

## State of California -The Natural Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



South Coast Region 3883 Ruffin Road San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 467-4201 http://www.dfg.ca.gov

September 5, 2012

Ms. Andrea Ozdy County of Ventura 800 S. Victoria Avenue, L#1740 Ventura, CA 93009

Subject: Land Conservation Act Application for property located at 2525

Bardsdale Avenue, Fillmore, California (Ventura County)

Dear Ms. Ozdy:

The Department of Fish and Game supports the application for an Open Space/Wildlife Habitat Land Conservation Act (LCA) contract for the property located at 2525 Bardsdale Avenue, Fillmore, California. The property is located within or adjacent to the Santa Clara River (River), north of Bardsdale Avenue and West of San Cayetano Street in Fillmore, Ventura County. The total acreage of both parcels (APN 046-0-160-390 at 101.09 acres and APN 046-0-160-400 at 10.51 acres) is 111.60 acres. Approximately 82.60 acres are currently floodplain open space, while 29 acres are in agricultural production.

The biological resources observed on the parcels are primarily associated with the riparian habitat. The River provides a significant portion of the remaining riparian and wetland habitat in the region. A recent study identified 18 threatened or endangered species and an additional 20 species of special concern that utilize the River. It is thought that this site currently supports several listed species including least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*), and southern steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*).

Mr. Dan Blankenship has conducted a site visit to evaluate conservation values at the properties. Upon the completion of review of the site and the application package, the Department fully supports the LCA and therefore supports Ventura County's recommendation to designate the property as Wildlife Habitat. The riparian habitat located on the parcels provides a significant benefit to many wildlife and native plant species in the area. In addition, future restoration of the parcels by TNC will add tremendous value for wildlife resources and native plant protection.

Please contact Mr. Dan Blankenship, Staff Environmental Scientist, at (661) 259-3750 if you should need further coordination on the proposed project.

Sincerely,

Edmund Pert Regional Manager South Coast Region

ec: Leslie MacNair

Betty Courtney, Newhall

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

County of Ventura
Planning Commission Hearing
PL12-0071
Exhibit 9

Memo from Edmund Pert (9/5/12)