



# BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES EVALUATION GENERAL INFORMATIONAL HANDOUT

*This Biological Resources Report Handout has been provided to assist in understanding the general requirements for biological reports and the general zoning regulations governing the preparation of these important environmental studies.*



Figure 1 Biological Mapping Sample: Biological Resource Evaluation for the Citywide Drainage Ditch Maintenance Project, SWCA Environmental Consultants

## **When is a Biological Report Required?**

A Biological Report is required prior to development review for any project within 100 feet of any sensitive habitat area, riparian corridor, bluffs and sea-cliff areas and/or any wetland, regardless of the zoning district.

## **Who prepares the Biological Report?**

When requested by the applicant, City Staff is required to select the Biologist to create the report. The City maintains a list of qualified professional biologists in which to select a biologist to prepare the report.

## **What is included in the Biological Report?**

- Mapping of coastal resources. The biological report shall describe/map existing wild strawberry habitat on the site, existing sensitive habitats, riparian areas and wetlands within 200 feet of the project site.

- Description of habitat requirements include:

- Rare and endangered species: a definition of requirements of rare & endangered organisms, a discussion of animal predation / migration requirements, animal food, water, nesting or denning sites and reproduction and the plants' life histories and soils, climate and geographic requirements.

- For Unique Species: A definition of the requirements of the unique organism; a discussion of animal food, water, nesting / denning sites and reproduction.

- Significant impacts on identified coastal resources on the project site that would result from development of the proposed project.
- Recommendations of feasible measures to:
  - Mitigate any significant impacts on the biological coastal resources.
  - Protect the biological coastal resources.

These measures may include, but are not limited to changes in development intensity, siting of building, structures or paving and limitations on timing / location of construction.

### ***How is the Biological Report Process Undertaken?***

If development within 100 feet of any sensitive habitat area, riparian corridor, bluffs and sea-cliff areas and/or any wetland is sought, the first step is to submit an application to the Planning Division for Environmental Review. Once the administrative draft of the biological report is prepared and approved by the City, the report becomes a Draft Biological Resources Evaluation. The draft report is then distributed to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Army Corp of Engineers, California Coastal Commission, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, Regional Water Quality Control Board and any other federal or state agency with review authority over wetlands, riparian habitats or water resources for 45 days for their review in order to solicit comments on the report. Once the comment period has ended, any comments and recommendations that have been received from the interagency review will be addressed in the Environmental Review and likely incorporated into the development standards and/or mitigation monitoring and reporting program for the project. The proposed project can then be designed in compliance with these requirements and submitted for review with the Environmental Review determination for the Coastal Development Permit application.

### ***Where can I find more information on the Biological Report Process?***

Chapter 18.38 of the Half Moon Bay Municipal Code goes into detail on the Biological Report Process and outlines the procedures for processing the biological report. Additionally, you can contact the Planning Division Monday thru Friday 8:30 to 5:00 with additional questions. (650) 726-8250



Figure 2 photograph of Coastside Bluff and path in the background