

October 7, 2021

Humboldt County Zoning Administrator

Hearing Date:

To:

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

PLANNING AND BUILDING DEPARTMENT CURRENT PLANNING DIVISION

3015 H Street, Eureka CA 95501 Phone: (707)445-7541 Fax: (707) 268-3792

From:	Kathleen Franklin, Contract Planner	
Subject:	Small-Paysinger Special Permit Record Number PLN-2021-16937 Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 517-071-003 3550 Patrick's Point Drive, Trinidad Area	
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Please contact Kathleen Franklin, Contract Planner, at 916-642-5505 or by email at <u>kathleen@landlogistics.com</u>, if you have any questions about the scheduled public hearing item.

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Attachment 3: Referral Agency Comments and Recommendation

AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL

Hearing Date	Subject	Contact	
October 7, 2021	Special Permit	Kathleen Franklin, Contract	
		Planner	

Project Description: After-the-fact Special Permit for Major Vegetation Removal associated with removal of three mature alder trees and clearing of a drainage ditch (approximately 10 cubic yards) pursuant to Section 313-64.1.2 of the Humboldt County Code. Development of a living fence and restoration using native plants and non-native species removal is proposed. The tree removal and proposed work is located within the State's retained jurisdiction of the coastal zone and a Coastal Development Permit will be processed by the Coastal Commission. No additional development is requested.

Project Location: The project is located in the Trinidad Area, on the west side of Patrick's Point Drive, approximately 430 feet south from the intersection of Patrick's Point Drive and Driftwood Lane, on the property known as 3550 Patrick's Point Drive. (APN 517-071-003)

Present Plan Land Use Designation: Rural Residential (RR(A)), Density: Range is 0 to 1 unit, 2 acres; Area of Deferred Certification (ADC); Trinidad Area Plan (TAP), 2017 General Plan, Slope Stability: Parcel is in many different instability Zones (M).

Present Zoning: Rural Residential Agriculture: 2 acres minimum parcel (RA-2), Manufactured Home (M), Design Review (D), Offshore Rocks and Rocky Intertidal Areas (O),

Assessor Parcel Number: 517-071-003

Record Number: PLN-2021-16937

ApplicantOwnersAgentMary SmallPaysinger John Jr & Small Mary N/A3550 Patrick's Pt Dr3550 Patrick's Pt DrTrinidad, CA 95570Trinidad, CA 95570

Environmental Review: Categorically Exempt per CEQA Sections: 15304- Minor Alterations to Land; and 15333-Small Habitat Restoration

Major Issues: none.

State Appeal Status: Project is appealable to the California Coastal Commission.

Small – Paysinger Special Permit Record Number: PLN-2021-16937 Assessor's Parcel Number: 517-071-003

Recommended Action

- 1. Describe the application as part of the Consent Agenda;
- 2. Survey the audience for any person who would like to discuss the application;
- 3. If no one requests discussion, make the following motion to approve the application as part of the consent agenda:

Find that the Zoning Administrator finds the project Categorically Exempt under Sections 15304 and 15333 of the State CEQA Guidelines; make the required findings for approval of the Special Permit; and approve the Small-Paysinger Special Permit as recommended by staff and subject to the recommended conditions.

Executive Summary:

Background

The applicant stated in their project history that they had removed 3 mature red alders, approximately 200 sq. yds. of brush, and had cleared a County culvert and ditch located on their parcel, moving less than 10 yards of earth. This work was performed as part of conflict resolution with the owner's northeast property line neighbor. Alleged issues included trespassing, unleashed dogs which threatened the owners and their animals, cutting and removal of their vegetation, and dumping of yard waste with the result of clogging of a culvert and the waterway that historically ran down the shared property line. In addition, the applicant indicates that the neighbor removed/destroyed the survey marker at the northeast corner of their parcel.

In an attempt to resolve the issue, they decided a "good neighbor" fence would be advisable, and had the property line surveyed. The applicants indicate that the survey confirmed the property line location, and also found that the neighbor's well was located on the applicant's property.

The applicants retained an attorney to assist in approaching the neighbors concerning the fence and the adjacent property owner agreed to pay for fencing materials, to move the well and restore the drainage ditch to the mutual property line. During this time the attorney advised them of their liability to people or structures if the red alders, which were located on the property line, fell or dropped limbs. Consequently, the applicants removed the trees, cleared brush from the property line, and cleaned the culvert, claiming they did not know the work triggered the need for a Special Permit.

Current Project

When the applicant realized they needed to obtain a Special Permit, they contacted County Planning and submitted an application and all applicable documents to move the permit process forward. They hired a local biologist to help them develop a planting plan, consisting of native species only, to replace the previously existing vegetation. In addition, they intend to remove any remaining invasive species from the Project area.

They no longer propose to install fencing at their property line, but instead create a dense hedge interspersed with a selection of native plants of various heights and densities. They are proposing

to replace the three (3) red alders with three (3) Cascara in place of each red alder to solve the potential hazard of trees/limbs filling onto the neighboring property. At the suggestion of their consultant, they will erect a wire fence to keep out deer until the new plants are well established. The fence will be secured onto 2"x2" non treated wood posts. Posts will be put in the ground every 8' - 12' without digging holes. All plantings will be monitored yearly and replaced as needed for 5 years. They are also requesting permission to mark the exact property line with an approximately 1/4" cable suspended from 2 posts, one on the northeast comer of parcel, and one near the bluff west of 3602 SW corner. The posts will not be in the area of the waterway.

The applicant further stated that "Though we did not place the culvert under Patrick's Point Dr., causing water to drain to our joint properties, we propose monitoring the approximate flow during heavy rains and reporting approximate gallons per minute to the best of our ability. We would include inches of rain for the week previous to measurements. We would assess this at least 3 times yearly between November and April for the next 5 years."

Staff Recommendations: Based on the on-site inspection, a review of Planning Division reference sources, and comments from all involved referral agencies, Planning staff believes that the applicant has submitted evidence in support of making all of the required findings for approving the Special Permit.

Alternative: The Zoning Administrator could recommend denial of the proposed Special Permit if the Zoning Administrator finds that the submitted evidence does not support making all of the required findings. However, based on this staff report, planning staff believes the submitted evidence does support making all of the required findings and does not recommend further consideration of this alternative.

RESOLUTION OF THE ZONING ADMINISTRATOR OF THE COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT Resolution Number 21-

Record Number PLN-2021-16937 Assessor Parcel Number: 517-071-003

Resolution by the Zoning Administrator of the County of Humboldt certifying compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and conditionally approving the Small-Paysinger Special Permit (PLN-2021-16937).

WHEREAS, Mary Small submitted an application and evidence in support of approving an After-The-Fact Special Permit to allow after-the-fact Major Vegetation Removal associated with removal of three mature alder trees and clearing of a drainage ditch (approximately 10 cubic yards) pursuant to Section 313-64.1.2 of the Humboldt County Code and the restoration of the project area using native plants and removal of non-native plant species; and

WHEREAS, the project is Categorically Exempt from environmental review pursuant to Article 19, Sections 15304 and 15333 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, the County Planning Division has reviewed the submitted application and evidence and has referred the application and evidence to involved reviewing agencies for site inspections, comments and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Humboldt County Zoning Administrator held a duly noticed public hearing on **October 7, 2021**; reviewed, considered, and discussed the application for a Coastal Development Permit and Special Permit; and reviewed and considered all evidence and testimony presented at the hearing.

Now, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Zoning Administrator makes all the following findings:

1. **FINDING:** Project Description: After-the-fact Special Permit for Major Vegetation

Removal associated with removal of three mature alder trees and clearing of a drainage ditch (approximately 10 cubic yards) pursuant to Section 313-64.1.2 of the Humboldt County Code. Development of a living fence and restoration using native plants and non-native species removal is proposed. The tree removal and proposed work is located within the State's retained jurisdiction of the coastal zone and a Coastal Development Permit will be processed by the Coastal

Commission. No additional development is requested.

EVIDENCE: a) Project File: PLN-2021-16937

2. FINDING: CEQA: The requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act

have been met.

EVIDENCE: a) The Project is Categorically Exempt per CEQA Sections: 15304- Minor Alterations to Land; and 15333-Small Habitat Restoration. The project

proposes new landscaping, including the replacement of existing conventional landscaping with water efficient native plant species,

and does not exceed five acres in size.

FINDINGS FOR SPECIAL PERMIT

3. FINDING:

The proposed development is in conformance with the County General Plan, including the Trinidad Area Plan.

EVIDENCE:

- a) The General Plan Land Use designation is Rural Residential. This designation applies to large lot residential uses that typically rely upon on-site water and wastewater systems. Varying densities are reflective of land capabilities and/or compatibility issues. The Trinidad Area Plan also designates the land use for the Project site as Rural Residential. The parcel is developed with a single-family residence and no additional development is proposed.
- b) The proposed development and conditions under which it may be operated or maintained will not be detrimental to the public health, safety, or welfare; or materially injurious to property or improvements in the vicinity. The Project area is located outside of the 100-year flood zone and the tsunami inundation area. The Project is located in a geologic area of varied instability. The Project is located in a moderately severe fire hazard area and is serviced by Cal Fire. howe Cal Fire did not submit comments on the referral. The After-the-Fact Special Permit for the Project is for the previous removal of vegetation and replanting of native vegetation only. Based on these findings, the proposed Project does not increase risks or hazards.

4. FINDING:

The proposed Project is consistent with the purposes of the existing zone in which the site is located and the conforms to all applicable standards and requirements of these regulations.

EVIDENCE:

- a) The project area encompasses lands zoned Rural Residential Agriculture (RR-2), Manufactured Home (M), Design Review (D), Offshore Rocks and Rocky Intertidal Areas (O).
- b) The proposed Project will address the after-the-fact removal of vegetation and the restoration of the Project area with the planting of native species plants.
- c) The property is within the Design Review combining zone. The applicant has worked with a local biologist to design a plan to replace the removed vegetation with native species. A condition of approval has been added to ensure compliance with the plan submitted on January 12, 2021.

5. FINDING:

The proposed development and conditions under which it may be operated or maintained will not be detrimental to the public health, safety, or welfare; or materially injurious to property or improvements in the vicinity.

EVIDENCE:

The removal of vegetation and replanting of native species plants will be performed only on the subject parcel, and will have no impact to persons or properties in the area. Therefore, it will have no impact to the public health, safety, or welfare or people residing in the Project area.

6. FINDING:

The proposed development does not reduce the residential density for any parcel below that utilized by the Department of Housing and Community Development in determining compliance with housing element law.

EVIDENCE:

a) The project in itself does not include any residential development. The project complies with the County's Housing Element as it will not add to, nor subtract from, the County Housing Inventory. The proposed Project is an After-The-Fact Special Permit for the removal and replanting of vegetation.

DECISION

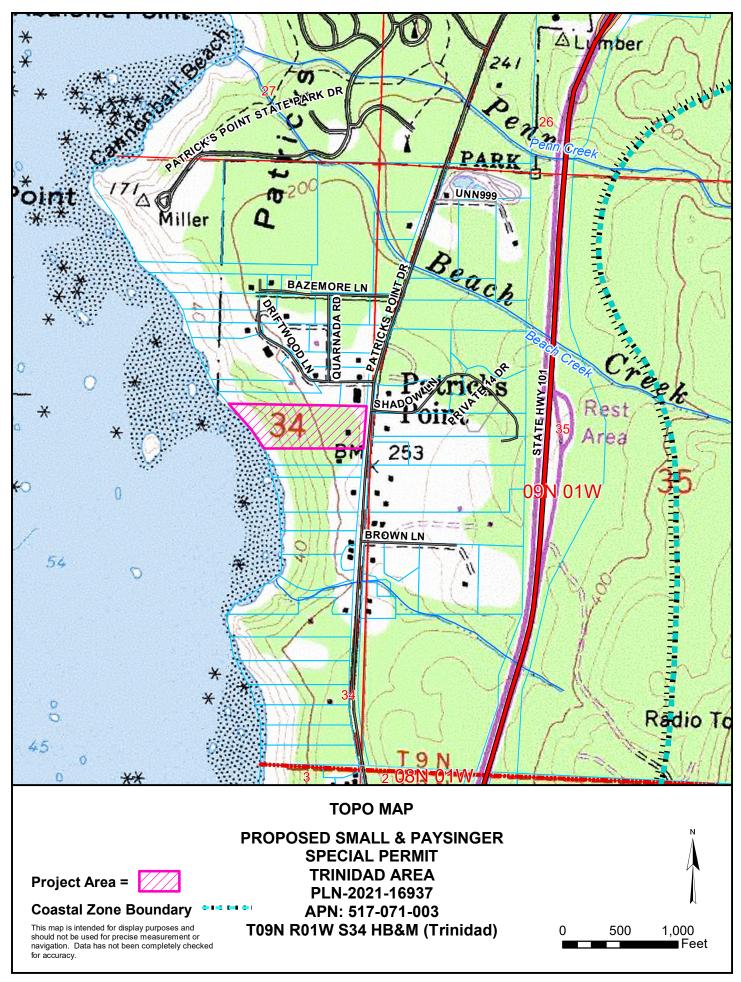
NOW, THEREFORE, based on the above findings and evidence, the Humboldt County Zoning Administrator does hereby:

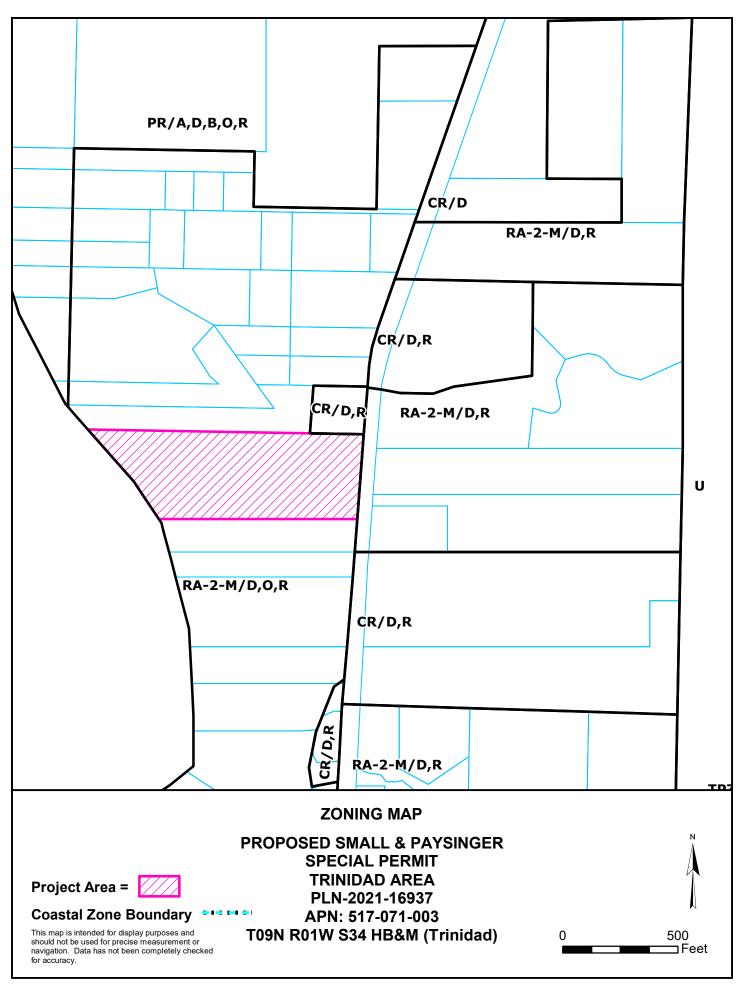
- Adopt the findings set forth in this resolution; and
- Conditionally approves the Special Permit for Small-Paysinger (PLN-2021-16937), based upon the Findings and Evidence and subject to the conditions of approval attached hereto as Attachment 1 and incorporated herein by reference; and

Adopted after review and consideration of all the evidence on October 7, 2021

I, John H. Ford, Zoning Administrator of the County of Humboldt, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct record of the action taken on the above-entitled matter by said Zoning Administrator at a meeting held on the date noted above.

John H. Ford, Zoning Administrator Planning and Building Department







AERIAL MAP

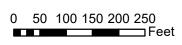
PROPOSED SMALL & PAYSINGER SPECIAL PERMIT TRINIDAD AREA PLN-2021-16937

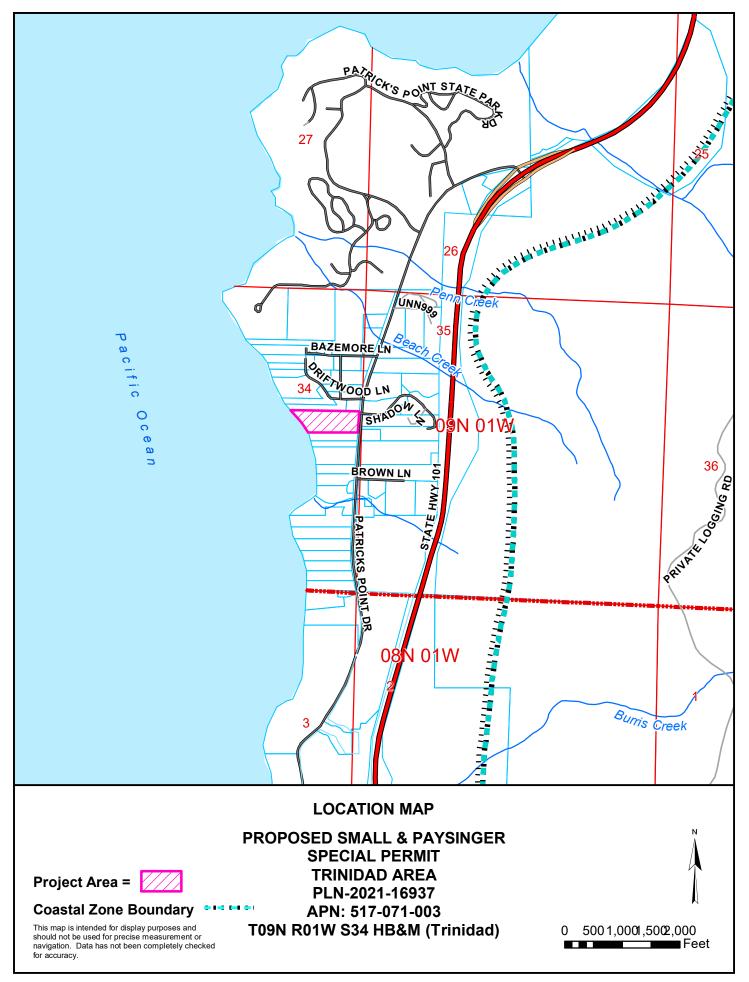
T09N R01W S34 HB&M (Trinidad)

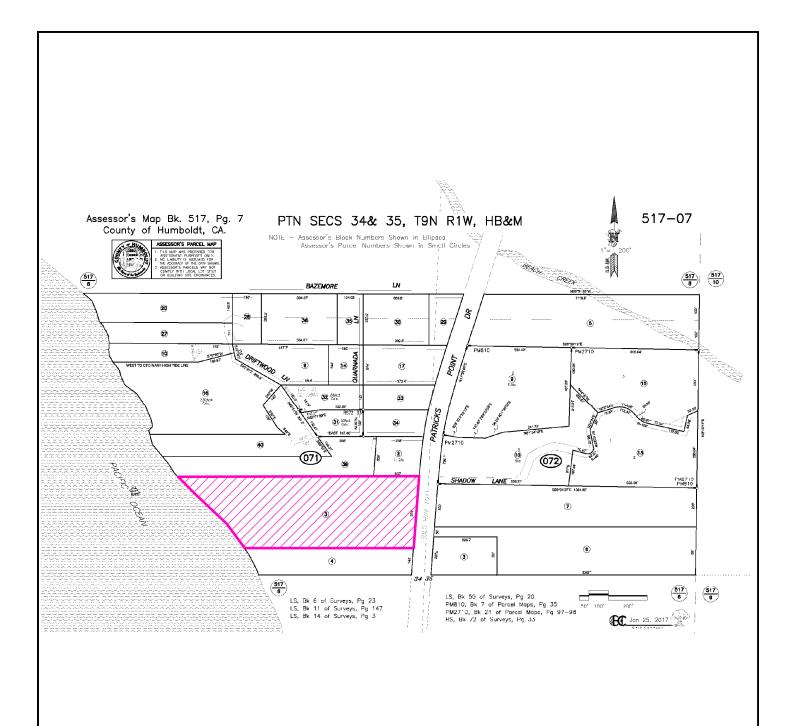
Coastal Zone Boundary APN: 517-071-003

This map is intended for display purposes and should not be used for precise measurement or navigation. Data has not been completely checked for accuracy.

Project Area =







ASSESSOR PARCEL MAP

PROPOSED SMALL & PAYSINGER SPECIAL PERMIT TRINIDAD AREA PLN-2021-16937 APN: 517-071-003

T09N R01W S34 HB&M (Trinidad)

Coastal Zone Boundary

This map is intended for display purposes and should not be used for precise measurement or

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Project Area =



ATTACHMENT 1

RECOMMENDED CONDITIONS OF APPROVAL

Conditions of Approval for the Special Permit

APPROVAL OF THE PERMIT IS CONDITIONED ON THE FOLLOWING TERMS AND REQUIREMENTS

Conditions of Approval:

- 1. The work shall be conducted in accordance with the Project Description and Planting Plan dated January 12, 2021.
- 2. Changes in the project other than Minor Deviations from the Planting Plan as provided in HCC Section 312-11.1 shall require a modification of this permit.
- 3. The applicant is required to pay for permit processing on a time and material basis as set forth in the schedule of fees and charges as adopted by ordinance of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors. The Department will provide a bill to the applicant after the decision. Any and all outstanding Planning fees to cover the processing of the application to decision by the Hearing Officer shall be paid to the Humboldt County Planning Division, 3015 "H" Street, Eureka.
- 4. Within five (5) days of the effective date of the approval of this permit, the applicant shall submit a check to the Planning Division payable to the Humboldt County Recorder in the amount of \$50.00.

<u>Informational Notes:</u>

- 1. If buried archaeological or historical resources are encountered during construction activities, the contractor on-site shall call all work in the immediate area to halt temporarily, and a qualified archaeologist is to be contacted to evaluate the materials. Prehistoric materials may include obsidian or chert flakes, tools, locally darkened midden soils, groundstone artifacts, dietary bone, and human burials. If human burial is found during construction, state law requires that the County Coroner be contacted immediately. If the remains are found to be those of a Native American, the California Native American Heritage Commission will then be contacted by the Coroner to determine appropriate treatment of the remains. The applicant is ultimately responsible for ensuring compliance with this condition.
- 2. The applicant is responsible for receiving all necessary permits and/or approvals from other federal, state and local agencies.
- 3. The Special Permit shall expire and become null and void at the expiration of five (5) years after all appeal periods have lapsed (see "Effective Date"); except where use in reliance on the permit has commenced prior to such anniversary date. The period within which use must be commenced may be extended as provided by Section 312-11.3 of the Humboldt County Code.

ATTACHMENT 2

Applicant's Evidence in Support of the Required Findings

Attachment 2 includes a listing of all written evidence which has been submitted by the applicant in support of making the required findings. The following materials are on file with the Planning Division:

- A. Application Form (in file)
- B. Applicant's Letter of Project History
- C. Site and Planting Plan
- D. Attorney Letter dated April 26, 2019 (attached)
- E. Project Photographs (attached)
- F. Current Deed (in file)

Steve Werner swerner@co.humboldt.co.us Planning Dept. of Humboldt County 3015 H Street Eureka, CA 95501



Mary Small and John Paysinger 3550 Patrick's Point Dr Trinidad, CA 95570 707-601-9867 marysmall@earthlink.net January 6, 2021

Dear Mr Werner.

The history of the project at 3550 Patricks Pt Dr, Trinidad:

3 mature red alders cut down, approx. 200 sq. yds. of brush cut, a county culvert and ditch cleared with less than 10 yards of earth moved.

We've had problems with our northeast property line neighbors from the outset: trespassing, cutting and removal of our trees and plants, their well is on our property, dumping of yard waste onto our property with resultant clogging of a culvert and the waterway that historically ran down the shared property line, removal and destruction of a marker above our NE corner survey stake and removal of survey markers on the line, loose dogs threatening us and our animals on our property.

We decided a "good neighbor" fence would be helpful, We had the line surveyed (and had to pay again for the surveyors to relocate our NE corner after the neighbors removed it). The survey confirmed that the neighbors were dumping on our property, blocking a drainage ditch from a culvert under Patrick's Pt Dr., and that their well was on our property.

There were 3 large leaning red alder trees on the line, 2 leaning over the neighbors' motel and water tanks at 3602. Because of the trees and the well, we asked a lawyer to help us come to an agreement about the fence. Josh, our lawyer told us that we might be liable if those trees came down on structures or people at 3602. We have many alders and they fall and drop limbs without warning (see pictures attached of alders leaning and broken). The owner of the property agreed to pay for fencing materials, to the adjustment of the well situation, and to the restoration of the drainage ditch to our mutual property line. We were to take down the alders and cover labor for a fence.

We are including a letter from our lawyer, Josh Kaufman, to the owner of 3602 Patrick's Point Dr. that details the above information.

Our mistake:

Unfortunately, we didn't realize we needed permits for all of that. We can't replace the alders as they were, nor would we want to recreate that hazard. The fence had not been started. We'd cleared the culvert and a portion of the ditch where a previous tenant at 3602 had poured in yard waste (before we had survey proving the line) blocking the flow. We did cut brush, but no trees, to accomplish this.

Proposed solution:

Michael van Hattem and Josh Levine suggested we prepare a restoration plan for the disturbed area and at the same time create a living fence. We have hired Gary Lester, an experienced local biologist, to consult with us. Michael stated he could be contacted at 499-9547 for his appraisal of the seasonal waterway/ditch from the culvert. Michelle Kraemer, who also viewed the site, suggested we could also mark the line with a small cable and 1/2" rebar stakes.

We have flagged the area with different colors to correspond with the species and locations of proposed plantings on the plot map submitted with this letter. We hope to create a dense hedge of native plants interspersed with a large selection of natives of various heights and densities. We hope we will be allowed to plant something in place of the 3 cut alders that will not create a hazard to people and property in the future, i.e. 3 Cascara in place of each red alder. As suggested by our consultant we would erect a wire fence to keep out deer until plants are established IF dear feed on new plants. Fence will be secured onto 2"x2" non treated wood posts. Posts will be put in the ground every 8' - 12' without digging holes. All plantings will be monitored yearly and replaced as needed for 5 years. We will also remove invasive species, English Ivy and Croscosmia, from the property line to 15' south of the line (the proposed planting area).

Though we did not place the culvert under Patricks Point Dr., causing water to run through our joint properties, we propose monitoring the approximate flow during heavy rains and reporting approximate gallons per minute to the best of our ability. We would include inches of rain for the week previous to measurements. We would assess this at least 3 times yearly between November and April for the next 5 years.

We would also like to mark the exact line with a small (approx. 1/4") cable suspended from 2 posts, one on the NE corner of our property, one near the bluff west of 3602 SW corner. Posts will not be in the area of the waterway.

Thank you,

Mary Small and John Paysinger

cc Alyssa Suarez, Melissa Kraemer, Michael van Hattem, Josh Fraley, Gary Lester

John Pann / Mshall

Hi Mary.

The Planning deposit for the Special Permit is \$1,400. It is the Administrative Special Permit fee. The total made out to the department includes the referral fees on page two of the fee schedule (totaling \$2,042.00).

Thank you, Alyssa

From: Mary Small <marysmall@earthlink.net> Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 7:48 PM

To: Suarez, Alyssa <asuarez@co.humboldt.ca.us>

Subject: Re: Special Permit/Design Review application materials

Thank you Alyssa. I see 2 "special permits" listed. One for public hearing and one for administrative. Cools you please tell us specifically which fees we need to pay? Thank you.

Mary

On Oct 9, 2020, at 4:55 PM, Suarez, Alyssa <asuarez@co.humboldt.ca.us> wrote:

Hi Mary-

I have reviewed the scope of work with my Supervisor and a Senior Planner. The work will require a Special Permit for Design Review in the Coastal Zone for the after the fact tree removal and revegetation plan. Please see the following application materials and fees required for processing:

- Application Form signed
- Fee Schedule signed -
- Plot Plan and Plot Plan Checklist (should show the entire parcel, all proposed work and setbacks from property lines, building, watercourses, septic system, wells, etc.). See complete checklist.
- Copy of a current grant deed for the property -
- Indemnification Agreement
- Hazardous Waste Statement

The Special Permit can take approximately 3 months to reach decision, given all application materials have been submitted.

Thank you, Alyssa

<image001.png>

Alyssa Suarez Planner Current Planning Division 3015 H Street Eureka, CA 95501

Phone: 707-268-3703

Email: asuarez@co.humboldt.ca.us

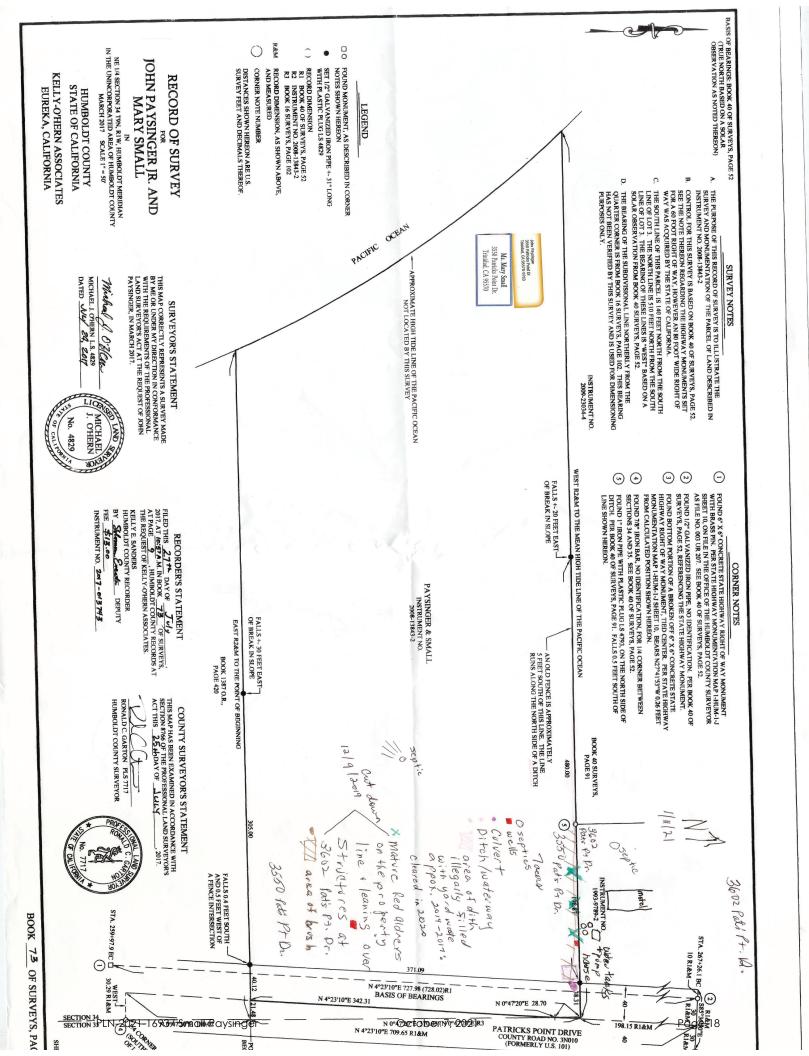
<Special Permit fees.pdf> <Application Form - Planning rev 08.12.2019.pdf>

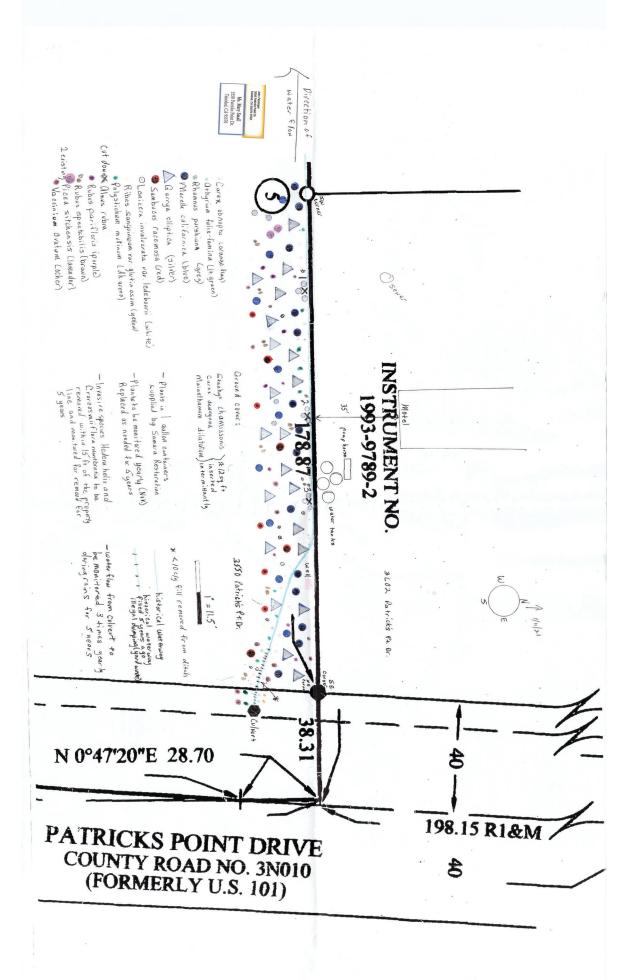
<Plot Plan Checklist.pdf> <INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT.pdf>

<HAZARDOUS WASTE AND SUBSTANCES STATEMENT.docx>

PLN-2021-16937 Small-Paysinger

October 7, 2021





STOKES, HAMER, KIRK & EADS, LLP

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
A LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP

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JOHN R. STOKES, III * RETIRED

CHRIS JOHNSON HAMER

ERIC V. KIRK

JASON J. EADS JOSHUA KAUFMAN JEFFREY W. MONSELL

THOMAS D. ROWE (1948-2011) JOHN R. STOKES (1917-2001) DOROTHY L. STEEVES (1926-1996)

April 26, 2019

James and Betty Fleshman 16242 Orizaba Avenue Paramount, CA 90723



Dear Mr. and Mrs. Fleshman,

My office represents Mary Small and John Paysinger whose real property, located at 3550 Patricks Point Drive in Trinidad, California, is south of and adjacent to real property that you own located at 3602 Patricks Point Drive.

After hiring a surveyor to determine the boundary between your parcel and my clients', they have asked me to notify you that they intend to build a fence delineating that boundary line within the next few weeks. While the old Robert Frost adage that good fences make good neighbors in part motivates Ms. Small and Mr. Paysinger, they've also had several unpleasant encounters with the current residents and their dogs at 3602 that make a better case for the fence.

Most recently someone there piled brush and other yard debris onto my clients' land, and when Ms. Small tried to remove those piles a young woman who identified herself as a tenant abusively confronted her. Soon after, someone dismantled and removed a wooden box constructed around and to protect one of the newly placed survey corners. That act in itself constitutes a trespass, damage to personal property and is a crime pursuant to Penal Code Section 605 concerning the malicious removal of boundary monuments.

While we don't intend, at this time, to pursue legal action, Ms. Small and Mr. Paysinger hope that the new fence will help to forestall future interactions like these and ask that

April 26, 2019 Page 3

Please contact me to arrange for removal of the well and to apprise me regarding access to remove the alder trees.

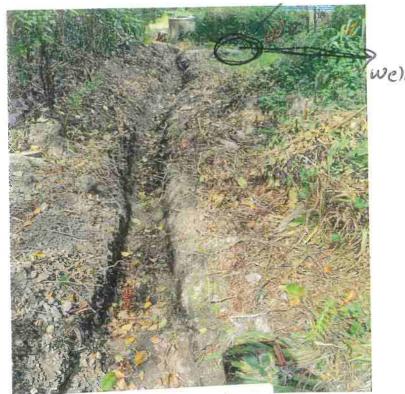
Very truly yours,

STOKES, HAMER, KIRK & EADS, LLP

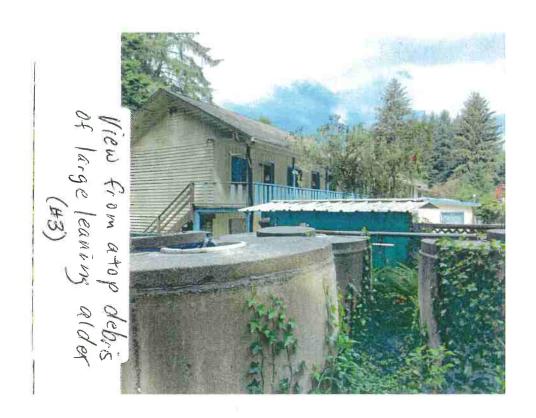
Joshua Kaufman

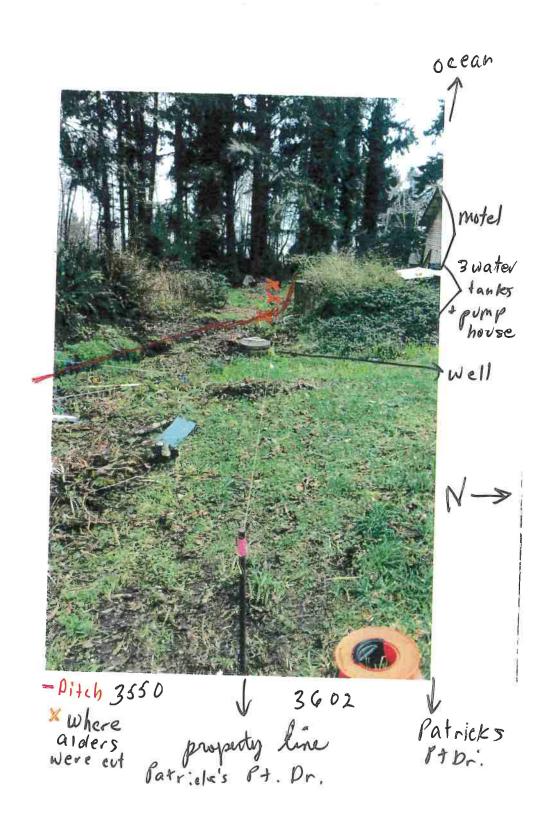
Cc: Clients

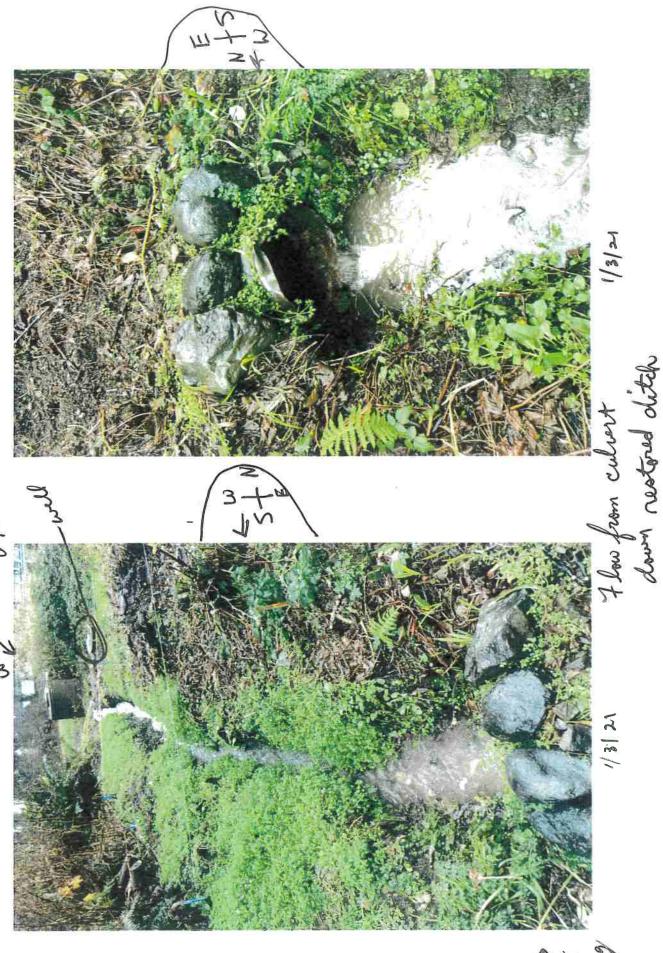




culvert drainging properties from N+5 from Culvert (after debris eside of Potiff. Dr. W From Culvert (after debris cleared)







Page 24

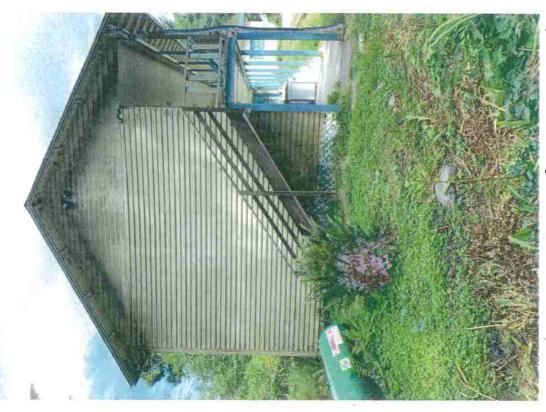


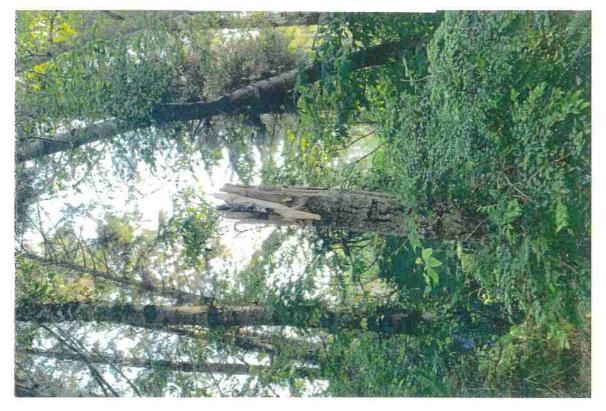
photo taken from atop the deposits of Redalder that was leaving over motel (35 an



Example of large leaning Red alder at project site



examples of broken fallen Red alders at 3550 Patt Pt On







#2 alder (leans over building)
preparing for Fall
(Tisobscure in background)

7 aller



looking East towards Patrick point DR.





Tree that was removed location

Tree that was removed location

Attachment 3

Referral Agency Comments and Recommendation

Referral Agency	Response	Recommendation	On File	Attached
County Building Inspection Division	✓	No Comment	✓	
County P/W, Land Use Division				
Division of Environmental Health				
California Coastal Commission				
California Department of Fish and				
Wildlife				
Cal Fire	✓	No Comment	✓	