

- BIO17** To the maximum extent feasible, reduce driving and parking in the vicinity of the Palo Comado pump station to reduce damage to ground squirrel and possibly pocket gopher burrows.
- BIO18** Avoid excessive trampling in the vicinity of the appurtenances near the three stream crossings - Palo Comado Creek, Cheeseboro Creek, and Las Virgenes Creek - to reduce impacts to burrowing amphibians. Similarly, avoid moving downed wood, rocks or other features near any pipeline appurtenances along the Gas Company access road.

Implementation of mitigation measure BIO3 (orange construction safety fencing placed to protect the Braunton's milkvetch) will also assure protection of the mariposa lily further reducing any possibility of an impact to this plant.

7. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

a. Soils

Setting: The project site is comprised of three main components, the Cheeseboro Tank site, Palo Comado Pump Station and segment of the Lindero Feeder (pipeline). None of these areas are in agricultural production. However, historically, prior to incorporation of Palo Comado Canyon and Cheeseboro Canyon into the National Park system, these areas were used for animal grazing. It is likely that other portions of the project area were likewise used for grazing prior to the establishment of the Oak Park community.

Impact Discussion: The County of Ventura Guidelines state that projects having an agricultural land use designation that result in the loss of over 5 acres of prime soils (according to the important farmland inventory classification) would result in significant project-specific impacts to agriculture. In addition, any direct or indirect loss of agricultural soils is considered a significant contribution to the cumulative loss of agricultural land.

The proposed project would not directly or indirectly result in the loss of agricultural land as it is limited to the decommissioning of existing facilities. Therefore, the project would not result in a project-specific or cumulative impact on agricultural soils.

Mitigation and Residual Impacts:

No impact would result, therefore no mitigation is required.

b. Water

Setting: The general setting provided in a. above applies to this issue.

Impact Discussion: The following thresholds pertain to water quality and quantity and are provided in the County Guidelines.

- A use that will decrease the quality of groundwater available for agriculture to a level greater than 1,200 mg/l total dissolved solids (TDS) is considered to have significant project and cumulative impacts.
- Any proposed non-agricultural land use/development which is proposed to use the same water resources as agriculture will have an impact. This includes uses that may increase the net utilization of groundwater in an overdrafted basin or in hydrologic continuity with a basin in overdraft.
- A use that will cause a net decrease in the availability of imported water supplies currently used by agriculture is considered to have a significant project and cumulative impact.

The proposed project is a water infrastructure decommissioning project and would not require the use of water supplies and therefore would have no adverse impact on water supplies available to agriculture. Additionally, because the project would not have a project-specific impact on water supplies for agriculture, it would not contribute to any cumulative impact.

Mitigation and Residual Impacts: No impact would result; therefore, no mitigation is required.

c. Air Quality/Micro Climate

Setting: The general setting provided in a. above applies to this issue.

Impact Discussion: The County Guidelines agricultural resources threshold for air quality/micro climate is as follows.

- Any proposed non-agricultural land use/development located on or within one-half-mile of property currently in or suitable for agricultural production may have an impact.
 - Dust - Any use that will cause a 10 percent or greater increase in dust on agricultural parcels is considered to have a significant impact.
 - Solar access - Any use that will cause a 10 percent or greater decrease in solar energy for an agricultural parcel is considered to have a significant impact.
 - Tree row - Any use that will cause the removal of any tree row is considered to have a potentially significant impact, necessitating more detailed review on a case-by-case basis.
 - Other - Any use that will cause a substantial adverse change in an agricultural area's air quality and/or microclimate, for reasons other than dust, decreased solar access or tree row removal is considered to have a significant impact.

As discussed in Section 3 (Air Quality) above, temporary construction activities associated with the proposed project would generate dust. However, these emissions would be reduced through the implementation of dust suppression measures identified in Item 3, Air

Quality. Additionally, there are no agricultural uses proximate to the proposed project impact areas. Therefore, no dust impact to agricultural use would result from project implementation on a project-specific or cumulative basis.

The proposed project is not adjacent to any agricultural uses; therefore, no impediment to solar access for nearby agricultural uses would result from the project. No tree windrows are proposed for removal. Therefore, no modification of micro-climate in association with trees or solar access would result from the proposed project.

The proposed project would have no project-specific impact on microclimate and therefore would not contribute to any cumulative microclimate effects on agriculture.

Mitigation and Residual Impacts: No microclimate impacts would result; therefore, no mitigation is required.

d. Pests/Diseases

Setting: The general setting provided in a. above applies to this issue.

Impact Discussion: The County Guidelines threshold for agricultural impacts associated with pests and diseases is as follows.

- Any proposed non-agricultural land use/development that could cause a substantial increase in or introduction of pests and/or disease in an agricultural area will have a significant impact.

The proposed project would not introduce any new uses, activities, or elements to the project site that would be expected to result in agricultural pests or diseases being brought into the area. Additionally, no agricultural uses exist in proximity to the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in impacts to agriculture do to the introduction of pests or disease. Because the proposed project would not result in a project-specific impact for this issue, it will not contribute to any cumulative impact.

Mitigation and Residual Impacts: No impact would result. Therefore, no mitigation is warranted.

e. Land Use Incompatibility

Setting: The project site is within designated open space and a road right-of-way. No agricultural uses are located in proximity to the project site.

Impact Discussion: The County Guidelines agricultural impact threshold that relates to land use incompatibility is as follows.

- Any non-agricultural land use/development that, by its nature, design or operation may pose substantial land use incompatibilities with nearby property currently in or suitable for agricultural production will have a significant impact.

The proposed project is not located in proximity to agricultural uses. Therefore, the proposed project would not introduce new uses, activities, or a population that would negatively impact nearby agricultural uses. Because the proposed project would not result in a project-specific impact for this issue, it will not contribute to any cumulative impact.

Mitigation and Residual Impacts: No impact would result. Therefore, no mitigation is warranted.

8. VISUAL RESOURCES

a. Scenic Highways

Setting: Kanan Road is identified in the Ventura County General Plan Resources Appendix, as an eligible county scenic highway (County of Ventura, 1988).

Impact Discussion: The County Guidelines state that a project would have a significant impact on scenic highways if it would “degrade visual resources or significantly alter or obscure public views”. There are no proposed project activities that would be visible from Kanan Road. Furthermore, no new construction is proposed that would be visible from this road. Thus the project would have no impact on scenic highways on a project-specific or cumulative basis.

Mitigation and Residual Impacts: No impact would result. Therefore, no mitigation is necessary.

b. Scenic Area/Feature

Setting: The regional visual context of the project area is the Simi Hills and Santa Monica Mountains from the Calabasas community to Thousand Oaks. The primary visual corridor through the region is U.S. Highway 101. This highway is located about 3 miles from the project infrastructure.

The proposed project site is located within the SMMNRA and the Oak Park area of unincorporated Ventura County. The aesthetics of the SMMNRA, in the project area, is characterized by the topographical variation created by the hills and canyons (varying from about 1,100 to 1,700 feet above mean sea level), natural condition of the landscape, and plant communities represented. Vegetation is primarily comprised of low chaparral with minor woodland areas and riparian vegetation in proximity to the creeks (Palo Comado, Cheeseboro and Las Virgenes) and seeps. The area is essentially undeveloped open space without substantial alterations in landform with the exception of the project facilities proposed for decommissioning and a subsurface gas line with above-ground markers. Several unpaved ranch roads serve as the main trails for persons engaging in recreation (pedestrian, bike and

equestrian) as well as access roads for NPS staff and other authorized persons accessing the area by vehicle. The scenic characteristics of the area are valued highly by members of the public as demonstrated by its designation as national parkland.

Within the Oak Park community, the scenic character of the pipeline right-of-way is that of a typical, well maintained urban residential California community with adjacent undeveloped open space.

Impact Discussion: The County Guidelines state that a project would have a significant impact if it would have a substantial, demonstrable negative aesthetic effect. Further, Policy 1.7.2.4 of the General Plan states that a project would have a significant impact if it would degrade visual resources or significantly alter or obscure public views.

Short-term. The proposed project would result in the introduction of construction equipment, materials and temporarily disturbed areas to the SMMNRA and Oak Park community. Each phase of the project (e.g., tank decommissioning, pump station decommissioning and Pipeline decommissioning) is expected to take up to 30 calendar days. Decommissioning activities would be clearly visible to recreational trail users during these periods and to viewers along Doubletree Road for a period of about 5 days during pipe slurring operations. Because of the visually sensitive nature of parklands, the proposed project may be considered to have a potentially significant impact on a scenic area.

The NPS has reconstruction of the Cheeseboro main trailhead planned for late 2010 or 2011. As both the reconstruction and decommissioning projects would affect the views of persons recreating within the same general area of the SMMNRA, the proposed project has the potential to have a cumulatively significant, short-term impact on this scenic area.

Long-term. Over the long-term, the project would result in a substantial beneficial impact on the scenic quality of the project area through the removal of the above-ground Cheeseboro Tank, surface features at the Palo Comado Pump Station and along the Lindero Feeder segment to be decommissioned.

Mitigation and Residual Impacts: To reduce the short-term scenic resources impacts of the proposed project the measures identified below shall be implemented. With implementation of the measures below, the short-term aesthetic impacts of the proposed project are considered to be mitigated to the extent feasible. Therefore, short-term impacts are considered to be reduced to a level of less than significant since the impact is temporary.

- V1** The District shall prepare and implement a decommissioning “good housekeeping” plan, which will include at a minimum, designation of specific areas for materials and equipment storage, provision of appropriate trash collection receptacles onsite, daily pick-up of any trash or debris from the project area, appropriate disposal of trash and refuse on at least a weekly basis, screening of stationary equipment and stockpiles from public views wherever feasible.

- V2** Project impact areas along the pipeline decommissioning route shall be minimized to the maximum extent feasible while allowing for completion of the task at hand.

- V3** Hydro-seeding of native species, as proposed by the District, should be conducted at the impact sites at a time when natural precipitation will be available to support plant growth (i.e., within 1 month of the rainy season which is the month of October). The plant seed mix to be used at the site shall be selected in coordination with representatives of the NPS.

No significant, adverse long-term visual impacts would result therefore no long-term mitigation measures are warranted.

9. PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Setting: Paleontological resources refer to the fossilized remains of plant and animal life. In Ventura County, paleontological remains include examples from throughout most of geologic history to the present (Ventura County, 1992). Certain geologic formations are of known paleontological importance, others are of low importance, while the importance of other deposits is unknown. Fossil remains are considered important if they are: 1) well preserved, 2) identifiable, 3) type/topotypic specimens, 4) age diagnostic, 5) useful in environmental reconstruction, 6) represent rare and/or endemic taxa, 7) represent a diverse assemblage, 8) represent associated marine and nonmarine taxa.

Based on a review of the USGS Geological Maps of the Thousand Oaks and Calabasas Quadrangles (Diblee, 1993 and 1992), the proposed project area is almost entirely underlain by Monterey Formation (Tm/Tml) with the exception of creek channels which are comprised of alluvial deposits (Qa) and small areas of landslide debris (Qls). The Monterey Formation is considered to be of moderate paleontological importance as mapped by Ventura County (Ventura County, September 2006). The geologic map legend indicates that this formation (Tm) is comprised of white-weathering thin bedded, platy, locally brittle siliceous shale to soft punky shale (devoid of sandstone in this quadrangle). Tml is identified as being similar to Tm but soft, fissile to punky and includes scattered thin, hard calcareous layers and concretions.

The Monterey Formation (referred to as the Modelo Formation by Weber) is generally comprised of a siliceous mudstone/marine deposits rich in fossils. It covers both a large area of California and an extended period of time. This formation has a history of producing scientifically significant vertebrate and invertebrate fossils. Marine mammal fauna including extinct whales, sea lion and walrus-like animals have been recovered from this unit. Fossil birds, plants, seaweed (kelp), boney fish, sharks, the burrows of soft bodied animals, as well as foraminifera and calcareous nanno-fossils (animal and plant members of the marine plankton) are found in these strata. The Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History has a locality approximately three miles east of the former Jordan Ranch (Palo Comado Canyon area) containing the first recorded occurrence of the fossil cormorant *Phalacrocorax femoralis*. Additional fossil birds (*Puffinus*) and whale remains have been reported near Palo Comado Canyon. The Environmental Impact Report prepared for an historically proposed development

at Jordan Ranch also stated that sixteen unrecorded fossil localities were located in this formation, east of the site (area formerly known as Jordan Ranch), during field reconnaissance. Marine mammal bone material, including whale ear bones and dolphin ribs were observed. The fossil burrows of soft-bodied animals, foraminifera (microplankton), fish scales and skeletal material, and bivalves, also were observed in these localities. On the former Jordan Ranch property itself fish skeletal material and scales, and foraminifera were identified during field surveys (Ventura County, 1991).

Impact Discussion: Based upon the County Guidelines, impacts to formations other than those with a low to no level of paleontological importance require further evaluation. As indicated above, the project impact areas are considered to be of mainly moderate paleontological importance within the Ventura County area. However, the earth material at the project site has been disturbed by construction activities associated with the site/pad preparation (cut and fill) for the installation of the Cheeseboro Tank, site/foundation preparation for the structures at the Palo Comado Pump stations and trenching for installation of the Lindero Feeder. For example, specifications for the construction of the Palo Comado Pump Station (Perliter and Ingalsbe Consulting Engineers, 1968) indicate that existing silty clay material that overlays the fractured shale material at the Palo Comado Pump Station site required over-excavation and replacement with specified fill within specified building areas and 2-feet beyond. Additionally, the project ground disturbing activities are to be limited in area and relatively surficial (expected 6 inch depth maximum). Thus the likelihood of the project impacting intact fossils of significance is remote and is considered a less than significant impact and not cumulatively considerable in its potential effect.

Mitigation and Residual Impacts: No significant impact is anticipated, therefore, no mitigation is warranted.

10. CULTURAL RESOURCES

The following assessment is based upon the *Phase I Archaeological Investigation of Approximately 5 Acres for Triunfo Sanitation District's Cheeseboro Reservoir & Lindero Feeder Segment Decommissioning Project, Ventura County, CA*, by Conejo Archaeological Consultants, prepared for Padre Associates, Inc. (September 21, 2008). This report is available for review at the District office located at 1001 Partridge Drive, Suite 150, Ventura, California and is hereby incorporated by reference. The archaeological investigation included: record searches at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC) and with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC); an archaeological survey of the area of potential effect (APE); and consultation with Native American representatives.

a. Archaeological

Setting

Regional Ethnographic Overview. The project area lies within the historic territory of the Native American Indian group known as the Chumash. The Chumash occupied the region along the coast from San Luis Obispo County to Malibu Canyon, and inland as far as the

western edge of the San Joaquin Valley, as well as the four northern Channel Islands. The Chumash are subdivided into factions based on distinct linguistic dialects: Barbareño, Ventureño, Purisimeño, Ynezeño, Obispeño, and Island.

The Ventureño were the southernmost Chumash group, occupying most of the area of present day Ventura County and the southwest corner of Los Angeles County. The name Ventureño is derived from the mission with local jurisdiction, San Buenaventura.

The archaeological record indicates that sedentary populations occupied the coastal regions of California more than 9,000 years ago. Several chronological frameworks have been developed for the Chumash region. One of the most definitive works on Chumash chronology is that of King (1990). King postulates three major periods -- Early, Middle and Late. Based on artifact typologies from a great number of sites, he was able to discern numerous style changes within each of the major periods.

The Early Period (8000 to 3350 Before Present [B.P.]) is characterized by a primarily seed processing subsistence economy. The Middle Period (3350 to 800 B.P.) is marked by a shift in the economic/subsistence focus from plant gathering and the use of hard seeds, to a more generalized hunting-maritime-gathering adaptation, with an increased focus on acorns. The full development of the Chumash culture, one of the most socially and economically complex hunting and gathering groups in North America, occurred during the Late Period (800 to 150 B.P.).

The Chumash aboriginal way of life ended with Spanish colonization. As neophytes brought into the mission system, they were transformed from hunters and gatherers into agricultural laborers and exposed to diseases to which they had no resistance. By the end of the Mission Period in 1834, the Chumash population had been decimated by disease and declining birthrates. Population loss as a result of disease and economic deprivation continued into the next century.

Today many people claim their Chumash heritage in Ventura County. In general, they place high value on objects and places associated with their past history, especially burials, grave goods, and archaeological sites.

Regional Historic Overview. The project site is located in the southeastern corner of the 1795 Spanish Land Grant - San Jose de Gracia de Simi. The historic Rancho Simi headquarters were located in the present day City of Simi. The general historic use of the project area during the Spanish, Mexican and American Periods was as grazing lands for livestock.

Review of the USGS 1903 15 Minute Calabasas USGS Quadrangle shows no evidence of development within the project vicinity. Palo Comado Canyon is named Posita Canyon on the 1903 map. The 1950 7.5 Minute Thousand Oaks Quadrangle and 1952 7.5 Minute Calabasas Quadrangle also show the project area as undeveloped with the exception of unimproved roads heading north up each of the three canyons, and a water tank located near the eastern edge of the project site in Las Virgenes Canyon.

Two large developments known as the Ahmanson Ranch and Jordan Ranch were proposed for the general project area. In 1969, Calleguas Municipal Water District (Calleguas) built the Lindero Feeder with Palo Comado Pump Station and 4 million gallon Cheeseboro Reservoir. The portion in what is now SMMNRA was intended to serve future development in Palo Comado Canyon and Ahmanson Ranch. The Ahmanson Ranch and Jordan Ranch projects have since been abandoned and the land dedicated as open space.

Background Research Findings. A record search was conducted at the SCCIC by Ms. Maki of Conejo Archaeological Consultants on July 24, 2008. The records search included a review of all archaeological site records and investigative reports within a 0.5-mile radius of the APE. In addition, historic maps of the project area were inspected.

Seventeen archaeological sites are recorded within a 0.5-mile radius of the project APE, five of which are located within a 0.25-mile radius of the project APE. Three archaeological sites are located within 150 meters (492 ft.) of the project APE and are described below.

CA-VEN-147 was first recorded by Chester King in 1967 and is located northwest of the Palo Comado Pump Station. CA-VEN-147 is an open-air site consisting of a relatively low density scatter of cobble tools, cores, manos and debitage located on the eastern side of the main Palo Comado drainage. In 1989, W & S Consultants conducted a Phase II excavation at CA-VEN-147 and determined that the archaeological site had been highly disturbed by on-going ranching activities. Fourteen 1 x 1 meter (3.2 x 3.2 ft.) units were excavated, but only three units contained cultural material. A total of twenty-five cultural items were recovered during the Phase II excavation; thirteen of which were found during the surface collection of the site. King speculates that the manos and high frequency of large tools indicates CA-VEN-147 was occupied during the Early Period (King 1994b).

CA-VEN-884 was recorded as a low density lithic scatter just south of CA-VEN-147 by Ken Kelly in 1987. The cultural deposit is situated on a large stream bench located on the eastern side of the main Palo Comado drainage southwest of the Palo Comado Pump Station. W & S Consultants Phase II excavation in 1989 revealed a low to moderate density subsurface cultural deposit covering an area approximately 60 meters (197 ft.) in width (East-West) and 100 meters (328 ft.) in length (North-South). The Phase II excavation also indicates that much of the CAVEN-884 deposit was re-deposited and buried in a secondary context. A small amount of terrestrial and marine faunal remains were recovered from CA-VEN-884 along with 158 artifacts. Based on data recovered, W & S Consultants (1989) suggest that "*CA-VEN-884 functioned as a very occasionally used encampment that was probably only used on a sporadic or perhaps seasonal basis.*"

CA-VEN-885 was recorded as a small open air midden site with extensive burned earth and charcoal in the soil and one complete abalone shell pendant by Ken Kelly in 1987. The site is located on the west side of Palo Comado Creek. W & S Consultants conducted a Phase II excavation at CA-VEN-885 in 1989. In the seven 1x1 meter (3.2 x

3.2 ft.) units excavated, five were sterile of cultural material. The material recovered from the other two units consists of one flake and other “possible” cultural material, which W & S Consultants (1989) conclude is largely non-cultural in origin. W & S Consultants note that: “*Collectively, commercial livestock traffic at CA-VEN-885 has resulted in such severe degradation of the site surface that the site deposit does not appear to retain any surface or subsurface integrity.*” However, Chester King’s 1998 site record update indicates that CA-VEN-885 still exists. King (1994) notes the site is mostly intact and describes it as an “*Open air site with dark soil area on west side of Palo Comado Creek.*” CA-VEN-885 is located north-northwest (NNW) of the Manhole located on the west side of and immediately adjacent to Palo Comado Creek. W & S Consultants (1989) excavated two units in the general vicinity of this manhole and both were sterile of cultural deposits.

Thirty-four archaeological investigations have been conducted within a 0.5-mile radius of the APE. Two large surveys together cover approximately seventy percent of the project APE. Approximately 30 percent of the project APE was surveyed by W & S Consultants as part of their 1987 Jordan Ranch survey. Two years later W & S Consultants (1989) conducted a series of Phase II archaeological investigations within Palo Comado Canyon, which included sites CA-VEN-147, -884 and -885. In 1980, Archaeological Associates, Ltd. surveyed the Ventura County Portion of the Las Virgenes Ranch, which encompasses over one-third of the eastern portion of the project APE (Van Horn, 1980). The western most portion of the project APE, which lies west of and above Palo Comado Canyon, was surveyed by Conejo Archaeological Consultants in 2005. A few smaller surveys have also been conducted within the general project vicinity including Schmidt 2002 and King 1967, 1994b, c.

SMMNRA Cultural Resources Manager Phil Holmes conducted an archival record search of the National Park Service’s (NPS) archaeological files at Rocky Oaks on September 15, 2008. This record research identified two archaeological sites, FS-65 & FS-69, within a 0.5-mile radius of the project APE that were not recorded at the SCCIC. Of these two archaeological sites, FS-65 is within close proximity to the easternmost edge of the project APE in Las Virgenes Canyon and is described below.

FS-65 was recorded as “a probable site of a residence” by King and Evarts in 2006. Trees, agave, fences, and historic artifacts are noted in the site record. The site is classified as falling within the 1914-1945 time period. FS-65 is located within approximately 20 meters (70 ft.) of the eastern end of the Lindero Feeder appurtenances.

The NPS files identified two archaeological investigations that were not on file at the SCCIC. The first of these is King & Parson’s 2006 report, Malu’liwini, Archaeological Record of Settlement and Activity in the Simi Hills. This report gives an excellent and detailed overview of background information regarding archaeological sites in the Simi Hills and provides archaeological site management recommendations to the NPS. This report also indicates that in 1993, 1997 and 1999, King and a crew conducted an archaeological survey of portions of Palo Comado, Cheeseboro, Las Virgenes, & Liberty Canyons. The second investigation was

conducted following the 2005 Topanga fire by Topanga Archaeological Consultants who surveyed approximately 10,500 acres of NPS and Mountains Recreation and Conservancy Authority (MRCA) property in the Simi Hills. This survey included most if not all of the current project APE.

The listings of the National Register of Historic Places (National Park Service 2008), California Historical Landmarks (Office of Historic Preservation 2008) and California Points of Historical Interest (Office of Historic Preservation 1992) include no properties within a 0.5-mile radius of the APE. The California State Historic Resources Inventory also lists no historic properties within a 0.5-mile radius of the APE (Office of Historic Preservation 2007). There are no Ventura County Historical Landmarks within a 0.5-mile radius of the APE (Ventura County 1997).

Review of the 1903 USGS 15 Minute Calabasas Quadrangle shows no development or roads within or adjacent to the project APE. The 1952 USGS 7.5 Minute Calabasas Quadrangle shows unimproved dirt roads going up Palo Comado, Cheeseboro and Las Virgenes Canyons. One water tank is also mapped near the eastern most edge of the project APE in Las Virgenes Canyon. No other development is shown within the project APE in 1952. The 1963 USGS 7.5 Minute Calabasas Quadrangle shows no changes within the project APE from the 1952 map.

Archaeological Field Survey. Ms. Maki conducted an archaeological survey of the approximate 5-acre APE on August 12, 2008. SMMNRA Cultural Resources Manager Phil Holmes provided permission to survey on NPS land in an email dated September 7, 2008. The project boundaries were pointed out in the field by Triunfo Project Manager Mark Capron, Padre Associates Project Manager Donna Hebert and SMMNRA biologist Tarja Sagar. The objective of the survey was the visual detection of historical resources, including lithic debris and aboriginal artifacts, midden deposits, archaeological features, historical-era foundations or refuse, and other evidence of past land use.

The project APE is located within open space and ground surface visibility varied dependent on the density of vegetation. At the Cheeseboro Reservoir and Palo Comado Pump Station survey methodology consisted of walking linear transects spaced approximately 3 meters (10 ft.) apart within the APE. Along the Lindero Feeder, the ground surface was inspected to an approximate 7 meter (22 ft.) (about 1936 sq. ft.) radius around each appurtenance or cluster or appurtenances that was to be removed. Where possible linear transects spaced 3 meters (10 ft.) apart were used in the survey. The appurtenances were accessed on foot by following the pipeline route. In areas of dense vegetation and/or steep slopes survey methodology was more cursory and consisted of examining any open ground surfaces and the various spoil piles of rodent mounds. Ground surface visibility was good enough overall to provide confidence in the findings of the survey. No prehistoric or historic resources were observed within the APE.

Ms. Maki returned to Palo Comado Canyon to determine the project's APE in relation to archaeological sites CA-VEN-147, -884 & -885 on September 8, 2008. Updated archaeological site records were not completed as part of this investigation as it was determined that the

project APE lies outside of CA-VEN-147, -884 & -885 boundaries. However, the presence of three recorded archaeological sites in the general vicinity of the project APE within Palo Comado Canyon increases the possibility of buried cultural resources in this area.

The project APE has been subject to varying degrees of earth disturbance associated with grading for and construction of the Cheeseboro Reservoir and Palo Comado Pump Station, and by trenching and grading associated with the construction of the Lindero Feeder and its appurtenances. Most if not all of the project area was also historically used for livestock grazing.

Native American Consultation. The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) sacred lands file search failed to identify any cultural resources within the immediate project area, but recommended the following list of Native American individuals and organization be contacted.

- Charles Cooke
- Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation, Janet Garcia, Chairperson
- Beverly Salazar Folkes
- Randy Guzman-Folkes
- Stephen William Miller
- Owl Clan, Qun-tan Shup
- Charles S. Parra
- Melissa M. Para-Hernandez
- Carol A. Pulido
- Julie Tumamait
- Patrick Tumamait

A letter describing the project was sent to the above individuals and organization on July 22, 2008. The letter requested that they contact Conejo if they had any comments or concerns regarding the project. To date no responses have been received. Any future responses received shall be forwarded to Donna Hebert at Padre Associates.

Impact Discussion: Archaeological resources are the material remains (artifacts, structures, refuse, etc.) produced purposely or accidentally by members of prehistoric cultures. A unique archaeological resource is an archaeological artifact, object or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

1. Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is demonstrable public interest in that information.
2. Has a special and particular quality such as oldest of its type or best available example of its type.
3. Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

The County Guidelines indicates that damage or destruction of unique archaeological resources is considered a significant impact.

As stated above, the SCCIC records identified three archaeological sites (CA-VEN-147, -884 & -885) that are within close proximity to the Palo Comado Pump Station and the Lindero Feeder appurtenances located near the bottom of Palo Comado Canyon. One other archaeological site, FS-65, was identified by the SMMNRA archives as occurring near the easternmost end of the project APE within Las Virgenes Canyon. No other evidence of prehistoric or historic resources was identified within or adjacent to the project APE by the SCCIC records search, NAHC sacred lands file search, Native American consultation or Conejo's field survey. Ground disturbing impacts associated with the decommissioning project shall be minimal and limited to those soils previously disturbed during the construction of the facilities that are now being removed. Therefore, based upon the project as presently described the potential for a significant impact is low. However, due to the cultural resources sensitivity of the Palo Comado Canyon ground disturbance within this canyon has a potential to result in significant cultural resources impacts.

Cumulative Impacts. There no identified cumulative development projects within the Palo Comado Canyon area besides the proposed project which would potentially impact cultural resources. However, because of the general historic unmitigated loss of cultural resource sites, the project's potential contribution to such loss can be considered cumulatively significant.

Mitigation and Residual Impacts: The following measures are required to ensure that potential impacts to cultural resources from the proposed project are mitigated to a less than significant level. These measures were recommended by Conejo Archaeological Consultants and are in part already incorporated into the District's project description.

- CR1** An archaeologist shall be retained to monitor all ground disturbance associated with the removal of the Palo Comado Pump Station and the Lindero Feeder appurtenances located at the bottom of Palo Comado Canyon. An archaeologist shall also monitor the removal of the Lindero Feeder appurtenances located in the Las Virgenes Canyon at the easternmost end of the project APE.
- a. The archaeologist shall have the authority to temporarily halt or redirect project construction in the event that potentially significant cultural resources are exposed. Based on monitoring observations and the actual extent of project disturbance, the lead archaeologist shall have the authority to refine the monitoring requirements as appropriate (i.e., change to spot checks, reduce or increase the area to be monitored) in consultation with Triunfo and the SMMNRA Cultural Resources Manager.
 - b. A monitoring report shall be prepared upon completion of decommissioning and provided to Triunfo, SMMNRA and the SCCIC.

- CR2** In the event that archaeological resources are exposed during decommissioning, all earth disturbing work within the vicinity of the find must be temporarily suspended or

redirected until a professional archaeologist has been retained to evaluate the nature and significance of the find. The SMMNRA Cultural Resource Officer shall be notified immediately of any such find. After the find has been appropriately mitigated, work in the area may resume. A Chumash representative should monitor any mitigation work associated with Native American cultural material.

- CR3** If human remains are unearthed, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the NAHC.

b. Historical

Setting: As indicated above, the cultural records search and field survey conducted as part of the environmental review for the approved and proposed project identified one historic resource, FS-65 which is recorded as a probable site of a residence from the 1914-1945 time period. Trees, agave, fences and historical artifacts are noted in the site record. There is no evidence that this site is a significant historic resource (e.g., listed or eligible State Historical Resource; listed local historical resource; or resource with significance in the historic, architecture, engineering, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military or cultural annals of California. Additionally, this site is located 20 meters (70 feet) from the eastern most end of the Lindero Feeder appurtenances. The Cheeseboro Tank and Palo Comado Pump Station were constructed in 1968 and are therefore just over 50 years old. However, there is no evidence that these structures qualify as historically significant resources.

Impact Discussion: There are no significant historic resources within the proposed impact area of the project. Therefore, no project-specific impacts to historic resources would result. Additionally, the proposed project would not contribute to any cumulative impact to such resources.

Mitigation and Residual Impacts: No impact to historic resources would result. Therefore, no mitigation is warranted.

c. Ethnic, Social or Religious

Setting: The setting for archaeological resources applies to these issues.

Impact Discussion: The proposed project site is not currently used for any known formal ethnic, social, or religious purposes. The site areas have been exposed to some previous disturbances and there is no known evidence that indicates intact burial sites exist at the site. However, in the event that site preparation activities disturb previously unidentified, burial remains at the site, project activities would have the potential to result in a significant cultural resource impact. Any unanticipated impacts to a burial may be considered to be cumulatively significant.

Mitigation and Residual Impacts: Measures CR-1 through CR-3 identified above shall be implemented to reduce potential project-specific and cumulative impacts to any presently unknown ethnic, social or religious associations with the project area including human burials to a less than significant level.

11. ENERGY RESOURCES

Setting: Energy resources are defined in the County Guidelines as sources of power necessary to operate and maintain human activities. Included resources are solar, petroleum, wind and hydraulic.

Impact Discussion: The County Guidelines state that no individual project will have a significant impact because solar, wind and hydraulic energy resources are renewable, and petroleum resources are covered separately (see previous discussion above). Energy would be used in the short-term for the proposed project decommissioning activities. The only anticipated long-term energy use would be associated with any future maintenance activities associated with the decommissioned infrastructure. Energy use for such activities should be less once the infrastructure is decommissioned than at present. Therefore, the proposed project would not significantly impact energy resources on a project-specific and it's impact would be so minor as not to be considered or cumulative considerable.

Mitigation and Residual Impacts: Impacts would be less than significant. Therefore, no mitigation is necessary.

12. COASTAL BEACHES AND SAND DUNES

Setting: Oak Park is located approximately nine miles from the coast.

Impact Discussion: The proposed project would not impact coastal beaches and sand dunes. See previous discussion under Biological Resources.

Mitigation and Residual Impacts: No impact would result. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

13. SEISMIC HAZARDS

a. Fault Rupture

Setting: The State Division of Mines and Geology indicates that on a statewide basis the potential hazard to structures from the surface displacement of faults is low compared to such geologic phenomena as earthquake shaking and landsliding. The greatest potential for fault activity is along any of the faults, which lie within the several major fault systems which transect the County from east to west. Many of the faults in the County are associated with major fault systems extending beyond County boundaries. Several of these faults and fault systems are considered to be active, but a great deal of additional information must be