

**Felicia Miller - Orange Grove HLP**

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**Date:** 10/21/2008 4:15 PM  
**Subject:** Orange Grove HLP  
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Michelle – Things are continuing to move forward with the Orange Grove project. The CEC is still on target to complete the Final Staff Assessment for the project by November 3<sup>rd</sup>. While the staff has been working on completing the staff assessment we have been looking into mitigation options. It appears that Red Mountain will be our best option for mitigating the entire project. It is our understanding that Red Mountain received their locals approvals from CDFG and USFWS in the last couple of days on the mitigation bank and expects final approval of the bank in the next 60 days. At this time we are planning to mitigate for the 9.3 acres of coastal sage scrub impacts at a 2:1 ratio for a total of 18.6 acres of mitigation in the bank. In addition, as discussed at the batching meeting the project impacts 3.4 acres of non-native grasslands. The agencies would like for a mitigation ratio of 0.5:1. We have not found non-native grassland mitigation available. At Red Mountain Mitigation Bank they have mafic southern mixed chaparral which has been accepted in the past as mitigation for non-native grassland. We would like to propose that we mitigate the 3.4 acres of non-native grassland impacts with 1.7 acres of mafic southern mixed chaparral which is still a 0.5:1 ratio. Finally, an issue was raised at the batching meeting regarding the ROW to be granted to Orange Grove for the gas pipeline that will run through the proposed Gregory Canyon mitigation area. This area will be coast live oak when the mitigation area is fully built out by Gregory Canyon. Orange Grove is proposing to mitigate this 2.2 acres at a 2:1 ratio with coast live oak. At this time, Red Mountain also has this habitat available. Orange Grove would provide 4.4 acres of coast live oak habitat.

It is our understanding that the County will be sending out the draft conditions to USFWS and CDFG in early November once the CEC's Final Staff Assessment is completed for a 45-day review. Please let me know if you have any questions regarding the above proposed mitigation. Thank you for your assistance.

**Elisha Back**

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