

APPENDIX C

UPDATE TO THE BIOLOGICAL TECHNICAL REPORT
PBS&J, February 2, 2009

BIOLOGICAL TECHNICAL REPORT
Helix Environmental Planning, December 21, 2005

JURISDICTIONAL DELINEATION
FOR THE FORRESTER CREEK INDUSTRIAL PARK
PBS&J, July 17, 2008

ADDENDUM TO THE BIOLOGICAL LETTER REPORT
FOR THE FORRESTER CREEK INDUSTRIAL PARK
(RARE PLANT SURVEY)
Helix Environmental Planning, August 20, 2008

UPDATE TO THE BIOLOGICAL TECHNICAL REPORT
PBS&J, February 2, 2009



February 2, 2009

Mr. Gary Watts
 Legacy Building Services, Inc.
 2505 Congress Street
 San Diego, CA 92110

Subject: Updated Vegetation Mapping for the Forrester Creek Industrial Park Project Site

Dear Mr. Watts:

This letter report presents an update to the results of the vegetation mapping for the Forrester Creek Industrial Park Project site that was conducted by HELIX Environmental Planning in December 2005. Because of the time lapse since the project Biological Technical Report (HELIX 2005) was prepared, this letter report is intended to update the existing condition of the project site with respect to biological resources. The project site was surveyed on foot by PBS&J biologists in May 2008.

The project site supports numerous habitat types, some of which are likely to be considered sensitive by the resource agencies. Table 1 lists the vegetation communities or land uses that occur within the project site. Sensitive habitats are italicized; these habitats will require mitigation if impacted by project construction. Other vegetation communities or land uses such as Disturbed Habitat and Developed are not considered sensitive and would not likely require mitigation for impacts. Although not a native habitat, large areas of Non-native Grassland are considered important for raptor foraging and will likely require mitigation if impacted. Figure 1 shows the distribution of the vegetation communities and land uses throughout the project site.

As shown in Table 1, changes in the total acreage of vegetation communities/land uses in 2008, as compared to the 2005 survey, include a decrease in the total acreage of disturbed Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub, an increase in non-native grassland, and an increase in broom baccharis scrub. There is also a decrease in disturbed habitat, developed land, and the overall total acreage of the project site. This decrease is due to an adjustment in the project site boundary excluding the County Maintenance Facility immediately southwest of the project site and an undeveloped area northeast of the project site across the Forrester Creek channel. Table 1 quantifies the acreage of impact to each vegetation community and land use (Figure 2).

Table 1. Vegetation Communities and Land Uses within the Project Site

Vegetation Community*	Based on December 2005 Biological Technical Report	Based on May 2008 Site Visit	
	Total Acreage	Total Acreage	Acreage of Impacts
<i>Disturbed Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub</i>	2.2	0.3	0.2
<i>Non-native Grassland</i>	15.4	15.6	15.6
Broom Baccharis Scrub	0.0	1.4	0.9
Eucalyptus Woodland	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1
Disturbed Habitat	11.5	9.2	8.0
Developed Land	12.3	5.0	5.0
Total	41.4	31.5	29.7

*Vegetation Community names in *italics* are considered sensitive and impacts on them would likely require mitigation.

Below is a description of the vegetation communities on the project site.

Disturbed Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub

Diegan coastal sage scrub is comprised of low, soft-woody subshrubs to about 1 meter (3 ft) high, many of which are facultatively drought-deciduous. The dominant shrubs within the project site include California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum* var. *fasciculatum*). Disturbed Diegan coastal sage scrub contains many of the same shrub species as undisturbed Diegan coastal sage scrub but is sparser and has a higher proportion of non-native annual species. On site, disturbed Diegan coastal sage scrub occurs in the two patches in the western central portion of the site totaling 0.3 acres (see attached figure).

Broom Baccharis Scrub

Areas designated as broom baccharis scrub are dominated by broom baccharis (*Baccharis sarothroides*) with an understory of weedy, ruderal species. This species is common on sandy or silty slopes and flats. On site, 1.4 acres of broom baccharis scrub occurs in the west central portion of the site (see attached figure).

Non-native grassland

Non-native grassland is a dense to sparse cover of annual grasses, often associated with numerous species of showy-flowered native annual forbs. This association occurs on gradual slopes with deep, fine-textured, usually clay soils. On site, non-native grassland consists of black mustard (*Brassica nigra*) ripgut grass (*Bromus diandrus*), soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), rabbitfoot (*Polypogon monspeliensis*), Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), rattail fescue (*Vulpia myuros* var. *hirsuta*) and red brome (*Bromus madritensis* ssp. *rubens*). Most of the annual introduced species that comprise the majority of species and biomass within the non-native grassland originated from the Mediterranean region, an area with a long history of agriculture and a climate similar to California. These two factors, in addition to intensive grazing and agricultural practices in conjunction with severe droughts, have contributed to the successful invasion and establishment of these species and the replacement of native grasslands with annual dominated non-native grassland (Jackson 1985). On site, non-native grassland occurs dispersed throughout the project site and totals 15.6 acres (see attached figure).

Eucalyptus Woodland

Eucalyptus woodland is dominated by eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.), an introduced species that produces a large amount of leaf and bark litter. The chemical and physical characteristics of this litter limit the ability of other species to grow in the understory, with a resultant decrease in floristic diversity. Eucalyptus trees have been planted historically for a variety of reasons, but they are particularly popular owing to its rapid growth rate. Given sufficient moisture, eucalyptus woodland has become naturalized and its range has expanded greatly to the detriment of many riparian areas. One small patch of eucalyptus woodland, less than 0.1 acres in size, occurs in the western portion of the site (see attached figure).

Disturbed Habitat

Disturbed habitat on site includes land cleared of vegetation (e.g., dirt roads) or contains a preponderance of non-native plant species such as ornamentals or ruderal exotic species that take advantage of disturbance (e.g., previously cleared or abandoned landscaping). On site, disturbed habitat consists of the driving range and cleared dirt areas and totals 9.2 acres (see attached figure).

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Developed Land

Developed land is where permanent structures and/or pavement have been placed that prevents the growth of vegetation or where landscaping is clearly tended and maintained. On site, developed land consists of the driving range building and parking lot, and a former concrete storage area. Developed land totals 5.0 acres (see attached figure).

Regarding the mitigation measures recommending pre-construction surveys for active raptor nests in the 2005 BTR, it is PBS&J's understanding that the raptor breeding season is March 15 through August 31 and PBS&J is recommending that the mitigation measure be revised to reflect this time period.

Please call me with any questions or concerns at (858) 514-1068.

Sincerely,



Kate Gentles
Associate Project Manager

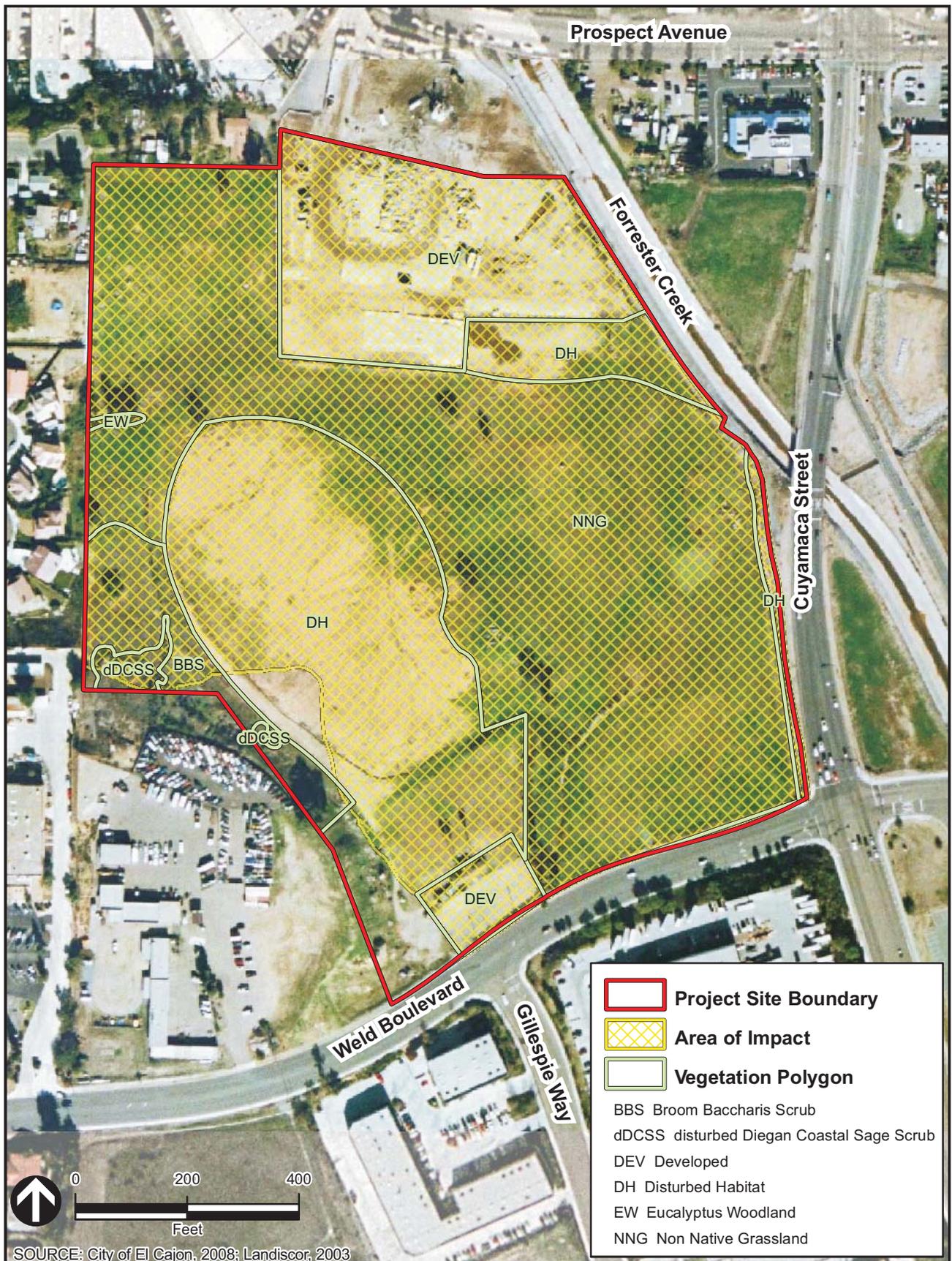
Attachments



SOURCE: City of El Cajon, 2008; LandisCor, 2003

VEGETATION COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT SITE

FIGURE 1



**PROJECT IMPACTS TO
ON-SITE VEGETATION COMMUNITIES**

FIGURE 2