

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FORM
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PROJECT NO. R2013-00614-(5)
CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT NO. 201300111**

Planner information:

Project Name/Number: TERMO/Aliso Canyon Oil Wells / R2013-00614-(5)

Project Address/Location: Aliso Canyon Oil Field (north of Tampa Blvd and Sesnon Blvd, Porter Ranch area)

APNs for any parcels associated with the project: 2826-017-050, 2826-017-051, 2821-005-025, 2826-029-006

SEA Name/Number: Santa Susana Mountains SEA

USGS Topographic Quadrangle Number: Oat Mountain

Provide a brief project description (this should be completed in consultation with the staff biologist):

The applicant, The Termo Company, is proposing the installation of three well pads and improvement of access roads at the Aliso Canyon Oil Field, located within the the Santa Susana Mountains SEA. The improvements made to the access roads and pruning to allow access may encroach on the protected zones or canopies of up to 131 oak trees and one oak tree may potentially be removed. The total area of permanent impacts associated with the proposed project is 5.3 acres. The permanent impacts include 3.0 acres for the three proposed well pads and new access roads and an additional permanent impact area of 2.3 acres from improvements of existing roads. Oil wells are permitted in an A-2 (Heavy Agricultural) zone. The applicant has filed for a SEA CUP and an Oak Tree Permit for this project.

Planner Recommendations and questions:

None

The biologist must complete the following information:

Notes from site inspection:

The proposed well sites and access road alignments are all sited within areas that are either currently disturbed and barren, or else are within areas supporting annual grassland dominated by non-native species. Where native species are present, they are chiefly fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii*) and red-maids (*Calandrinia ciliata*). The overwhelming majority of grassland and oak woodland understory adjacent to proposed activities is characterized by vegetation of this general type. Notable exceptions include a small area of native forb and grass near the proposed alignment of the access road to drill site #3, areas along roads where vegetation is naturally sparse due to shading by dense oak canopies, or shallow soil conditions along road cuts.

Erosion along the road to drill site # 2 has resulted in the entrenchment of a gully alongside the south side of the road which needs remediation in order to make the road passable. The gully exhibits an OHWM but does not support distinctive vegetation indicative of prolonged wet conditions. Road improvements will involve the installation of a culvert to hydrologically connect slopes above the road to a swale leading away from the road to the north. CDFW will be notified of the work in the event that a streambed alteration agreement is necessary. Areas mapped as riparian are present adjacent to existing roads but riparian vegetation will not be encroached upon by the proposed work.

Existing oil well pads are contained by man-made berms to contain spill and runoff, and do not display evidence of creeping impacts, such as erosion or invasive plant establishment. Proposed well pads are therefore anticipated by the County to result in similar impacts.

Biologist Recommendations and questions:

none