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February 3, 2014

Mr. Oxso Shahriari, Planner
Land Use Services Department
County of San Bernardino
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0187

RE: Erwin Lake Market Project
File #P201200304, APN 0315-231-17, San Bernardino County, California

Dear Mr. Shahriari:

I would like to address recent comments raised regarding potential impacts to the unarmored threespine stickleback fish (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*) as a result of potential oil spillage or seepage associated with the Erwin Lake Market Project. The stickleback is a federal and state endangered species and has been documented in the general region north of the project site.

Background Information

The proponent is requesting approval of a proposed convenience store with fuel dispensers on a 0.91 acre site at the southeast corner of State Highway 38 (Greenspot Blvd.) and State Lane Drive (The SE ¼ of the SE ¼ of the NE ¼ of Section 19, Township 2 North, Range 2 West, of the SBM, State of California) located in San Bernardino County (Figures 1 and 2). A 4,999 square foot structure would be constructed on the site along with fuel dispensers (4) and associated parking areas. The property is located at an elevation of approximately 6,800 feet (MSL) with a very slight slope to the east.

RCA Associates LLC reviewed existing information on the species from the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB, 2013) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS, 2009). According to USFWS (2009), there are about thirteen populations that have been previously documented in Southern California, and the majority of these populations are believed to still be present. Based on the review of available information, the nearest documented population of the stickleback species is approximately 0.9 miles north of the project site and is associated with Shay Creek and Shay Pond (CNDDDB, 2013). The species was observed in 1995 in Shay Creek which is a tributary to Baldwin Lake, which is directly east of Big Bear City. This population is assumed to still be present in Shay Creek and Shay Pond; although surveys for the stickleback

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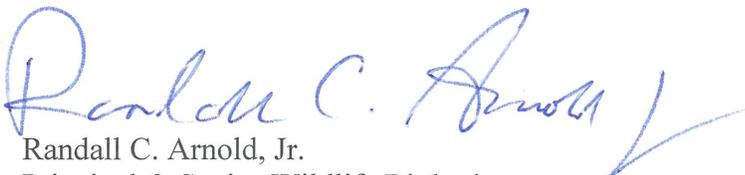
have not been conducted since 2009. Two small intermittent channels of Shay Creek are also located about 0.5 miles northeast and northwest of the project site as shown on Figure 2.

Project Impacts

Although populations of the stickleback may be present north of the project site, it is unlikely the species would be affected by any potential on-site leakage or seepage problems. The populations, if present, are at least 0.5 miles north of the site and any seepage/spillage from the site would likely be contained before any gasoline or diesel fuel reached the intermittent channels of Shay Creek. Furthermore, operation of the proposed fuel dispensers will be properly maintained and kept in good operating conditions at all times as per State of California requirements. Any leakage or seepage from the underground tanks will be immediately reported and mitigation measures, if needed, will be implemented.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide clarification of this issue and please feel free to contact me at (760) 956-9212 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Randall C. Arnold, Jr.
Principal & Senior Wildlife Biologist

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Bibliography

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RCA Associates LLC. January 27, 2012. General Biological Resources Assessment, Eagle Ridge Market. 28 pp.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. May 29, 2009. Unarmored Threespine Stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*), 5-Year Review: Summary and Evaluation. 36 pp.

FIGURES

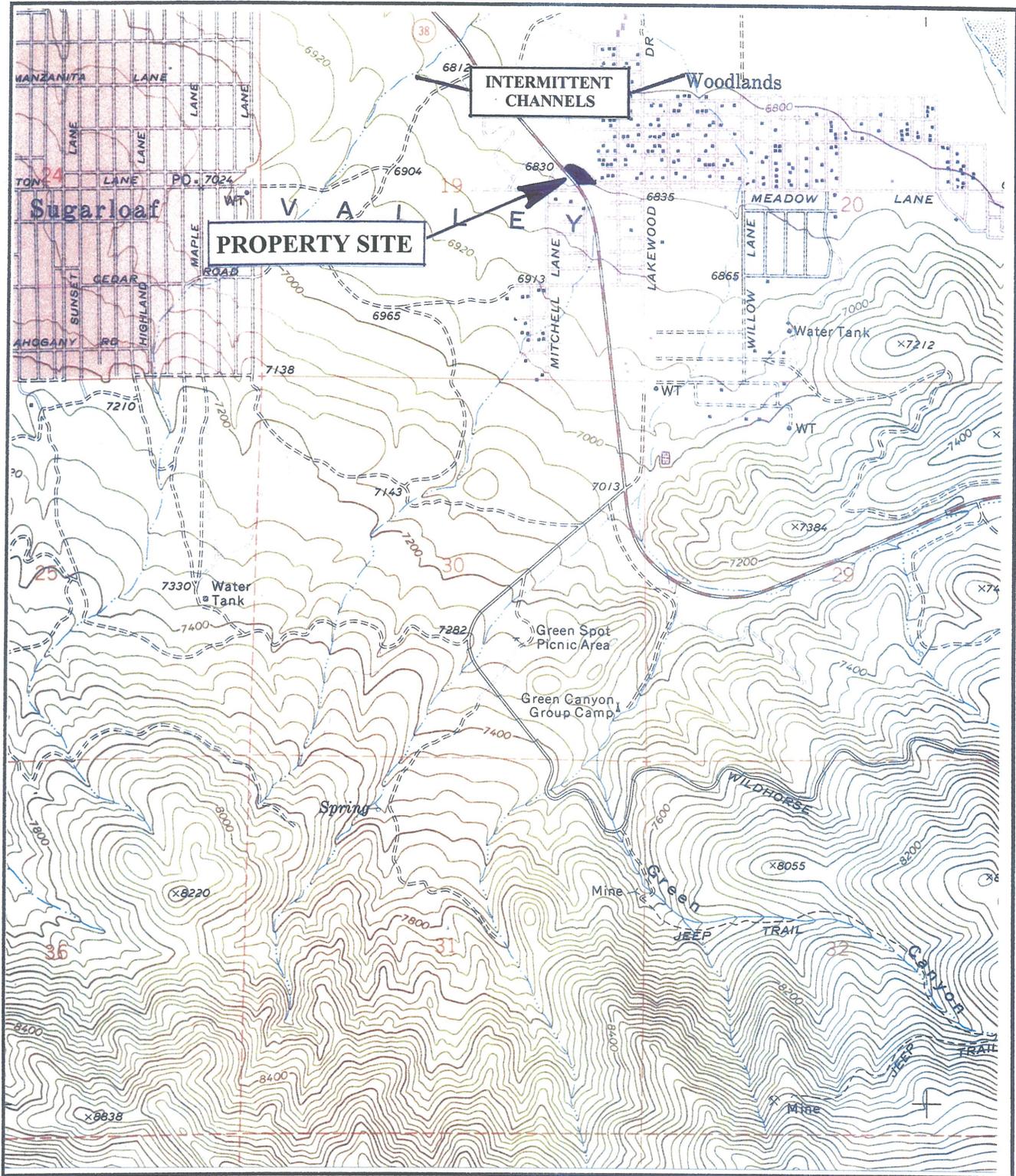


FIGURE 2
PROJECT LOCATION
(Erwin Lake Market)
 (Source: USGS: Moonridge, CA Quad., 1970)

