PLANNING & BUILDING DEPARTMENT • COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
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GUIDELINES FOR BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENTS

-- Guidelines for Biological Consultants --

2016

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INTRODUCTION

The *Standard Guidelines for Biological Resources Assessments* (herein after referred to as the *Guidelines*) are intended to provide biological consultants with information on the necessary steps to conduct biological surveys, prepare biological reports, and prepare mitigation and monitoring plans for projects that require a permit from the County of San Luis Obispo Planning and Building Department (County). The *Guidelines* were developed by the County in order to streamline the submittal and review of all types of biological resources assessments and to ensure consistency of quality among these reports. The *Guidelines* supersede the previous collection of biological guidance documents written by the County, including the *Guidelines for Preparation of Biological Reports* (December 2009), *Guidelines for Preparation of Biological Reports* (December 2007), the *Guidelines for Conducting Biological Surveys for Projects Requiring a County Permit* (December 2007), the *Draft Guidelines for Mitigation and Monitoring Plans* (June 2006), and the *Draft Guidelines for Revegetation/Restoration Plans* (June 2006).

The primary objectives of the *Guidelines* are to:

1. Ensure quality, accuracy, and completeness of biological survey work, biological resources assessments, mitigation and monitoring plans, and revegetation/restoration plans prepared for projects that require a County permit;
2. Ensure that all biological resources assessments submitted to the County provide adequate information to make appropriate planning decisions and to make determinations regarding conformance with applicable regulations, including the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA);
3. Aid in staff's efficient and consistent review of documents and associated maps from different biological consultants; and,
4. Increase the efficiency of the environmental review process and avoid unnecessary delays.

The *Guidelines* shall be followed for the preparation of all biological resources assessments submitted to the County. Any exceptions should be discussed in advance with the County Environmental Coordinator.

PROCESS OVERVIEW

Once an application is received by the County staff reviews the project location to determine whether or not a biological resources assessment is needed. Although planning staff may identify specific biological species or habitats of concern, the County relies on the expertise of the biologist to be an extension of staff in the field to look for and identify all potentially sensitive species and habitats. This may include providing

recommendations to the County project manager for any issues or additional studies that may need to occur based on the initial fieldwork to (example: County staff recommends a botanical survey and the biologist conducting the work finds there are nesting raptors.)

Based on the resources found on the project site, the County and/or other regulatory agencies may require additional field work if deemed necessary. Any questions or discussion about the level of survey and reporting effort should be coordinated with the County project manager or appropriate regulatory agency before and/or during the survey work and biological resources assessment preparation.

REPORT REQUIREMENTS

The County has prepared a report template that provides the required content for Biological Resource Assessment (refer to Appendix A). Biologists are encouraged to utilize the template when preparing their reports. However, if the biologist chooses to use a different format, it is incumbent upon the biologist to ensure that all the required components are included in the report.

The County submittal requirement includes:

1. The applicant or applicant's biologist shall submit two hard copies and one electronic (on CD or DVD) copy of the report to the County. The report should indicate if the report is a preliminary report and will be amended after additional surveys are conducted.
2. A signed 'Declaration' by the lead field biologist that states they have the experience and qualifications as required by the County of san Luis Obispo, as well as the statements furnished in the report and associated maps are true and correct to the best of lead's biologist's knowledge and belief; See Appendix E;
3. The submitted biological resources assessment shall include all of the information specified in these Guidelines.

If the County requires additional information, submit the required information as soon as possible to prevent project delays. Include the following information:

- Assessor's Parcel Number (APN)
- County-assigned project number on any additional information that is submitted
- Reference the lead biologist's previous document(s), and
- signed 'Declaration' of qualifications/experience.

BIOLOGICAL SURVEY PROCESS

The biological survey process (refer to Appendix B) identifies the key steps that should be conducted for all biological surveys. Additional resources for biological consultants include the *Guidelines for Conducting and Reporting Botanical Inventories for Federally Listed, Proposed, and Candidate Plants*, prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (January 2000); *Guidelines for Assessing the Effects of Proposed Projects on Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants and Natural Communities*, prepared by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) (revised May 8, 2000); and CDFW and USFWS protocol surveys and guidelines for specific species. These documents are available on the County website at:

http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/environmental/Biological_Consultant_Information.htm.

Appendix C includes a template for a Biological Resources Assessment.

REPORT ACCEPTANCE PROCEDURES

In order to ensure that biologists comply with the County's requirements for biological reports, staff will complete one or more of the following prior to acceptance of the report:

- Identify the type of biological report being submitted and that the report's lead field biologist has signed the declaration that they have sufficient experience and qualifications to prepare the report.
- Review information either on file or attached to the report that demonstrates the lead field biologist has the required qualifications and experience.
- Review the contents of the submitted report for adequacy, or determine the report needs peer review to help determine adequacy.
-

By not following the Guidelines, the biologist(s) may be unnecessarily delaying their client's projects and adding additional burden to County staff. The following summarizes how this process will work.

After a biological report is submitted, it is first reviewed by the Project Manager for adequacy of meeting the County's guidelines. As a part of the County Project Manager's preliminary review they will determine if peer review is necessary. When the report meets the County's guidelines, a letter or email will go to both the biologist and the applicant. If the report is not considered adequate, an "incomplete" letter/email will be prepared, identifying which areas need to be revised in the report for resubmittal. A record of this action will be placed in the database file for the biologist.

One important note: if a biologist decides to not follow the County guidelines, they need to provide an explanation for the variation. For example, many biologists prefer to

search a five mile radius rather than using the nine quadrangle search as recommended in the County's guidelines and by the California Native Plant Society. This may be acceptable if the biologist provides information on how they ensured they are considering all possible sensitive resources that may occur on the property, including additional research that they may have conducted. If a biologist is referencing their own past work, they should cite specific examples of the relevant work.

The electronic copy of the accepted biological report is ultimately linked to the County's 'Biological Report' GIS layer for future reference.

APPENDIX A

REQUIRED CONTENTS FOR BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENTS

APPENDIX A - REQUIRED CONTENTS FOR BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENTS

REQUIRED REPORT CONTENTS

A. Cover Page

The cover page shall include the following information:

- Original report date
- Revision report dates (if applicable)
- County case number, if assigned
- Permit type
- Applicant name and contact information
- Assessor Parcel Number(s)
- Physical address of the property, if applicable
- Reporting/Lead Field Biologist- Include name, title, company, and contact information. In addition, the County's Experience and Qualifications Declaration page must be completed by the lead field biologist. This Declaration provides for the signature and date; concurrence that the Biological Resources Assessment was prepared according to the County's Guidelines; declaration that the statements furnished in the report and associated maps are true and correct to the best of the lead biologist's knowledge and belief; and the lead biologist certify that he/she was present throughout the site visit(s) associated with the report.

B. Executive Summary/Synopsis

The executive summary is one of the most significant parts of any biological resources assessment report. It should **not** be an abstract of the report, an introduction, a preface, or a random collection of report highlights. There should be no new information provided in the executive summary. Rather, the executive summary should stand alone as a condensed version of the entire biological resources assessment. It should inform the reader about all aspects of the project site, the proposed action, existing and proposed land uses, habitat types, sensitive species, impacts identified, and reference to recommended mitigation measures. The length of the executive summary depends directly on the nature and complexity of the biological resources within the survey area. The purpose of the executive summary is to provide a quick reference for the public and the decision makers. Therefore, the language should be less technical than that used in the remainder of the report.

C. Introduction

This section of the report should include a detailed description of the development proposal and the size and location of the construction footprint. The description of the

development proposal should cover the **whole of the project**. This includes the immediate action being pursued as well as any peripheral elements associated with the project. For example, the grading/ disturbance work for the project may not be just for the primary use (such as a new house), but may also include the grading / disturbance needed to put in secondary components such as the access road, leach lines, utility lines or water tank, as examples.. Another example would be a subdivision (splitting a larger lot into smaller lots) that proposes to subdivide property. The project in question is not just the increase in the number of lots (and associated increase of people from allowed development), but the likely displacement or change in use that would be allowed for development on each of these new lots.

The introduction must include the following minimum requirements:

- Development Proposal Description- Describe all physical alterations that will occur to the existing site. Describe all proposed structures, their approximate size, location, and purpose. Be sure to include all ancillary features (e.g., staging areas, septic location and leach field, road improvements, utility improvements/installations, water tanks, CalFire fuel modification zones, night lighting, construction and operational noise, etc.).
- Construction Footprint Size- State the size of the area proposed for development including such things as the buildable lot, fire hazard clearance/ modification areas, access roads, and fire department turn around areas, etc. **Note:** The construction footprint size will be smaller than the survey area size because it does not take into account areas of potential indirect impacts.
- Allowed Ancillary activities – the permitted activity (e.g., construction of a residence) may be followed by other activities not requiring a permit (e.g., installing a fence to keep horses or cattle, removing existing native vegetation after construction, installing ornamental, non-native landscaping with different water requirements, introducing farm animals or pets to an area, vehicle or material storage, etc.). When on-site sensitive resources are identified, analysis and mitigation measures should anticipate such uses.
- Existing Land Use Designation.
- Site Plans.
- Maps: Location, topographic, and vegetation communities; should also show where sensitive species are found.

D. Existing Conditions

This section should include a survey area description. This includes all areas that would be disturbed through the project not just the construction footprint and include a buffer around the disturbed area. This would include:

- Location
- Survey area boundaries (describe how much area beyond the construction footprint was surveyed and if there was a specific basis for the distance used (e.g., known raptor nesting area with potentially large buffers, CalFire fuel modification boundaries, etc.?)
- Survey area's environmental setting
- Surrounding area's environmental setting (include any constraints to surveying the defined areas outside the construction footprint)
- Soil types with a description of each type from the NRCS soil survey (Soil map should be included when soil-dependent sensitive species are identified)

E. Methodology

This is possibly the most crucial portion of the work conducted by biologists. This section of the report should be based on the biological survey process as identified in Section V below. Although the methods section may seem like a "boilerplate" item when preparing the report, it is often unique to the project area and provides important details regarding the biologists work and level of assessment. All reports submitted to the County should include the details listed below.

- Research conducted – CNDDB (9 quad search), BIOS, other reports, museum records, etc.
- References including any relevant communications.
- Survey Details – this shall include dates of surveys, duration of each survey, names of biologists, weather conditions (including drought conditions if applicable), and how the area was covered (e.g., 25 feet transects, entire property, etc.).
- Description of how the vegetation communities were mapped. Note: vegetation communities should always be mapped, regardless of whether sensitive species are located.
- Wildlife survey times should correspond with the most likely time the potential wildlife species would be observed.
- Survey Purpose – State if this is a preliminary biological resources assessment, a follow up spring botanical survey, protocol-level survey, oak tree survey, wetland delineation, San Joaquin kit fox habitat evaluation, etc.

F. Results

The following categories should be included in the results section of the biological resources assessment report:

- Habitats: Plant Communities, Physical Features, and Wetlands

  - Results of background research relevant to the project area
  - Plant communities – what types were found and how much of each? Include which sensitive natural communities were listed in the CNDDB search, and which sensitive natural communities were found onsite
  - Habitat types – Include anthropogenic habitats (developed, ruderal)
  - Physical features (eg. rock outcrops)
  - Wetlands, drainages, and/or riparian areas (if not covered in above items)

- Species (Endangered, Threatened, & Rare) and Nests
  - Results of background research relevant to the project area
  - Special status species summary and table (observed and potential)
  - Include blooming period for plants and nesting/breeding period for wildlife and whether they would likely nest/rear young in the region or are migratory. Nesting habitat may be different from foraging habitat; amphibian upland habitat different from aquatic habitat, etc.
  - Include a copy of completed CNDDB forms submitted to CDFW if sensitive species were found

- Habitat Connectivity
  - Results of background research relevant to the project area
  - Mapped corridors or linkages
  - Crossing structures
  - Barriers to connectivity
  - Any correspondence from regulatory agencies and/or local experts, if applicable

G. Impact Assessment and Mitigation

This section of the report should identify adverse impacts to sensitive biological resources and recommend avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures as required to avoid or reduce these impacts. A main goal of this section of the report is to answer the following questions from the CEQA checklist:

Will the project:

a) Result in a loss of unique or special status species or their habitats?
b) Substantially reduce the extent, diversity or quality of native or other important vegetation?
c) Impact wetland or riparian habitat?
d) Introduce substantial barriers to movement of resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or factors, which could hinder the normal activities of wildlife?

APPENDIX A - REQUIRED CONTENTS FOR BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENTS

During the process of conducting the research and field work for a project, biologists should keep these questions in mind. Biological resources assessments should provide sufficient information to allow these questions to be answered by the County and other Responsible Agencies.

1. Sufficiency of Biological Data

In some cases the information within the biological resources assessment may not be sufficient to definitively determine impacts to certain resources. Determining the impacts to some resources may require additional seasonal field surveys, coordination with other regulatory agencies, or a specialized investigation. This section of the document should clearly identify any deficiencies in the existing biological data and should make recommendations for further action before mitigation measures can be adequately developed. (**Note:** the need for additional survey work should not be included as a mitigation measure).

2. Impacts

The robustness of the impact analysis will vary depending on the biological resources found on-site and the intensity of the proposed development.

In general, types of impacts include: direct (primary), indirect (secondary), short-term, long-term, and cumulative.

Use the following as a guide in the analysis of impacts:

- Discuss impacts specific to the project proposed by applicant, but keep the discussion generic enough to allow the County flexibility of analysis in the event changes in project description occur.
- Address the questions in the CEQA checklist (as identified above); however, CEQA significance determinations will ultimately be made by the County and any other Responsible Agencies.
- Consider all phases of development including grading, construction, occupation, and/or operation.
- Identify all possible disturbances (both **on-site and offsite**). Examples include: alteration of drainage, erosion, sedimentation, noise, introduction of exotic plants and animals, and other potential disturbances, which may become evident during project review.
- Quantify impacts whenever possible (e.g. "project will result in the elimination of 3.5 acres of coastal scrub habitat").
- Evaluate impacts the development may have on the habitats, and whether the development will be consistent with long-term viability of the habitats.
- Discuss the adequacy of setbacks from the habitat area(s).

- Discuss the potential for impacts to special status of rare/ threatened/ endangered species.

3. Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures should be developed for those potentially significant project impacts for which adequate data (including mapped data) was gathered during the biological impact assessment. If sufficient information is not available this should be noted in the "Sufficiency of Biological Data" section above.

By definition, a mitigation measure should:

- Avoid the impact altogether;
- Minimize impacts by limiting the magnitude;
- Rectify impacts by repairing, rehabilitating, restoring;
- Reduce or eliminate the impact over time; or,
- Compensate for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources.

Use the following as a guide in the development of mitigation measures:

- Identify the maximum feasible mitigation measures (other than "no project") to protect the resources and suggestions for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the mitigation measures.
- Address the "Who, What, Where, Why and When"
  - Why – State the objective of the mitigation measure and why it is recommended.
  - What – Explain the specifics of the mitigation measure and how it will be designated and implemented. Identify measureable performance standards by which success of the mitigation can be determined.
  - Who – Identify the agency, organization, or individual responsible for implementing the measure (this provision will usually be fine-tuned or added by the County)
  - Where – Identify the specific location of the mitigation measure
  - When – Identify the appropriate timing for mitigation implementation (i.e., prior to commencement of grading or ground disturbance, during construction, etc.)
- Please refer to Appendix D for several examples of mitigation measures that have incorporated the above elements
- Consider a range of possibilities, including: avoidance, fencing, open space easements, clustering and off-site mitigation.
- For a more comprehensive list of biological mitigation measures, refer to the County's 'boilerplate' measures found in Appendix D. Please keep in mind that each of these measures may include more (or less) specifics than fits the project and as applicable should be tailored to fit the project's specific

impacts. On the other hand, additions to the measures may also be necessary when the boilerplate measure does not fully address the project impacts identified.

H. Photos

Color photos should be taken during survey efforts. It may be appropriate to include photos from multiple site visits to show the change in season and available habitat.

- Photos shall be included in each report.
- Digital photos should be clearly labeled and provided on the CD submitted to the County.
- When sensitive habitats are identified, representative photos of these areas should be included.

APPENDIX B

BIOLOGICAL SURVEY PROCESS

BIOLOGICAL SURVEY PROCESS

The County is providing a level of guidance because the field work and survey methodologies being employed by biologists are crucial to an accurate and complete biological resource assessment of proposed projects.

As detailed below, the biologists hired by the applicants are responsible for conducting biological resource assessments. However, the biologist can assist the County in determining the level and number of surveys to conduct based on field conditions. It is the responsibility of the biologists to evaluate field conditions and provide a recommendation to the applicant and the County as to the field work approach. It is also the biologist's responsibility to identify when there is insufficient biological data to develop or recommend an adequate mitigation measure.

For example, a County planner may generate an initial request letter that identifies a potential for sensitive botanical species on the project site. However, when the biologist visits the site, they see what appears to be an established wetland that eventually drains to an adjacent perennial stream. The biologist should contact the County project manager to discuss these additional findings. Also, many species have a small survey window and surveys must be conducted during the appropriate window. The biological report should also note the jurisdictional habitats observed on-site and the necessity for the applicant to obtain all applicable permits as determined by impacts to those areas.

The following outlines the biological survey process:

1. After being contacted by an applicant to conduct field surveys, determine if you have the necessary knowledge and experience to conduct the work. If you do not, refer the applicant to a biologist that has the appropriate experience. If you do have the necessary knowledge and experience as listed on the County's 'Declaration' this form will need to be signed by the 'lead field' biologist along with information provided to substantiate the required knowledge and experience of the lead biologist. The substantiating information will need to be submitted electronically to the County once for each type of biological specialty that the County tracks, or if recognized or required by CDFW or USFWS.
2. If you are retained by an applicant to conduct biological surveys, obtain from the applicant the Assessor's Parcel Number(s) (APN), a detailed project description, the County-assigned project number (may not exist yet), and the most recent set of site (project) plans.

3. Prior to a site visit, conduct a nine-quadrangle (7.5 minute/24,000 scale) search in the current update of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) for sensitive plant and animal species. The nine quadrangles should include the quadrangle including the project site and the eight surrounding quadrangles. The CNDDB search is the starting point to determine the potentially occurring sensitive species at the project site but is not comprehensive since it only includes sightings that have been reported to the CNDDB. Use your personal biological expertise, results from previous biological reports, museum records, etc. to identify additional potential sensitive species for the project site. If you choose to vary from this protocol, provide an explanation of how you conducted your research to determine what sensitive species may occur in the project area.
4. Based on the information collected in step 3, prepare a list of potentially-occurring sensitive species in table format that includes the following:
    a. Species common name.
    b. Species scientific name.
    c. Species special status (federal, state, CNPS, CDFW, other).
    d. Habitat requirements/vegetation associations.
    e. Time of year when species is present, flowering, or identifiable, which determines the time of year or day or special conditions when surveys must be conducted to identify those species.
    f. Assessment of potential for species to be present on-site (e.g. California red-legged frog is unlikely to occur because no waterbodies or streams are located on-site and no permanent water bodies are located within one mile of project site," or "California red-legged frog is likely to occur because breeding habitat is present on-site in the creek and red-legged frog sightings have occurred in the creek within ¼ mile of the project site."). When sensitive wildlife is being considered, address the potential for the site to provide important wildlife or migration corridors.
5. Using the table prepared in step 4, schedule field surveys to coincide with the specified time or conditions species are present, flowering, or identifiable in order to identify potentially occurring sensitive species. Coordinate with the applicant about the need and timing for field surveys and the possible need for multiple surveys at different times of the year. Biologists shall determine the type of biological surveys and reporting appropriate for the project site. Applicants should be made aware that this may require an initial reconnaissance-level site assessment in addition to specific follow-up surveys that evaluate the potential impacts to particular sensitive species and/or habitats. **Please note that some projects will involve more than one survey.**

6. Meet with applicant at the project site. Have the applicant describe the project and show you the project site boundaries and impact area. Question the applicant about the proposed project, alternatives being considered, the location of leach fields, wells, water tanks, utility lines, and any off-site improvements. Ask the applicant about Cal Fire requirements for road improvements and defensible space. For forested areas, or areas with "moderate" to "high fuel" vegetation, one should assume that all areas within 100 feet of proposed structures and 10 feet from existing/proposed access roads will receive a Cal Fire recommendation for heavy "modification" or removal of such vegetation. This assumption should be included in all biological assessments when such conditions exist. Examine the entire project site using maps, aerial photographs, and site plans. Take notes on the physiographic setting, topography, drainage patterns, rock outcrops, cliffs, waterbodies, creeks, etc., on-site and adjacent land uses, and existing conditions.

   Vegetation classification can be done during this field visit. Make note of habitat identified by the State as sensitive or in serious decline (e.g., maritime chaparral, etc.). Map the vegetation types using aerial photographs, site plans, and/or GPS. Identify location and condition of creeks, rivers, drainage channels, swales, wetlands, vernal pools, depressions, serpentine rock formations, soil types and other features. Assess the potential for the site to provide habitat for the species on the species list. If you rule out the possible occurrence of sensitive species based on habitat conditions, provide enough detail to explain this conclusion. For example, if you claim that "drainages on-site are insignificant", provide the rationale that led you to that decision, such as:

   > "*The drainage occurs as a flat swale with no definable bed, bank, or channel. Additionally, the area is not shown as a blue line stream on topographic maps. Extensive cattle grazing on-site has denuded the area of native vegetation and only weedy species such as yellow star thistle occur. Furthermore, the lack of mature vegetative cover and ephemeral sheet flow would not provide suitable habitat for sensitive wildlife species such as steelhead, California red-legged frog, and southwestern pond turtle*".

7. Obtain necessary state and federal permits, collecting permits, and/or Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) from CDFW or verify that any permits and MOUs obtained are valid and up-to-date.
8. At the time of botanical field survey(s), visit known reference populations of target species to verify their flowering periods. Where feasible, reference populations should be in the same general area as the project site. This should be attempted for all sensitive species of plants, not just Pismo clarkia. This information will help to support any conclusions that the species does not occur on the project site if they are not observed during the field surveys. Visiting reference populations may be

appropriate for other animal species, if they are migratory, or have a particular active/dormant cycle, to determine if they are present/active.

9. Conduct field surveys in all habitats as per standard biological techniques and recommended federal and state protocols (as applicable) for target species. The County recommends that the entire parcel be surveyed for projects that will encompass the entire parcel, and for small projects on small parcels (i.e. less than 10 acres). For small projects located on larger parcels encompassing hundreds of acres, it may not be necessary to survey the entire site, but at a minimum, the surveys should include the proposed project area, road improvements, leach fields, utility lines, CalFire fuel modification areas, and off-site improvements and appropriate buffer areas, including any areas that have the potential to be the subject of indirect impacts (such as impacts from occupation, such as pets, noise, and/or lighting).

   The biologist should identify all habitats/vegetation associations on the entire parcel, regardless of the project and parcel size. If sensitive resources are found on the project site which may be impacted by the proposed project, a larger area shall be surveyed, to determine the extent of impacts to specific resources on the project site, to identify alternate project locations and/or to identify areas to which it would be appropriate to direct compensatory mitigation. If the entire parcel is not surveyed, the biologist should be aware that project plans are subsequently changed either by the applicant, the County, or the approving hearing body. If the initial survey(s) do not include the new project areas, it could result in the need for additional surveys and delays to the project. Therefore, it is encouraged that the biologist ask if there are 'alternative' areas that should be included in the survey to anticipate such changes in the development footprint.

   If a project site has been disturbed or denuded prior to the field survey, it may not be possible for the County to determine possible impacts to sensitive resources that may have been present. These situations often require additional field surveys after the site is allowed to revegetate.

   In some cases, the applicant has conducted work without County permits, which may be considered a County code enforcement violation. The County may request that the applicant hire a biologist to assess the existing resources and the potential for sensitive resources to have been impacted by the activities. In these cases, the biologist should use their expertise and available resources to make a professional assessment of what was present on the site before the activity occurred. If sensitive plants are located adjacent to the area that was impacted, the species may also have occurred in the impact area. An assessment of the potential impacted population would then be required.

10. Accurately map the locations of sensitive habitats and species. Provide these maps with your report.
11. Record all plant and animal species observed on or near the project site. Identify the species to the taxonomic level necessary to determine its rarity and status. Provide this information in your report.
12. Take photographs of existing conditions, habitats, vegetation associations, sensitive resources, unique features, etc.
13. Complete the table of potentially occurring species with the survey results. (e.g. "species not found on project site during appropriately timed surveys" or "species identified on project site in wetland habitat.") Do **NOT** merely conclude that species does not occur on project site due to lack of habitat without conducting the appropriate surveys, including the appropriate blooming period for plants.
14. Assess the potential of direct and indirect impacts to biological resources from project activities. Include all impacts from the project, leach fields, wells, utility lines, Cal Fire defensible space requirements, road improvements, etc. Identify potential take of federal or state listed species which would require consultation with USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, and/or CDFW.
15. Submit survey results for habitat assessments and/or protocol surveys for listed species to CDFW/USFWS, as appropriate, and send a copy of the report to the County's Environmental Coordinator.
16. Recommend avoidance or mitigation measures to minimize impacts to the resources.
17. Coordinate with the applicant about the survey results and your recommendations.
18. Prepare CNDDB forms for sensitive species sightings. Include a copy of your submitted form(s) to the County, preferably as an attachment to your biological report.
19. Prepare the biological report as per the County's Guidelines for Preparation of Biological Resources Assessments.

APPENDIX C

TEMPLATE FOR A BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX C - TEMPLATE FOR A BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

EXAMPLE COVER PAGE
LOCAL PROJECT (physical address if applicable)
APN: 000-000-000
Permit or application type:
County case number (if known):

Prepared for:
Applicant and/or Agent
Mailing address
Phone number
Email address

Prepared by:
Biologist and/or Company name
Mailing address
Phone number
Email address

Date Report Prepared
Date of Revised Report, if applicable

Reporting Biologist: name, title, company, and contact information.

"As the qualified lead field biologist, I hereby certify that this Biological Resources Assessment was prepared according to the Guidelines established by the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Planning and Building and that the statements furnished in the report and associated maps are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief; and I further certify that I was present throughout the site visit(s) associated with this report."

_____ _____

Signature line Date

Add additional lines as needed for each staff person involved in the project.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY/SYNOPSIS

Provide a clear, concise summary of the project, habitat present, potential sensitive species present, and reference to mitigation offered.

This section should clearly define the project and what resources exist on-site. The reviewer should be able to understand all aspects of the project from this section (supporting details can be found within the body of the document).

The language in this section is intended for review by the public and decision makers, therefore, should not be technical in nature. The length of this section will depend on the complexity of the project, potential impacts, and the amount of disturbance to the environment in question.

APPENDIX C - TEMPLATE FOR A BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

INTRODUCTION

This section of the report should include a detailed description of the development proposal and the size and location of the construction footprint. The description of the development proposal should cover the whole of the project. This includes the immediate action being pursued as well as any reasonably anticipated future development plans. For example, for grading permit applications the project is not just the immediate grading, but also the end result for which the land will be graded. Another example is a Tentative Map that proposes to subdivide property. The project in question is not just the increase in the number of lots, but the ultimate outcome of commercial or residential development.

The introduction must include the following minimum requirements:

- Development Proposal Description- Describe all physical alterations that will occur to the existing site. Describe all proposed structures, their approximate size, location, and purpose. Be sure to include all ancillary features (e.g., staging areas, septic location and leach field, road improvements, utility improvements/installations, etc.).
- Construction Footprint Size- State the size of the area proposed for development including such things as the buildable lot, fire hazard clearance areas, access roads, and fire department turn around areas. **Note:** The construction footprint size will be smaller than the survey area size because it does not take into account areas of potential indirect impacts.
- Existing and Proposed Land Use Designations
- Site Plans
- Maps: Location, topographic, and vegetation communities; should also show where sensitive species were found

METHODOLOGY

All reports submitted to the County should include the details listed below.

- Research conducted – CNDDB, BIOS, other reports, museum records, etc.
- References including any relevant communications
- Survey Details – this shall include dates of surveys, duration of each survey, names of biologists, weather conditions (including drought conditions if applicable), and how the area was covered (e.g., 25 feet transects, entire property, etc).

- Description of how the vegetation communities were mapped. Note: vegetation communities should always be mapped, regardless of whether sensitive species are located.
- Survey Purpose – If is this a preliminary biological resources assessment, a follow up spring botanical survey, protocol-level survey, oak tree survey, wetland delineation, San Joaquin kit fox habitat evaluation, etc.
- Survey Area Description- this should NOT just be the construction footprint
  - Location
  - Survey area boundaries (how much area beyond the footprint was surveyed?)
  - Survey area environmental setting
  - Surrounding area environmental setting (include any constraints to surveying outside the footprint)
  - Soil types

RESULTS

A main goal of this section of the report is to answer the following questions from the CEQA checklist:

Will the project:

a) Result in a loss of unique or special status species or their habitats?
b) Reduce the extent, diversity or quality of native or other important vegetation?
c) Impact wetland or riparian habitat?
d) Introduce barriers to movement of resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, or factors, which could hinder the normal activities of wildlife?

The following categories should be included in the results section of the biological resources assessment report:

- Habitats: Plant Communities, Physical Features, and Wetlands
  - Results of background research relevant to the project area
  - Plant communities – what types were found and how much of each?
  - Habitat communities – this is not always the same as plant communities
  - Physical features
  - Wetlands, drainages, and/or riparian areas (if not covered in above items)

- Species (Endangered, Threatened, Rare, Locally Important) and Nests
  - Results of background research relevant to the project area
  - Special status species summary and table (observed and potential)
  - Include blooming period for plants and nesting/breeding period for wildlife

  - Include a copy of completed CNDDB forms submitted to CDFW if sensitive species were found

- Habitat Connectivity
  - Results of background research relevant to the project area
  - Mapped corridors or linkages
  - Crossing structures
  - Barriers to connectivity
  - Any correspondence from regulatory agencies and/or local experts, if applicable

IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION

This section of the report should identify adverse impacts to sensitive biological resources and recommend compensatory mitigation as required to minimize these impacts.

Sufficiency of Biological Data

In some cases the information within the biological resources assessment may not be sufficient to definitively determine impacts to certain resources. Determining the impacts to some resources may require additional seasonal field surveys, coordination with other regulatory agencies, or a specialized investigation. This section of the document should clearly identify any deficiencies in the existing biological data and should make recommendations for further action (**Note:** Recommending additional survey work should not be included as a mitigation measure).

Impacts

The robustness of the impact analysis will vary depending on the biological resources found on-site and the intensity of the proposed development. In general, types of impacts include:
direct (primary), indirect (secondary), short-term, long-term, and cumulative.

Use the following as a guide in the analysis of impacts:

- Discuss impacts specific to the project proposed by applicant, but keep the discussion generic enough to allow the County flexibility of analysis in the event changes in project description occur.
- Address the questions in the CEQA checklist (as identified above); however, CEQA significance determinations will ultimately be made by the County and any other Responsible Agencies.

- Consider all phases of development including grading, construction, occupation, and/or operation.
- Identify all possible disturbances (both **on-site and offsite**). Examples include: alteration of drainage, erosion, sedimentation, noise, introduction of exotic plants and animals, and other potential disturbances, which may become evident during project review.
- Quantify impacts whenever possible (e.g. "project will result in the elimination of 3.5 acres of coastal scrub habitat").
- Evaluate impacts the development may have on the habitats, and whether the development will be consistent with long-term viability of the habitats.
- Discuss the adequacy of setbacks from the habitat area(s).
- Discuss the potential for incidental take of rare/threatened/endangered species.
- Consider cumulative impacts.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures should be developed for those potentially significant project impacts for which adequate data (including mapped data) was gathered during the biological impact assessment. If sufficient information is not available this should be noted in the "Sufficiency of Biological Data" section above.

By definition, a mitigation measure should:

- Avoid the impact altogether;
- Minimize impacts by limiting the magnitude;
- Rectify impacts by repairing, rehabilitating, restoring;
- Reduce or eliminate the impact over time; or,
- Compensate for the impact by replacing or providing substitute resources.

Use the following as a guide in the development of mitigation measures:

- Recognize and use any existing regulatory local, state or federal thresholds or performance criteria, as applicable, such as 'no net loss', etc.
- Identify the maximum feasible mitigation measures (other than "no project") to protect the resources and suggestions for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the mitigation measures.
- Address the "Who, What, Where, Why and When"
    - Why – State the objective of the mitigation measure and why it is recommended.
    - What – Explain the specifics of the mitigation measure and how it will be designated and implemented. Identify measureable performance standards by which success of the mitigation can be determined.

  - Who – Identify the agency, organization, or individual responsible for implementing the measure
  - Where – Identify the specific location of the mitigation measure
  - When – Identify the appropriate timing for mitigation implementation (i.e., prior to issuance of grading and/or construction permit)
- Consider a range of possibilities, including: avoidance, fencing, open space easements, clustering and off-site mitigation.
- Strive for solutions which work toward regional protection of the resources, including: combining open space easements with adjacent ownerships, maintenance of open space corridors.
- Recommend conditions of approval for the restoration of damaged habitats, where feasible (refer to Appendix B, Guidelines for Revegetation/Restoration Plans).
- Develop a Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (MMP) when necessary (refer to Appendix C, Guidelines for Mitigation and Monitoring Plans).

Photos (THIS SECTION CAN BE PROVIDED AS AN APPENDIX)

Color photos should be taken during survey efforts. Photos shall be included in each report. Photos should be clearly labeled. It may be appropriate to include photos from multiple site visits to show the change in season and available habitat.

REFERENCES

Include a standard list of sources cited, including personal communications.

APPENDIX D

SAMPLE MITIGATION MEASURES

APPENDIX UNDER DEVELOPMENT

APPENDIX E

DECLARATIONS OF BIOLOGIST QUALIFICATIONS

General Biological Report Declaration

PROJECT NAME/NUMBER: _____

NAME OF BIOLOGIST: _____ FIRM: _____

I am the primary/lead field biologist for the above referenced project. I have the following minimum qualifications to comply with the County of San Luis Obispo's biological reporting requirements for this type of biological report (General):

- I have a bachelor's degree in (circle one or more): biology, zoology, wildlife biology, natural resources, ecology, conservation biology, environmental biology, or related field (specify) _____; from (specify school & year completed) _____

  _____
- I have previously conducted independent field work and reporting, and demonstrated the following:
  - Knowledge and experience in identification of habitats and vegetation associations found in San Luis Obispo County;
  - General knowledge of local plant and wildlife species;
  - General knowledge of sensitive habitats and plant and wildlife species;
  - Ability and experience in identifying potential impacts to plants, animals, and habitats;
  - Ability and experience in recommending mitigation measures to minimize impacts to plants, animals, and habitats;
  - Experience in monitoring for compliance with biological mitigation measures; and
  - Ability and experience in writing complete, well-written technical reports as per the County Guidelines for Preparation of Technical Reports.

Check one:

☐ Attached is a representative copy (electronic) of a recent report I authored.

☐ I previously submitted a representative copy of a report I authored.

With my signature I confirm that I meet all of the above qualifications and that I was a primary author of this report and provided field oversight and/or conducted a substantial portion of the field survey work.

_____ _____

Signature of Biologist Date

Wildlife Biological Report Declaration

PROJECT NAME: _____

NAME OF BIOLOGIST: _____ FIRM: _____

I am the primary/lead field biologist for the above referenced project. I have the following minimum qualifications to comply with the County of San Luis Obispo's biological reporting requirements for this type of biological report (Wildlife Biologist):

- I have a bachelor's degree in (circle one or more): biology, zoology, wildlife biology, natural resources, ecology, conservation biology, environmental biology, or related field (specify) _____; from (specify school & year completed) _____ _____

  _____

- I have previously conducted independent field work and reporting, and demonstrated the following:
  - Knowledge and experience in identification of habitats and vegetation associations found in San Luis Obispo County;
  - General knowledge of local plant and wildlife species;
  - Ability and experience in identifying potential impacts to wildlife species and their habitats;
  - Ability and experience in recommending mitigation measures to minimize impacts to wildlife species, and their habitats;
  - Experience in monitoring for compliance with wildlife-related mitigation measures;
  - Ability and experience in writing complete, well-written technical reports as per the County Guidelines for Preparation of Technical Reports.

Check one:

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☐ I previously submitted to the County a representative copy of a report I authored.

With my signature I confirm that I meet all of the above qualifications and that I was a primary author of this report and provided field oversight and/or conducted a substantial portion of the field survey work.

_____ _____

Signature of Biologist Date

Marine Biological Report Declaration

PROJECT NAME: _____

NAME OF BIOLOGIST: _____ FIRM: _____

I am the primary/lead field biologist for the above referenced project. I have the following minimum qualifications to comply with the County of San Luis Obispo's biological reporting requirements for this type of biological report (Marine Biologist):

- I have a bachelor's degree in (circle one or more): biology, zoology, marine biology, oceanography, environmental biology, or related field (specify) _____; from (specify school & year completed) _____

  _____

- I have previously conducted independent field work and reporting, and demonstrated the following:
  - Knowledge of the marine ecosystem and its functions;
  - Knowledge of local marine plant and wildlife species;
  - Ability and experience in identifying potential impacts to the marine ecosystem;
  - Ability and experience in recommending mitigation measures to minimize impacts to the marine ecosystem
  - Experience in monitoring for compliance with marine-related mitigation measures;
  - Ability and experience in writing complete, well-written technical reports as per the County Guidelines for Preparation of Technical Reports

Check one:

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With my signature I confirm that I meet all of the above qualifications and that I was a primary author of this report and provided field oversight and/or conducted a substantial portion of the field survey work.

_____ _____

Signature of Biologist Date

Botanical Report Declaration

PROJECT NAME: _____

NAME OF BOTANIST: _____ FIRM: _____

I am the primary/lead field biologist for the above referenced project. I have the following minimum qualifications to comply with the County of San Luis Obispo's biological reporting requirements for this type of biological report (Botany):

- I have a bachelor's degree in (circle one or more): biology, botany, natural resources, ecology, conservation biology, environmental biology, or related field (specify) _____; from (specify school & year completed) _____

  _____

- I have previously conducted independent field work and reporting, and demonstrated the following:
  - Knowledge and experience in identification of San Luis Obispo County habitats and vegetation associations;
  - Knowledge of local plant species;
  - Knowledge of local sensitive plant species and habitats;
  - Ability and experience in identifying potential impacts to plants and habitats;
  - Ability and experience in recommending mitigation measures to minimize impacts to plants and habitats;
  - Ability and experience in monitoring for compliance with botanical mitigation measures;
  - Ability and experience in writing complete, well-written technical reports as per the County Guidelines for Preparation of Technical Reports.

Check one:

☐ Attached is a representative copy (electronic) of a recent report I authored.

☐ I previously submitted to the County a representative copy of a report I authored.

With my signature I confirm that I meet all of the above qualifications and that I was a primary author of this report and provided field oversight and/or conducted a substantial portion of the field survey work.

_____ _____

Signature of Botanist Date

San Joaquin Kit Fox Report Declaration

PROJECT NAME: _____

NAME OF BIOLOGIST: _____ FIRM: _____

I am the primary/lead field biologist for the above referenced project. I have the following minimum qualifications to comply with the County of San Luis Obispo's biological reporting requirements for this type of biological report (San Joaquin Kit Fox):

- I have a bachelor's degree in (circle one or more): biology, zoology, wildlife biology, natural resources, ecology, conservation biology, environmental biology, or related field (specify) _____; from (specify school & year completed) _____

  _____

- I have previously conducted independent field work and reporting, and demonstrated the following:
  - Knowledge and experience in identification of San Luis Obispo County habitats and vegetation associations
  - Ability to recognize potential San Joaquin kit fox habitat
  - Knowledge of kit fox habitat requirements, prey species, and predator species
  - Knowledge of kit fox sightings and distribution
  - Attendance at a County and/or CA Fish and Wildlife Department sponsored training workshop in the kit fox habitat evaluation process used by the County
  - Knowledge and experience in all aspects of kit fox surveys, including pre-construction surveys; identification of kit fox dens, tracks and scat; nighttime spotlight surveys; and identification of kit fox during the day and at night
  - Ability and experience in identifying potential impacts to kit fox and their habitats
  - Ability and experience in recommending mitigation measures to minimize impacts to kit fox and their habitats
  - Knowledge of County kit fox mitigation measures
  - Ability and experience in conducting pre-construction briefings for kit fox protection
  - Ability and experience in producing handouts for kit fox pre-construction briefings
  - Ability and experience in monitoring for compliance with kit fox mitigation measures
  - Ability and experience in writing complete, well-written technical reports as per the County Guidelines for Preparation of Technical Reports

Check one:

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With my signature I confirm that I meet all of the above qualifications and that I was a primary author of this report and provided field oversight and/or conducted a substantial portion of the field survey work.

_____ _____

Signature of Biologist Date

Morro Bay Kangaroo Rat Biological Report Declaration

PROJECT NAME: _____

NAME OF BIOLOGIST: _____ FIRM: _____

I am the primary/lead field biologist for the above referenced project. I have the following minimum qualifications to comply with the County of San Luis Obispo's biological reporting requirements for this type of biological report (Morro Bay Kangaroo Rat):

- I have a bachelor's degree in (circle one or more): biology, zoology, wildlife biology, natural resources, ecology, conservation biology, environmental biology, or related field (specify) _____; from (specify school & year completed) _____

  _____

- I have previously conducted independent field work and reporting, and demonstrated the following:
  - Knowledge and experience in identification of San Luis Obispo County habitats and vegetation associations
  - Ability to recognize potential MBKR habitat
  - Knowledge of MBKR habitat requirements, prey species, and predator species
  - Knowledge of MBKR sightings and distribution
  - Possession of federal and state permits to conduct surveys
  - Knowledge and experience in USFWS protocol-level surveys including habitat assessment surveys and live-trapping surveys
  - Knowledge and ability to recognize MBKR individuals and sign such as tail drags, tracks, and scat
  - Ability and experience in identifying potential impacts to MBKR and their habitats
  - Ability and experience in recommending mitigation measures to minimize impacts to MBKR and their habitats
  - Ability to conduct pre-construction briefings for MBKR protection
  - Ability to produce handouts for MBKR pre-construction briefings
  - Ability to monitor for compliance with MBKR mitigation measures
  - Ability and experience in writing complete, well-written technical reports as per the County Guidelines for Preparation of Technical Reports

Check one:

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With my signature I confirm that I meet all of the above qualifications and that I was a primary author of this report and provided field oversight and/or conducted a substantial portion of the field survey work.

_____ _____

Signature of Biologist Date

California Red Legged Frog (CRLF) Biological Report Declaration

PROJECT NAME: _____

NAME OF BIOLOGIST: _____ FIRM: _____

I am the primary/lead field biologist for the above referenced project. I have the following minimum qualifications to comply with the County of San Luis Obispo's biological reporting requirements for this type of biological report (California Red Legged Frog):

- I have a bachelor's degree in (circle one or more): biology, zoology, wildlife biology, natural resources, ecology, conservation biology, environmental biology, or related field (specify) _____; from (specify school & year completed) _____

  _____

- I have previously conducted independent field work and reporting, and demonstrated the following:
  - Knowledge and experience in identification of San Luis Obispo County habitats and vegetation associations
  - Ability to recognize potential CRLF habitat
  - Knowledge of CRLF habitat requirements and predator species
  - Knowledge of CRLF sightings and distribution
  - Knowledge and experience in all aspects of CRLF surveys, including pre-construction surveys; USFWS protocol-level surveys
  - Ability and experience in identification of CRLF during the day and at night
  - Ability and experience in identifying potential impacts to CRLF and their habitat
  - Ability and experience in recommending mitigation measures to minimize impacts to CRLF and their habitats
  - Knowledge of County CRLF mitigation measures
  - Experience in conducting pre-construction briefings for CRLF protection
  - Ability and experience in producing handouts for CRLF pre-construction briefings
  - Ability and experience in monitoring for compliance with RLF mitigation measures
  - Ability and experience in writing complete, well-written technical reports as per the County Guidelines for Preparation of Technical Reports

Check one:

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With my signature I confirm that I meet all of the above qualifications and that I was a primary author of this report and provided field oversight and/or conducted a substantial portion of the field survey work.

_____ _____

Signature of Biologist Date

Steelhead Trout Biological Report Declaration

PROJECT NAME: _____

NAME OF BIOLOGIST: _____ FIRM: _____

I am the primary/lead field biologist for the above referenced project. I have the following minimum qualifications to comply with the County of San Luis Obispo's biological reporting requirements for this type of biological report (Steelhead Trout):

- I have a bachelor's degree in (circle one or more): fisheries biology, ichthyology, biology, wildlife biology, natural resources, ecology, conservation biology, environmental biology, or related field (specify) _____; from (specify school & year completed) _____

  _____

- I have previously conducted independent field work and reporting, and demonstrated the following:
  - Knowledge & experience in identification of SLO County aquatic habitats
  - Ability to recognize potential steelhead habitat (including spawning, rearing, and migration habitat)
  - Knowledge of steelhead habitat requirements, food requirements, predator species, and competitive species
  - Knowledge of local steelhead sightings and distribution
  - Knowledge & experience in all aspects of steelhead surveys, including pre-con surveys; habitat surveys, habitat barrier surveys, and population surveys
  - Knowledge and ability to recognize steelhead at all life stages
  - Ability and experience in identifying potential impacts to steelhead and their habitat
  - Ability and experience in recommending habitat improvements and mitigation measures to minimize impacts to steelhead and their habitats
  - Ability & experience in conducting pre-con briefings for steelhead protection
  - Ability to produce handouts for steelhead pre-construction briefings
  - Ability & experience in monitoring for compliance with steelhead mitigation measures
  - Ability and experience in writing complete, well-written technical reports as per the County Guidelines for Preparation of Technical Reports

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With my signature I confirm that I meet all of the above qualifications and that I was a primary author of this report and provided field oversight and/or conducted a substantial portion of the field survey work.

_____ _____

Signature of Biologist Date

Morro Shoulderband Snail Biological Report Declaration

PROJECT NAME: _____

NAME OF BIOLOGIST: _____ FIRM: _____

I am the primary/lead field biologist for the above referenced project. I have the following minimum qualifications to comply with the County of San Luis Obispo's biological reporting requirements for this type of biological report (Morro Shoulderband Snail):

- I have a bachelor's degree in (circle one or more): biology, zoology, natural resources, ecology, conservation biology, environmental biology, or related field (specify) _____; from (specify school & year completed) _____

  _____

- I have previously conducted independent field work and reporting, and demonstrated the following:
  - Knowledge and experience in identification of San Luis Obispo County habitats and vegetation associations
  - Ability and experience in recognizing potential MSBS habitat
  - Knowledge and ability to identify MSBS
  - Knowledge of MSBS habitat requirements, competitive and predatory species
  - Knowledge of MSBS sightings and distribution
  - Possession of Federal permit to conduct MSBS surveys
  - Knowledge and experience in all aspects of MSBS surveys, including pre-construction surveys and USFWS protocol-level surveys
  - Ability and experience in identifying potential impacts to MSBS and their habitat
  - Ability and experience in recommending mitigation measures to minimize impacts to MSBS and their habitats
  - Knowledge of County MSBS mitigation measures
  - Experience in conducting pre-construction briefings for MSBS protection
  - Ability to produce handouts for MSBS pre-construction briefings
  - Ability and experience in monitoring for compliance with MSBS mitigation measures
  - Ability and experience in writing complete, well-written technical reports as per the County Guidelines for Preparation of Technical Reports

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With my signature I confirm that I meet all of the above qualifications and that I was a primary author of this report and provided field oversight and/or conducted a substantial portion of the field survey work.

_____ _____

Signature of Biologist Date

Monarch Butterfly Biological Report Declaration

PROJECT NAME: _____

NAME OF BIOLOGIST: _____ FIRM: _____

I am the primary/lead field biologist for the above referenced project. I have the following minimum qualifications to comply with the County of San Luis Obispo's biological reporting requirements for this type of biological report (Monarch Butterfly):

- I have a bachelor's degree in (circle one or more): biology, zoology, entomology, natural resources, ecology, conservation biology, environmental biology, or related field (specify) _____; from (specify school & year completed) _____

- I have previously conducted independent field work and reporting, and demonstrated the following:
  - Knowledge and experience in identification of San Luis Obispo County habitats and vegetation associations
  - Knowledge and ability to identify monarch butterflies
  - Knowledge and ability to recognize potential monarch butterfly habitat
  - Knowledge of monarch butterfly habitat requirements
  - Knowledge of monarch butterfly sightings and distribution
  - Ability and experience in identifying potential impacts to monarch butterflies and their habitat
  - Ability and experience in recommending mitigation measures to minimize impacts to monarch butterflies and their habitats
  - Knowledge of County monarch butterfly mitigation measures
  - Ability and experience in monitoring for compliance with monarch butterfly mitigation measures
  - Ability and experience in writing complete, well-written technical reports as per the County Guidelines for Preparation of Technical Reports

Check one:

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With my signature I confirm that I meet all of the above qualifications and that I was a primary author of this report and provided field oversight and/or conducted a substantial portion of the field survey work.

_____ _____

Signature of Biologist Date

Wetland Biological Report Declaration

PROJECT NAME: _____

NAME OF BIOLOGIST: _____ FIRM: _____

I am the primary/lead field biologist for the above referenced project. I have the following minimum qualifications to comply with the County of San Luis Obispo's biological reporting requirements for this type of biological report (Wetland Specialist):

- I have a bachelor's degree in (circle one or more): biology, botany, natural resources, soils, ecosystem biology, ecology, conservation biology, environmental biology, or related field (specify) _____; from (specify school & year completed) _____

- I have previously conducted independent field work and reporting, and demonstrated the following:
  - Knowledge and experience in identification of San Luis Obispo County habitats and vegetation associations
  - General knowledge of wetland habitat types
  - Knowledge and ability to identify vernal pool habitat in wet and dry season
  - Knowledge and ability to conduct wetland delineations using the Army Corps of Engineers Protocol
  - Knowledge of local wetland-associated plant and animal species
  - Ability and experience in identifying potential impacts to wetland habitats
  - Ability and experience in recommending mitigation measures to minimize impacts to wetland habitats
  - Knowledge and experience in wetland remediation and restoration
  - Experience in monitoring for compliance with wetland mitigation measures
  - Ability and experience in writing complete, well-written technical reports as per the County Guidelines for Preparation of Technical Reports

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With my signature I confirm that I meet all of the above qualifications and that I was a primary author of this report and provided field oversight and/or conducted a substantial portion of the field survey work.

_____ _____

Signature of Biologist Date