetlands include all non-tidal waters dominated by emergent herbaceous plant species, mosses, and/or lichens. Wetlands of this type are also low in salinity. Wetlands which lack vegetation can be included in this class if they are less than 20 acres, do not have an active wave-formed or bedrock shoreline feature, and have a low water depth less than 6.6 feet. Freshwater emergent wetlands are characterized by erect, rooted herbaceous hydrophytes. Dominant vegetation is generally perennial monocots. All emergent wetlands are flooded frequently, enough so that the roots of the vegetation prosper in an anaerobic environment. The vegetation may vary in size from small clumps to vast areas covering several kilometers. The acreage of Fresh Emergent Wetlands in California has decreased dramatically since the turn of the century due to drainage and conversion to other uses, primarily agriculture.

***Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetlands.*** These wetlands include non-tidal waters which are dominated by trees and shrubs, with emergent herbaceous plants, mosses and/or lichens. Wetlands which lack vegetation can be included in this class if they also exhibit the same criteria as described for freshwater emergent wetlands. The vegetation found in freshwater forested/shrub wetlands are generally dominated by woody vegetation such as shrubs and trees.

***Freshwater Ponds.*** Freshwater ponds include non-tidal waters with vegetative cover along its edges such as trees, shrubs, emergent herbaceous plants, mosses, and/or lichens. Freshwater ponds can be man-made or natural and typically consist of an area of standing water with variable amounts of shoreline. These wetlands and deep water habitats are dominated by plants that grow on or below the surface of the water.

***Riverine.*** Riverine wetlands are a riverine system which includes all wetlands and deep water habitats contained in natural or artificial channels that contain periodically or continuously flowing water. This system may also form a connecting link between two bodies of standing water. Substrates generally consist of rock, cobble, gravel or sand.

***Miscellaneous Wetlands.*** These wetland types are those that do not fit the criteria of the previously described wetland types. These wetlands are typically Palustrine systems and some examples include farmed wetlands and seeps.

**Table 5**  
**Wetland Classifications Occurring Within the Planning Area**

<b>Wetland Classification</b>	<b>Acreage</b>	<b>Wetland Intersects a Trail Project?</b>
Miscellaneous Wetlands	5.02	No
Freshwater Emergent Wetlands	7.56	Yes
Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetlands	15.61	Yes
Freshwater Pond	1.0	No
Riverine	13.92	Yes

*Source: USFWS, National Wetlands Inventory, 2014.*

Because of the programmatic nature of the Trail Master Plan, a precise, project-level analysis of the specific impacts associated with individual trail projects on wetlands is not possible at this time. As indicated in Table 5 and depicted in Figure 10, proposed trail improvements requiring construction intersect freshwater emergent wetlands, freshwater forested/shrub wetlands and riverine wetland classifications. Riparian areas, which generally fall under the category of freshwater forested/shrub wetlands, provide wildlife habitat, and movement corridors, enabling both terrestrial and aquatic organisms to move along river systems between areas of suitable habitat. Proposed trail improvements requiring construction also intersect Arroyo Santa Rosa, Conejo Creek, and Arroyo Conejo as depicted on Figure 10. Construction of these trails could result in direct impacts from the disturbance of riparian corridors and wetlands. Direct impacts to wetlands and drainages include loss of habitat during construction of the project from grading and clearing. Potential indirect impacts include habitat degradation caused by the incidental introduction of invasive plant species from construction equipment and through the selection of invasive landscape plants. In addition, erosion could adversely affect downstream water quality. Impacts on waters and wetlands will be potentially significant without mitigation.

### **Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

Because of the programmatic nature of the Trail Master Plan, the following mitigation measures apply to all proposed trail improvements requiring construction and ground disturbance, as depicted in Figures 4, 8, 9, and 10. During future environmental review of individual proposed trail improvements, these mitigation measures may be amended as necessary to respond to site-specific conditions, as implementation of Mitigation Measure 4A-a will involve evaluating impacts to biological resources (including wetlands) for each individual project based on final design and conditions on-site at the time of project implementation. In addition, implementation of Mitigation Measure 4E-b (see Item 4e) will reduce erosion and water quality impacts to waters and wetlands through construction BMPs. Impacts from implementation of the Trail Master Plan to wetlands and drainages will be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

#### **4C-a: Jurisdictional Delineation**

**Purpose:** To determine the presence and extent of wetland, drainages, riparian habitats, or other areas that may fall under the jurisdiction of the CDFW, USACE, or RWQCB.

**Requirement:** If projects implemented under the Trail Master Plan occur within or adjacent to wetland, drainages, riparian habitats, or other areas that may fall under the jurisdiction of the CDFW, USACE, or RWQCB, a qualified biologist shall complete a jurisdictional delineation. The jurisdictional delineation shall determine the extent of the jurisdiction for each of these agencies and shall be conducted in accordance with the requirement set forth by each agency. The result shall be a preliminary jurisdictional delineation report that shall be submitted to the implementing agency, USACE, RWQCB, CDFW, as appropriate, for review and approval. If jurisdictional areas are expected to be impacted, then the RWQCB will require a Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) permit and/or Section 401 Water





Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
1) Remove habitat within a wildlife movement corridor?			X				X	
2) Isolate habitat?			X				X	
3) Construct or create barriers that impede fish and/or wildlife movement, migration or long term connectivity or interfere with wildlife access to foraging habitat, breeding habitat, water sources, or other areas necessary for their reproduction?			X				X	
4) Intimidate fish or wildlife via the introduction of noise, light, development or increased human presence?			X				X	

### Impact Discussion:

4e-1 through 4e-4. Wildlife movement corridors can be both regional and local in scale. For instance, mountainous regions may support wildlife movement on a regional scale while riparian corridors and drainages may provide more local opportunities for wildlife movement. According to CDFW BIOS mapping (2013) one essential connectivity area is located adjacent to and east of the planning area; however, none are mapped within the planning area. A habitat linkage is also located along the southern and eastern edge of the planning area, as identified by the report South Coast Missing Linkages: A Wildland Network (SC Wildlands, 2008). These areas are identified as important movement corridors for species such as steelhead, mountain lion, riparian birds, and other small carnivores. Smaller-scale connectivity within the planning area includes any of the drainages that are identified above in Figure 10.

Because of the programmatic nature of the Trail Master Plan, a precise, project-level analysis of the specific impacts of individual projects on wildlife movement and habitat connectivity is not possible at this time. However, proposed trail improvements will increase human activity in the vicinity of small-scale movement corridors such as riparian areas or drainages. In addition, some proposed trails requiring construction intersect drainages, as depicted in Figure 10, thus, depending upon final design, these trails may impact connectivity within the given drainage for fish as well as amphibian species. In addition, proposed trails requiring construction in the southern portion of the planning area do intersect with the habitat linkage identified by the report South Coast Missing Linkages: A Wildland Network (SC Wildlands, 2008) and could result in the removal of habitat within the linkage.



Other direct impacts to wildlife movement include increased noise and human presence during construction, as well as increased trash and increased presence of humans and domestic animals over the long-term, which may behaviorally alter wildlife movement patterns in the vicinity of the proposed trail projects. In addition, project components such as fencing or walls could hinder wildlife movement.

### **Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

Because of the programmatic nature of the Trail Master Plan, the following mitigation measures apply to all trail projects that may be implemented, including both trails requiring construction and improvements to existing trails as depicted in Figures 4, 8, 9, and 10. These mitigation measures are designed to minimize impacts during construction and long-term operation of proposed trail improvements. Impacts from implementation of the Trail Master Plan to wildlife movement will be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

#### **4E-a: Fence and Lighting Design**

**Purpose:** To minimize impacts to wildlife movement from project fencing and lighting.

**Requirement:** All projects including fencing and lighting shall be designed to minimize impacts to wildlife. Fencing shall not block wildlife movement through riparian or other natural habitat. Where fencing is required for public safety concerns, the fence shall be designed to permit wildlife movement by incorporating design features such as:

- A minimum 18 inches between the ground and the bottom of the fence to provide clearance for small animals;
- A minimum 12 inches between the top two wires, or top the fence with a wooden rail, mesh, or chain link instead of wire to prevent animals from becoming entangled;
- If privacy fencing is required near open space areas, openings at the bottom of the fence that are at least 16 inches in diameter shall be installed at reasonable intervals to allow wildlife movement;
- The top rail or wire that is no more than 40 inches above the ground;
- Both the top and bottom wires or rails are smooth (no barbed wire on the top or bottom wires);
- No vertical stays ; and
- Minimum 10-foot intervals for all posts;
- Moveable one- or two-strand electric fencing for grazing; and
- Similarly, lighting installed as part of any project shall be designed to be minimally disruptive to wildlife. This may be accomplished through the use of hoods to direct light away from natural habitat, using low intensity lighting, and using as few lights as necessary to achieve the goals of the project.

**Documentation:** The implementing entity shall identify all fences on project plans for individual trail improvements. These plans must include the fence locations and schematic elevations detailing construction and materials. The implementing entity shall also demonstrate that the project as built meets the requirements of this condition.

**Timing:** Prior to issuance of construction permits, the implementing entity shall demonstrate on project plans that the requirements of this condition are met. The implementing entity shall also demonstrate that the project as built meets the requirements of this condition upon completion of construction.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The implementing entity shall submit plans to the Planning Division for review and approval prior to the issuance of construction permits. The Planning Division has the authority to ensure that the fencing is installed according to the approved site plan prior to the issuance upon completion of construction.

#### **4E-b: Construction Best Management Practices.**

**Purpose:** To avoid impacts to wildlife movement/corridors and behavior.

**Requirements:** The following construction Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be incorporated into all grading and construction plans for proposed trail improvements requiring construction:

- Designation of a 20 mile per hour speed limit in all construction areas.
- All vehicles and equipment shall be parked on pavement, existing roads, and previously disturbed areas, and clearing of vegetation for vehicle access shall be avoided to the greatest extent feasible.
- The number of access routes, number and size of staging areas, and the total area of the activity shall be limited to the minimum necessary to achieve the goal of the project.
- Designation of equipment washout and fueling areas to be located within the limits of grading at a minimum of 100 feet from waters, wetlands, or other sensitive resources as identified by a qualified biologist. Washout areas shall be designed to fully contain polluted water and materials for subsequent removal from the site.
- Daily construction work schedules shall be limited to daylight hours only to the extent feasible.
- Mufflers shall be used on all construction equipment and vehicles shall be in good operating condition.
- Drip pans shall be placed under all stationary vehicles and mechanical equipment.

- All trash shall be placed in sealed containers and shall be removed from the project site a minimum of once per week.
- No pets are permitted on project sites during construction.

**Documentation:** The implementing entity shall include in the monthly reports prepared by a County-approved biologist for Mitigation Measures 4A-f and 4A-g verification of adherence to the above best management practices.

**Timing:** During construction.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The Planning Division shall maintain copies of the monthly monitoring reports.

*Sources: SC Wildlands, South Coast Missing Linkages: A Wildland Network, 2008.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
4F. Will the proposed project be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 4 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?			X				X	

### Impact Discussion:

4f. Because of the programmatic nature of the Trail Master Plan, specific designs or complete project footprints are not yet defined and as such each individual new construction project will need to be designed and implemented in accordance with General Plan Goal 1.5.1 and Policies 1.5.2-1 through 1.5.2-6 as applicable to biological resources by the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines. However, with implementation of the various mitigation measures addressing potential direct and indirect impacts to biological resources, adoption of the Trail Master Plan is consistent with the General Plan goals and policies listed above.

*Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>5A. Agricultural Resources – Soils (Plng.)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Result in the direct and/or indirect loss of soils designated Prime, Statewide Importance, Unique or Local Importance, beyond the threshold amounts set forth in Section 5a.C of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X				X		
2) Involve a General Plan amendment that will result in the loss of agricultural soils?	X				X			
3) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 5A of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X				X		

### Impact Discussion:

5a-1. The planning area of the Trail Master Plan contains pockets of land under agricultural cultivation, primarily to the south of Santa Rosa Road. As shown by Figure 7, productive soils which the California Department of Conservation classifies as Important Farmland occur in this area. Important Farmland includes Prime Farmland (with the best combination of physical and chemical features able to sustain long-term production), Farmland of Statewide Importance (similar to Prime Farmland but with minor shortcomings, such as greater slopes or less ability to store soil moisture), and Unique Farmland (lesser quality soils used for the production of the state's leading agricultural crops).

Several proposed off-street, unpaved trails will traverse Important Farmland. A proposed trail to the south of Barbara Drive will cross Prime Farmland, while another trail to the east of Jack Pine Lane will pass through both Prime Farmland and Farmland of Statewide Importance. Other trails between Blanchard Road and Rose Lane, to the north of Santa Rosa Road, will traverse Unique Farmland. In addition, a proposed unpaved trail to the south of Sumac Lane is located on the edge of Prime Farmland.

Nevertheless, the majority of these proposed trails will be sited on existing unpaved agricultural roads and therefore will not entail the modification or conversion of farmland. For example, the proposed unpaved trail to the south of Blanchard Road is currently in use as an unpaved agricultural road. Any conversion of Important Farmland during implementation of the Trail Master Plan will be nominal and below the County's

quantitative thresholds for Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, and Unique Farmland. Moreover, the installation of trails in agricultural areas will not involve impervious surfaces or structures that could permanently convert farmland to non-agricultural use. Therefore, impacts to designated farmland will be less than significant. In addition, the project will not make a cumulative considerable contribution to a significant impact related to agricultural soils.

5a-2. The proposed Trail Master Plan does not involve a General Plan Amendment that will result in the loss of agricultural soils

*Sources: California Department of Conservation, Important Farmland Finder, 2012. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>5B. Agricultural Resources - Land Use Incompatibility (AG.)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) If not defined as Agriculture or Agricultural Operations in the zoning ordinances, be closer than the threshold distances set forth in Section 5b.C of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?			X				X	
2) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 5b of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?			X				X	

### Impact Discussion:

5b-1. As noted above, several proposed trails in the Santa Rosa Valley will be located in and adjacent to properties that are currently in agricultural production. However, none of these properties are designated Agriculture in the County's adopted General Plan. Two areas are designated Open Space (the areas immediately east of Hill Canyon Road, and east of Jack Pine Lane), with the remainder designated for rural residential uses. If any new trails are developed adjacent to properties currently in agricultural production, they will function as non-agricultural uses adjacent to farmland. Any grading activities, if necessary, in the establishment of trails will generate fugitive dust that could adversely affect adjacent farmland. However, the implementation of Mitigation Measure 1A will minimize emissions of fugitive dust during trail construction.

Where trails are proposed to be established adjacent to land in agricultural production, potential impacts from introduction of trail users will include trespassing, theft, exposure to pesticides, and vandalism. To prevent conflicts between agriculture and other adjacent uses, Ventura County's Agricultural Policy Advisory Committee has adopted a formal Agricultural/Urban Buffer Policy. This policy calls for a 150 foot buffer with

vegetative screening for hiking, biking or bridle paths adjacent to land in agricultural production. The policy establishes specific minimum standards for the vegetative screen, to ensure trail users are not subject to dust, pesticide drift or other customary agricultural operations. It also includes fencing standards designed to protect agricultural operations from trespass, theft and vandalism by trail users.

According to the Trail Master Plan, fencing in the trail system can serve purposes such as access control, channeling of trail users, and the elimination of liability concerns. The Trail Master Plan recommends the use of split rail or lodgepole fencing to allow good visual access to the trail in areas where keeping “eyes on the trail” is important. Such fencing, however, will not be consistent with the buffer policy nor will it adequately address the potential conflicts between active agricultural production and adjacent trail users. Therefore, Mitigation Measure AG-1 is necessary to reduce potentially significant impacts on agricultural operations. With implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1, the Trail Master Plan will not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant impact related to compatibility with agricultural uses.

5b-2. Assuming implementation of Mitigation Measure AG-1 to avoid potential land use conflicts with agricultural operations, the proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies to preserve and protect irrigated agricultural lands, as referenced under Item 5b of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines.

### **Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

Mitigation Measure AG-1 is required to reduce potential incompatibility between trails and agricultural areas to a less than significant level.

#### **AG-1: Trail Development in Agricultural Areas**

**Purpose:** To protect ongoing agricultural operations from land use conflicts.

**Requirement:** Proposed trail improvements within 300 feet of lands in agricultural production shall not be constructed until such lands are no longer used for agricultural purposes.

*Sources: County of Ventura, Office of Agricultural Commissioner, personal communications, July 2014. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>6. Scenic Resources (Plng.)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) Be located within an area that has a scenic resource that is visible from a public viewing location, and physically alter the scenic resource either individually or cumulatively when combined with recently approved, current, and reasonably foreseeable future projects?		X				X		
b) Be located within an area that has a scenic resource that is visible from a public viewing location, and substantially obstruct, degrade, or obscure the scenic vista, either individually or cumulatively when combined with recently approved, current, and reasonably foreseeable future projects?		X				X		
c) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 6 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X				X		

### Impact Discussion:

6a and 6b. Ventura County protects both scenic resources and public viewing locations of such resources from public roads, parks, trails, bike paths, among other areas. Scenic resources consist of aesthetically pleasing natural physical features, such as creeks, bluffs, ridgelines, hillsides, native habitat, and rock outcroppings. In particular, the Ventura County General Plan identifies viewsheds of lakes and State- or County-designated scenic highways as scenic resources worthy of protection. As shown in the General Plan's Resource Protection Map, the nearest designated scenic resources to the Santa Rosa Valley is Lake Sherwood, which is located approximately 6.5 miles to the southeast. This scenic resource is not visible from the Santa Rosa Valley.

However, according to the Resources Appendix of the General Plan, Santa Rosa Road is eligible for designation as a County scenic highway throughout the planning area. The foreground viewshed of a scenic highway is generally within one-half mile on either side of the highway. To the south, Santa Rosa Road provides scenic background views of the hillsides ridgelines that form Mountclef Ridge, native coastal sage scrub habitat in

Wildwood Regional Park, and the Arroyo Conejo canyon at the main southern entrance to Wildwood Regional Park; to the north, Santa Rosa provides intermittent scenic views of the largely undeveloped ridgelines of the Las Posas Hills. Grading for proposed bike lanes and unpaved trails on the south side of Santa Rosa Road could have temporary adverse effects on these scenic views. Over the long term, the potential removal of vegetation alongside Santa Rosa Road to accommodate on-street trails, and the addition of landscaped buffers will alter the foreground of scenic views toward Mountclef Ridge and the Las Posas Hills.

Additionally, the existing trail system shown in Figure 4 (including connecting trails in Wildwood Regional Park that overlook the Santa Rosa Valley) and Santa Rosa Valley Park serve as public viewing locations with scenic views. Similar to the impacts along Santa Rosa Road, the addition of new trail segments near these public viewing locations could alter the foreground of scenic views of ridgelines and native habitat. Specific alterations may include the clearance of vegetation within new trail corridors and, in agricultural areas, the erection of fencing to minimize land use conflicts.

Although trail improvements will minimally alter the foreground of scenic views in the Santa Rosa Valley, they will not impair or obstruct views of the scenic resources in the background. Furthermore, by expanding the local trail network, the proposed trail segments will increase the availability of public viewing locations of scenic resources, in a manner consistent with the existing rural, equestrian aesthetic of the Santa Rosa Valley. Implementation of the Trail Master Plan also will not physically alter any scenic resources in the planning area.

Therefore, implementation of the Trail Master Plan will have no adverse impact overall on either scenic resources or vistas of such resources, and will not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant impact related to such resources.

6c. The applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 6 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines area: Resources Goals 1.7.1-1 through 1.7.1-3 and Resources Policy 1.7.2-1. Based on the above discussion, the proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 6.

#### **Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

None.

*Sources: County of Ventura, Wildwood Preserve Final EIR, April 2009. Ventura County General Plan, Resources Appendix, June 2011.*



Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>7. Paleontological Resources</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) For the area of the property that is disturbed by or during the construction of the proposed project, result in a direct or indirect impact to areas of paleontological significance?	X				X			
b) Contribute to the progressive loss of exposed rock in Ventura County that can be studied and prospected for fossil remains?	X				X			
c) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 7 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

### Impact Discussion:

7a and 7b. The United States Geological Survey's National Geologic Map Database (NGMDB) displays surficial and bedrock resources. The NGMDB does not map surficial geological resources that exist in the Santa Rosa Valley because it is a relatively developed area. However, at the southwestern corner of the planning area, the northern slopes of Mountclef Ridge have prominent outcroppings of Conejo volcanics. This geologic formation, which dates to the Miocene age, has no paleontological importance.

The planning area also includes several bedrock formations that may contain significant paleontological resources, as shown in Table 6

**Table 6**  
**Paleontological Importance of Bedrock in the Planning Area**

Formation	Geologic Age	Paleontological Importance
Saugus	Pliocene/Pleistocene	High
Las Posas Sand	Pliocene/Pleistocene	Moderate to high
Topanga Group	Oligocene/Miocene	Moderate

Source: USGS, NGMDB, 2014.

Although proposed trail improvements may be located above bedrock with moderate to high paleontological importance, the establishment of these trails will not require the disturbance of exposed rock or areas of paleontological significance. Therefore, the Trail Master Plan will have a less than significant impact on paleontological resources,

and will not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant impact on paleontological resources.

7c. The applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 7 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines area: Resources Goals 1.8.1-1 and 1.8.1-2 and Resources Policies 1.8.2-1 through 1.8.2-3. Based on the above discussion, the proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 7.

### **Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

None.

*Sources: U.S. Geological Survey, NGMDB, 2014. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>8A. Cultural Resources - Archaeological</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Demolish or materially alter in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for the inclusion of the resource in a local register of historical resources pursuant to Section 5020.1(k) requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code?			X				X	
2) Demolish or materially alter in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an archaeological resource that convey its archaeological significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources as determined by a lead agency for the purposes of CEQA?			X				X	
3) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 8A of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X				X		

## **Impact Discussion:**

8a-1 and 8a-2. For the purposes of CEQA, a “historically significant” archaeological resource is one which:

- 1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage;
- 2) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
- 3) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or
- 4) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

A search of records on file with the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) indicates the presence of 12 previously recorded archaeological and historic sites within or adjacent to the proposed trail improvements within the planning area. These include archaeological sites consisting of a refuse scatter, prehistoric archaeological sites consisting of several lithic scatters and a village site, a multi-component site consisting of a historic farmstead and prehistoric habitation site, and a prehistoric isolated find. Because no previously recorded archaeological sites are located within the subset of proposed trail segments that will require new construction, the proposed Trail Master Plan will not affect known archaeological resources. Nevertheless, it is possible that ground-disturbing activities could impact previously unidentified archaeological resources, resulting in their loss or disturbance. Therefore, impacts to archaeological resources will be potentially significant if not mitigated.

8A-3. The applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 8a of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines area: Resources Goals 1.8.1-1 and 1.8.1-2 and Resources Policy 1.8.2-1. Based on the above discussion, with the incorporation of mitigation measures for cultural resources, the proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 8a.

## **Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

Mitigation Measures 8A-a through 8A-c will reduce potential impacts on archaeological resources to a less than significant level as individual trail improvements are implemented.

### **8A-a: Cultural Resources Records Search**

**Purpose:** To inventory previously recorded cultural resources in proximity to trail improvements involving construction.

**Requirement:** Prior to completion of final design for any trail improvement that will involve grading activities, the implementing entity shall contract with a County-approved archaeologist to perform a cultural resources records search. The cultural resources records search shall include both the area of direct impact as well as a suitable buffer area encompassing an area of indirect impact as determined by a qualified archaeologist. If a cultural resources survey

has previously been adequately performed for the subject trail segment/impact area, and existing prehistoric or archaeological cultural resources were not identified, no further pre-construction mitigation will be required. If no previous survey has been performed for the subject trail segment/impact area, or if a previous survey has identified prehistoric or archaeological cultural resources, mitigation measure 8A-b shall be implemented.

**8A-b: Pre-Construction Prehistoric and Archaeological Resources Survey**

**Purpose:** To identify cultural resources in proximity to trail improvements that have not been previously graded or surveyed for such resources.

**Requirement:** Prior to the completion of final design for any trail improvement that will involve grading activities, and has not been previously graded or surveyed for prehistoric and archaeological cultural resources (as determined by mitigation measure 8A-a), the implementing entity shall contract with a County-approved archaeologist to perform a Phase I cultural resources assessment.

In the event that prehistoric or archaeological cultural resources are identified within the area of direct impact during the Phase I assessment and avoidance of impacts to the resource by redesign are not feasible, the implementing agency shall implement a Phase II subsurface testing program to determine the resource boundaries within the trail corridor/impact area, assess the integrity of the resource, and evaluate the site's significance through a study of its features and artifacts.

If the site is determined significant, the implementing entity may choose to cap the resource area using culturally sterile and chemically neutral fill material and shall include open space accommodations and interpretive displays for the site to ensure its protection from development. A County-approved archaeologist shall be retained to monitor the placement of fill upon the site and to make open space and interpretive recommendations. If a significant site will not be capped, the results and recommendations of the Phase II study shall determine the need for a Phase III data recovery program designed to record and remove significant prehistoric or archaeological cultural materials that could otherwise be tampered with. If the site is determined insignificant, no capping or further archaeological investigation shall be required, though archaeological monitoring may still be required. The results and recommendations of the Phase II and/or Phase III studies shall determine the need for construction monitoring.

In the event that prehistoric or archaeological cultural resources are identified within the area of indirect impact during the Phase I assessment, the implementing entity shall contract with a County-approved archaeologist to determine whether avoidance or

minimization measures are required to prevent looting and aggravation of existing resources. If required, these measures could include, but shall not be limited to: installation of signage prohibiting the public from accessing the site(s); installation of fencing around the identified sites; installation of protection landscape screening; and/or placement of cultural sterile and chemically neutral fill upon the site(s). Selection of feasible avoidance or minimization measures shall be in consultation with the appropriate resource agency and implementing entity. Following implementation of feasible avoidance or minimization measures the implementing entity shall prepare a four year monitoring plan that includes annual review of sites within the area of indirect impact to assess whether impacts are occurring, supplemental measures to address identified impacts and an annual report of findings which will be available for review by the relevant resources agencies. The plan shall be implemented for a minimum of four years, or until it is clear that resources are not being impacted by the project.

**Documentation:** If prehistoric and/or archaeological resources are encountered, the implementing entity shall submit a report prepared by a County-approved archaeologist including recommendations for the proper disposition of the site. Additional documentation may be required to demonstrate that the implementing entity has carried out any recommendations made by the archaeologist's report.

**Timing:** Archaeologist reports shall be provided to the Planning Division immediately upon completion.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The implementing entity shall provide any archaeologist report prepared for the project site to the Planning Division to be made a part of the project file. The implementing entity shall implement any recommendations made in the archaeologist's report to the satisfaction of the Planning Director.

#### **8A-c: Unearthed Prehistoric or Archaeological Cultural Remains**

**Purpose:** To minimize impacts to cultural remains discovered during construction.

**Requirement:** If prehistoric or archaeological cultural resource remains are encountered during construction or land modification activities, work shall stop and the implementing entity, County Coroner, and Planning Director shall be notified at once. A County-approved archaeologist shall be retained, accompanied if necessary by Native American Monitor(s), to assess the nature, extent, and potential significance of any prehistoric or archaeological cultural remains. The implementing entity shall implement a Phase II subsurface testing program to determine the resource boundaries within the trail corridor/impact area, assess the integrity of the resource, and evaluate the site's significance through a study of its features and artifacts.

If the site is determined significant, the implementing entity may choose to cap the resource area using culturally sterile and

chemically neutral fill material and shall include open space accommodations and interpretive displays for the site to ensure its protection from development. A qualified archaeologist shall be retained to monitor the placement of fill upon the site and to make open space and interpretive recommendations. If a significant site will not be capped, the results and recommendations of the Phase II study shall determine the need for a Phase III data recovery program designed to record and remove significant prehistoric or archaeological cultural materials that could otherwise be tampered with. If the site is determined insignificant, no capping and or further archaeological investigation shall be required. The results and recommendations of the Phase II study shall determine the need for construction monitoring.

**Documentation:** If prehistoric and/or archaeological remains are encountered, the implementing entity shall submit a report prepared by a County-approved archaeologist including recommendations for the proper disposition of the site. Additional documentation may be required to demonstrate that the implementing entity has carried out any recommendations made by the archaeologist's report.

**Timing:** Archaeologist reports shall be provided to the Planning Division immediately upon completion.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The implementing entity shall provide any archaeologist report prepared for the project site to the Planning Division to be made a part of the project file. The implementing entity shall implement any recommendations made in the archaeologist's report to the satisfaction of the Planning Director.

*Sources: South Central Coastal Information Center, May 2014. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>8B. Cultural Resources – Historic (Plng.)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Demolish or materially alter in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of an historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its inclusion in, or eligibility for, inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources?	X				X			
2) Demolish or materially alter in an adverse manner those physical characteristics that account for its inclusion in a local register of historical resources pursuant to Section 5020.1(k) of the Public Resources Code or its identification in a historical resources survey meeting the requirements of Section 5024.1(g) of the Public Resources Code?	X				X			
3) Demolish or materially alter in an adverse manner those physical characteristics of a historical resource that convey its historical significance and that justify its eligibility for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources as determined by a lead agency for purposes of CEQA?	X				X			
4) Demolish, relocate, or alter an historical resource such that the significance of the historical resource will be impaired [Public Resources Code, Sec. 5020(q)]?	X				X			

### Impact Discussion:

8b-1 through 8b-3. A review of the National Register of Historic Places, California Register of Historical Resources, California Points of Historical Interest, California State Historic Landmarks, and resource layers in the Ventura County Planning Division's Graphic Information System (GIS) indicate that no historical resources are located within the planning area. In addition, the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Board maintains a map of the distribution of registered historic resources in Ventura County. According to this database, no registered historic resources occur within the planning

area. The nearest registered historic resource to the Santa Rosa Valley is the County-designated Hall Ranch Brick Cistern, located within Wildwood Regional Park about one mile south of Santa Rosa Road. The development of trail improvements within the planning area will not alter the physical characteristics of this historic resource or any registered others in Ventura County.

As discussed under Item 8A, a search of records on file with the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) indicates the presence of previously recorded historic sites within or adjacent to the proposed trail improvements within the planning area, which could be eligible for designation as historic resources. These include a foundation and the remains of a homestead, and a multi-component site consisting of a historic farmstead and prehistoric habitation site. However, the proposed Trail Master Plan will not adversely affect these previously recorded historic sites because they are not located in the vicinity of proposed trails requiring construction. Therefore, no impacts to historical resources in the built environment are expected, and the project will not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant impact related to historic resources.

8b-4. Implementation of the proposed Trail Master Plan will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in CCR §15064.5, including those resources defined in the Ventura County Cultural Heritage Ordinance.

#### **Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

None.

*Sources: California Office of Historic Preservation. County of Ventura, GIS and Mapping website, 2014. National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places, 2014 . Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>9. Coastal Beaches and Sand Dunes</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) Cause a direct or indirect adverse physical change to a coastal beach or sand dune, which is inconsistent with any of the coastal beaches and coastal sand dunes policies of the California Coastal Act, corresponding Coastal Act regulations, Ventura County Coastal Area Plan, or the Ventura County General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs?	X				X			





Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
a) Be at risk with respect to fault rupture in its location within a State of California designated Alquist-Priolo Special Fault Study Zone?			X					
b) Be at risk with respect to fault rupture in its location within a County of Ventura designated Fault Hazard Area?			X					
c) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 10 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X			X			

### Impact Discussion:

10a through 10c. Pursuant to the Ventura County General Plan, Hazards Appendix, Figure 2.2.1b, multiple faults have been positively identified in the Santa Rosa Valley. The most extensive fault runs roughly in an east-west direction to the north of E. Las Posas Road. Another fault trace occurs on a northeast-southwest axis near the intersection of Santa Rosa Road and E. Las Posas Road. Other fault traces are located to the west of this intersection and north of Santa Rosa Road. Implementation of the Trail Master Plan could involve the construction of a staging area, potentially in the vicinity of a fault along Barranca Road. Any structures built in the vicinity of active faults could be susceptible to failure due to surface rupture. To prevent hazards from fault rupture, an adequate setback from faults will be necessary. It should be noted that analyzing impacts of the environment (including fault rupture) upon a project is not strictly required pursuant to CEQA; however, impacts are considered potentially significant without mitigation.

No cumulative ground shaking hazard will occur because the hazards from fault rupture will affect each project individually.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

Mitigation Measure 10A will reduce potential impacts from fault rupture to a less than significant level.

#### 10A: Staging Area Setbacks

**Purpose:** To minimize hazards from fault rupture.

**Requirement:** Any staging areas to be built during implementation of the Trail Master Plan shall be set back 500 feet from mapped fault traces, wherever feasible.

*Sources: Ventura County General Plan, Hazards Appendix, October 2013. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>11. Ground Shaking Hazard (PWA)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) Be built in accordance with all applicable requirements of the Ventura County Building Code?		X			X			
b) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 11 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X			X			

### Impact Discussion:

11a and 11b. The Santa Rosa Valley is located within an active seismic area where past earthquakes have caused considerable ground shaking. This phenomenon can result in the failure of structures and buildings. As discussed under Fault Rupture, implementation of the Trail Master Plan could potentially involve the erection of structures at staging areas. As noted in Item 10, CEQA does not strictly require an analysis of the impacts of the environment upon a project. Regardless, adherence to all applicable requirements in the Ventura County Building Code for structural stability will reduce potential impacts from ground shaking at staging areas to a less than significant level. Furthermore, the hazards from ground shaking will affect each project individually, so no cumulative ground shaking hazard will occur.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>12. Liquefaction Hazards (PWA)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
a) Expose people or structures to potential adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving liquefaction because it is located within a Seismic Hazards Zone?	X							
b) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 12 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

### Impact Discussion:

12a. Liquefaction is the phenomenon whereby strong, cyclic ground motions during an earthquake transform a soil mass from a solid to a liquid state. The occurrence of liquefaction is strongly dependent upon: the strength and duration of ground shaking, the depth to saturated soil, and local soil properties. As shown in Figure 2.4b in the Ventura County General Plan, Hazards Appendix, low-lying portions of the Santa Rosa Valley along Arroyo Santa Rosa and Arroyo Conejo are located within a hazard zone for liquefaction. However, the Trail Master Plan does not plan for or discuss any additional structures in this portion of the planning area. Therefore, implementation of the Trail Master Plan will not result in an increase in exposure of people or structures to hazards associated with liquefaction. No impacts will occur.

No cumulative impact will occur because hazards from liquefaction affect each project individually.

12b. The applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 12 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines area: Hazards Goal 2.4.1 and Hazards Policy 2.4.2. Based on the above discussion, the proposed Trail Master Plan will not expose people to the risk of loss of life, injury, collapse of habitable structures, or dislocations resulting from liquefaction, and will be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 12.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

*Source: Ventura County General Plan, Hazards Appendix, October 2013. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>13. Seiche and Tsunami Hazards (PWA)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) Be located within about 10 to 20 feet of vertical elevation from an enclosed body of water such as a lake or reservoir?	X							
b) Be located in a mapped area of tsunami hazard as shown on the County General Plan maps?	X							
c) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 13 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

### Impact Discussion:

13a through 13c. Pursuant to the Ventura County General Plan, Hazards Appendix, Figure 2.6, the Santa Rosa Valley is not located in a Tsunami Zone or a Seiche Zone. Therefore, no impacts relating to tsunamis or seiches will occur. Furthermore, no cumulative seiche and tsunami hazard will occur because the hazards from seiche and tsunami affect each project individually.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

*Source: Ventura County General Plan, Hazards Appendix, October 2013. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>14. Landslide/Mudflow Hazard (PWA)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) Result in a landslide/mudflow hazard, as determined by the Public Works Agency Certified Engineering Geologist, based on the location of the site or project within, or outside of mapped landslides, potential earthquake induced landslide zones, and geomorphology of hillside terrain?			X					
b) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 14 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?			X		X			

### Impact Discussion:

14a and 14b. Landslide/mudflow hazards generally exist in and at the base of hillside terrain where channel erosion, weathering, and tectonic movement have caused unstable conditions. As shown in Figure 2.7.1b of the Ventura County General Plan, Hazards Appendix, recorded landslides have not occurred in the planning area; however, Figure 2.7.2 of the Hazards Appendix identifies the hilly, northern portion of the planning area as a potential landslide hazard area. Implementation of the Trail Master Plan could involve the construction of a staging area along Barranca Road or in another location in the vicinity of a landslide hazard area. Therefore, impacts related to landslides or mudslides will be potentially significant with mitigation. Furthermore, no cumulative impact will occur because hazards from landslides and mudslides affect each project individually.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

Mitigation Measures 14A-a and 14A-b will reduce potential impacts from landslides and mudslides to a less than significant level.

#### 14A-a: Hillside Stability Evaluation

**Purpose:** To identify project-specific landslide hazards.

**Requirement:** If any staging areas or other permanent structures are to be located within potential landslide hazard zones, then an evaluation of the adjacent hillside shall be performed by a registered engineering geologist or a registered professional civil or geotechnical engineer.

**Documentation:** Upon completion of a hillside stability evaluation, the implementing entity shall submit a report prepared by a registered engineering geologist or a registered professional civil or geotechnical engineer documenting the hazard and providing recommendations to minimize the hazard. Additional documentation may be required to demonstrate that the implementing entity has carried out any recommendations made by a geotechnical report.

**Timing:** Geotechnical reports on hillside stability shall be provided to the Planning Division immediately upon completion.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The implementing entity shall provide any geotechnical reports prepared for the project site on hillside stability hazards to the Planning Division to be made a part of the project file. The implementing entity shall implement any recommendations made in a geotechnical report to the satisfaction of the Planning Director.

#### **14A-b: Setbacks from Landslide Areas**

**Purpose:** To minimize project-specific landslide hazards.

**Requirement:** If a landslide potential is found to exist, then setbacks shall be imposed on staging areas or other proposed structures located within the landslide hazard zone. The setback distance shall be determined by the results of the landslide evaluation study prepared pursuant to Mitigation Measure 14A-a.

Source: Ventura County General Plan, Hazards Appendix, October 2013. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>15. Expansive Soils Hazards (PWA)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) Expose people or structures to potential adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving soil expansion because it is located within a soils expansive hazard zone or where soils with an expansion index greater than 20 are present?		X						
b) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 15 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X			X			

### Impact Discussion:

15a and 15b. Expansive soils are primarily clay-rich soils subject to changes in volume with changes in moisture content. The resultant shrinking and swelling of soils can influence all fixed structures, utilities, and roadways. Per Ventura County's Guidelines, expansive soil hazards are assessed within the existing regulatory framework of both the Public Works Agency and the Resource Management Agency, Building and Safety Division. On a project-level basis, the Public Works Agency will determine if any trail improvement which requires a grading permit is subject to expansive soil hazards based on a review of geotechnical reports for the project or surrounding area, regional data, and soil evaluations prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. For geotechnical reports that evaluate the soil expansion of the project area soils, the expansion index will be determined by the latest edition of American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) D 4829, and in the event that soil expansion varies with depth, the weighted index shall be determined in accordance the method prescribed in the Ventura County Building Code. Mandatory compliance with the regulations of these entities will reduce potential expansive soil impacts to a less than significant level. No cumulative impact will occur because hazards from expansive soils affect each project individually.



**Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

None.

*Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>16. Subsidence Hazard (PWA)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) Expose people or structures to potential adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving subsidence because it is located within a subsidence hazard zone?	X							
b) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 16 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

**Impact Discussion:**

16a and 16b. Subsidence is a general term for the slow, long-term regional lowering of the ground surface with respect to sea level. It can be caused by natural forces such as the consolidation of recently deposited sediments or by man-induced changes such as the withdrawal of oil field fluids or the dewatering of an aquifer. The Santa Rosa Valley is not located within a probable subsidence zone identified on Figure 2.8 of the Ventura County General Plan, Hazards Appendix. Therefore, the proposed trail improvements will result in no impact from subsidence. In addition, no cumulative impact will occur because hazards from subsidence affect each project individually.

## Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

Source: Ventura County General Plan, Hazards Appendix, October 2013. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>17a. Hydraulic Hazards – Non-FEMA (PWA)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Result in a potential erosion/siltation hazard and flooding hazard pursuant to any of the following documents (individually, collectively, or in combination with one another): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2007 Ventura County Building Code Ordinance No.4369</li> <li>• Ventura County Land Development Manual</li> <li>• Ventura County Subdivision Ordinance</li> <li>• Ventura County Coastal Zoning Ordinance</li> <li>• Ventura County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance</li> <li>• Ventura County Standard Land Development Specifications</li> <li>• Ventura County Road Standards</li> <li>• Ventura County Watershed Protection District Hydrology Manual</li> <li>• County of Ventura Stormwater Quality Ordinance, Ordinance No. 4142</li> <li>• Ventura County Hillside Erosion Control Ordinance, Ordinance No. 3539 and Ordinance No. 3683</li> <li>• Ventura County Municipal Storm Water NPDES Permit</li> <li>• State General Construction Permit</li> <li>• State General Industrial Permit</li> <li>• National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)?</li> </ul>		X				X		
2) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 17A of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X				X		

**Impact Discussion:**

17a-1. Proposed trail improvements that involve grading will temporarily create potential for increased erosion and siltation. However, the County will be required that these projects be undertaken in accordance with conditions and requirements established by the Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAS000002 and Ventura Stormwater Quality Management Ordinance No. 4142. These regulations require the preparation and approval of a Stormwater Pollution Control Plan (SWPCP) prior to issuance of grading permits. The SWPCP will require that Best Management Practices (BMPs) be implemented during construction to reduce impacts related to water quality, erosion and siltation during construction. Examples of BMPs that may be implemented during construction include the use of geotextiles and mats, temporary drains and swales, silt fences, and sediments traps. In addition, even where grading does not require a permit, the Countywide program requires the utilization of BMPs. Design guidelines in the Trail Master Plan will minimize erosion impacts during the operation of trail improvements. Most trail improvements will be located on relatively flat ground where the risk of erosion is minimal. Where trails are constructed along running slopes, a 2% cross slope or crowned tread and periodic grade reversals will minimize standing surface water and resolve most drainage issues. In cut-sections, uphill water will be collected in a ditch, directed to a catch basin, and directed under the trail in a drainage pipe of suitable dimensions. Therefore, operational impacts will be less than significant, and the proposed project will not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant impacts related to non-FEMA hydraulic hazards.

17a-2. Compliance with the Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program and other regulatory requirements will render the Trail Master Plan consistent with Goals 2.10.1-1 through 2.10.1-3 and Policies 2.10.2-1 through 2.10.2-4 which address hydraulic hazards in the Ventura County General Plan.

**Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

None.

*Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>17b. Hydraulic Hazards – FEMA (WPD)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Be located outside of the boundaries of a Special Flood Hazard Area and entirely within a FEMA-determined 'X-Unshaded' flood zone (beyond the 0.2% annual chance floodplain: beyond the 500-year floodplain)?		X				X		
2) Be located outside of the boundaries of a Special Flood Hazard Area and entirely within a FEMA-determined 'X-Shaded' flood zone (within the 0.2% annual chance floodplain: within the 500-year floodplain)?		X				X		
3) Be located, in part or in whole, within the boundaries of a Special Flood Hazard Area (1% annual chance floodplain: 100-year), but located entirely outside of the boundaries of the Regulatory Floodway?		X				X		
4) Be located, in part or in whole, within the boundaries of the Regulatory Floodway, as determined using the 'Effective' and latest available DFIRMS provided by FEMA?		X				X		
5) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 17B of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X				X		

## Impact Discussion:

17b-1 through 17b-4. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's FIRM panels 06111C0956E and 06111C0957E, both effective from January 2010, the Santa Rosa Valley includes 100-year flood zones along Arroyo Santa Rosa, a tributary to this waterway, and Arroyo Conejo. Any proposed trail improvements in the following locations will be situated within a 100-year flood zone: along Arroyo Conejo downstream of its confluence with Arroyo Santa Rosa, along Santa Rosa Road to the west of Barbara Drive, south of Santa Rosa Road and west of Honey Hill Drive, south of Sumac Lane, and east of Applewood Lane. However, trail improvements in these areas will not include the construction of any structures that could expose people or property to flooding hazards. Therefore, the proposed Trail Master Plan will not result in project-related impacts related to flooding, and will not result in cumulatively considerable contribution to significant impacts related to flooding.

17b-5. The proposed Trail Master Plan is consistent with the Ventura County Floodplain Management Ordinance and Policies 2.10.2-2 and 2.10.2-3 in the Ventura County General Plan.

## Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

*Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Flood Insurance Rate Map – Map Panels 06111C0956E and 06111C0956E, January 2010. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>18. Fire Hazards (VCFPD)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) Be located within High Fire Hazard Areas/Fire Hazard Severity Zones or Hazardous Watershed Fire Areas?		X				X		
b) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 18 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X				X		

## Impact Discussion:

18a. As shown in Figure 2.13.2b in the Ventura County General Plan, Hazards Appendix, the Santa Rosa Valley is subject to very high fire hazards to the south of Santa Rosa Road and to the north and east of E. Las Posas Road. However, the future construction of trail improvements will be required to comply with the Uniform Fire Code 2000 Ed., Sect. 1103 as adopted and amended by the Ventura County Fire Protection

District (VCFPD) Current Ordinance for Fire Hazard Abatement and also the Uniform Building Code for required building standards. The VCFPD's Fire Hazard Reduction Program (FHRP) will require the clearing of brush, flammable vegetation, or combustible growth located within 100 feet of any structures at a new staging area. Therefore, impacts relating to fire hazards will be less than significant, and the Trail Master Plan will not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant impacts related to fire hazards.

18b. The proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with Goals 2.13.1-1 and 2.13.1-2 and Policies 2.13.2-1 through 2.13.2-4 in the Ventura County General Plan.

### **Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

None.

*Source: Ventura County General Plan, Hazards Appendix, October 2013. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>19. Aviation Hazards (Airports)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) Comply with the County's Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan and pre-established federal criteria set forth in Federal Aviation Regulation Part 77 (Obstruction Standards)?	X				X			
b) Will the proposed project impact residential development within the sphere of influence of County airports, as well as churches, schools and high commercial purpose buildings within the same sphere of influence?	X				X			
c) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 19 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

## Impact Discussion:

19a and 19b. The nearest airport to the planning area is the Camarillo Airport, located approximately 10 miles to the southwest. The Santa Rosa Valley is not located within the spheres of influence of Camarillo Airport, Oxnard Airport, Santa Paula Airport, or the Naval Base Ventura County Airport, as mapped in the *Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines*. Therefore, no impact to air traffic safety will occur, and the proposed project will not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant impacts related to aviation hazards.

19c. The proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with applicable General Plan goals and policies related to aviation hazards, including Goal 2.14.1-1 and Policy 2.14.2-2.

## Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

Source: Google Earth, 2013. *Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines*, April 2011.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>20a. Hazardous Materials/Waste – Materials (EHD/Fire)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Utilize hazardous materials in compliance with applicable state and local requirements as set forth in Section 20a of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			
2) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 20a of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

## Impact Discussion:

20a-1 and 20a-2. Implementation of the proposed Trail Master Plan will not involve the production of hazardous waste. Additionally, the proposed trail improvements will be required to adhere to Section 8109-0.5, Stormwater Quality Protection, of the Ventura County Non-Coastal Zoning Ordinance, which requires that all development be undertaken in accordance with conditions and requirements established by the Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAS000002, and Ventura Stormwater Quality Management Ordinance No. 4142. For individual trail improvements subject to NPDES permitting, these regulations require the preparation and approval of a Stormwater Pollution Control Plan (SWPCP) prior to issuance of grading permits. The

SWPCP and the Countywide program will require that Best Management Practices (BMPs) be implemented during construction to reduce impacts related to water quality. These programs will minimize potential impacts from the accidental spill of petroleum products or other hazardous substances during the construction of bike lanes or other improvements.

The following databases also were checked (June 4, 2014) for known sites with hazardous materials contamination, from underground storage tanks and other sources, in the planning area:

- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) database;
- State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker database;
- Cortese list of Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites; and
- Department of Toxic Substances Control's EnviroStor database.

Four leaking underground storage tank (LUST) cases have been identified in the Santa Rosa Valley; however, all cases are closed and will not pose a hazard during the construction or operation of proposed trail improvements. Additionally, the trail improvements will not involve the use of hazardous materials other than routine use of fuel and engine fluids for grading and construction equipment. Therefore, no impacts related to hazardous materials will occur, and the project will not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant impacts related to hazardous materials.



Sources: California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA), Cortese List, 2012. California Department of Toxic Substances Control, EnviroStor, 2014. State Water Resources Control Board, GeoTracker, 2014. U.S. EPA, CERCLIS, 2014. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>20b. Hazardous Materials/Waste – Waste (EHD)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Comply with applicable state and local requirements as set forth in Section 20b of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			
2) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 20b of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

### Impact Discussion:

20b-1 and 20b-2. The proposed trail improvements will not generate hazardous waste, require access to public sewers, or utilize an on-site sewage disposal system. No impact from the production of hazardous waste will occur. The project will not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant impacts related to the production of hazardous waste.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>21. Noise and Vibration</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) Either individually or when combined with other recently approved, pending, and probable future projects, produce noise in excess of the standards for noise in the Ventura County General Plan Goals, Policies and Programs (Section 2.16) or the applicable Area Plan?		X				X		
b) Either individually or when combined with other recently approved, pending, and probable future projects, include construction activities involving blasting, pile-driving, vibratory compaction, demolition, and drilling or excavation which exceed the threshold criteria provided in the Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment (Section 12.2)?		X				X		
c) Result in a transit use located within any of the critical distances of the vibration-sensitive uses listed in Table 1 (Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, Section 21)?	X				X			
d) Generate new heavy vehicle (e.g., semi-truck or bus) trips on uneven roadways located within proximity to sensitive uses that have the potential to either individually or when combined with other recently approved, pending, and probable future projects, exceed the threshold criteria of the Transit Use Thresholds for rubber-tire heavy vehicle uses (Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, Section 21-D, Table 1, Item No. 3)?	X				X			

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
e) Involve blasting, pile-driving, vibratory compaction, demolition, drilling, excavation, or other similar types of vibration-generating activities which have the potential to either individually or when combined with other recently approved, pending, and probable future projects, exceed the threshold criteria provided in the Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment [Hanson, Carl E., David A. Towers, and Lance D. Meister. (May 2006) Section 12.2]?		X				X		
f) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 21 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X				X		

### Impact Discussion:

21a. During the operation of proposed trails, trail use may cause intermittent increases in ambient noise levels due to trail users talking, bicycles switching gears, and dogs barking. However, any increases in noise levels along trails will be minimal. In addition, as discussed under Transportation/Circulation, implementation of the Trail Master Plan will not result in a substantial increase in roadway traffic. Therefore, the proposed trail improvements will not produce noise in excess of the standards for noise in the Ventura County General Plan, and will not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant impacts related to exceedance of noise standards.

21b. The construction of proposed trail improvements may generate noise during grading and paving activities. Any sensitive receptors in the vicinity of construction activities could experience high levels of ambient noise on a temporary basis. In the Santa Rosa Valley, sensitive receptors that may be affected include residences and schools. Although noise impacts during construction will be temporary and less than significant, mitigation is recommended to notify adjacent homeowners and/or schools in advance. The project will not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant impacts related to construction noise.

21c. The proposed trail improvements do not involve any transit use located within critical distances of vibration-sensitive uses. No project-related or cumulative impact will occur.

21d. Operation of the proposed trail improvements will not generate new heavy vehicle trips on uneven roads near sensitive uses. No project-related or cumulative impact will occur.

21e. The construction of proposed trail improvements may generate a limited amount of groundborne vibration from the operation of equipment such as bulldozers and loaded trucks. However, such construction will be temporary and will not exceed the threshold criteria provided in the Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment referenced in the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines. The Trail Master Plan will result in less than significant impacts from groundborne vibration, and will not generate a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant vibration impacts.

21f. The applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 21 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines are: Resources Goal 2.16.1 and Resources Policies 2.16.2-1 through 2.16.2-3. Based on the above discussion, the proposed Trail Master Plan will not generate significant noise and will be consistent with the applicable General Plan goals and policies.

### **Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

Although impacts related to noise generated during construction activities will be less than significant without mitigation, Mitigation Measure 21B is recommended to limit the exposure of sensitive receptors to temporary noise.

#### **21B: Timing of Construction Activities**

**Purpose:** To minimize the exposure of sensitive receptors to construction noise.

**Requirement:** The implementing entity shall limit construction activity for site preparation and development to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and State holidays. Construction equipment maintenance shall be limited to the same hours. Non-noise generating construction activities such as interior painting are not subject to these restrictions.

**Documentation:** The implementing entity shall post a sign stating these restrictions in a conspicuous on-site location visible to the general public. The sign must provide a telephone number of the site foreman, or other person who controls activities on the jobsite, for use for complaints from the affected public.

**Timing:** The sign shall be installed prior to the issuance of a building permit and throughout grading and construction activities. The implementing entity shall maintain a "Complaint Log," noting the date, time, complainant's name, nature of the complaint, and any corrective action taken.

**Monitoring and Reporting:** The implementing entity shall provide photo documentation showing posting of the required signage to the Planning Division prior to the commencement of grading or construction activities. (PL-59)

Source: *Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>22. Daytime Glare</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) Create a new source of disability glare or discomfort glare for motorists travelling along any road of the County Regional Road Network?	X				X			
b) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 22 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

### Impact Discussion:

22a. Glare is the continuous or periodic intense light that may cause eye discomfort or be blinding to humans. Glare and lighting impacts are typically associated with development from structures that will add new lighting in an area or create reflective surfaces. Glare can also occur from an increase in vehicle headlights. Impacts related to glare will be significant if the Trail Master Plan resulted in the addition of sources of glare along roads in the County's Regional Road Network. In the Santa Rosa Valley, Santa Rosa Road is part of the Regional Road Network, as shown in Figure 4.2.1 of Ventura County General Plan, Public Facilities & Services Appendix. Since the Trail Master Plan does not call for additional lighting along this road, no project-related or cumulative impact from glare will occur.

22b. The General Plan includes policies pertaining to glare in designated Scenic Resource Areas and the design of commercial and industrial developments. These policies are not applicable to the proposed trail improvements.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

Source: *Ventura County General Plan, Public Facilities & Services Appendix, May 2007. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>23. Public Health (EHD)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) Result in impacts to public health from environmental factors as set forth in Section 23 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			
b) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 23 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

### Impact Discussion:

23a and 23b. The proposed Trail Master Plan will facilitate trail improvements in the Santa Rosa Valley. These improvements will not involve the use of contaminated groundwater or the production of bioaerosols or other pathogens. Therefore, no adverse impacts relative to public health will occur.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>24. Greenhouse Gases (VCAPCD)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) Result in environmental impacts from greenhouse gas emissions, either project specifically or cumulatively, as set forth in CEQA Guidelines §§ 15064(h)(3), 15064.4, 15130(b)(1)(B) and -(d), and 15183.5?		X				X		

### Impact Discussion:

24a. Gases that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation in the atmosphere are called greenhouse gases (GHG), in reference to the fact that greenhouses retain heat. Common GHGs include water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>25. Community Character (PInG.)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								





Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
a) Eliminate three or more dwelling units that are affordable to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• moderate-income households that are located within the Coastal Zone; and/or,</li> <li>• lower-income households?</li> </ul>	X				X			
b) Involve construction which has an impact on the demand for additional housing due to potential housing demand created by construction workers?	X				X			
c) Result in 30 or more new full-time-equivalent lower-income employees?	X				X			
d) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 26 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

### Impact Discussion:

26a through 26d. Implementation of the proposed Trail Master Plan will not involve the demolition of existing housing. With regard to new demand for housing, the proposed project will involve construction and, consequently, new demand additional housing due to potential housing demand created by construction workers. However, as stated in the *Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines* (p. 146), construction worker demand is a less than significant project-specific and cumulative impact because construction work is short-term and there is a sufficient pool of construction workers within Ventura County and the Los Angeles metropolitan regions. Furthermore, the proposed project does not involve the creation of 30 or more new full-time equivalent (FTE) lower-income, moderate-income, or upper-income employees and, therefore, will not exceed the project-specific or cumulative thresholds of significance for FTE employees set forth in the *Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines (Ibid)*. Therefore, no project-related or cumulative impact to the housing stock in the area will occur as a result of the proposed trail improvements.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

Source: *Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>27a(1). Transportation &amp; Circulation - Roads and Highways - Level of Service (LOS)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) Cause existing roads within the Regional Road Network or Local Road Network that are currently functioning at an acceptable LOS to function below an acceptable LOS?		X				X		

### Impact Discussion:

27a(1)-a.

#### Roadway Segments

Santa Rosa Road is the primary roadway in the study area and currently accommodates 19,900 average daily trips (ADT), according to Ventura County's traffic counts for the year 2013. The minimum acceptable level of service (LOS) for Santa Rosa Road in the unincorporated County between Camarillo city limits and Thousand Oaks city limits, as stated in the County's *Initial Study Guidelines*, is LOS E. Implementation of the Trail Master Plan could generate minimal traffic from vehicle trips to proposed trails and any staging areas but will not appreciably worsen the LOS on Santa Rosa Road. Although the staging area at Santa Rosa Valley Park will continue to generate vehicle trips for access to Wildwood Regional Park and equestrian facilities in the area, this facility is an existing use and not part of the proposed plan. Thus, existing vehicle trips to Santa Rosa Valley Park are not attributable to the proposed plan. Furthermore, as discussed under Air Quality, proposed trail improvements will facilitate the increased use of non-motorized modes of recreation and transportation, which could divert motorized traffic. Therefore, impacts on LOS will be less than significant. The project will not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant impacts related to LOS.

#### Intersections

Since implementation of the Trail Master Plan will not generate a substantial amount of traffic, it will not affect the LOS at intersections on Santa Rosa Road. Proposed improvements to equestrian crossings also will make intersections safer and more accessible to multiple users. Therefore, impacts to intersections will be less than significant.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>27a(2). Transportation &amp; Circulation - Roads and Highways - Safety and Design of Public Roads (PWA)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) Have an Adverse, Significant Project-Specific or Cumulative Impact to the Safety and Design of Roads or Intersections within the Regional Road Network (RRN) or Local Road Network (LRN)?	X				X			

### Impact Discussion:

27a(2)-a. Implementation of the Trail Master Plan will involve re-designing public roads to provide safer access for equestrians, pedestrians, and bicyclists. In particular, striping and signage for equestrian crossings on public roads will improve their visibility to motorists. In addition, dedicated bike lanes on Santa Rosa Road will provide safe passage for cyclists by widening “pinch points” near the Santa Rosa Elementary School. All roadway improvements will be consistent with Ventura County Public Works Road Standards and the California Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD). Therefore, the Trail Master Plan will not generate project-related or cumulative adverse impacts associated with the safety and design of public roads.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>27a(3). Transportation &amp; Circulation - Roads &amp; Highways – Safety &amp; Design of Private Access (VCFPD)</b>								
a) If a private road or private access is proposed, will the design of the private road meet the adopted Private Road Guidelines and access standards of the VCFPD as listed in the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			
b) Will the project be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 27a(3) of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

**Impact Discussion:**

27a(3)-a and 27a(3)-b. Implementation of the Trail Master Plan will not involve new private roads or access. Therefore, no project-related or cumulative impact associated with the safety and design of such facilities will occur, and the project will be consistent with applicable goals and policies in the General Plan.

**Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

None.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>27a(4). Transportation &amp; Circulation - Roads &amp; Highways - Tactical Access (VCFPD)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) Involve a road or access, public or private, that complies with VCFPD adopted Private Road Guidelines?	X				X			
b) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 27a(4) of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

**Impact Discussion:**

27a(4)-a and 27a(4)-b. The Trail Master Plan does not propose new roads or access which require adequate accessibility for the Ventura County Fire Protection District. No project-related or cumulative impact on tactical access will occur, and the project will be consistent with applicable goals and policies in the General Plan.

**Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

None.

*Sources: County of Ventura, 2013 Traffic Volumes on Ventura County Roadways. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>27b. Transportation &amp; Circulation - Pedestrian/Bicycle Facilities (PWA/Plng.)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Will the Project have an Adverse, Significant Project-Specific or Cumulative Impact to Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities within the Regional Road Network (RRN) or Local Road Network (LRN)?	X				X			
2) Generate or attract pedestrian/bicycle traffic volumes meeting requirements for protected highway crossings or pedestrian and bicycle facilities?	X				X			
3) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 27b of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

### Impact Discussion:

27b-1 and 27b-2. The Trail Master Plan will improve the existing network of pedestrian and bicycle facilities, including safety improvements at roadway crossings, in the Santa Rosa Valley. Rather than causing actual or potential barriers to existing or proposed facilities, the Trail Master Plan will facilitate the development of proposed facilities. In particular, proposed bike lanes on Santa Rosa Road will implement a Class II facility recommended in the 2007 Ventura Countywide Bicycle Master Plan. Proposed linkages between existing trails also will improve connectivity among existing facilities. In addition, the Trail Master Plan will not generate additional demand for pedestrian/bicycle facilities because it does not involve the addition of residences. No adverse project-related or cumulative impact on pedestrian and bicycle facilities will occur, and improvements to bicycle facilities proposed in the planning area will implement other County policy directives and result in beneficial effects for cycling and cyclists. The project will therefore be consistent with applicable goals and policies in the General Plan.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

*Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011. Ventura County Transportation Commission, Ventura Countywide Bicycle Master Plan, October 2007.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>27c. Transportation &amp; Circulation - Bus Transit</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Substantially interfere with existing bus transit facilities or routes, or create a substantial increase in demand for additional or new bus transit facilities/services?	X				X			
2) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 27c of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

### Impact Discussion:

27c-1. Since the Trail Master Plan will not result in additional population, it will not generate increased demand for bus transit facilities and services. No bus routes currently operate within the Santa Rosa Valley, so the implementation of trail improvements will have no effect on existing bus facilities or routes. No project-related or cumulative impact related to bus transit will occur.

27c-2. The applicable General Plan goals and policy for Item 27c of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines are: Resources Goals 4.2.1-1, 4.2.1-6 through 4.2.1-9, and Policy 4.2.2-8. Based on the above discussion, the proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with these goals and policies.

None.

None.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
1) Have the potential to generate complaints and concerns regarding interference with airports?	X				X			
2) Be located within the sphere of influence of either County operated airport?	X				X			
3) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 27e of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

### Impact Discussion:

27e-1 through 27e-3. As discussed under Aviation Hazards, the nearest airport to the planning area is located approximately 10 miles to the southwest, and the Santa Rosa Valley is located outside of the spheres of influence of airports in the region. Therefore, the proposed Trail Master Plan will be compatible with airport land uses, and no project-related or cumulative impact will occur.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

Source: Google Earth, 2013. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>27f. Transportation &amp; Circulation - Harbor Facilities (Harbors)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Involve construction or an operation that will increase the demand for commercial boat traffic and/or adjacent commercial boat facilities?	X				X			
2) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 27f of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			



### Impact Discussion:

27f-1 and 27f-2. The nearest harbor is the Channel Islands Harbor, located approximately 17 miles southwest of the planning area. Since the planning area is not located near a harbor, no project-related or cumulative impact will occur with respect to harbor activities, and the project will be consistent with goals and policies in the General Plan pertaining to harbors.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

Source: Google Earth, 2013. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>27g. Transportation &amp; Circulation - Pipelines</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Substantially interfere with, or compromise the integrity or affect the operation of, an existing pipeline?		X				X		
2) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 27g of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X				X		

### Impact Discussion:

27g-1. The National Pipeline Mapping System shows that a natural gas pipeline and a 10-inch diameter crude oil pipeline traverse the planning area. Both pipelines run east from Camarillo, along Santa Rosa Road, and then cut southeast from the intersection of E. Las Posas Road toward California Lutheran University in the City of Thousand Oaks. Proposed bike lanes on Santa Rosa Road and off-street trails alongside this roadway could be located over existing pipelines. In these areas, however, trail improvements will not involve ground disturbance that could disrupt the operation of pipelines. Although the development of bike lanes on Santa Rosa Road will require grading to widen "pinch points" to the east of Visa Arroyo Drive, this will not occur near existing pipelines. Therefore, impacts related to pipelines will be less than significant. The project will not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant impacts on pipelines.

27g-2. The applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 27g of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines are: Resources Goals 2.14.1-2 and Policy 2.14.2-4. Based on above discussion, the proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with these General Plan goals and policies pertaining to pipelines.

**Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

None.

Source: National Pipeline Mapping System, 2012. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>28a. Water Supply – Quality (EHD)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Comply with applicable state and local requirements as set forth in Section 28a of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			
2) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 28a of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

**Impact Discussion:**

28a-1 and 28a-2. Implementation of the proposed Trail Master Plan will not require a supply of domestic water. Therefore, no project-related or cumulative impact on the quality of water supplied by the public water system will occur, and the project will be consistent with goals and policies in the General Plan pertaining to the quality of water supply.

**Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

None.

Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>28b. Water Supply – Quantity (WPD)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Have a permanent supply of water?		X				X		
2) Either individually or cumulatively when combined with recently approved, current, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects, introduce physical development that will adversely affect the water supply - quantity of the hydrologic unit in which the project site is located?		X				X		
3) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 28b of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X				X		

### Impact Discussion:

28b-1 and 28b-2. The proposed Trail Master Plan will generate minimal, if any, demand for water. The Design Standards and Guidelines section of the Trail Master Plan states that drinking fountains and water troughs should only be considered at trailheads and staging areas with existing water service. Moreover, the Trail Master Plan does not propose water use in association with any trail improvement. Therefore, impacts on water quantity will be less than significant. The project will not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant impacts related to the water supply.

28b-3. The applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 27g of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines are: Public Facilities and Services Goals 4.3.1-1 through 4.3.1-3 and Policies 4.3.2-1 through 4.3.2-3. Based on above discussion, the proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with these General Plan goals and policies pertaining to the quantity of water supply.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

*Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>28c. Water Supply - Fire Flow Requirements (VCFPD)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Meet the required fire flow?	X				X			
2) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 28c of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

### Impact Discussion:

28c-1 and 28c-2. Implementation of the Trail Master Plan will not involve the development of structures that require the installation of fire hydrants. Therefore, no additional water supply for fire protection will be required. No project-related or cumulative impact on fire flow will occur, and the project will be consistent with applicable goals and policies in the General Plan.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

*Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>29a. Waste Treatment &amp; Disposal Facilities - Individual Sewage Disposal Systems (EHD)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Comply with applicable state and local requirements as set forth in Section 29a of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			
2) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 29a of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

## Impact Discussion:

29a-1 and 29a-2. The Trail Master Plan will not facilitate any development that requires the on-site disposal of sewage and will not generate adverse environmental impacts from such disposal. Therefore, no project-related or cumulative impact from individual sewage disposal systems will occur, and the project will be consistent with goals and policies in the General Plan pertaining to such systems.

## Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

*Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>29b. Waste Treatment &amp; Disposal Facilities - Sewage Collection/Treatment Facilities (EHD)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Comply with applicable state and local requirements as set forth in Section 29b of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			
2) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 29b of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

### Impact Discussion:

29b-1 and 29b-2. As discussed under Item 29a, the Trail Master Plan will not facilitate any development that requires the on-site disposal of sewage, and proposed trail improvements will not require connections to sewage treatment facilities. Therefore, no project-related or cumulative impact to sewage collection/treatments facilities will occur, and the project will be consistent with goals and policies in the General Plan pertaining to such facilities.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>29c. Waste Treatment &amp; Disposal Facilities - Solid Waste Management (PWA)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Have a direct or indirect adverse effect on a landfill such that the project impairs the landfill's disposal capacity in terms of reducing its useful life to less than 15 years?		X			X			
2) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 29c of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X			X			

### Impact Discussion:

29c-1. Trash receptacles could potentially be installed at a staging area for trail use in the Santa Rosa Valley. However, the amount of trash generated will be nominal relative to existing residential development in the area and will not impair the disposal capacity of any landfills. Furthermore, as required by California Public Resources Code (PRC) 41701, Ventura County's Countywide Siting Element (CSE), adopted in June 2001 and updated annually, confirms Ventura County has at least 15 years of disposal capacity available for waste generated by in -County projects. Because the County currently exceeds the minimum disposal capacity required by state PRC, the proposed project will have less than significant project-specific impacts, and will not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant cumulative impacts related to Ventura County's solid waste disposal capacity.

29c-2. Ventura County Ordinance 4421 requires all discretionary permit applicants whole proposed project includes construction and/or demolitions activities to reuse, salvage, recycle, or compost a minimum of 60 percent of the solid waste generated by their project. The IWMD's waste diversion program (Form B Recycling Plan/Form C

Report) ensures this 60 percent diversion goal is met prior to issuance of a final zoning clearance for use inauguration or occupancy, consistent with the Ventura County General Plan's Waste Treatment & Disposal Facility Goals 4.4.1-1 and 4.4.1-2 and Policies 4.4.2-1, 4.4.2-2, 4.4.2-4, and 4.4.2-6. Therefore, the proposed project will be consistent with applicable General Plan goals and policies for solid waste disposal capacity.

**Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

None.

*Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>29d. Waste Treatment &amp; Disposal Facilities - Solid Waste Facilities (EHD)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Comply with applicable state and local requirements as set forth in Section 29d of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			
2) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 29d of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

**Impact Discussion:**

29d-1 and 29d-2. Implementation of the proposed Trail Master Plan will not involve construction of a solid waste facility. Therefore, no project-related or cumulative impact associated with solid waste facilities will occur, and the project will be consistent with applicable goals and policies in the General Plan.

**Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

None.

*Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>30. Utilities</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) Individually or cumulatively cause a disruption or re-routing of an existing utility facility?	X				X			
b) Individually or cumulatively increase demand on a utility that results in expansion of an existing utility facility which has the potential for secondary environmental impacts?	X				X			
c) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 30 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

### Impact Discussion:

30a and 30b. As discussed under Transportation and Circulation, Item G, proposed trail improvements will not cause a disruption or re-routing of existing pipelines operated by utilities. Trail projects also will not require electricity, gas, or communication service. Therefore, no project-related or cumulative impact on utilities will occur.

30c. The applicable General Plan goals and policies for Item 30 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines are: Resources Goal 4.5.1 and Policies 4.5.2-1 through 4.5.2-3. Based on the above discussion, the proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with these goals and policies.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.

[illegible]



Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
1) Either directly or indirectly, impact flood control facilities and watercourses by obstructing, impairing, diverting, impeding, or altering the characteristics of the flow of water, resulting in exposing adjacent property and the community to increased risk for flood hazards?		X				X		
2) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 31a of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X				X		

### Impact Discussion:

31a-1. As shown in Figure 3, the Trail Master Plan will facilitate the designation of off-street unpaved trails along Arroyo Santa Rosa to the west of Honey Hill Road and to the east of Freeborn Way, and along a watercourse to the south of Blanchard Road that feeds into Arroyo Santa Rosa. All such trails will be established on existing unpaved routes adjacent to the banks of Arroyo Santa Rosa. Their establishment will not obstruct, impair, divert, impede, or alter the flow of water in facilities managed by the Ventura County Watershed Protection District (WPD). Although the proposed trail to the east of Freeborn Way will be located within a WPD-operated flood control facility, along Arroyo Santa Rosa, and will require a WPD encroachment permit, this trail will be outside the watercourse's channel and will not adversely affect its flow. Therefore, impacts on WPD facilities and watercourses will be less than significant. The project will not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant impacts related to WPD facilities and watercourses.

31a-2. The applicable General Plan goals and policies for Item 31 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines are: Resources Goals 2.10.1-1, 2.10.1-2, and 4.6.1, and Policies 2.10.2-2, 2.10.2-4, 4.6.2-1 and 4.6.2-2. Based on the above discussion, the proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with these goals and policies.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>31b. Flood Control Facilities/Watercourses - Other Facilities (PWA)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Result in the possibility of deposition of sediment and debris materials within existing channels and allied obstruction of flow?		X				X		
2) Impact the capacity of the channel and the potential for overflow during design storm conditions?		X				X		
3) Result in the potential for increased runoff and the effects on Areas of Special Flood Hazard and regulatory channels both on and off site?		X				X		
4) Involve an increase in flow to and from natural and man-made drainage channels and facilities?		X				X		
5) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 31b of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X				X		

### Impact Discussion:

31b-1 through 31b-4. As discussed under Water Resources, grading for trail projects will temporarily create the potential for increased erosion and siltation, which could affect the capacity of channels; however, the County will be require that these projects be undertaken in accordance with conditions and requirements established by the Ventura Countywide Stormwater Quality Management Program, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit No. CAS000002 and Ventura Stormwater Quality Management Ordinance No. 4142. These regulations require the preparation and approval of a Stormwater Pollution Control Plan (SWPCP) prior to issuance of grading permits. The SWPCP will require that Best Management Practices (BMPs) be implemented during construction to reduce impacts related to water quality, erosion and siltation during construction. Examples of BMPs that may be implemented during construction include the use of geotextiles and mats, temporary drains and swales, silt fences, and sediments traps. In addition, even where grading does not require a permit, the Countywide program requires the utilization of BMPs to will control, reduce, or eliminate flow to natural

drainage systems. Therefore, impacts to other facilities and watercourses will be less than significant. The project will not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant impacts related to flood control facilities and watercourses.

31b-5. The applicable General Plan goals and policies for Item 31 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines are: Resources Goals 2.10.1-2 and 4.6.1, and Policies 2.10.2-4, 4.6.2-1, and 4.6.2-2. Based on the above discussion, the proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with these goals and policies.

### **Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

None.

*Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>32. Law Enforcement/Emergency Services (Sheriff)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) Have the potential to increase demand for law enforcement or emergency services?		X				X		
b) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 32 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X				X		

### **Impact Discussion:**

32a. The Trail Master Plan will facilitate the development of recreational facilities, which have the potential to increase demand for law enforcement or emergency services. Design standards for trail improvements, however, will provide for security measures to address potential increases in theft, vandalism, and disturbances. Fencing will be installed as necessary to control access, channel trail users, and eliminate liability concerns. The open design of fencing also will allow for natural surveillance or “eye on the trail.” In addition, according to maintenance recommendations in Table 15 of the Trail Master Plan, reported graffiti will be removed immediately. With the implementation of these security measures, impacts on law enforcement and emergency services will be less than significant. The project will not result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to significant impacts related to law enforcement and emergency services.

32b. The applicable General Plan goals and policies for Item 32 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines are: Resources Goals 4.7.1-1 through 4.7.1-7 and Policies 4.7.2-1 through 4.7.2-5. Based on the above discussion, the proposed Trail Master Plan

will be consistent with these goals and policies pertaining to law enforcement and emergency services.

### **Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

None.

*Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>33a. Fire Protection Services - Distance and Response (VCFPD)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Be located in excess of five miles, measured from the apron of the fire station to the structure or pad of the proposed structure, from a full-time paid fire department?		X				X		
2) Require additional fire stations and personnel, given the estimated response time from the nearest full-time paid fire department to the project site?		X				X		
3) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 33a of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?		X				X		

### **Impact Discussion:**

33a-1 and 33a-2. Two fire stations operated by the Ventura County Fire Protection District are located within five miles of the planning area. Fire Station 52 Mission Oaks is located approximately 3 miles west of planning area in City of Camarillo, and Fire Station 34 Arboles is located approximately 1.5 miles southeast of planning area in City of Thousand Oaks. Proposed trail improvements will be in sufficient proximity to (within five miles of) the nearest fire stations. Therefore, no project-related or cumulative impact related to distance or response time will occur.

33a-3. The applicable General Plan goals and policies for Item 32 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines are: Resources Goal 4.8.1 and Policies 4.8.2-1 and 4.8.2-2. Based on the above discussion, the proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with these goals and policies pertaining to the adequacy of fire protection services.

### **Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)**

None.

Source: Google Earth, 2013. Ventura County Fire Department website, 2009. Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>33b. Fire Protection Services – Personnel, Equipment, and Facilities (VCFPD)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Result in the need for additional personnel?	X				X			
2) Magnitude or the distance from existing facilities indicate that a new facility or additional equipment will be required?	X				X			
3) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 33b of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

### Impact Discussion:

33b-1 through 33b-3. The project will not involve urban development and therefore will not generate additional calls for fire protection service. Therefore, the Trail Master Plan will not result in the need for addition personnel, nor will require a new fire protection facility or additional equipment. No project-related or cumulative impact to fire protection services will occur, and the project will be consistent with applicable goals and policies in the General Plan.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>34a. Education - Schools</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Substantially interfere with the operations of an existing school facility?	X				X			
2) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 34a of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

### Impact Discussion:

34a-1 and 34a-2. Implementation of the proposed Trail Master Plan will involve improvements to the Santa Rosa Valley's trail system and will not generate an increase in population or school-age children that will attend nearby schools. Therefore, the project will not interfere with the operation of an existing school facility and will be consistent with applicable goals and policies in the General Plan.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>34b. Education - Public Libraries (Lib. Agency)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
1) Substantially interfere with the operations of an existing public library facility?	X							
2) Put additional demands on a public library facility which is currently deemed overcrowded?	X							
3) Limit the ability of individuals to access public library facilities by private vehicle or alternative transportation modes?	X							

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
4) In combination with other approved projects in its vicinity, cause a public library facility to become overcrowded?					X			
5) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 34b of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

### Impact Discussion:

34b-1. The proposed Trail Master Plan will not generate an increase in population. As such, there will not be an increase in the demand for library resources. In addition, no library facility exists within proximity to the proposed trail network with which the construction or use of the trail network could interfere; the nearest public library to the planning area is Pearson Library, which is located approximately 0.5 mile, over Mountclef Ridge and to the south of the planning area. The proposed trail improvements, in conjunction with existing trails adjacent to the Santa Rosa Valley, could potentially improve the ability of individuals to access public library facilities via alternative transportation modes. Therefore, no project-related or cumulative impact associated with libraries will occur.

34b-5. The applicable General Plan goals and policies for Item 32 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines are: Resources Goals 4.9.1-1 and 4.9.1-5 and Policies 4.9.2-3. Based on the above discussion, the proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with these goals and policies pertaining to public libraries.

### Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

*Source: Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

Issue (Responsible Department)*	Project Impact Degree Of Effect**				Cumulative Impact Degree Of Effect**			
	N	LS	PS-M	PS	N	LS	PS-M	PS
<b>35. Recreation Facilities (GSA)</b>								
<b>Will the proposed project:</b>								
a) Cause an increase in the demand for recreation, parks, and/or trails and corridors?	X				X			
b) Cause a decrease in recreation, parks, and/or trails or corridors when measured against the following standards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Local Parks/Facilities</u> - 5 acres of developable land (less than 15% slope) per 1,000 population;</li> <li>• <u>Regional Parks/Facilities</u> - 5 acres of developable land per 1,000 population; or,</li> <li>• <u>Regional Trails/Corridors</u> - 2.5 miles per 1,000 population?</li> </ul>	X				X			
c) Impede future development of Recreation Parks/Facilities and/or Regional Trails/Corridors?	X				X			
d) Be consistent with the applicable General Plan Goals and Policies for Item 35 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines?	X				X			

### Impact Discussion:

35a through 35c. Because the Trail Master Plan will not generate an increase in population, it will not result in additional demand for recreational facilities. Conversely, future development of trail improvements in accordance with the Trail Master Plan will expand the Santa Rosa Valley's trail network and will enhance its capacity to accommodate future demand. No adverse project-related or cumulative impact on recreational facilities will occur.

35d. The applicable General Plan goals and policies for Item 35 of the Initial Study Assessment Guidelines are: Resources Goals 4.10.1-1 through 4.10.1-7 and Policies 4.10.2-1 through 4.10.2-6. Based on the above discussion, the proposed Trail Master Plan will be consistent with these policies pertaining to recreation.



## Mitigation/Residual Impact(s)

None.

Source: *Ventura County Initial Study Assessment Guidelines, April 2011.*

**\*Key to the agencies/departments that are responsible for the analysis of the items above:**

Airports - Department Of Airports	AG. - Agricultural Department	VCAPCD - Air Pollution Control District
EHD - Environmental Health Division	VCFPD - Fire Protection District	GSA - General Services Agency
Harbors - Harbor Department	Lib. Agency - Library Services Agency	Plng. - Planning Division
PWA - Public Works Agency	Sheriff - Sheriff's Department	WPD – Watershed Protection District

**\*\*Key to Impact Degree of Effect:**

N – No Impact  
LS – Less than Significant Impact  
PS-M – Potentially Significant but Mitigable Impact  
PS – Potentially Significant Impact

## Section C – Mandatory Findings of Significance

Based on the information contained within Section B:		
	Yes	No
1. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		X
2. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one that occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time while long-term impacts will endure well into the future).		X
3. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? "Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effect of other current projects, and the effect of probable future projects. (Several projects may have relatively small individual impacts on two or more resources, but the total of those impacts on the environment is significant.)		X
4. Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		X

## **Findings Discussion:**

1. As stated above in Section B, Item 4, the construction of proposed trail improvements will have potentially significant but mitigable impacts on biological resources. With implementation of mitigation measures listed in that section, the proposed Trail Master Plan will not pose a substantial threat to fish and wildlife, nor will it degrade the quality of the environment.
2. As stated above in Section B, mitigation measures will reduce project-specific and cumulative impacts to less than significant levels. Therefore, the proposed Trail Master Plan will not adversely impact long-term environmental goals.
3. As stated above in Sections A and B, the proposed project will not create any impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable.
4. As stated in Section B, the proposed project does not involve the use of hazardous materials in a manner that poses any unusual risks or the generation of hazardous wastes. The proposed trail improvements will not generate substantial noise that will interfere with surrounding uses, traffic hazards, or adverse impacts to water bodies located on or around the project site. Therefore, the proposed project will not create any environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects, either directly or indirectly on human beings.

## Section D – Determination of Environmental Document

Based on this initial evaluation:

<input type="checkbox"/>	I find the proposed project <b>could not</b> have a significant effect on the environment, and a <b>Negative Declaration</b> should be prepared.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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 the mitigation measure(s) described in Section B of the Initial Study will be applied to the project. A <b>Mitigated Negative Declaration</b> should be prepared.
<input type="checkbox"/>	I find the proposed project, individually and/or cumulatively, MAY have a significant effect on the environment and an <b>Environmental Impact Report (EIR)</b> is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	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, <b>nothing further is required.</b>



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Jonathan Berlin  
Associate Environmental Planner  
Rincon Consultants, Inc.

December 2, 2014  
Date

**Attachments:**

## Attachment 1 – Figures

*Figure 1 Regional Location*

*Figure 2 Site Location*

*Figure 3 Santa Rosa Valley Trail Master Plan*

*Figure 4 Santa Rosa Valley Trail Network Segments Requiring Construction*

*Figure 5 Off-Street Trail Photographs*

*Figure 6 Roadway Photographs*

*Figure 7 Important Farmland Map*

*Figure 8 California Natural Diversity Database Occurrences within 5 Miles of the Planning Area*

*Figure 9 Vegetation Communities Occurring Within the Planning Area*

*Figure 10 Wetlands and Drainages Occurring Within the Planning Area*

Attachment 2 – Santa Rosa Valley Trail Master Plan

Attachment 3 – Works Cited



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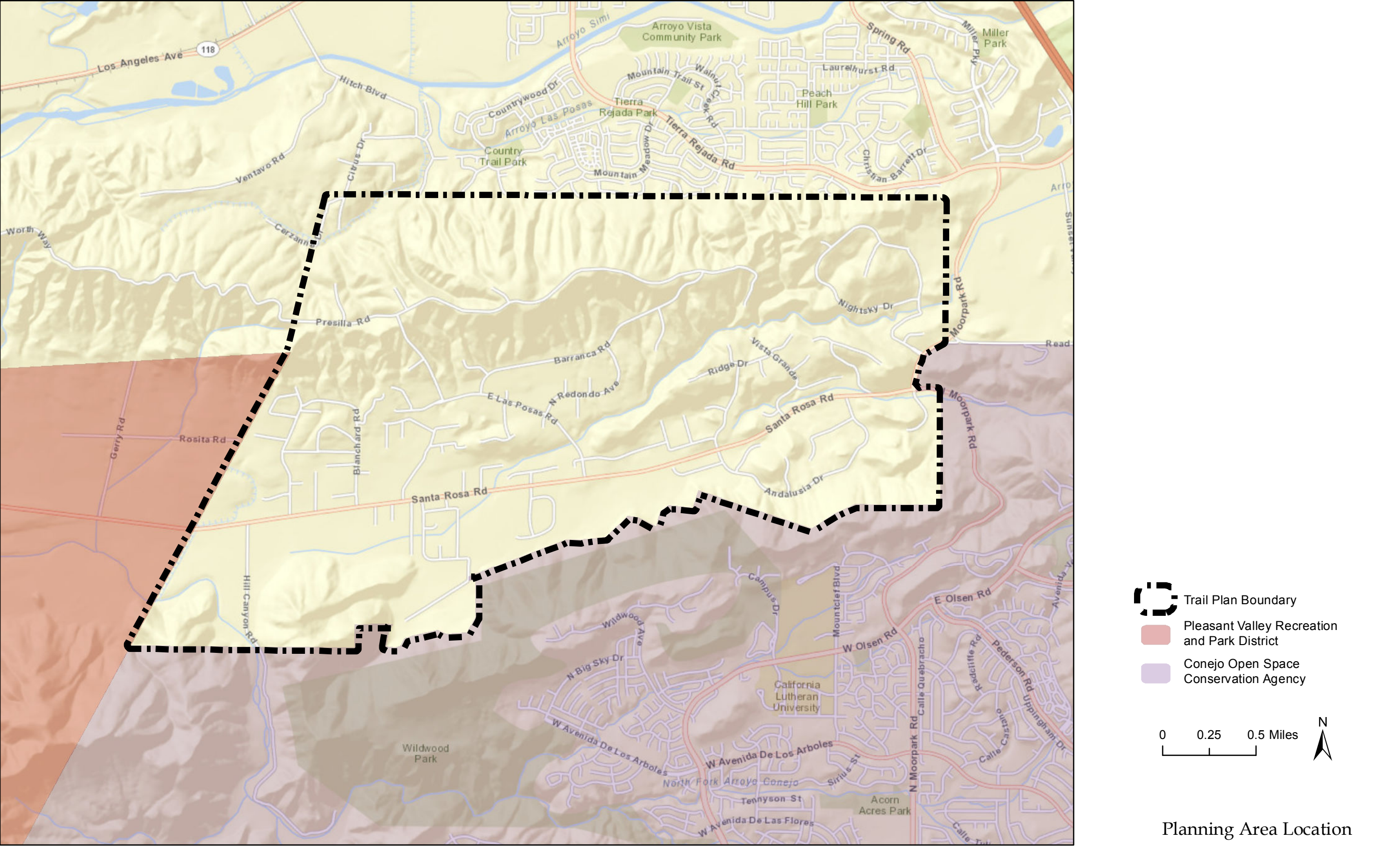
★ Project Location



Regional Location

Figure 1

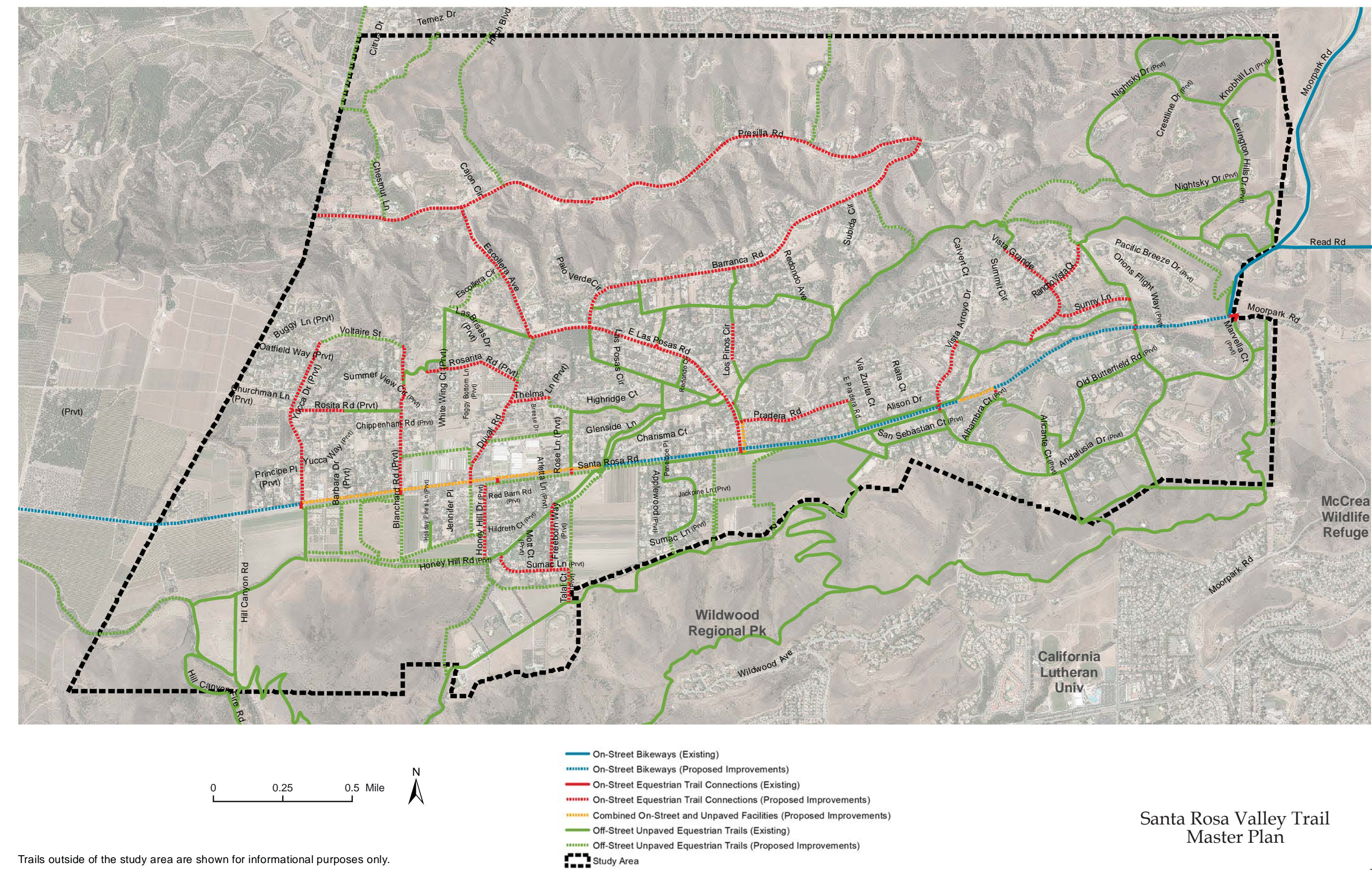




Sources: Santa Rosa Valley Trails Inc., 2013, City of Thousand Oaks, 2013, and Ventura County, 2013.

Figure 2  
County of Ventura



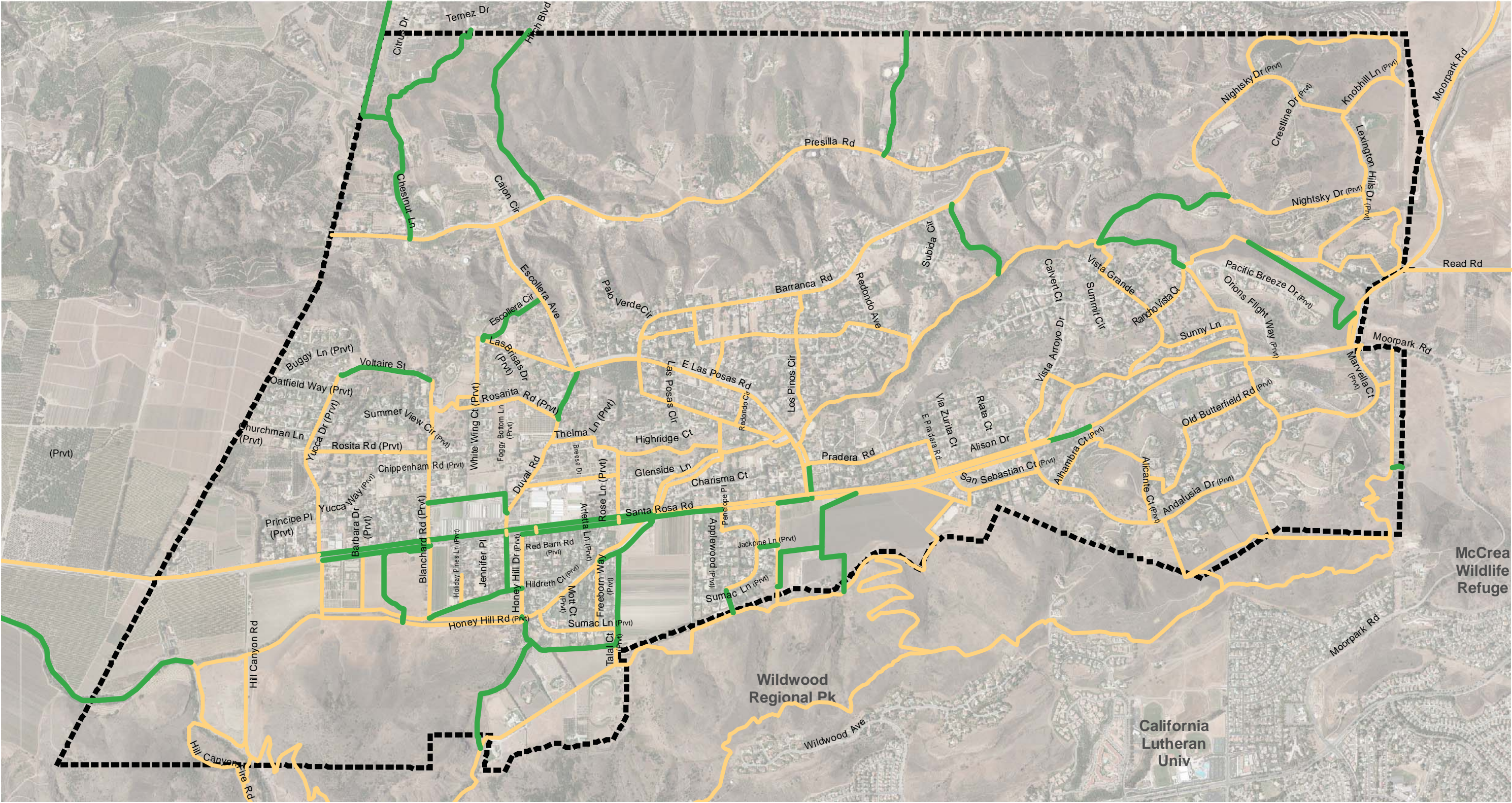


Santa Rosa Valley Trail  
Master Plan

Trails outside of the study area are shown for informational purposes only.

Figure 3  
County of Ventura





0 0.25 0.5 Miles



- Trail Network
- Segments Requiring New Construction
- Study Area

Santa Rosa Valley Trail Network  
Segments Requiring Construction

Figure 4





**Photo 1:** The Trail Master Plan incorporates existing trails including this SRVTI easement next to Rosita Road.



**Photo 2:** An existing off-street equestrian trail runs along the Arroyo Santa Rosa flood control channel between Honey Hill Road and E. Las Posas Road, including an undercrossing of Santa Rosa Road.





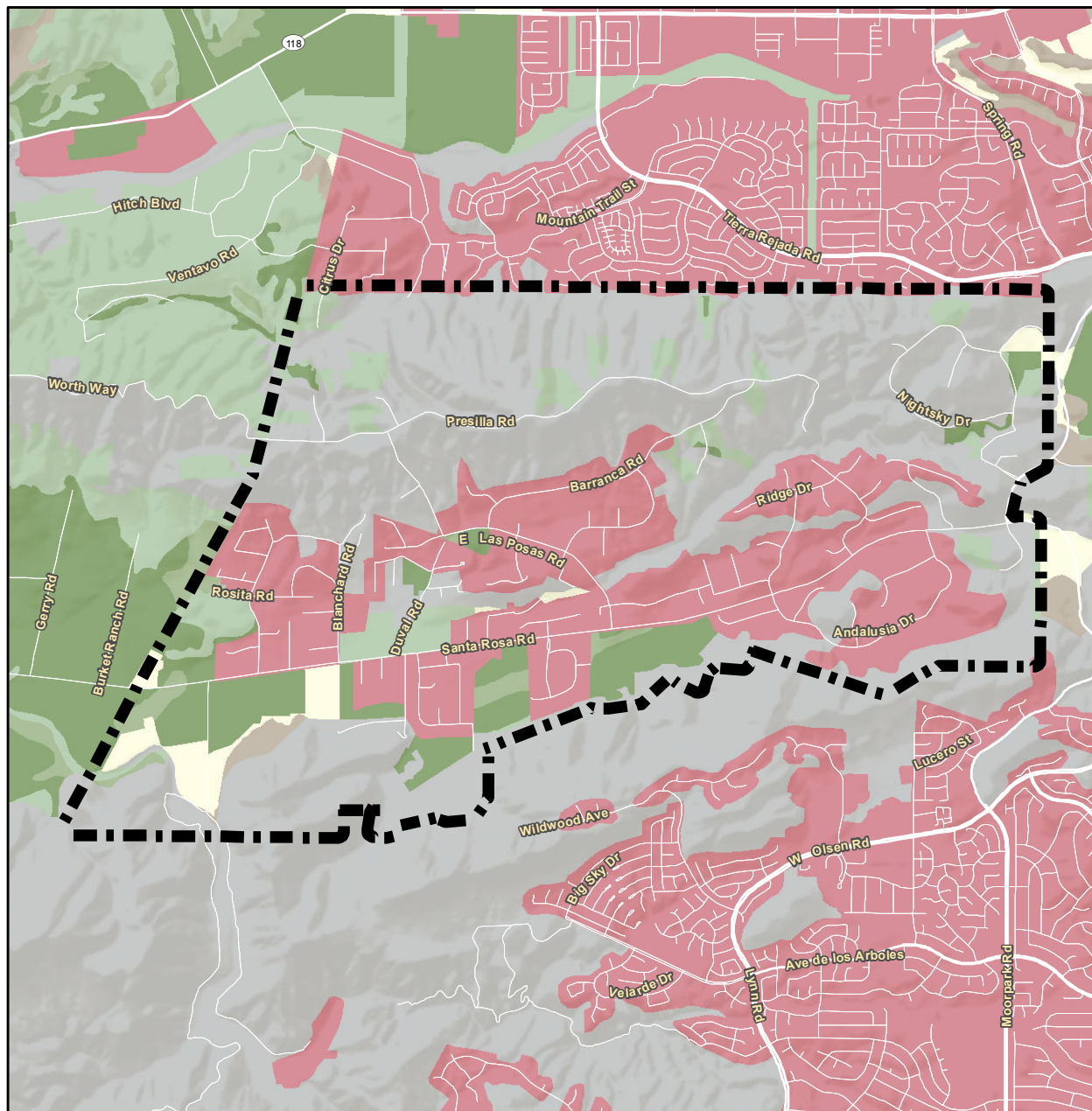
**Photo 1:** The majority of Santa Rosa Road has a wide paved shoulder to accommodate planned bike lanes.



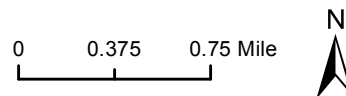
**Photo 2:** This roadway crossing for equestrian users is located at the intersection of Santa Rosa Road and Blanchard Road. Planned equestrian crossings would consist of high-visibility striping and flash beacons.

## Roadway Photographs





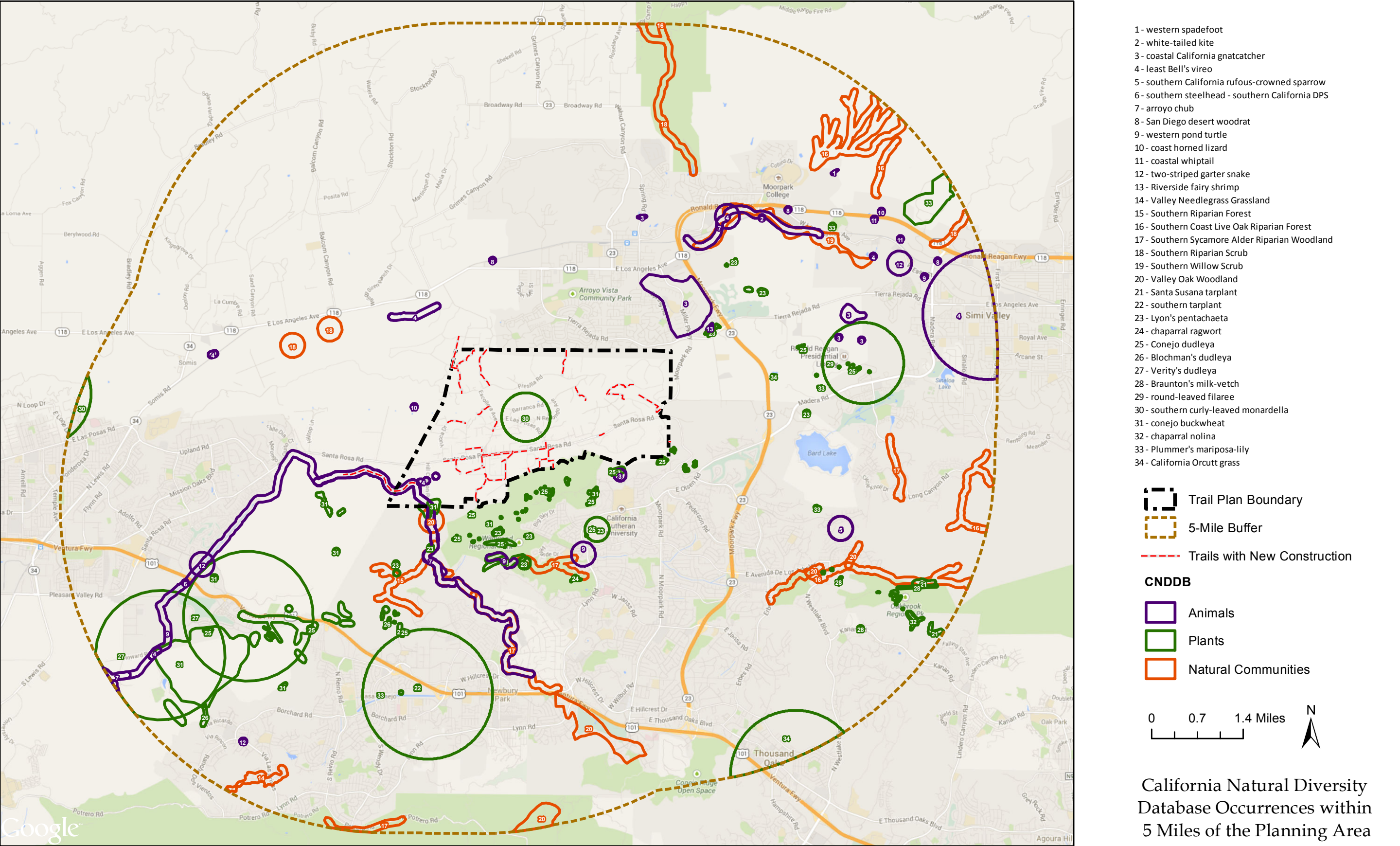
Basemap Sources: Ventura County Resource Management Agency, 2014, Santa Rosa Valley Trails Inc., 2013, City of Thousand Oaks, 2013, and Ventura County, 2013.



- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  Trail Plan Boundary              |  Farmland of Local Importance |
|  Prime Farmland                   |  Grazing Land                 |
|  Farmland of Statewide Importance |  Urban and Built-Up Land      |
|  Unique Farmland                  |  Other Land                   |

Important Farmland Map

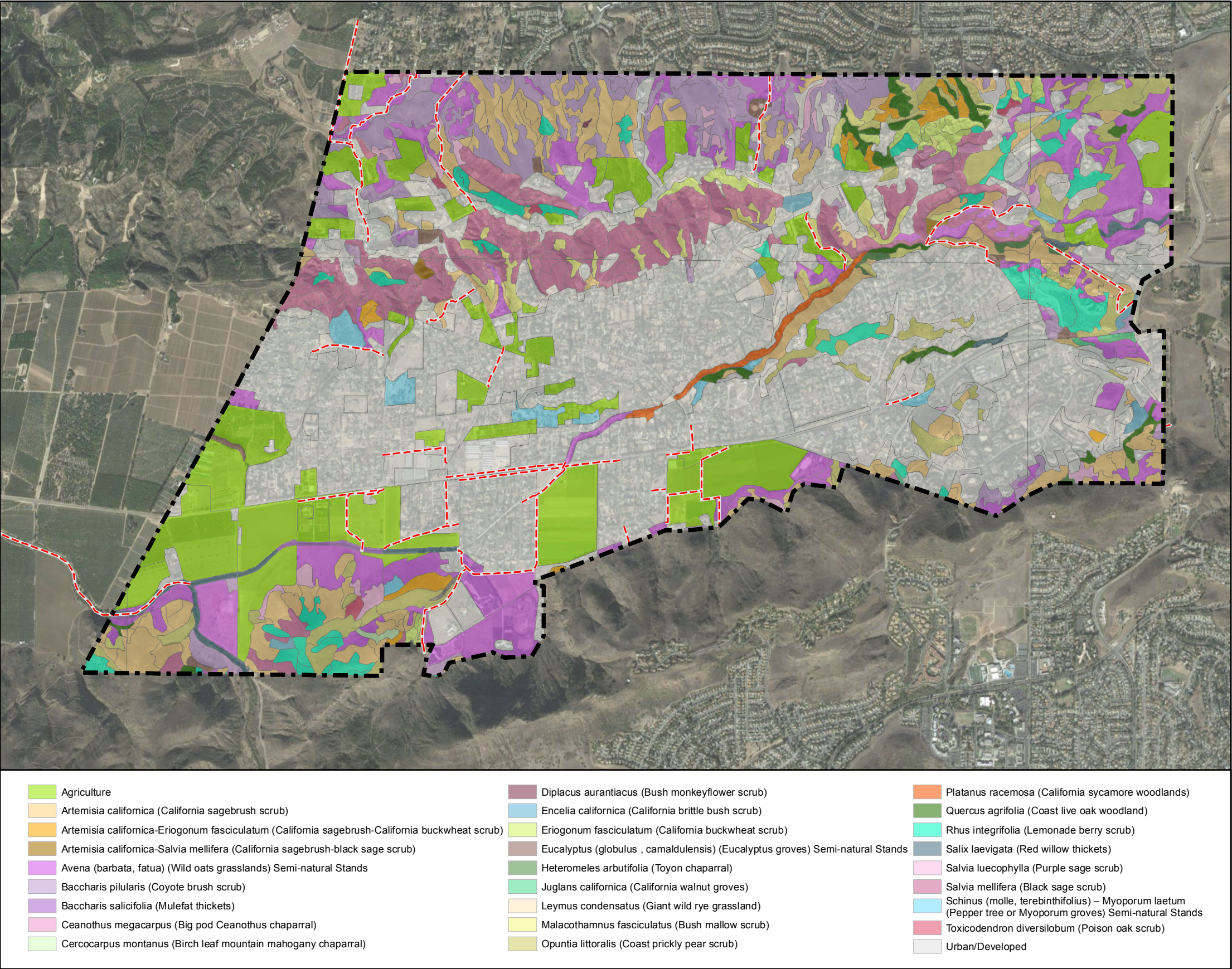
Figure 7





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City of Thousand Oaks, 2013, and Ventura County, 2013.  
California Natural Diversity Database, June, 2014.


California Natural Diversity  
Database Occurrences within  
5 Miles of the Planning Area





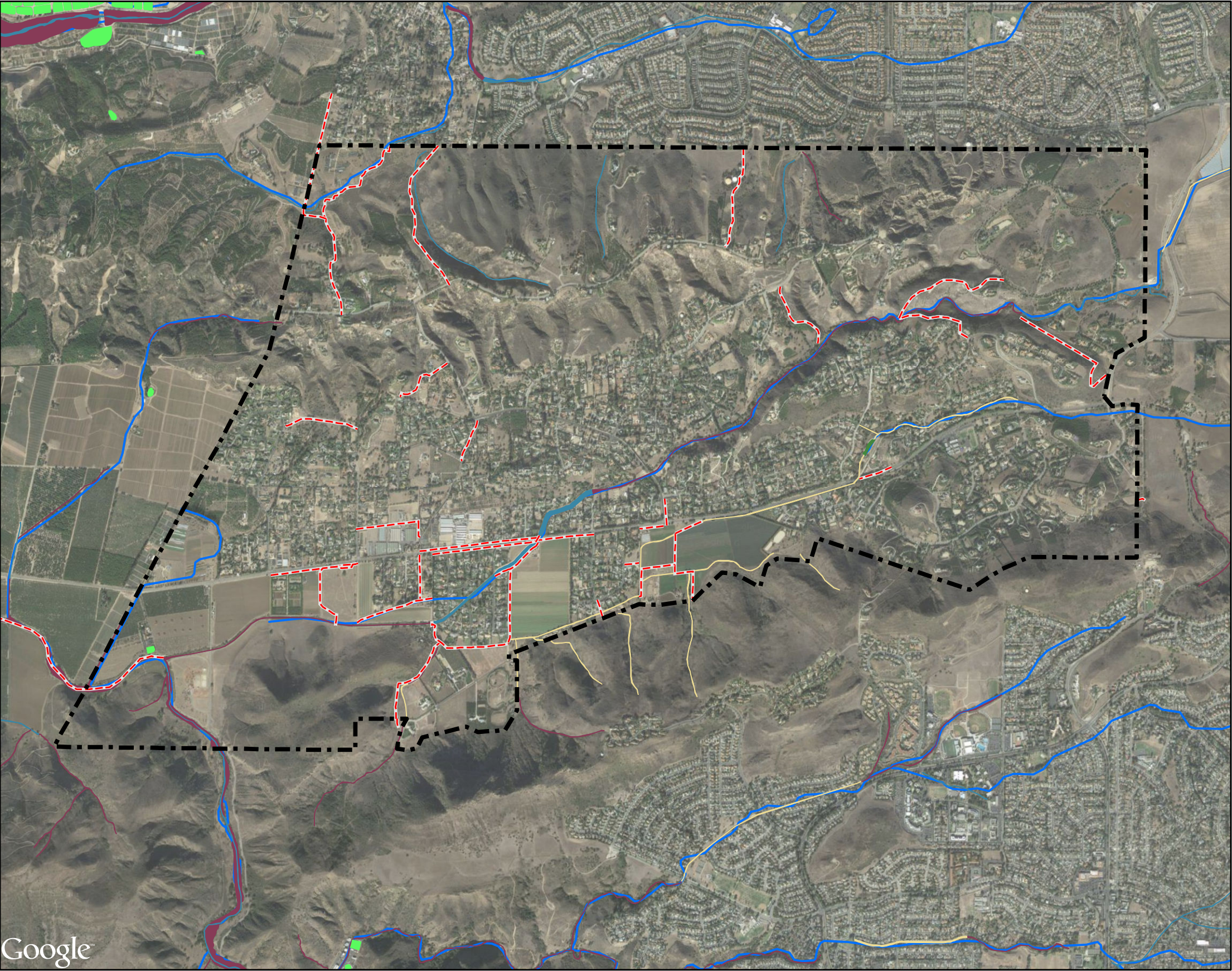
Imagery provided by Google and its licensors © 2014.  
City of Thousand Oaks, 2013, and Ventura County, 2013.

 Trail Plan Boundary  
 Trails With New Construction

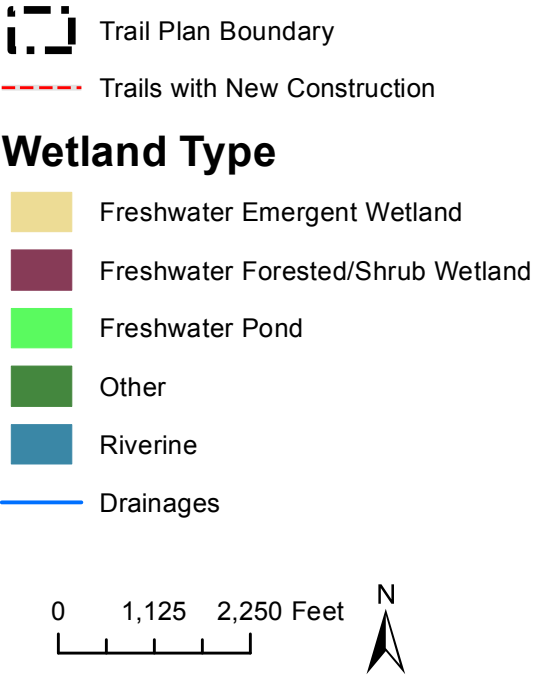
0 1,125 2,250 Feet  


Vegetation Communities Occuring  
Within the Planning Area





Google  
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City of Thousand Oaks, 2013, and Ventura County, 2013.



Wetlands and Drainages Occuring  
within the Plan Area