

HUMBOLDT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
ROAD EVALUATION REPORT

RECEIVED

DEC 6 2018

Humboldt County
Planning Division

PART A: Part A may be completed by the applicant

Applicant Name: Nathan Monschke and Lisa Melin-Monschke

APN: 221-081-004

Planning & Building Department Case/File No.: 10653

Road Name: Salmon Creek Road (Segment 1) (complete a separate form for each road)

From Road (Cross street): Maple Hills Road

To Road (Cross street): Thomas Road

Length of road segment: 1.7 miles Date Inspected: 10/3/2017

Road is maintained by: ☒ County ☐ Other

(State, Forest Service, National Park, State Park, BLM, Private, Tribal, etc)

Check one of the following:

Box 1 ☐ The entire road segment is developed to Category 4 road standards (20 feet wide) or better. If checked, then the road is adequate for the proposed use without further review by the applicant.

Box 2 ☐ The entire road segment is developed to the equivalent of a road category 4 standard. If checked, then the road is adequate for the proposed use without further review by the applicant.

An equivalent road category 4 standard is defined as a roadway that is generally 20 feet in width, but has pinch points which narrow the road. Pinch points include, but are not limited to, one-lane bridges, trees, large rock outcroppings, culverts, etc. Pinch points must provide visibility where a driver can see oncoming vehicles through the pinch point which allows the oncoming vehicle to stop and wait in a 20 foot wide section of the road for the other vehicle to pass.

Box 3 ☒ The entire road segment is not developed to the equivalent of road category 4 or better. The road may or may not be able to accommodate the proposed use and further evaluation is necessary. Part B is to be completed by a Civil Engineer licensed by the State of California.

The statements in PART A are true and correct and have been made by me after personally inspecting and measuring the road.

Signature

Joel Monschke

10/12/17

Date

Name Printed

Important: Read the instructions before using this form. If you have questions, please call the Dept. of Public Works Land Use Division at 707.445.7205.

PART B: Only complete Part B if Box 3 is checked in Part A. Part B is to be completed by a Civil Engineer licensed by the State of California. Complete a separate form for each road.

Road Name: Salmon Creek Road (Segment 1) Date Inspected: 10/3/17 APN: 221-081-004
 From Road: Maple Hills Road (Post Mile N/A) Planning & Building
 To Road: Thomas Road (Post Mile N/A) Department Case/File No.:

1. What is the Average Daily Traffic (ADT) of the road (including other known cannabis projects)?

Number of other known cannabis projects included in ADT calculations:

(Contact the Planning & Building Department for information on other nearby projects.)

92

ADT: 640

Date(s) measured: See explanation in Technical Memorandum Section 2.3

Method used to measure ADT: ☐ Counters ☐ Estimated using ITE Trip Generation Book

Is the ADT of the road less than 400? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, then the road is considered very low volume and shall comply with the design standards outlined in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guidelines for Geometric Design of Very Low-Volume Local Roads (ADT ≤ 400). Complete sections 2 and 3 below.

If NO, then the road shall be reviewed per the applicable policies for the design of local roads and streets presented in AASHTO A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets, commonly known as the "Green Book". Complete section 3 below.

2. Identify site specific safety problems with the road that include, but are not limited to: (Refer to Chapter 3 in AASHTO Guidelines for Geometric Design of Very Low-Volume Local Roads (ADT ≤ 400) for guidance.)

A. Pattern of curve related crashes.

Check one: ☐ No. ☐ Yes, see attached sheet for Post Mile (PM) locations.

B. Physical evidence of curve problems such as skid marks, scarred trees, or scarred utility poles

Check one: ☐ No. ☐ Yes, see attached sheet for PM locations.

C. Substantial edge rutting or encroachment.

Check one: ☐ No. ☐ Yes, see attached sheet for PM locations.

D. History of complaints from residents or law enforcement.

Check one: ☐ No. ☐ Yes (☐ check if written documentation is attached)

E. Measured or known speed substantially higher than the design speed of the road (20+ MPH higher)

Check one: ☐ No. ☐ Yes.

F. Need for turn-outs.

Check one: ☐ No. ☐ Yes, see attached sheet for PM locations.

3. Conclusions/Recommendations per AASHTO. Check one:

☐ The roadway can accommodate the cumulative increased traffic from this project and all known cannabis projects identified above.

☒ The roadway can accommodate the cumulative increased traffic from this project and all known cannabis projects identified above, if the recommendations on the attached report are done. (☐ check if a Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan is also required and is attached.)

☐ The roadway cannot accommodate increased traffic from the proposed use. It is not possible to address increased traffic.

A map showing the location and limits of the road being evaluated in PART B is attached. The statements in PART B are true and correct and have been made by me after personally evaluating the road.

Signature of Civil Engineer

10/12/17

Date

Important: Read the instructions before using this form. If you have questions, please call the Dept. of Public Works Land Use Division at 707.445.7205.

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

DATE: 13 October 2017
TO: Humboldt County Department of Public Works
FROM: Joel Monschke, Stillwater Sciences
SUBJECT: Road Evaluation for APN 221-081-004 (Blido Property):
Segment 1 - 1.7 miles of Humboldt County maintained Salmon Creek Road from
Maple Hills Road junction to Thomas Road turnoff

I hereby state that all work described in the attached Technical Memorandum follows accepted engineering practice and was completed under my direction. This Technical Memorandum summarizes results from an evaluation conducted on the access road leading to APN 221-081-004 per guidance from the Humboldt County Department of Public Works. The Blido property is located approximately 8 miles from US-101 and approximately 2 miles from mile 4.1 of Thomas Road where the county-maintained road ends. Based on physical characteristics of the access road, the 7.8-mile access road to the Blido property has been divided into 4 segments as follows:

- **Segment 1 (Subject of this Technical Memorandum)** – 1.7 miles of County-maintained road (Salmon Creek Road) from Maple Hills Road junction to the Thomas Road junction.
- **Segment 2** – 4.1 miles of county-maintained Thomas Road, from Salmon Creek Road junction to end of County-maintained segment.
- **Segment 3** – 1.6 miles of private community-maintained road (Thomas Road) from Mile 4.1 of Thomas Road to Salmon Creek School.
- **Segment 4** – 0.4 miles of private community-maintained road from Thomas Road to Blido property.



Joel Monschke, P.E.
Civil Engineer
Stillwater Sciences

1 INTRODUCTION

Stillwater Sciences has been contracted to conduct road evaluation the proposed cannabis project on APN 221-081-004. On 3 October 2017, the field evaluation was conducted by Stillwater Sciences engineer (Joel Monschke). Information in this Technical Memorandum pertains to Segment 1 (See Figure 1) covering 1.7 miles of County-maintained road from Salmon Creek Road/Maple Hills Road to the Thomas Road junction.

2 EXPECTED INCREASE IN USE DUE TO CANNABIS PROJECT

2.1 Cannabis Project on APN 221-081-004

The cannabis project proposed on APN 221-081-004 has the potential to increase traffic on the roads evaluated herein because cultivation covers ~40,000 SF. However, the applicant strives to reduce impacts to all access roads by reusing soil, storing all water onsite (no water deliveries), and utilizing an onsite gravel quarry to maintain the roads on the property.

2.2 Other Cannabis Projects in the Vicinity

Areas accessed by Salmon Creek Road were delineated into eight sub-areas so that projected use could be estimated along the various road segments evaluated in this project. Humboldt County Department of Public Works provided Stillwater with a list of cannabis permit applications in the vicinity. The number of cannabis applicants and number of parcels were tallied by sub-area and are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Access road area users.

Sub-area	Description of sub-area	Cannabis permit applications	Parcels
Lower Salmon Creek Road	Salmon Creek Road from Maple Hills Road to Thomas Road/Salmon Creek Road split	4	29
Upper Salmon Creek Road	Salmon Creek Road from Thomas Road/Salmon Creek Road split to terminus	9	44
Thomas Trunk Road	Thomas Road from Thomas Road/Salmon Creek Road split to Main/Upper Thomas Road split	14	49
Lower Thomas Road	Main Thomas Road from Main/Upper Thomas Road split to Salmon Creek School	16	41
Upper Thomas Road	Lower Thomas Road from Main/Lower Thomas Road split to terminus	17	36
Main Thomas Road	Upper Thomas Road from Main/Upper Thomas Road split to terminus	7	14
Lower Samuels Ranch Loop	Lower Samuels Ranch Loop Road (Thomas Road) from School to Serendipity sign	12	52
Upper Samuels Ranch Loop	Upper Samuels Ranch Loop Road (Thomas Road) from School to Serendipity sign	13	55

All of these sub-areas are accessed by the road (Segment 1) evaluated in this Technical Memorandum. Therefore, all 92 cannabis permit applications and 320 parcels contribute to use of Segment 1. Most of the cannabis applications involve permitting existing cultivation, so the traffic is not likely to significantly increase from those projects compared to the last several years. However, it is expected that the cumulative impacts of all these projects will result in incremental increases in road use considering that there are multiple new permit applications and that as farmers come into compliance they often significantly upgrade their operations.

2.3 Average Daily Traffic Estimate

Stillwater Sciences' engineer estimated average daily trips based on traffic observations during the road evaluation, number of properties utilizing the access road, and engineering judgement. There are approximately 320 parcels that utilize Segment 1. If each parcel accounts for two trips per day, that equates to approximately 640 total trips per day (~50 trips per hour during a typical 12-hour day (8 am to 8 pm). This is generally consistent with the observations made during the road evaluation. While there are likely busier times of day, and busier periods of the year, we believe that this is a reasonably accurate estimate for this road evaluation.



Figure 1. Road evaluation overview map.

3 FIELD OBSERVATIONS

3.1 General Observations

Overall, the 1.7 miles of County Road is in relatively good condition. There is evidence of skid marks at several locations. The greatest safety concerns on the segment are one pinch point at mile 0.3 and a narrow segment with blind curves from miles 0.8 to 1.0.

3.2 Description of Specific Road Segments

A detailed map of the road segment is shown on Figure 2. The beginning of the segment from mile 0 to 0.7 was generalized as a sub-segment because of its uniform characteristics. Measurements were taken along the road segment after mile 0.7 at 0.1 mile intervals as shown in Figure 2:

- Mile 0 to 0.7 (Beginning at Maple Hills Road): Paved, with yellow stripe, 18–24 foot (ft) width with 2-ft gravel shoulders, “equivalent category 4 road” with exception of one pinch point at mile 0.3 (14 ft width with no shoulders) caused by recent debris slide and tree (see photo in Appendix A). The pinch point is at a blind corner making it dangerous.
- Mile 0.8: relatively narrow section, 16-ft road width, no shoulder, deep ditch.
- Mile 0.9: Relatively narrow section, 15-ft road width with 1-ft shoulders.
- Mile 1.0: 18-ft road width with 1-ft shoulders.
- Mile 1.1: 20-ft road width with 1-ft shoulders.
- Mile 1.2: 24-ft road width with 1-ft shoulders.
- Mile 1.3: 16-ft road width with 1-ft shoulders—pinch point with decent visibility.
- Mile 1.4: 22-ft road width with 2-ft shoulders.
- Mile 1.45: 28-ft width bridge with no shoulder.
- Mile 1.5: 24-ft road width with 2-ft shoulders.
- Mile 1.6: 24-ft road width with 2-ft shoulders.
- Mile 1.7: Thomas Road/Salmon Creek Road split, 32-ft road width with 2-ft ft shoulders (end of Segment 1)



Figure 2. Road Segment 1 map.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Specific Recommendations for this Road Segment

- Mile 0.3: We recommend removing trees and dirt that has slumped off cut slope. Widening roadway to 20 feet with shoulders, need to consider environmental impact (high priority).
- Mile 0.8 to 1: This is a trickier road segment to widen due to a deep landslide in the vicinity. However, minor improvements to the roadway could improve safety and width including paving work to stabilize the inboard ditch and outboard edge of the roadway at select locations and fix pavement edges that are broken and treacherous at numerous locations.

It is unrealistic to expect one or several cannabis cultivators to make the road improvements recommended herein. Therefore, we suggest developing a public-private partnership between Humboldt County and residents/cultivators within the Salmon Creek community to work together to improve the County-maintained access road. As necessary, cultivator contribution could be calculated based on a sliding scale that takes into consideration the square footage of cultivation area and length of County-maintained road utilized.

Appendix A

Photos

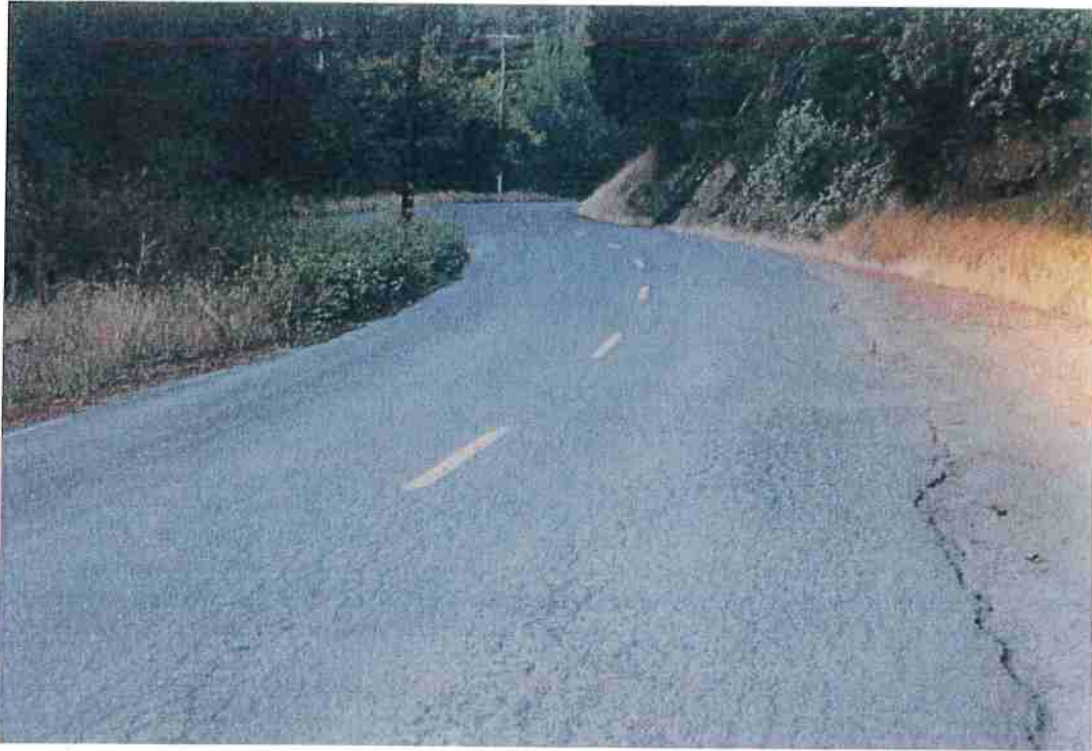


Photo 1. Mile 0.1 Category 4 segment with yellow stripe, typical of segment from 0.0 to 0.7.

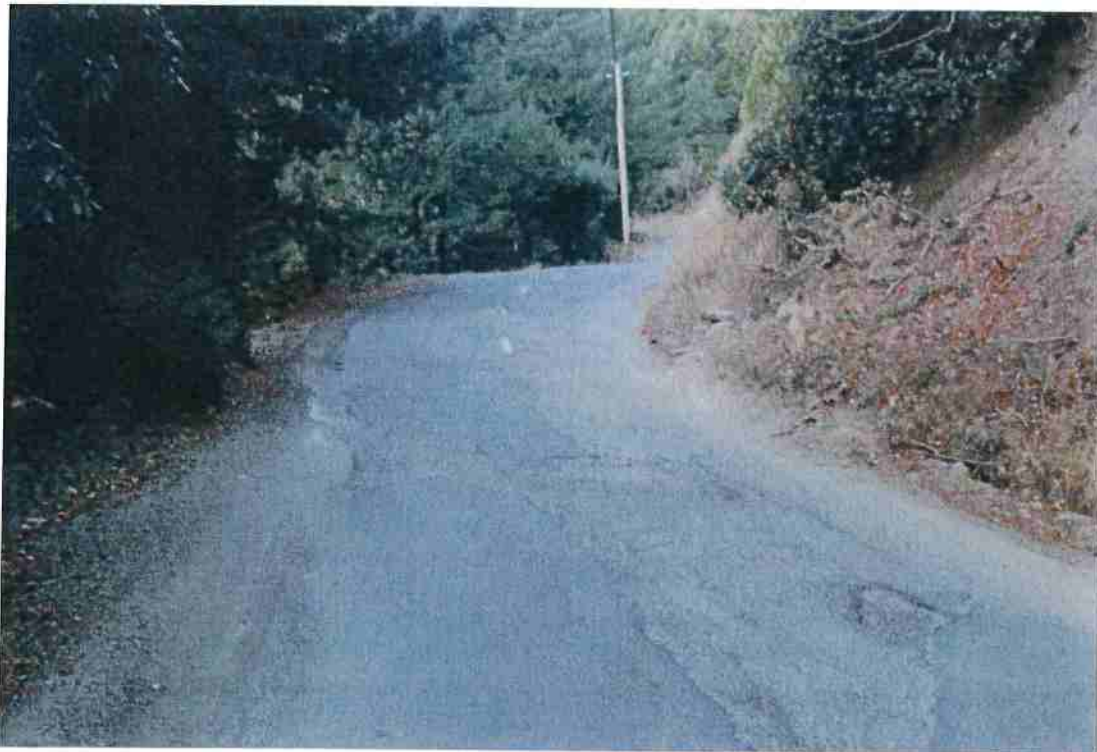


Photo 2. Mile 0.3: Pinch point at recent debris slide and tree; 14' width, no shoulder, blind corner, dangerous spot.

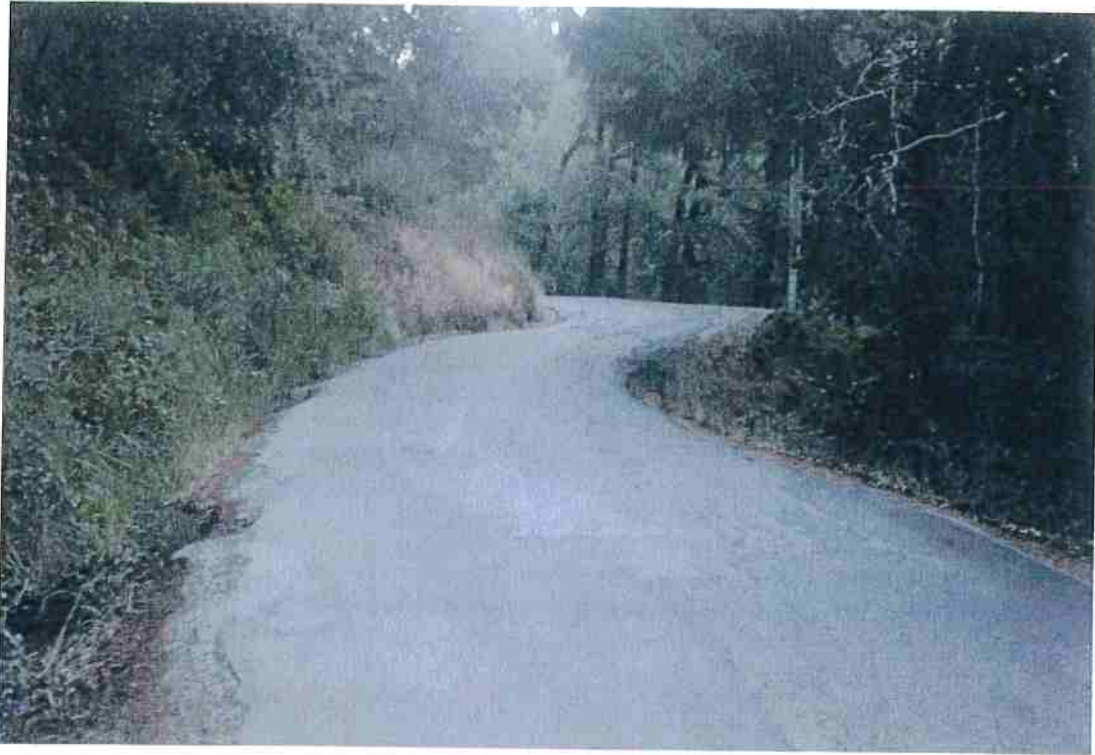


Photo 3. Mile 0.8: relatively narrow section, 16' width, no shoulder, deep ditch.



Photo 4. Mile 0.9: relatively narrow section, 15' width, 1' shoulders.



Photo 5. Mile 1.0: 18' width, 1' shoulder.



Photo 6. Mile 1.1: 20' width, 1' shoulders.



Photo 7. Mile 1.1: Logging truck on road.



Photo 8. Mile 1.2: 24' width, 1' shoulders.



Photo 9. Mile 1.3: 16' width, 1' shoulders pinch point, OK visibility.



Photo 10. Mile 1.4: 22' width, 2' shoulders.



Photo 11. Mile 1.45: 28' width bridge, no shoulders.



Photo 12. Mile 1.5: 24' width, 2' shoulders.



Photo 13. Mile 1.6: 24' width, 2' shoulders.



Photo 14. Mile 1.7: Thomas/ Salmon Creek Road split, 32' width, 2' shoulders (end of Segment 1).