 <b>REPORT OF INVESTIGATION</b> <i>(Reference FSH 5309.11)</i>		Case/File Number <b>13-05-MAYM02D</b>
Controlling Office <b>R-5 Law Enforcement and Investigations</b>	Investigating Office <b>LE&amp;I – Los Padres National Forest</b>	
Case Type <b>Wildland Fire</b>	Investigative Period From: <b>August 15, 2014</b> To: <b>October 14, 2014</b>	
Case Status <b>Pending Administrative Action</b>	Report Type <b>Supplemental</b>	
Case Name <b>Pfeiffer Fire</b>	Investigated By SA <b>b6 &amp; b7(C)</b>	

**SYNOPSIS**

The United States Forest Service (USFS) investigated the Pfeiffer Fire which was reported to the Monterey County Communications Center at approximately 11:46 PM on Sunday, December 15, 2013, within the Los Padres National Forest boundary. The first caller observed flames on Pfeiffer Ridge across from the Big Sur Lodge, which is located along Highway 1 in Big Sur, California.

The cause of the fire was determined to be high resistance heating of the Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water Company electrical control wires immediately adjacent to a steel water pipe line. The high resistance heating of the electrical control wires created a competent ignition source for this fire. The first fuel ignited was accumulated dried leaves and redwood needles.

All other fire cause categories were investigated and excluded.

This supplemental report provides amplifying information about the Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water and Road Company.

**b6 & b7(C)**

Distribution		
Unit		Copies
LEI, WO		
LEI, Region	5	1
LEI, Region		
US Attorney		1
Other	OGC	1
Other	ASC	1

Prepared By: \_\_\_\_\_

**b6 & b7(C)**

10/15/2014  
Date

Reviewed By: \_\_\_\_\_

**b6 & b7(C)**

Date

Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_

**b6 & b7(C)**

10-15-2014  
Date

**NOTE:** This document is for OFFICIAL USE ONLY. It and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency, nor duplicated, without prior approval of the USDA, Forest Service, Law Enforcement and Investigations.



## REPORT OF INVESTIGATION

(Reference FSH 5309.11)

13-05-MAYM02D

### INTRODUCTION

The United States Forest Service (USFS) investigated the Pfeiffer Fire which was reported to the Monterey County Communications Center at approximately 11:46 PM on Sunday, December 15, 2013, within the Los Padres National Forest boundary. The first caller observed flames on Pfeiffer Ridge across from the Big Sur Lodge, which is located along Highway 1 in Big Sur, California.

The cause of the fire was determined to be high resistance heating of the Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water Company electrical control wires immediately adjacent to a steel water pipe line

### DETAILS

#### APPLICABLE STATUTES

**Timber set afire- 18 USC 1855**

**Causing timber, trees, slash, brush or grass to burn-36 CFR 261.5 (c)Causing a fire - California Health and Safety Code 13001**

**Liability for damage from starting a fire - California Health and Safety Code 13007**

**Fire Suppression costs collectible - California Health and Safety Code 13009**

**Causing a fire - California Public Resource Code Section 4435**

#### Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water Company Special Use Permits

The Los Padres National Forest issued a Special Use Permit (SUP) to the Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water Company on March 28, 1985. The Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water Company SUP permitted the construction, operation, and maintenance of “a buried well with 10 H.P. submersible pump and a buried 2-inchgalvanized water pipeline for domestic water supply.” The permitted installation was a strip of NFS lands five feet in width located in the following Township and Range: T19S, R2E, MDB&M, Section 30, Lot 5 thence along the USFS Right of Way over Pfeiffer Ridge Road within to T19S, R1E, MDB&M, Section 25, S1/2, NE ¼, N1/2, N1/2, SW1/4. A sketch is attached to the permit. (**EXHIBIT 1 USFS SUP Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water Company, March 28, 1985**)



**Corporate Filing for Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water and Road Company**

A search of databases showed that the Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water and Road Company is a non-profit corporation in the state of California. A search of California Secretary of State databases shows that the Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water and Road Company is assigned a corporation number of [b6 & b7(C)]. The California Secretary of State also lists [b6 & b7(C)] as the [b6 & b7(C)] of the Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water and Road Company. **(EXHIBIT 2 California Secretary of State Electronic Business Entity Search result for Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water and Road Company)**

**Confirmation of Interested Party**

Special Agent (S/A) [b6 & b7(C)] called a listed number for [b6 & b7(C)]. A female answered the phone and told S/A [b6 & b7(C)] that she was [b6 & b7(C)] and that [b6 & b7(C)] is [b6 & b7(C)] of the Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water and Road Company.

S/A [b6 & b7(C)] called and spoke with Los Padres National Forest [b6 & b7(C)] [b6 & b7(C)] processes all the payment invoices for permittees on the Los Padres National Forest. [b6 & b7(C)] confirmed that [b6 & b7(C)] is listed as the [b6 & b7(C)] for the Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water and Road Company in the USFS payment system for special use permit payments. [b6 & b7(C)] confirmed that the Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water and Road Company had paid its permit fees in 2013 and 2014.

\*\*\*\*\*



**REPORT OF INVESTIGATION**

(Reference FSH 5309.11)

13-05-MAYM02D

**SUBJECTS OF INVESTIGATION**

Business	Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water and Road Company
Corporation Type	Non-profit
California Corporation Number	b6 & b7(C)
Taxpayer ID Number	b6 & b7(C)
DUNS ID	b6 & b7(C)
Address	PO Box 531
	Big Sur, CA 93920
[Redacted]	
b6 & b7(C)	b6 & b7(C)
Address	[Redacted]
	[Redacted]
Phone Numbers	[Redacted]
	[Redacted]
Email	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	
b6 & b7(C)	b6 & b7(C)
Address	[Redacted]
	[Redacted]
Phone	[Redacted]
	[Redacted]

**JUDICIAL ACTION**

Not Applicable

**ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION**

Pending

\*\*\*\*\*



REPORT OF INVESTIGATION  
(Reference FSH 5309.11)

13-05-MAYM02D

**EXHIBITS**

Number	Description Of Exhibit	Page
1	USFS SUP Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water Company, March 28, 1985	2
2	California Secretary of State Electronic Business Entity Search result for Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water and Road Company	3

NOTE:

# EXHIBIT 1







18. During the performance of this permit, the permittee agrees:
  - a. In connection with the performance of work under this permit, including construction, maintenance, and operation of the facility, the permittee shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap. (Ref. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended).
  - b. The permittee and employees shall not discriminate by segregation or otherwise against any person on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or handicap, by curtailing or refusing to furnish accommodations, facilities, services, or use privileges offered to the public generally. (Ref. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments, and the Age Discrimination Act).
  - c. The permittee shall include and require compliance with the above nondiscrimination provisions in any subcontract made with respect to the operations under this permit.
  - d. Signs setting forth this policy of nondiscrimination to be furnished by the Forest Service will be conspicuously displayed at the public entrance to the premises, and at other exterior or interior locations as directed by the Forest Service.
  - e. That the Forest Service shall have the right to enforce the foregoing nondiscrimination provisions by suit for specific performance or by any other available remedy under the laws of the United States or the State in which the breach or violation occurs.
19. The permittee shall indemnify the United States against any liability for damage to life or property arising from the occupancy or use of National Forest lands under this permit.
20. Unless sooner terminated or revoked by the Forest Service, in accordance with the provisions of the permit, this permit shall, subject to annual revalidation by the Forest Service and payment of fees by the permittee, expire and become void ten years from date of issuance, but a new permit to occupy and use the same National Forest land may be granted provided the permittee will comply with the then existing laws and regulations governing the occupancy and use of National Forest lands and shall have notified the authorized officer not less than one year prior to said date that such new permit is desired.
21. This permit confers no right to the use of water by the permittee.
22. A late payment charge, in addition to the regular fees, shall be made for failure to meet the fee payment due date or any of the dates specified for submission of statements required for fee calculation. The late payment charge shall be \$20, or an amount calculated by applying the current rate prescribed by Treasury Fiscal Requirements Manual Bulletins to the overdue amount for each 30-day period, or fraction thereof, that the payment is overdue, whichever is greater. If the due date falls on a nonworkday, the late payment charge will not apply until the end of the next workday. This permit may be terminated for nonpayment of fees and/or assessed late payment charges.

23. The permittee shall perform all work with explosives in such a manner as not to endanger life or property. All storage places for explosives shall be marked "EXPLOSIVES." The method of storing, transporting, and handling explosives and flammable materials shall conform to procedures contained in Federal, State and local laws and regulations.

24. The permittee shall protect the scenic esthetic values of the area under this permit, and the adjacent land, as far as possible with the authorized use, during construction, operation, and maintenance of the improvements.

25. The permittee shall be responsible for the prevention and control of soil erosion and gulying caused by permittee either directly or indirectly, on the area covered by this permit and lands adjacent thereto, and shall provide preventive measures as required by the District Ranger.

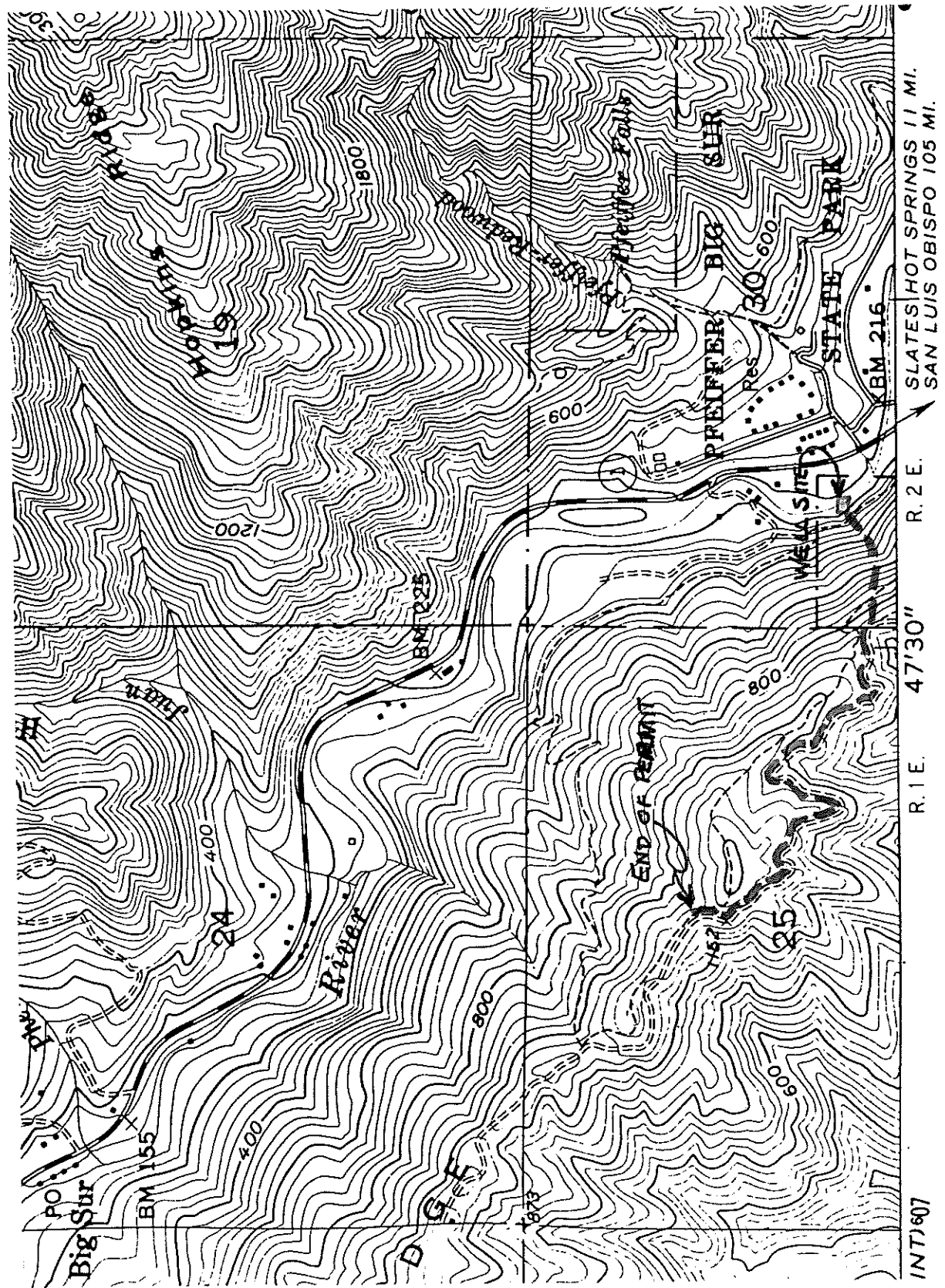
26. The land herein described is subject to certain rights reserved by or outstanding in parties other than the United States, and nothing herein shall abridge said rights or authorize prevention or obstruction of the reasonable exercise thereof.

27. The permittee agrees to permit the free and unrestricted access to and upon the premises at all times for all lawful and proper purposes not inconsistent with the intent of the permit or with the reasonable exercise and enjoyment by the permittee of the privileges thereof.

28. No signs or advertising devices shall be erected on the area covered by this permit, or highways leading thereto, without prior approval by the Forest Service as to location, design, size, color, and message. Erected signs shall be maintained or renewed as necessary to neat and presentable standards.

29. This permit supersedes a special-use permit designated: **b6 & b7(C)**  
**b6 & b7(C)**, Beverly Hills, CA 90212.

# PFEIFFER RIDGE MUTUAL WATER COMPANY



## EXHIBIT "A"

WELL  
 WATER LINE

INT 607

EXHIBIT B

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE SPECIFICATIONS

1. This permit gives permission to occupy a U.S. Forest Service water line easement within the Pfeiffer Ridge Road. If the Forest Service or its assigns requires a water line over this easement in the future, then the permittee agrees to share the easement area.
2. The pipeline will be buried on the inside of the road at least 36 inches, and out of sight in all other locations. Approved signs marking the location of the pipeline will be placed where directed by the District Ranger.
3. A centerline survey and plat of the pipeline will be submitted to the District Ranger within 12 months of the date of this permit. The survey will show ties to property corners and the existing water pipeline and telephone cable.
4. No excavations shall be made in the existing Pfeiffer Ridge Road without prior approval of the District Ranger. Trenches shall be refilled to the existing road grade and material compacted to match existing compaction on the road.
5. The Pfeiffer Ridge Road shall be kept open during construction and maintenance of the pipeline.
6. This permit is subject to the Special-Use Permit for road dated 6/18/65, granted to the Department of Parks and Recreation, Pfeiffer-Big Sur State Park. All pipeline construction and maintenance activity within the Pfeiffer Ridge Road shall be coordinated with the Park Superintendent.

## FIRE PLAN

### Water Supply

These provisions outline the responsibility for fire prevention and suppression activities within the permit area.

#### 1. Burning, Blasting, or Welding

A permit is required for these activities and must be obtained from the District Ranger.

#### 2. Spark Arresters

All stationary or mobile internal combustion engines used in the permittee's operation shall be provided with an adequate spark arrester. Such spark arresters shall meet Forest Service standards, and be adequately maintained. Motor trucks, buses, and passenger vehicles, except motorcycles, are not subject to the provisions of this paragraph provided the exhaust system is equipped with a muffler.

#### 3. Smoking

Smoking will not be permitted during the fire season, except as may be permitted by and under such conditions stated by the Forest Service. Smoking will not be permitted while operating tractors, graders, or similar equipment, nor while working or walking in the area. If desired by the permittee, he may clear or otherwise prepare safe smoking areas if such areas meet the approval of the Forest Service.

#### 4. Open Fires

Open fires will not be permitted at any time.

#### 5. Fire Suppression

All fires within the area shall be immediately reported to the Forest Service. The permittee will make every effort to suppress any fires until help arrives.

#### 6. Fire Closure

If the permit area is within the fire closure, an entry permit must be obtained from the District Ranger.

#### 7. Emergency Measures

During extreme fire weather all construction and/or maintenance activity may be curtailed or shut down for short periods due to extreme fire danger.

AMENDMENT #1  
FOR  
SPECIAL USE PERMIT  
Ref: FSM 2714

THIS AMENDMENT IS ATTACHED TO AND MADE A PART OF THE

TERM  ANNUAL PERMIT

e. Record no. (1-2) 70	b. Region (3-4) 05	c. Forest (5-6) 07
d. District (7-8) 70	e. User number (9-12) 4261	f. Kind of use (13-15) 916
g. State (16-17) 06	h. County (18-20) 053	k. Card no. (21) 1

For Water System Supply

Pfeiffer Ridge Mutual Water Company  
(NAME OF PERMITTEE)

issued to

3/28/85

(DATE OF PERMIT)

which is hereby amended as follows:

The following clause specifying the late payment interest charges and a processing charge supersedes the current late payment charge clause in the permit.

Pursuant to the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, as amended, 31 USC 3717, et seq., and regulations at 4 CFR 102.13, an interest charge shall be assessed on any payment not made by the payment due date. Interest shall be assessed using the most current rate prescribed by the United States Department of Treasury Fiscal Requirements Manual (TFRM-6-8020.20). Interest shall accrue from the date the payment was due. In addition, the cost of processing and handling the overdue payment shall be added to the amount due.

A penalty of 6 percent per year shall be assessed on any payment overdue in excess of 90 days from the payment due date.

Payments will be credited on the date received by the designated collection officer or deposit location. If the payment due date(s) falls on a nonworkday, the interest and penalty charges shall not apply until the close of business of the next workday.

This amendment should be attached to and made a part of the permit.

This Amendment is accepted subject to the conditions set forth herein, and to conditions attached hereto and made a part of this Amendment.

PERMITTEE	NAME OF PERMITTEE	SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER	DATE
ISSUING OFFICER	b6 & b7(C)	TITLE b6 & b7(C)	DATE FEB 24 1987

# EXHIBIT 2



Secretary of State Administration Elections Business Programs Political Reform Archives Registries

**Business Entities (BE)**

**Online Services**

- E-File Statements of Information for Corporations
- Business Search
- Processing Times
- Disclosure Search

**Main Page**

**Service Options**

**Name Availability**

**Forms, Samples & Fees**

**Statements of Information**  
(annual/biennial reports)

**Filing Tips**

**Information Requests**  
(certificates, copies & status reports)

**Service of Process**

**FAQs**

**Contact Information**

**Resources**

- Business Resources
- Tax Information
- Starting A Business

**Customer Alerts**

- Business Identity Theft
- Misleading Business Solicitations

**Business Entity Detail**

Data is updated to the California Business Search on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. Results reflect work processed through Friday, October 10, 2014. Please refer to [Processing Times](#) for the received dates of filings currently being processed. The data provided is not a complete or certified record of an entity.

Entity Name:	PFEIFFER RIDGE MUTUAL WATER AND ROAD COMPANY
Entity Number:	<b>b6 &amp; b7(C)</b>
Date Filed:	12/28/1999
Status:	ACTIVE
Jurisdiction:	CALIFORNIA
Entity Address:	2070 MARSALA CIRCLE
Entity City, State, Zip:	MONTEREY CA 93940
<b>b6 &amp; b7(C)</b>	

\* Indicates the information is not contained in the California Secretary of State's database.

- If the status of the corporation is "Surrender," the agent for service of process is automatically revoked. Please refer to California Corporations Code [section 2114](#) for information relating to service upon corporations that have surrendered.
- For information on checking or reserving a name, refer to [Name Availability](#).
- For information on ordering certificates, copies of documents and/or status reports or to request a more extensive search, refer to [Information Requests](#).
- For help with searching an entity name, refer to [Search Tips](#).
- For descriptions of the various fields and status types, refer to [Field Descriptions and Status Definitions](#).

[Modify Search](#) [New Search](#) [Printer Friendly](#) [Back to Search Results](#)

[Privacy Statement](#) | [Free Document Readers](#)

Copyright © 2014 California Secretary of State