APPENDIX E: 2015 RIPARIAN TREE ASSESSMENT REPORT

ESA Biological Resources

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memorandum

date October 16, 2015

to County of San Diego Department of Planning and Development Services
Jim Bennett, Project Manager

from Alanna Bennett, Biologist

subject El Monte Valley Tree Assessment for the El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve Project, PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2014-RP-15-001, PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B

The purpose of this memorandum is to document the results of the 2015 tree surveys within the limits of mining activities for the El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve Project (project). The project is located in the San Diego River watershed in the Lakeside Community planning area, within the unincorporated portion of San Diego County. The project consists of approximately 489 acres and is bordered by El Monte Road to the south, Willow Road to the north, and Highway 67 to the west. The El Capitan Dam is located approximately two miles upstream and east of the project, and El Cajon Mountain is located to the northeast. The project is located within Township 15 South, Range 1 East, of portions of Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the El Cajon Mountain, California, USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle, San Bernardino Base and Meridian.

Methods

On October 5, 2015, Environmental Science Associates (ESA) biologists Rosanne Humphrey and Alanna Bennett performed tree surveys within the project's limits of mining activities. Tree surveys were continued by Alanna Bennett and ESA Associate Courtney Casey on October 7, 2015, and completed on October 8, 2015. The purpose of these surveys was to quantify the area of mature riparian woodland. Mature riparian woodland, as defined in the County of San Diego's Resource Protection Ordinance, is "a grouping of sycamores, cottonwoods, willows and/or oak trees having substantial biological value, where at least ten of the trees have a diameter of six inches or greater."

Data were collected for the following parameters:

- Size of tree (diameter at breast height)
- Health (alive or dead)
- Species

All qualifying tree species with a diameter at breast height (DBH) of six inches or greater within the limits of mining activities were recorded with a Trimble GeoExplorer 6000 series. These data points were then mapped and analyzed. A polygon was drawn around areas with 10 trees or greater within 100 feet from the next closest tree to distinguish the areas considered as mature riparian woodland.

Results

Within the mature riparian woodland areas, DBH ranged from six inches to approximately 38 inches; the average DBH recorded was approximately 11 inches. The health of the trees was assessed by an alive or dead determination; 264 trees were recorded as alive and 11 trees were recorded as dead. Dead trees were included in the mature riparian woodland determination because woodpeckers (*Melanerpes* and *Picoides*), Bewick's wrens (*Thryomanes bewickii*), American kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) (all species observed on-site), as well as other cavity nesters, use dead trees for nesting and/or foraging. These would therefore likely be considered as providing "substantial biological value." Tree species that met the mature riparian woodland definition were also recorded. Willows (*Salix* sp.) accounted for 197 trees, cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii*) accounted for 76 trees, and oaks (*Quercus dumosa*) accounted for 2 trees. No sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) trees were recorded within the mature riparian woodland areas.

A total of 275 trees were recorded within the approximately 8 acres that make up the mature riparian woodland within the limits of mining activities. Figure 1 provides an overview of the mature riparian woodland area within the project boundary and Figure 2 provides a close-up of the mature riparian woodland within the limits of mining activities.

Please do not hesitate to contact Alanna Bennett or Rosanne Humphrey if you have any questions regarding the information presented in this report.

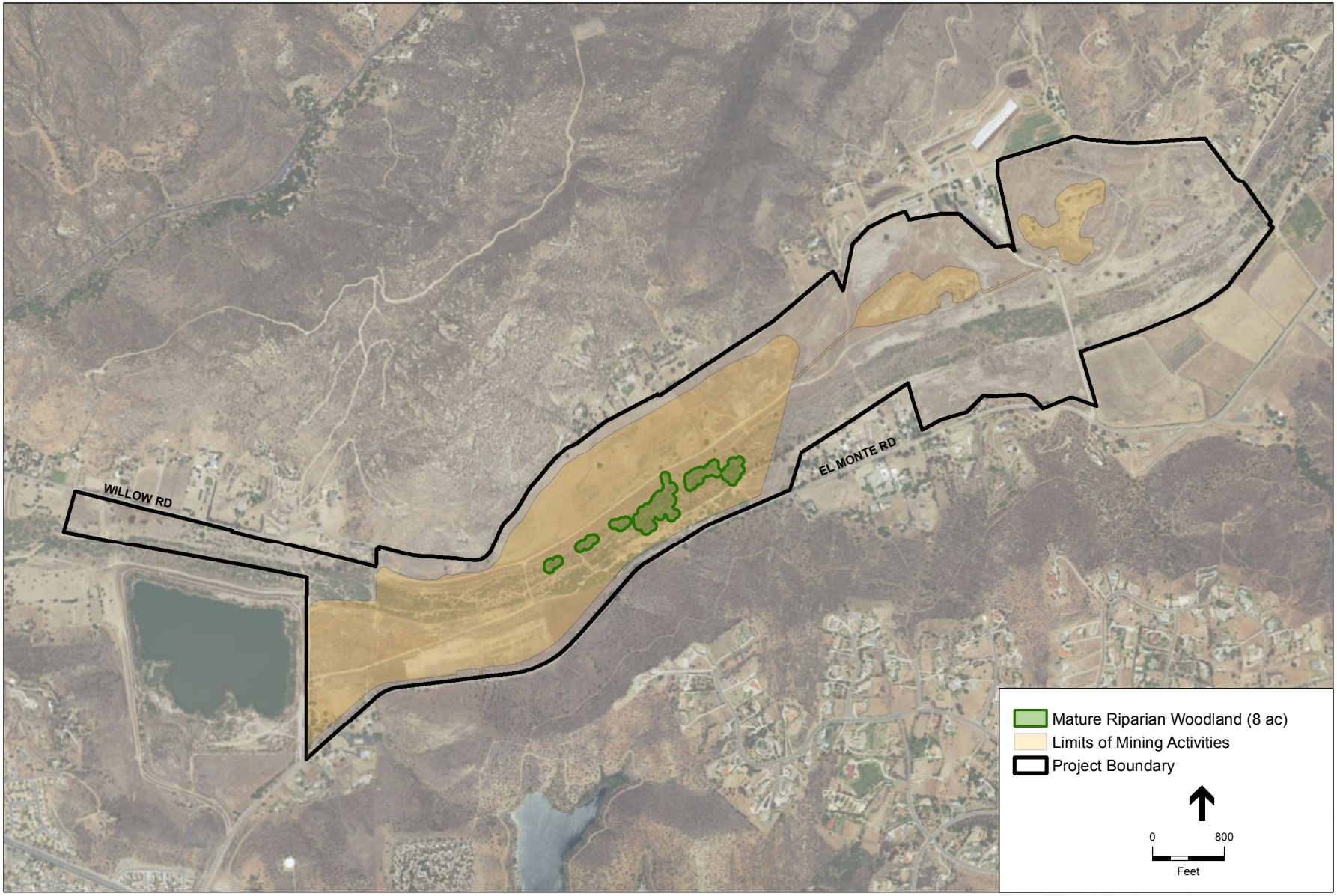
Sincerely,

Alanna Bennett
Biologist

Rosanne Humphrey
Senior Biologist

Attachments:

Figure 1 – El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve Project Boundary and Mature Riparian Woodland
Figure 2 – El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve Mature Riparian Woodland Close-Up

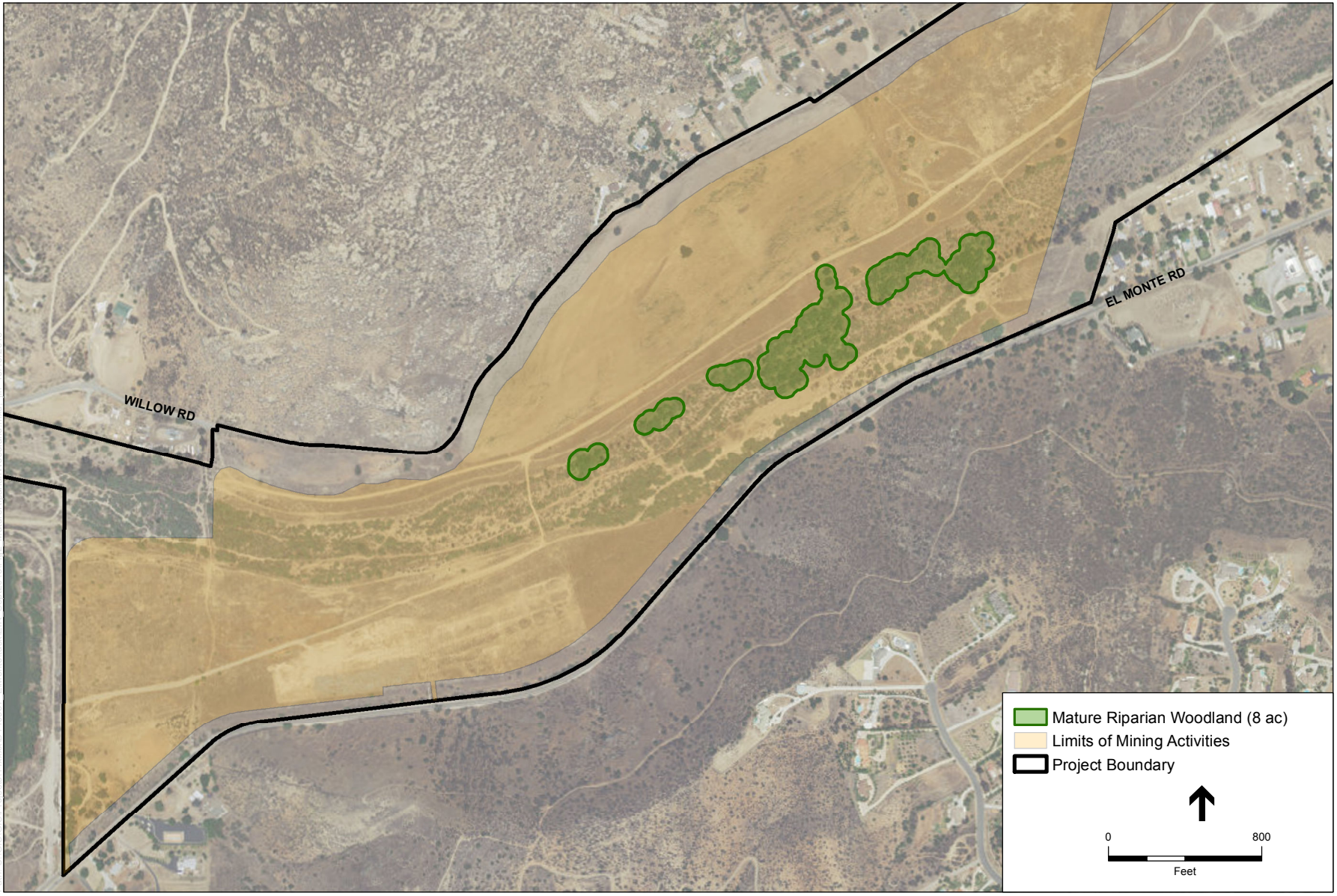


SOURCE: ESRI

El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve. 140957

Figure 1

Mature Riparian Woodland



SOURCE: ESRI

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Figure 2

Mature Riparian Woodland

APPENDIX F: JURISDICTIONAL DELINEATION REPORT

3RD DRAFT
EL MONTE SAND MINING PROJECT
Jurisdictional Delineation Report

Prepared for
County of San Diego

January 2018

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EL MONTE SAND MINING PROJECT

Jurisdictional Delineation Report

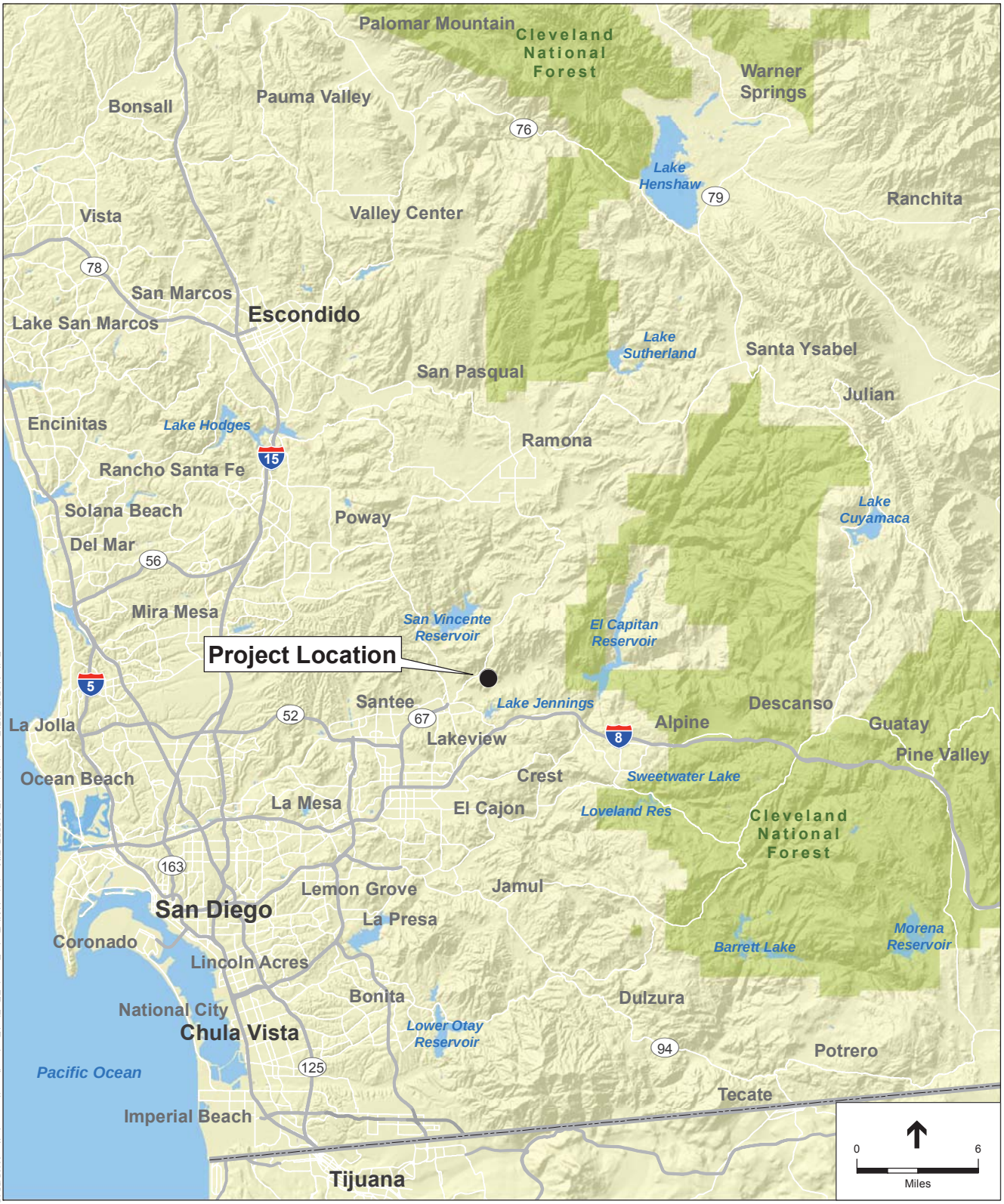
1. Introduction and Purpose

Environmental Science Associates (ESA) conducted a jurisdictional delineation for the El Monte Sand Mining Project (project). The proposed project is located in El Monte Valley on approximately 479.5 acres. The project would have a Major Use Permit (MUP) and Reclamation Plan boundaries of approximately 479.5 acres (the terms MUP boundary and project site boundary are used interchangeably for this project). The proposed project includes the modification of an approved MUP (PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2) for a golf course complex. The MUP would be modified to eliminate the golf course use and allow extraction of construction aggregates. In addition, a Reclamation Plan (PDS2015-RP-15-001) is required for the proposed project in compliance with the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA). The proposed project would be completed within 16 years. This would include mining, reclamation and restoration over the first 12 years, with reclamation and restoration starting in year four and continuing for an additional four years after the cessation of mining.

The purpose of this preliminary jurisdictional delineation report is to serve as an update to a previous jurisdictional delineation survey conducted in 2010, and to assess whether existing conditions have changed since the 2010 survey. This updated jurisdictional delineation report will document all drainage features and wetlands within the project boundary subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). This report will also address wetlands protected by the County of San Diego. For the purpose of this report, the existing biological resources and jurisdictional features are described in relation to the project boundary, which includes a 100-foot buffer around the project boundary. Representative photographs of the jurisdictional features within the project boundary are provided in Appendix C.

1.1 Project Location

The proposed project is located in the San Diego River watershed in the Lakeside Community Planning Area, within an unincorporated portion of San Diego County (**Figure 1**). The project consists of approximately 479.5 acres and is bordered by El Monte Road to the south and Willow Road to the north. Highway 67 is approximately 1.2 miles to the west and El Capitan Dam is approximately 2 miles upstream (**Figure 2**). The proposed project is located within Township 15 South; Range 1 East; portions of Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the El Cajon Mountain, California; the United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle; and the San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian.



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SOURCE: ESRI; SanGIS 2015

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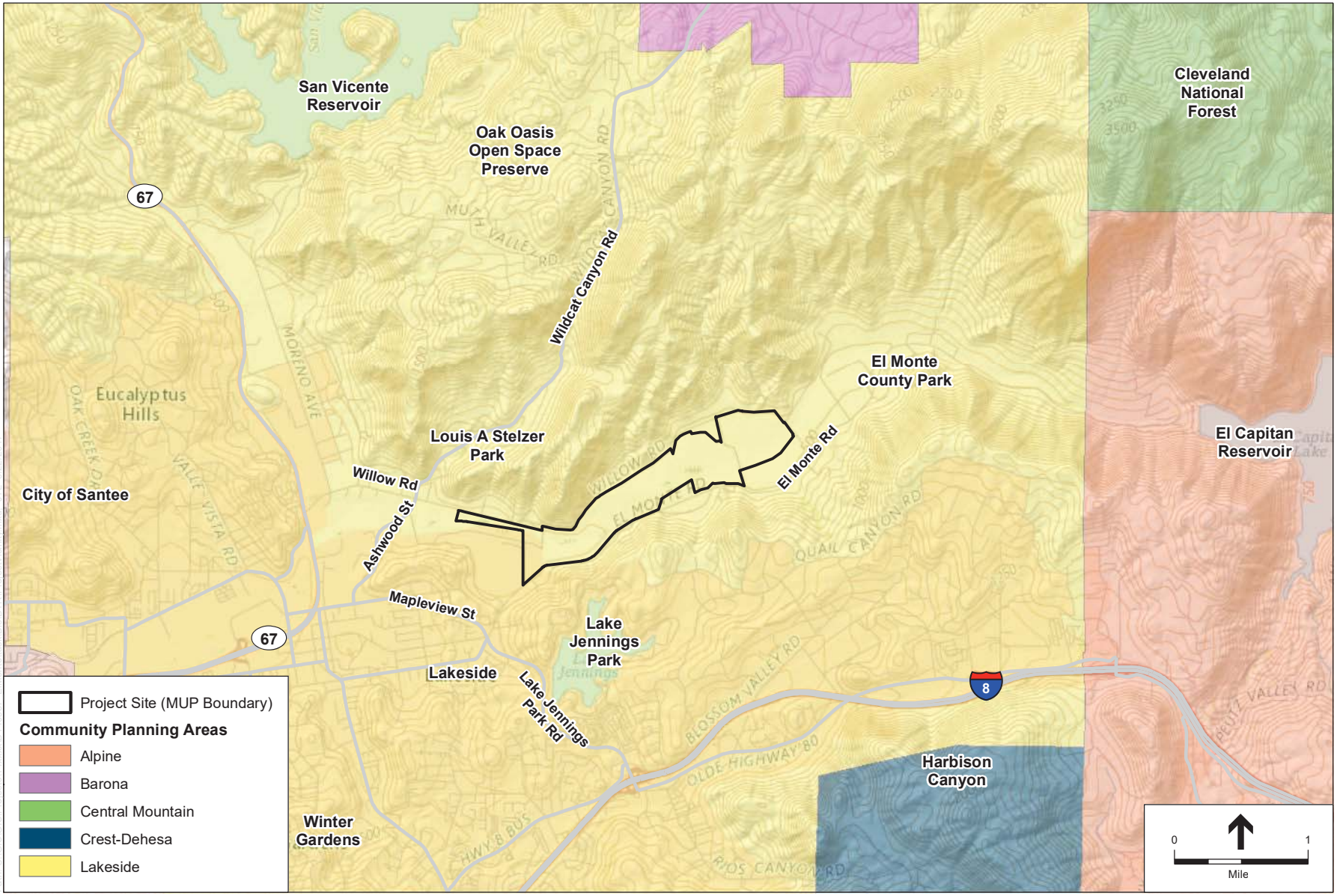
Figure 1

Regional Location



SOURCE: ESRI; EnviroMine; The Altum Group; Chang Consultants; ESA; SanGIS

El Monte Sand Mining Project . 140957

Figure 2

Project Vicinity

2. Jurisdictional Authority

2.1 Waters of the United States

USACE regulates "discharge of dredged or fill material" into "waters" of the United States, which includes tidal waters, interstate waters, and "all other waters, interstate lakes, rivers, streams (including intermittent streams), mud flats, sand flats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes or natural ponds, the use, degradation, or destruction of which could affect interstate or foreign commerce or which are tributaries to waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide" (33 C.F.R. 328.3(a)), pursuant to provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The USACE (Federal Register 1982) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (Federal Register 1980) jointly define wetlands as: "Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas." Wetlands have the following general diagnostic environmental characteristics: hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology (Environmental Laboratory 1987).

The USACE takes jurisdiction within rivers and streams to the "ordinary high water mark (OHWM)," determined by erosion, the deposition of vegetation or debris, and changes in vegetation or soil characteristics. However, if there is no federal nexus to navigable waters, these waters are considered "isolated" and thus not subject to their jurisdiction.

The USACE and EPA have issued a set of guidance documents detailing the process for determining CWA jurisdiction over waters of the United States following the Rapanos decision. The EPA and USACE issued a summary memorandum of the guidance for implementing the Supreme Court's decision in Rapanos that addresses the jurisdiction over waters of the United States under the CWA. The complete set of guidance documents, summarized in the Rapanos Key Points Summary on the following page, were used to collect relevant data for evaluation by the EPA and USACE to determine CWA jurisdiction over the project sites and to complete the "significant nexus test" as detailed in the guidelines.

The significant nexus test includes consideration of hydrologic and ecologic factors. For circumstances such as those described in point B of the Rapanos Key Points Summary, the significant nexus test would take into account physical indicators of flow (e.g., OHWM), whether a hydrologic connection to a Traditionally Navigable Water (TNW) exists, and if the aquatic functions of the water body have a significant effect (more than speculative or insubstantial) on the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of a TNW. The USACE and EPA will apply the significant nexus standard to assess the flow characteristics and functions of the tributary drainage to determine if it significantly affects the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the downstream TNW.

Rapanos Key Points Summary

(A) The USACE and EPA will assert jurisdiction over the following waters:

TNWs.

Wetlands adjacent to TNW.

Non-navigable tributaries of TNWs that are relatively permanent.

- Where the tributaries typically flow year-round or have continuous flow at least seasonally (e.g., typically 3 months)
- Wetlands that directly abut such tributaries

(B) The USACE and EPA will decide jurisdiction over the following waters based on a fact-specific analysis to determine whether they have a significant nexus with a TNW:

- Non-navigable tributaries that are not relatively permanent.
- Wetlands adjacent to non-navigable tributaries that are not relatively permanent
- Wetlands adjacent to but that do not directly abut a relatively permanent non-navigable tributary

(C) The USACE and EPA generally will not assert jurisdiction over the following features:

- Swales or erosion features (e.g., gullies, small washes characterized by low-volume, infrequent, or short-duration flow)
- Ditches (including roadside ditches) excavated wholly in and draining only uplands and that do not carry a relatively permanent flow of water

2.2 Waters of the State

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board

Most projects involving drainages are regulated by the California RWQCB, the principal State agency overseeing water quality of the state at the local/regional level. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) directly regulates multi-regional projects and supports the Section 401 certification and wetlands program statewide. The RWQCB regulates activities pursuant to Section 401(a)(1) of the federal CWA, which specifies that certification from the State is required for any applicant requesting a federal license or permit to conduct any activity, including but not limited to the construction or operation of facilities that may result in any discharge into navigable waters. The certification shall originate from the state in which the discharge originates or will originate, or, if appropriate, from the interstate water pollution control agency having jurisdiction over the navigable water at the point where the discharge originates or will originate. Any such discharge will comply with the applicable provisions of Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the CWA. The project site is located within the jurisdiction of the San Diego RWQCB.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Pursuant to Division 2, Chapter 6, Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game (CFG) Code, an entity may not substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of, or substantially change or use any material from the bed, channel, or bank of, any river, stream, or lake, or deposit or dispose of debris, waste, or other material containing crumbled, flaked, or ground pavement where it may pass into any river, stream, or lake.

As further defined by the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14 Section 720, for the purpose of implementing Sections 1601 and 1603 of the CFG Code, this applies to all rivers, streams, lakes, and streambeds in the state of California, including all rivers, streams and streambeds which may have intermittent flows of water. Furthermore, the Lake and Streambed Alteration (LSA) program requires notification for impacts to streams, which "includes ephemeral streams, desert washes, and watercourses with a subsurface flow. It may also apply to work undertaken within the flood plain of a body of water" (CDFW 2014).

Stream-dependent riparian habitat is defined in the CFG Code (Section 2785) as "lands which contain habitat which grows close to and which depends upon soil moisture from a nearby freshwater source." In addition, CDFW has jurisdiction over riparian habitats and wetlands associated with watercourses. As defined by CFG Code, "wetlands" means lands which may be covered periodically or permanently with shallow water and which include saltwater marshes, freshwater marshes, open or closed brackish water marshes, swamps, mudflats, fens, and vernal pools. Jurisdictional waters are delineated by the outer edge of riparian vegetation or at the top of the bank of a stream or lake, whichever is wider. CDFW jurisdiction does not include tidal areas or isolated resources. The CDFW reviews proposed actions, and if necessary, submits to the applicant a proposal that includes measures to protect affected fish and wildlife resources. The final proposal that is mutually agreed upon by CDFW and the applicant is called the LSA Agreement. Removal of stream-dependent riparian vegetation may also require an LSA Agreement from CDFW. However, CDFW may not regulate "isolated wetlands," that is, those that are not associated with a river, stream, or lake.

California Wetland Definition

Unlike the federal government, California has adopted the Cowardin et al. (1979) definition of wetlands. For purposes of this classification, wetlands must have one or more of the following three attributes: (1) at least periodically, the land supports predominantly hydrophytes (at least 50 percent of the aerial vegetative cover); (2) the substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil; and (3) the substrate is non-soil and saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the growing season of each year.

Under normal circumstances, the federal definition of wetlands requires all three wetland identification parameters to be met, whereas the Cowardin definition requires the presence of at least one of these parameters. For this reason, identification of wetlands by state agencies consists of the union of all areas that are periodically inundated or saturated or in which at least seasonal dominance by hydrophytes may be documented or in which hydric soils are present.

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act

The RWQCB also has jurisdiction over waters deemed isolated or not subject to Section 404 jurisdiction under the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County decision. Dredging, filling, or excavation of isolated waters constitutes a discharge of waste to waters of the state and prospective dischargers are required to obtain authorization through an Order of Waste Discharge or waiver thereof from the RWQCB and comply with other requirements of Porter-Cologne Act.

County of San Diego Resource Protection Ordinance

Per the County of San Diego Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO), "wetlands" are defined as "All lands which are transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or where the land is covered by water. All lands having one or more of the following attributes are wetlands: a) At least periodically, the land supports predominately hydrophytes (plants whose habitat is water or very wet places); b) The substratum is predominately undrained hydric soil; or c) an ephemeral or perennial stream is present, whose substratum is predominately non-soil and such lands contribute substantially to the biological functions or values of wetlands in the drainage system." In this definition, a "non-soil" substrate includes, but is not limited to, rock outcroppings, or deep-water habitats generally greater than 6.6 feet in depth, as well as cobble rock, bedrock, or scoured channels.

3. Methods

3.1 Literature Review

ESA biologists Mark Tucker and Darren Burton conducted a jurisdictional delineation survey in November 2010 and produced a corresponding preliminary jurisdictional delineation report in July 2011. The 2010 survey encompassed the current project's boundaries; therefore, the 2016 survey was conducted to update the previous survey and report, which expired after 5 years. Prior to the 2016 field survey, a desktop analysis was conducted to obtain contextual information relevant to the project. ESA conducted a review of available background information pertaining to the project geography and topography prior to conducting the jurisdictional delineation, including a review of the 2010 survey data and geographic information system (GIS) files, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Wetlands Mapper, aerial photography, and topographic maps for the USGS 7.5-minute El Cajon, El Cajon Mountain, and San Vicente Reservoir, California topographic quadrangles. Site maps were generated with available aerial photographs, and potentially jurisdictional features were identified and marked with lines and global positioning system (GPS) coordinates to assist in field verification. Soil types mapped within the project site from the previous jurisdictional delineation and from the SSURGO database (Soil Survey Staff 2016) were also reviewed prior to field efforts to target areas with potentially hydric soils.

3.2 Field Survey

ESA biologists Tommy Molioo and Alanna Bennett conducted a site visit on January 21, 2016, from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm, to evaluate potential jurisdictional features within the project boundary. The potentially jurisdictional features were recorded in the field using aerial maps, measurements of the width of the OHWM coincident along the low flow channel segments, and a hand-held Trimble Geo-XH GPS unit. A desktop analysis was also conducted using Google Earth to

accurately map the limits of jurisdiction observed and mapped onsite. Representative photographs of the jurisdictional features were taken during the field visit and are included in Appendix C. Vegetation mapping for the project boundary was conducted by Bloom Biological biologists in 2006 and verified by ESA biologists during the various field reconnaissance surveys for biological resources from 2010 through 2015. All vegetation mapping within the project boundary was conducted according to the County of San Diego Report Format and Content Requirements for Biological Resources (2010), as documented in the Draft Biological Technical Report for the project (ESA 2018a). Vegetation communities were classified according to the nomenclature in the Draft Vegetation Communities of San Diego County (Holland and Oberbauer, 2008).

Federal Wetlands

The presence/absence of federal wetlands was determined through implementation of the methods described in the *U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory 1987). The definition of growing season and the basis of determining and recording indicators for hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology was based on the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual: Arid West Region (Version 2.0)*, as well as the *Field Guide to the Identification of the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) in the Arid West Region of the Western United States* (USACE 2008a; USACE 2008b).

A Level 2 Determination (i.e., onsite inspection) was conducted as defined in the 1987 USACE Manual. The onsite inspection evaluated the three parameters that identify and delineate the boundaries of jurisdictional wetlands, including (1) the dominance of wetland vegetation; (2) the presence of hydric soils; and (3) hydrologic conditions that result in periods of inundation or saturation on the surface from flooding or ponding. The National List of Plant Species That Occur in Wetlands: California (Region 0) and the National Wetland Plant List (Lichvar 2014) were used to determine the wetland indicator status of plants observed in the project boundary. The 1987 USACE Manual and 2008 Arid West Regional Supplement were used for the analysis and evaluation of any normal circumstances, atypical situations, and problem areas, as needed.

Data on vegetation, soils, and hydrologic characteristics were recorded in the field and data points (DPs) were taken to identify boundaries between upland and wetland habitats. All sample locations were examined for the presence of positive hydrologic indicators (i.e., direct evidence of saturated soils, oxidized rhizospheres). Soils were examined to determine composition, matrix color, and the presence of redoximorphic features or other hydric soil indicators. The percent dominance by hydrophytic vegetation was also recorded at each sample location. Arid West Data Sheets were prepared for sample sites within drainage features that exhibited potential wetland features, which are located in Appendix A. Plant species observed during the course of surveys is provided in Appendix B. Representative photographs of the project and jurisdictional features are located in Appendix C.

Non-Wetland Waters of the United States

The USACE-jurisdictional status of the project was determined by in-field verification of the hydrological connection between the watercourse and downstream TNW (i.e., significant nexus

test). Non-wetland waters of the United States were identified if the OHWM was clearly visible and passed the significant nexus test (to the Pacific Ocean) but one or more of the remaining USACE wetland parameters were absent (i.e., hydrophytic vegetation or hydric soils). The OHWM of channels was determined based on observations of physical evidence that included direct observations of flow, scour marks, and drift lines of debris. The width of the OHWM was determined by field measurements and recorded with GPS coordinates. The limits of non-wetland waters were confined to the ordinary limits of flow and excluded adjacent upland areas that have been created through the previous placement of fill material from dredging activities.

Waters of the State

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

CDFW jurisdictional waters include streams that show evidence of at least intermittent flow, such as the floodplain and wetland or riparian habitats associated with watercourses in accordance with Section 1600 of CFG Code. These areas were delineated by the outer edge of riparian vegetation or at the top of the bank of a stream or lake, whichever was wider. Under the CFG Code, "wetlands" are defined as lands that may be covered periodically or permanently with shallow water and that include saltwater marshes, freshwater marshes, open or closed brackish water marshes, swamps, mudflats, fens, and vernal pools (CFG Code Section 2785).

State Boards (SWRCB and RWQCB)

It is assumed for the purpose of this report that USACE jurisdictional areas are also under the jurisdiction of the San Diego RWQCB, and are subject to Section 401 of the CWA or California Porter-Cologne Act. USACE and RWQCB jurisdictional areas have been delineated using the same methodology.

County of San Diego Wetlands

It is assumed for the purpose of this report that CDFW jurisdictional areas are also under the jurisdiction of the County of San Diego, which are considered County wetlands regulated by the RPO, and have been delineated using the same CDFW methodology.

4. Results and Conclusions

4.1 Literature Review and Field Survey Results

The potentially jurisdictional features within the project boundary were reviewed during a desktop analysis using available data discussed in Chapter 3, and were delineated during the field survey. Results are discussed below and in the following pages. Data forms from the delineation can be found in Appendix A.

Soils

As shown in **Figure 3**, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Soil Conservation Series Maps identify the soils along the San Diego River floodway within the project boundary as Riverwash. Riverwash occurs in intermittent stream channels and is typically sandy, gravelly, or cobbly. Tujunga sand and Visalia sandy loam occur along either side of the river channel. Tujunga sand is derived from granitic alluvium found on alluvial fans and floodplains with slopes less than 5 percent. Visalia sandy loam consists of moderately well-drained, very deep sand loams derived from granitic alluvium. These soils are found on alluvial fans and floodplains and have slopes of 0 to 5 percent.

Vegetation

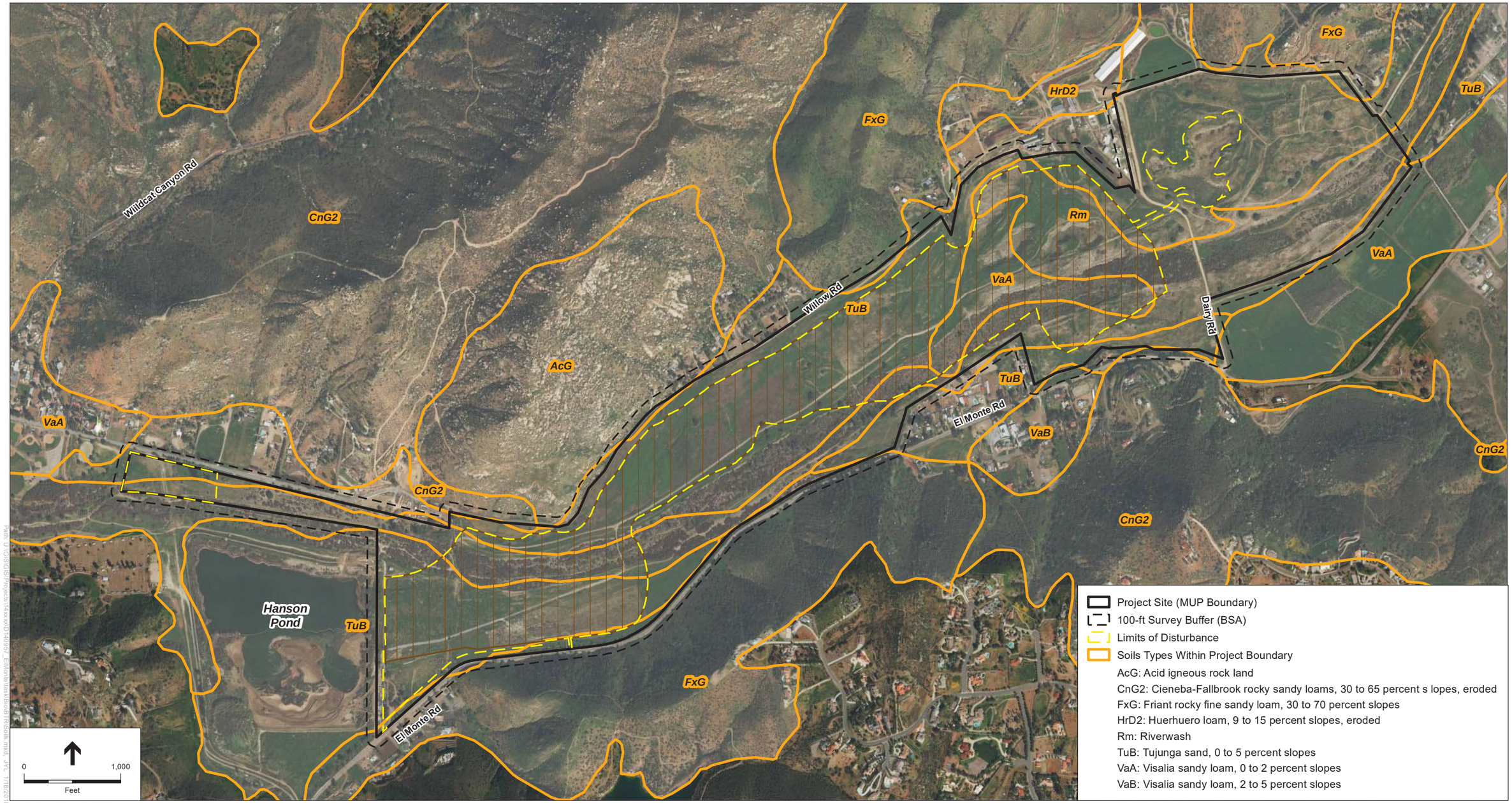
Vegetation communities are assemblages of plant species that occur together in the same area and are defined by species composition and relative abundance. The vegetation communities mapped in the project boundary were identified based on the aggregation of plants and wildlife and the composition and structure of the dominant vegetation observed at the time field reconnaissance was conducted. Habitat types follow the Holland classification system as modified by Oberbauer (Holland 1986, Oberbauer et al. 2008).

The vegetation communities within the proposed project boundary are shown on **Figure 4**, and the acreages of each habitat and vegetation community within the project area are listed in **Table 1**. Nine habitat/land use types as defined by the Holland classification system as modified by Oberbauer (Holland 1986, Oberbauer et al. 2008) were observed onsite, including four native habitats (Diegan coastal sage scrub, southern willow scrub, southern cottonwood-willow riparian forest, and non-vegetated channel), four non-native habitat types (non-native grassland, eucalyptus woodland, tamarisk scrub, and disturbed habitat), and developed areas. In addition to these vegetation communities defined by Holland/Oberbauer, mature riparian woodland, which is defined in the County of San Diego RPO was mapped as an overlay atop the Holland/Oberbauer mapping.

TABLE 1
VEGETATION COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT BOUNDARY

Habitat Type	Acreage
Southern Cottonwood-Willow Riparian Forest (Holland Code 61330)	11.18
Southern Willow Scrub (Holland Code 63320)	0.71
Tamarisk Scrub (Holland Code 63810)	85.69
Non-Vegetated Channel (Holland Code 64200)	1.66
Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub (Holland Code 32500)	10.38
Non-Native Grassland (Holland Code 42200)	135.75
Eucalyptus Woodland (Holland Code 79100)	2.62
Disturbed Habitat (Holland Code 11300)	228.52
Developed (Holland Code 12000)	3.03
TOTAL	**479.54**[1]

[1] Total excludes the 8.45 acres identified as Mature Riparian Woodland, which is defined in the County of San Diego RPO and was mapped as an overlay atop the Holland/Oberbauer vegetation mapping.



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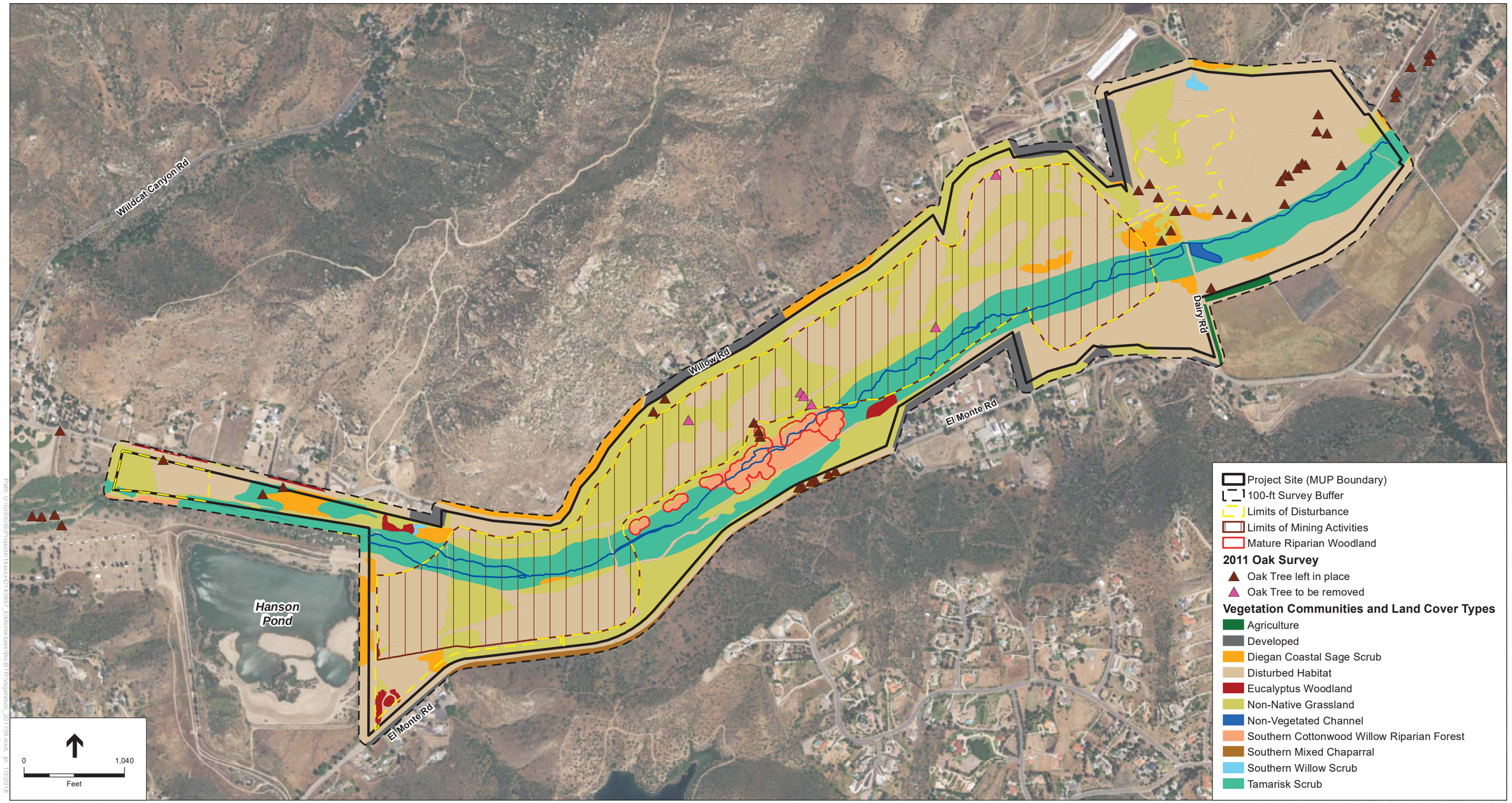
SOURCE: ESRI; EnviroMine; The Altum Group; Chang Consultants; SSURGO

El Monte Sand Mining Project . 140957

Figure 3
Soils



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SOURCE: ESRI; EnviroMine; The Altum Group; Chang Consultants; ESA; SanGIS

El Monte Sand Mining Project . 140957

Figure 4

Vegetation Communities and Cover Types

Southern Cottonwood-Willow Riparian Forest (Holland Code 61330)

Southern cottonwood-willow riparian forest is a tall, relatively open, broadleaved winter-deciduous riparian forest dominated by cottonwood trees and willow tree and shrub species (*Salix* spp.) with occasional emergent western sycamore trees. It usually occurs along stream banks with well-drained mineral soils.

Within the project boundary, southern cottonwood-willow riparian forest occurs as fragmented patches on either side of the river in the middle region and along the western edges, typically surrounded by non-native habitats such as tamarisk scrub and non-native grassland (described in the following pages). Southern cottonwood-willow riparian forest fragments are dominated by cottonwood and a variety of willow species, and support a variably dense understory of native annual forbs such as mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*) and nettle (*Urtica dioica* ssp. *holosericea*).

Much of the cottonwood-willow riparian forest fragments observed within the project site, which totaled approximately 11.2 acres, are somewhat disturbed as a result of an abundance of non-native, invasive species such as castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), tamarisk, non-native grasses, and invasive mustards. However, this habitat provides good quality nesting habitat for a variety of raptors and other native birds.

Southern Willow Scrub (Holland Code 63320)

Southern willow scrub is a deciduous, riparian community dominated by dense thickets of one or more willow tree species and various other scattered shrubs and larger emergent trees. Two small patches of southern willow scrub occur within the project boundary. These areas consist mainly of red willow (*Salix laevigata*), Gooding's willow (*Salix goodingii*), arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), and sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*), mixed with patches of mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), and western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) trees. Much of this habitat within the BSA is between 6 and 15 feet in height and varies in density, from relatively open to impenetrable. One small patch (approximately 0.3 acre) of relatively disturbed southern willow scrub occurs in the middle of the BSA north of the river along Willow Road. This area contains a relatively high percentage of non-native species such as giant reed (*Arundo donax*), tamarisk (*Tamarix* spp.), and pampas grass (*Cortaderia* spp). A second small patch (approximately 0.4 acres) of southern willow scrub occurs at the northeastern portion of the BSA just south of Willow Road. This area is relatively undisturbed and is characterized by a dense thicket of arroyo willows.

Tamarisk Scrub (Holland Code 63810)

Tamarisk scrub usually occurs as a dense monoculture where natural, riparian vegetation has been completely or almost completely replaced often by a single invasive, non-native tamarisk species. It usually forms in sandy or gravelly braided washes or intermittent streams in areas where high evaporation increases stream salinity. Tamarisk is a strong phreatophyte (a plant with a deep root system that draws water from near the water table) and prolific seeder with a high tolerance to changes in salinity and water table depth, attributes that predispose the species to be aggressive competitors in disturbed riparian corridors, where it can quickly supersede existing native riparian.

Tamarisk scrub covers approximately 85.7 acres of the project boundary and is characterized by sparse to dense stands that include chiefly tamarisk (*Tamarix ramossisima*) with little to no understory. Dense patches within the river channel are generally impenetrable, while open stands observed both within the channel and in upland areas are punctuated by patches of curly dock (*Rumex* sp.), castor-bean (*Ricinus communis*), cockle-bur (*Xanthium strumarium*), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), pampas grass, and an abundance of non-native grasses and forbs. In various areas, this habitat supports sparse mule fat, broom baccharis, scattered individual willow and cottonwood trees, and infrequent western sycamore trees; however, those areas are not large enough to be identifiable as functional native woodland or scrub communities. Tamarisk scrub is the most commonly observed habitat within and surrounding the river channel and floodplain as well as in some upland areas adjacent to, but separated from, the channel.

Non-Vegetated Floodway or Channel (Holland Code 64200)

Non-vegetated floodway or channel consists of the sandy, gravelly, or rocky fringes of waterways or flood channels. These areas tend to remain relatively unvegetated (generally less than 10 percent cover) as a result of variable water hydrology, which inhibits the growth of vegetation. It is not uncommon for non-native weedy vegetation to grow along the outer edges of the wash. Within the project boundary, a total of approximately 1.7 acres of this land cover type occurs along the center of the river channel.

Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub (Holland Code 32500)

Diegan coastal sage scrub is typically composed of a predominance of aromatic, drought-deciduous perennial shrubs and subshrubs typically growing to no more than 3 feet high, with a diverse understory of herbaceous species and annual and perennial grasses. It is usually located on dry, south-facing slopes and intermingles with chaparral, non-native grassland, and other local vegetation communities. It had been widely distributed in the region in the past; however, Diegan coastal sage scrub has lost much of its historic range to residential development and agricultural conversion.

A total of approximately 10.4 acres of coastal sage scrub occurs in scattered patches throughout the project boundary. The patches differ significantly from one another based on the dominant shrub species and shrub density. Many of the patches are highly disturbed and support a high abundance of non-native grasses and forbs. Some patches are dominated by California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*). Other patches are dominated by California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) or broom baccharis (*Baccharis sarothroides*). One patch of coastal sage scrub occurs on the rocky south-facing slopes north of Willow Road within the 100-foot survey buffer and is dominated by chuparosa (*Justicia californica*), which is typically found in desert communities. Other native species occur more sparsely within the coastal sage scrub patches, including goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), native grasses such as foothill needlegrass (*Stipa lepida*), and a variety of annual herbs.

The disturbed condition of the habitat could be due to extended drought conditions in the area, post fire recovery (from the 2003 Cedar Fire), or both. However, even in its disturbed condition, this habitat can support the federally listed coastal California gnatcatcher and other upland scrub species.

Non-Native Grassland (Holland Code 42200)

Non-native grassland is generally dominated by invasive, non-native annual grasses of various species and may contain non-native herbaceous species or remnant scattered native scrub species. It usually occurs in areas of previous disturbance on fine-textured, well-drained soils that are moist in winter but very dry in summer months, and frequently intergrades with disturbed habitats. Although it is not a naturally occurring community in California and is often indicative of prior disturbance through development or as a remnant of fallow agricultural fields, non-native grassland provides habitat for small terrestrial vertebrates such as small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians and is frequently used for foraging by migratory birds and raptors. Special-status species such as the State Species of Special Concern grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) are known to rely in this habitat for nesting.

A total of approximately 135.8 acres of non-native grassland occurs within the project boundary in a large, mainly continuous swath north and south of the river interspersed with disturbed habitat. It is composed chiefly of wild oat (*Avena* spp.), red brome (*Bromus madritensis*), and ripgut brome (*B. diandrus*), interspersed with areas dominated by short-pod mustard (*Hirshfeldia incana*) and black mustard (*Brassica nigra*) and other non-native herbaceous species. Scattered native shrubs such as California buckwheat occur very occasionally in the non-native grassland.

Eucalyptus Woodland (Holland Code 79100)

Eucalyptus woodland is a non-native community dominated by ornamentally planted eucalyptus and gum trees (*Eucalyptus* spp.). The understory is usually poorly developed or absent as a result of the allelopathic (toxic) effect of eucalyptus leaves that inhibit the growth of native and other plants. Although this habitat is not native, it is often used by nesting raptors and other birds or occasionally by roosting bats.

Four patches of eucalyptus woodland totaling approximately 2.6 acres were identified in the project site, on either side of the floodplain throughout the middle section. Scattered individual eucalyptus trees were also identified throughout the project boundary, within assorted patches of disturbed riparian communities, but, individually, they did not account for woodland acreage. The eucalyptus woodland patches within the survey boundary include saplings up to 20 feet tall and mature eucalyptus trees that range from 20 to more than 50 feet in height.

Disturbed Habitat (Holland Code 11300)

Disturbed habitat has typically undergone intense physical transformation due to prior disturbance (usually from past development or agriculture), is primarily bare without vegetation, and is no longer recognizable as a native or naturalized vegetation association but continues to retain a soil substrate. Such habitat is typically found in vacant lots, roadsides, construction staging areas, abandoned fields, and unpaved roads and trails. Typically, disturbed habitats are mostly bare but the vegetation that does occur mostly includes ruderal, weedy non-native, or ornamental species and does not resemble or function as a native plant community. Disturbed habitat typically has little to no foraging or other habitat value for native wildlife species.

A total of approximately 228.5 acres of disturbed habitat occur within the project boundary. Scattered vegetation that does occur within disturbed areas primarily includes non-native herbaceous annual and perennial species such as tree tobacco, mustard, Russian thistle (*Salsola*

tragus), and to a lesser extent, weedy annual grasses (*Avena* spp., *Bromus* spp.), but without enough vegetation cover to classify it as non-native grassland. The larger areas of disturbed habitat primarily occur in the northeastern portion of the site, and several patches occur in the western end of the site. Disturbed areas also include completely un-vegetated areas that consist of existing dirt, paved, and gravel roads, which are located throughout the BSA, including footpaths and other access routes associated with previous development.

Developed (Holland Code 12000)

Developed areas contain commercial or residential buildings and landscaped surfaces and generally do not support natural plant or wildlife species of any kind. The project boundary includes approximately 3 acres of developed urban residences adjacent to the northern middle portion of the project boundary. Although residential and commercial buildings occur very near the project boundary, the boundary itself crosses over landscaped, ornamental, and paved areas only and does not intersect with actual built or any inhabited establishments.

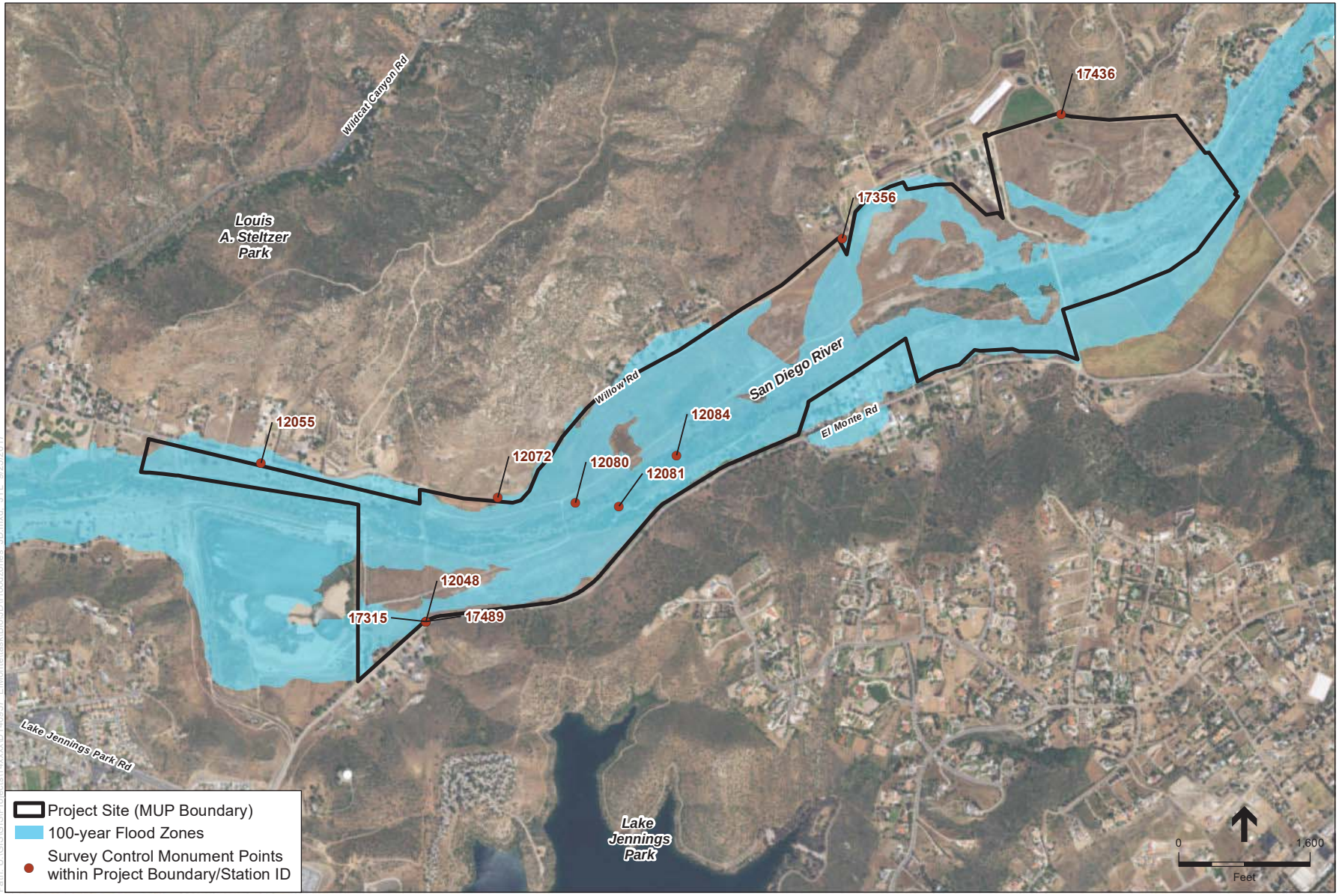
Mature Riparian Woodland

Mature riparian woodland occurs onsite but was not mapped as one of the Holland/Oberbauer vegetation communities. Rather, it was mapped separately and overlaid onto the vegetation communities and cover types map (Figure 4) because the County's RPO includes a distinct definition of this vegetation type that differs from the Holland/Oberbauer classification system. Mature riparian woodland occurs in several patches within the limits of mining activities, totaling approximately 8.5 acres, and occurs within the cottonwood-willow riparian woodland and tamarisk scrub communities in the central portion of the project boundary. A total of 275 trees were recorded during the tree surveys.

Hydrology

Hydrologic function for the potentially jurisdictional features within the project boundary is primarily provided by the San Diego River. The San Diego River channel traverses the project boundary in an east-west meandering direction. Currently, water flows in the river during periods of extended precipitation only during local storm events. The highly permeable nature of the endemic soils and man-made controls has reduced historic flows in the river to minor levels. While hydrologic functions are limited because of the lack of regular flooding and brief inundation periods due to sandy, highly impervious soils, the San Diego River through this portion of the project boundary is considered to be a non-relatively permanent water (non-RPW). The San Diego River continues downstream to the west of the project boundary and eventually connects to the Pacific Ocean, demonstrating a significant nexus to the Pacific Ocean, a TNW. When flooding and flow do occur, this reach of the San Diego River functions as a losing stream[1] and would be expected to contribute to groundwater recharge, and to a limited extent, flood control. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 100-Year Flood Zone boundaries are depicted on **Figure 5**.

[1] Losing streams are defined as rivers which lose water from the streambed out into the ground. Rivers can be gaining and losing at different locations; they can be gaining one time of the year and losing in another time of year (DOI 2015).



SOURCE: ESRI, FEMA, SanGIS

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Figure 5

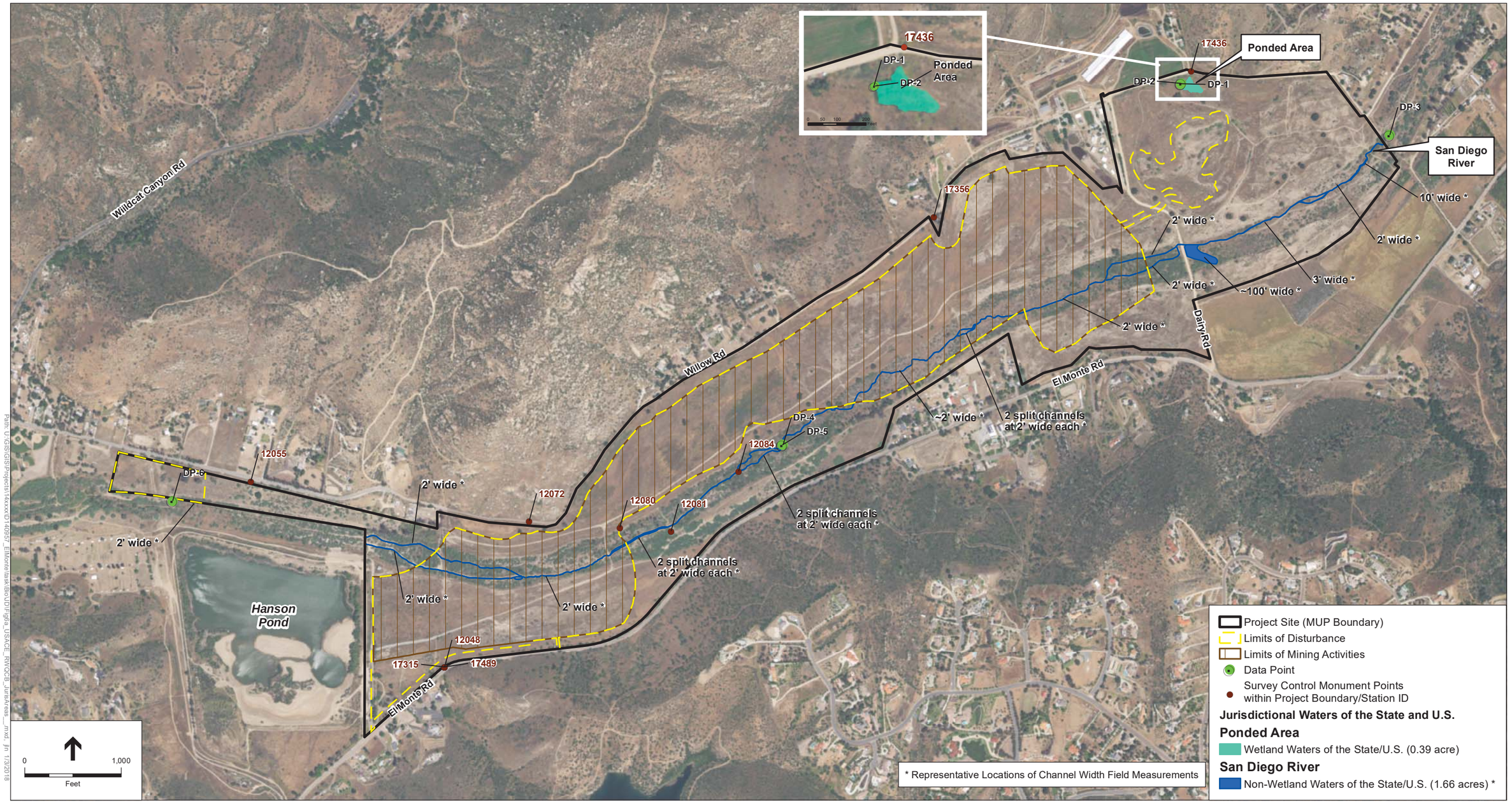
Flood Zones

Construction and operation of the El Capitan Reservoir and sand mining operations have resulted in changes to the river channel over time. The dam associated with El Capitan Reservoir is a historical feature and conditions onsite are considered normal circumstances. Therefore, the effects of the dam do not need to be considered when assessing the presence of wetland hydrology. There were no hydrology indicators present within the vegetated portions of the trapezoidal channel as recorded in DP3 through DP6 (**Figures 6a** and **6b)**. Surface water was observed in a small 0.39-acre ponded area containing southern willow scrub habitat in the northeast portion of the site. This was considered to be a primary hydrology indicator and wetland hydrology was present at this one spot on the site (DP2). A data collection point was taken at DP1, upslope from DP2, in an upland area that contains suitable hydrology but lacks the hydric soil indicators to be considered a wetland. Hydrologic function is supplied to this wetland area through road runoff and upstream flows that enter the area through a concrete culvert beneath Willow Road. The upland swale feature that transports upstream flows to the small ponded area is offsite to the north and therefore not included in the project mapping limits. Since this nearby jurisdictional feature contributes to runoff on the road that leads to the culvert and it is adjacent to the San Diego River (a non-RPW that demonstrates a significant nexus with a TNW), the small pond is not considered an isolated jurisdictional area.

4.2 Jurisdictional Features Summary

The potential jurisdictional features delineated within the project boundary are shown on Figures 6a and 6b and further described on the following pages. The literature review described in Section 3.2 determined that the San Diego River within the project boundary contains riverine and palustrine systems, and no wetlands are depicted for the project boundary. Additionally, the San Diego River that traverses the project boundary is mapped as a meandering blue-line stream. A blue-line stream tributary is also mapped on the topographic maps; however, because of historic disturbances to the area that have altered and graded the surrounding topography, this mapped blue-line tributary was not evident during the field delineation survey and does not currently connect with the San Diego River within the project boundary. The San Diego River within the project boundary functions as an ephemeral stream that is supported by groundwater, and has been degraded as a result of frequent recreational uses such as hiking and horseback riding.

Table 2 summarizes the potential jurisdictional features within the project boundary that were determined from the literature review and field delineation survey. Figure 6a depicts potential areas under the jurisdiction of USACE and RWQCB. Figure 6b depicts potential areas under the jurisdiction of CDFW and the County of San Diego. Figure 6b includes areas under the jurisdiction of USACE and RWQCB since they are coincident with non-vegetated waters of the state. The areas potentially considered County of San Diego wetlands and subject to regulation under the County RPO include the San Diego River and associated tamarisk scrub habitat, and the ponded area in the northeast portion of the project boundary. These areas contain a dominance of hydrophytes and the presence of a perennial stream of San Diego jurisdiction for a total of 86.14 acres. Although areas of tamarisk scrub in upland areas are likely partially supported by a subsurface freshwater source, this habitat is separated from the jurisdictional limits of the river by an upland area and this area of tamarisk scrub is not overhanging the channel or immediately adjacent and therefore is not associated with the river and not jurisdictional.



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SOURCE: ESRI; EnviroMine; The Altum Group; Chang Consultants; ESA; SanGIS

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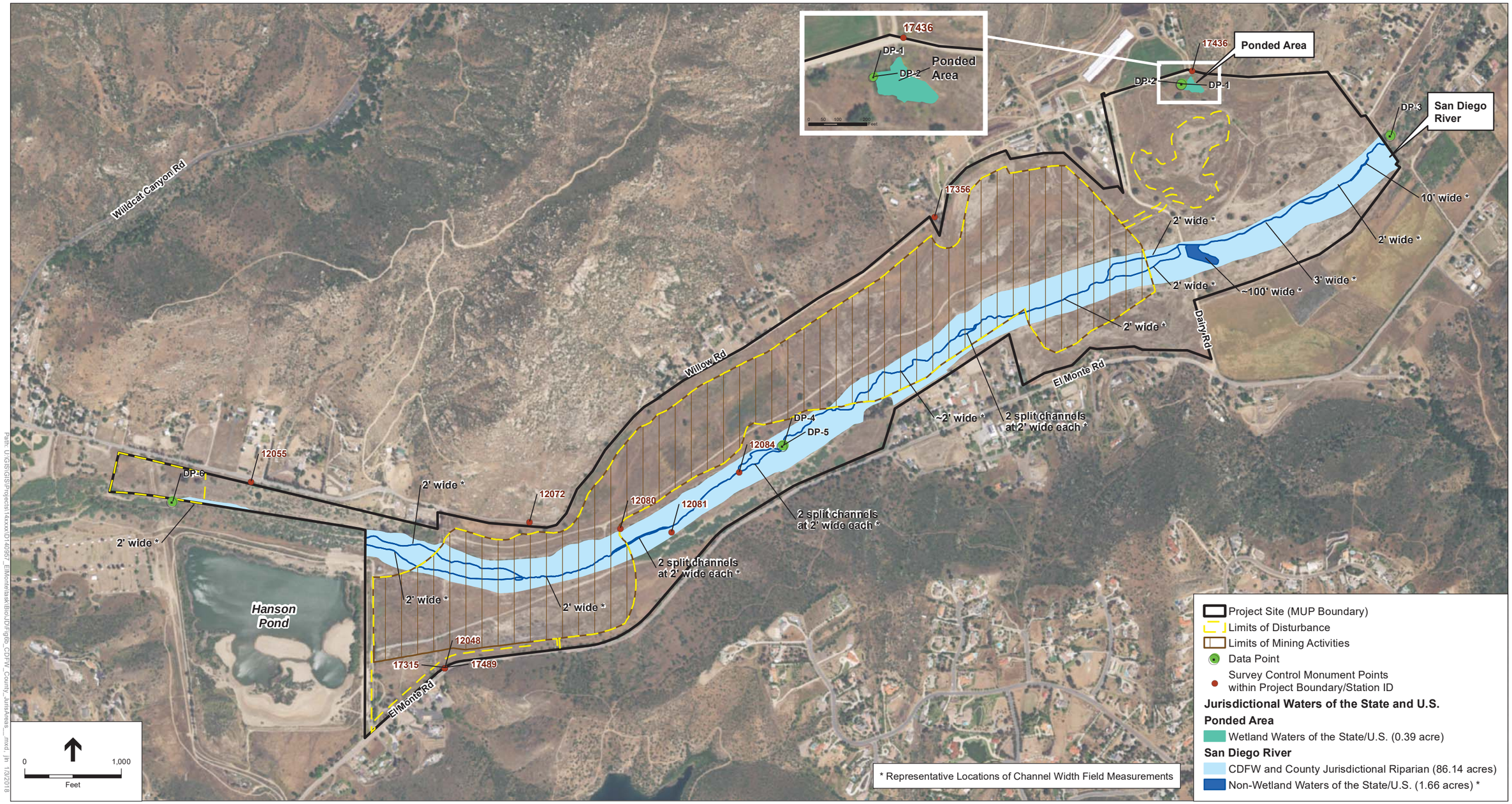
Figure 6a

USACE/RWQCB Jurisdictional Areas



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ESRI; EnviroMine; The Altum Group; Chang Consultants; ESA; SanGIS

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Figure 6b

CDFW/County Jurisdictional Areas

The ephemeral stream of the San Diego River and associated hydrophytic vegetation qualify as County of San Diego wetlands protected under the RPO. The tamarisk scrub outside the channel on the adjacent flats outside the 100-year flood plain was not considered to be CDFW or County jurisdictional.

TABLE 2
POTENTIAL JURISDICTIONAL FEATURES WITHIN THE PROJECT BOUNDARY

Map ID	Type of Feature	Habitat Type	Non-Wetland Waters[1]	Wetland Waters	Total[2]
Waters of the United States/State (USACE/RWQCB)					
San Diego River	Ephemeral Channel	Non-Vegetated Stream Channel	1.66 ac. (7,264 linear ft.)	0.0	1.66 ac. (7,264 linear ft.)
CDFW/County of San Diego Jurisdiction					
San Diego River	Riparian Habitat	Tamarisk Scrub (74.21 ac.), Southern Cottonwood-Willow Riparian Forest (11.16 ac.), Disturbed Habitat (0.50 ac.), Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub (0.26 ac.), Nonnative Grassland (0.01 ac.)	86.14 ac.	0.0	86.14 ac.
USACE/RWQCB/CDFW/County of San Diego Jurisdiction					
Ponded Area	Wetland	Southern Willow Scrub	0.0	0.39 ac.	0.39 ac.

[1] Linear feet are only provided for linear aquatic resource such as stream/riverine features and wetland/riparian corridors directly adjacent to stream features.
[2] Jurisdictional waters acreage was determined by using ArcGIS. All acreages are rounded to the nearest hundredth if the areas of the potentially jurisdictional features were less than 0.01 acre (which may account for minor rounding error).

Waters of the United States/State

Waters of the United States and State potentially subject to the jurisdiction of USACE, RWQCB, CDFW, and the County of San Diego RPO include the San Diego River and associated riparian habitat, as well as a ponded area in the northeast portion of the project boundary. For the purpose of this report, channels were defined as drainage features that have bed and bank and a distinguishable OHWM. The potential jurisdictional features in the project boundary are further described below.

San Diego River

The San Diego River within the project boundary is a non-RPW (ephemeral stream) that meanders in an east-west fashion and eventually connects downstream with the Pacific Ocean, a TNW. Soil pits were dug within the low-flow channel of the San Diego River and adjacent upland areas at Data Points DP3–DP6. Soils throughout this reach of the San Diego River range from coarse sand to sandy loam belonging to the Tujunga, Riverwash, and Visalia soil series with colors of 10YR 3/2 and 10YR 4/2 throughout. No redoximorphic features or other hydric soil indicators were observed within Data Points DP3–DP6 in the San Diego River. Therefore, no wetlands subject to state or federal agency jurisdiction are located within the San Diego River on the project boundary. Federal USACE and State RWQCB jurisdiction is limited to the low-flow

channels within the San Diego River and was delineated out to the OHWM for a total of 1.66 acres (7,264 linear feet).

Adjacent riparian communities were not considered to be under the jurisdiction of the USACE due to the lack of hydrology indicators. However, all channels and riparian habitat (tamarisk scrub) within the San Diego River floodplain were considered to be subject to CDFW and County Ponded Area

The small ponded area in the northeastern portion of the property was considered to be a county, state, and federal jurisdictional wetland based on the three-parameter wetland hydrology indicators, its source being a stream and its proximity to regulated features within the San Diego River. This ponded area receives flows as runoff from the adjacent Willow Road and an upland swale, and through a concrete culvert below Willow Road. The upland swale is offsite to the north and therefore not included in the project mapping limits. The small pond is adjacent to the San Diego River, a non-RPW that demonstrates a significant nexus with a TNW. Soil pits were dug at Data Points DP1 and DP2 to determine if hydric soil indicators were present within the coarse sand mapped as the Tujunga soil series. Tujunga soils are on the National Wetland Hydric Soils List (DOI 2014). DP1 was placed in an upland area, upslope from the ponded area, and while hydrophytic vegetation and hydrology was present, hydric soil indicators were not evident. DP2 was placed on the edge of the ponded area and displayed soil colors of 10YR 3/2 and 10YR 4/3, with an organic layer on the surface and a layer of muck approximately 4 inches thick at a depth of 2–6 inches in the soil pit. The soil sample at DP2 was determined to have the hydric soil indicator Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1) due to the layer of muck that is a minimum 2 inches thick in sandy soil. Therefore, the 0.39 acre ponded area is considered a wetland feature subject to the jurisdiction of USACE/RWQCB/CDFW and the County of San Diego RPO.

4.3 Impacts and Mitigation

The proposed project would consist of active mining that would occur over approximately 12 years. As mining is completed (in four distinct phases), the disturbed areas previously mined would be progressively reclaimed starting in year 4 of the project and generally moving upstream to downstream. Reclamation is an ongoing process that commences when mining operations have ceased within a given area and continues until all mining related disturbance is reclaimed and all equipment involved in these operations have been removed. Habitat mitigation revegetation would also be performed to ensure successful restoration/creation of self-sustaining native habitats, which would serve as mitigation for impacts to sensitive vegetation communities, pursuant to County regulations. In contrast to the Reclamation Plan, the goal of the habitat mitigation Revegetation Plan is to restore the ecological functions and values of the impacted habitats, rather than to provide landscape stability (EnviroMINE 2017, ESA 2018b). Areas designated for habitat mitigation in accordance with County and resource agency requirements for impacts to sensitive vegetation communities include more stringent standards, including a 5-year maintenance and monitoring program to attain designated success standards and long-term preservation and management.

A combination of habitat mitigation (for uplands and jurisdictional resources) and reclamation revegetation would be initiated for each specific phase after completion of mining in that area. For example, as mining progresses into the Phase 2 area, habitat mitigation and reclamation revegetation would begin in the Phase 1 area. Revegetation will occur where temporary impacts occur to address Reclamation Plan, County, and resource agency requirements. Final landforms would be established and the entire temporary impact area (i.e., 241.11 acres) would be planted with the native species identified in the Reclamation Plan and Revegetation Plan. This revegetation will result in a net increase in native habitat acreage on-site and improve overall native habitat quality and functions. Restoration of habitat beyond those limits is not required or proposed, other than enhancement of riparian and transitional habitat outside of mining limits within the site to provide a portion of the mitigation for impacts to tamarisk scrub habitat. Additional information on revegetation including habitat mitigation and reclamation is included in the Revegetation Plan (ESA 2018b).

The four phases of mining and jurisdictional mitigation and reclamation are represented in **Figure 7**. The proposed project would include an onsite trail system (shown as part of the permanent impacts) that would generally border the area of disturbance and the project site boundary. Trails would consist of both Type C and Type D trail types. The proposed trails would contribute to the expansion of and linkage to the County's Community Trails Master Plan trail system. Type C Primitive trails would be designed to be three feet wide in a 20-foot wide easement. Type D Pathways would be 10-12 feet wide in a 20-foot wide easement. Trails would be constructed both during Phase I and after mining has been completed. Trails would be designed to support equestrian users, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Public access across the mined area could be limited during the rainy season due to the potential for the mining pit to collect and pond rainfall.

Trails along the northern perimeter of the project site and along Dairy Road would be constructed during Phase 1. Trails south of the low flow channel, east of the drop structure, and in the northwest corner of the project site would be constructed following completion of mining operations. A 20-foot wide trail easement would be located over an existing trail in the northwestern corner of the project site. Temporary and permanent fencing and exclusionary signage would be placed along the fence at appropriate intervals warning the public of hazards and restricted access.

The proposed project would temporarily and permanently affect jurisdictional non-wetland waters (non-vegetated streambed) and riparian habitats as defined by USACE, RWQCB, CDFW, and the County of San Diego through removal of vegetation, grading, placement of temporary structures (including a portable processing plant, temporary power lines, weigh scales, and modular scale house), excavation to a maximum of 35 feet below the current surface, placement of fill to create a bench around the mined pit, and permanent impact project components including a mining pit drop structure/rock dam, fuel modification zones and a trail system. A total of 0.36 acre of USACE/RWQCB jurisdictional non-wetland waters, and a total of 41.46 acres of CDFW riparian and San Diego County jurisdictional wetlands would be affected (Figures 6a and 6b and **Table 3**). In permitting projects, USACE (and RWQCB and CDFW) seek to meet the goal of no net loss of functions and values of wetlands and other waters (non-wetland waters) of the United States and

would require at a minimum the restoration of disturbed areas to original contours and a habitat mitigation revegetation program to restore jurisdictional areas disturbed by the proposed project.

TABLE 3
IMPACTS TO JURISDICTIONAL RESOURCES (ACRES)

Jurisdiction	Temporary Impacts	Permanent Impacts	Total Impacts
Federal (USACE)/State (RWQCB)	0.35	0.01	**0.36**
State (CDFW)/County (San Diego)	39.18	2.28	**41.46**
Total	**39.53**	**2.29**	**41.82**

A summary of temporary and permanent impacts to jurisdictional resources is provided in Table 3. Temporary and permanent impacts related to each project component (four mining phases, fuel modification zones, and trails outside of the site phasing plan) and associated mitigation requirements, are provided in **Table 4**. Habitat-based mitigation per phase, as detailed by the project's Conceptual Revegetation Plan (ESA 2018b), is shown in **Table 5**. Total jurisdictional resource mitigation requirements, including for phases and project components outside of the site phasing plan (i.e., trails and fuel modification zones), is shown in **Table 6**.

Impacts to waters of the U.S./State (USACE/RWQCB) totals 0.36 acre of non-vegetated channel (0.35 acre of temporary impacts and 0.01 acre of permanent impacts). These impacts would occur within areas mapped as non-vegetated channel and are proposed to be mitigated at a 1:1 ratio with the restoration of 0.36 acre of vegetated channel. Impacts to CDFW/County of San Diego jurisdictional features total 41.46 acres (39.18 acres of temporary impacts and 2.28 acres of permanent impacts). These impacts would primarily occur within areas mapped as tamarisk scrub and are proposed to be mitigated at a 3:1 ratio by a combination of restoration of native Riparian Forest and Riparian Scrub habitats within post-mining areas (62.71 acres; 1.5:1), and restoration of riparian and transitional habitat outside of mining limits but within the project site (62.72 acres, rounded up to 64.16 acres to address all riparian areas onsite; 1.5:1) via exotic plant removal and activities to promote native plant revegetation. Refer to the project's Conceptual Revegetation Plan (ESA 2018b), included as Appendix I to the project's EIR (County of San Diego 2018), for additional detail.

Jurisdictional Mitigation By Phase (Inside site phasing plan)

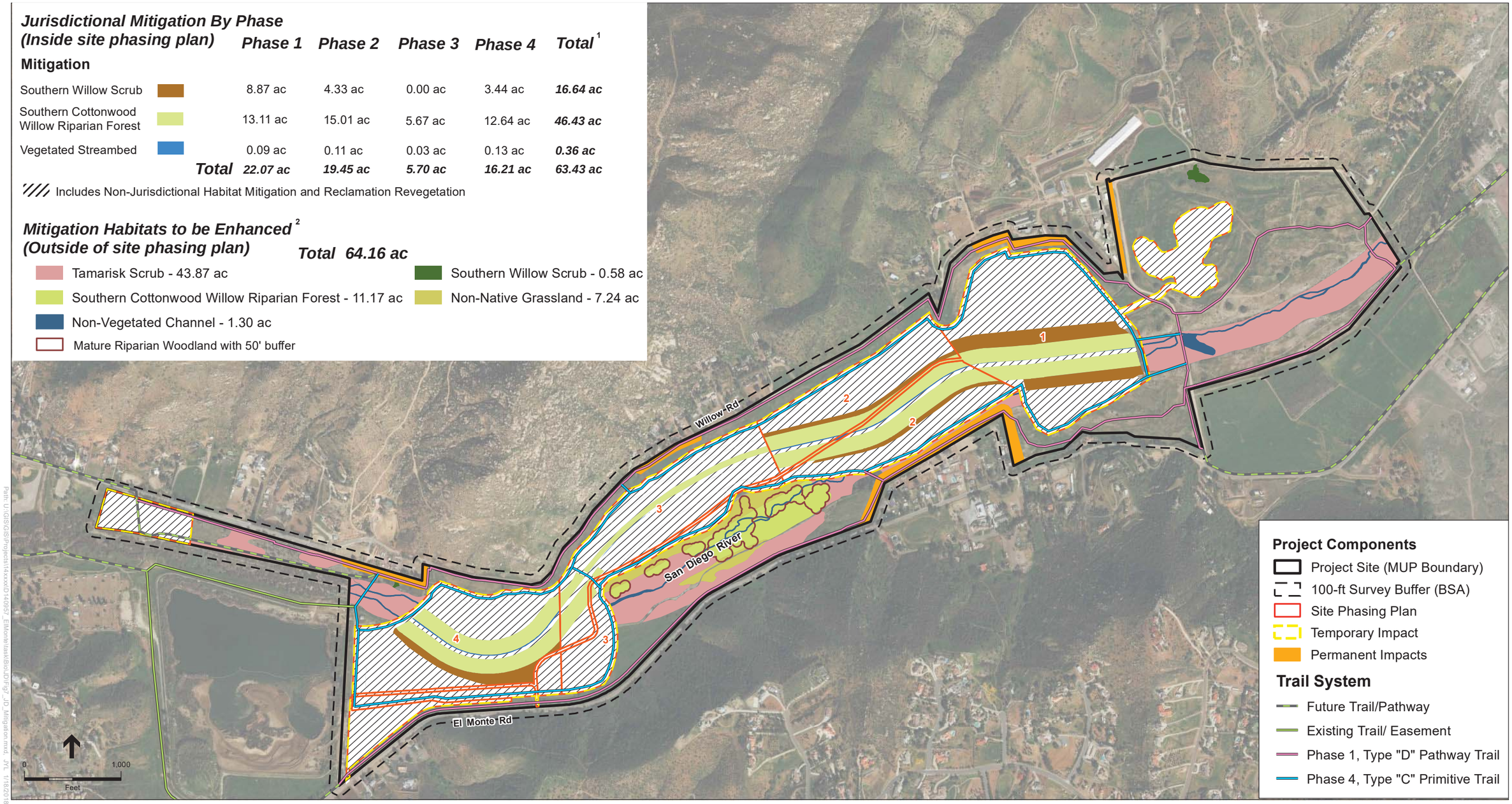
Mitigation	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Total [1]
Southern Willow Scrub	8.87 ac	4.33 ac	0.00 ac	3.44 ac	***16.64 ac***
Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest	13.11 ac	15.01 ac	5.67 ac	12.64 ac	***46.43 ac***
Vegetated Streambed	0.09 ac	0.11 ac	0.03 ac	0.13 ac	***0.36 ac***
Total	***22.07 ac***	***19.45 ac***	***5.70 ac***	***16.21 ac***	***63.43 ac***

//// Includes Non-Jurisdictional Habitat Mitigation and Reclamation Revegetation

Mitigation Habitats to be Enhanced [2] (Outside of site phasing plan)

Total 64.16 ac

- Tamarisk Scrub - 43.87 ac
- Southern Willow Scrub - 0.58 ac
- Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest - 11.17 ac
- Non-Native Grassland - 7.24 ac
- Non-Vegetated Channel - 1.30 ac
- Mature Riparian Woodland with 50' buffer



Project Components

- Project Site (MUP Boundary)
- 100-ft Survey Buffer (BSA)
- Site Phasing Plan
- Temporary Impact
- Permanent Impacts

Trail System

- Future Trail/Pathway
- Existing Trail/ Easement
- Phase 1, Type "D" Pathway Trail
- Phase 4, Type "C" Primitive Trail

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SOURCE: ESRI; ESA 2016; EnviroMine 2016

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Figure 7

Jurisdictional Mitigation and Reclamation

[1] Total includes mitigation required for impacts within site phasing plan and outside (i.e., impacts from trails and fuel modification zones).

[2] Mitigation habitats to be enhanced outside the site phasing plan include restoration of riparian and transitional habitat via exotic plant removal and activities to promote native plant revegetation (62.72 acres required, rounded up to 64.16 acres). This enhancement plus 62.71 acres of Riparian Forest and Riparian Scrub restoration within the site phasing plan area will provide a 125.43 acres of mitigation for impacts to Tamarisk Scrub.

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TABLE 4
MITIGATION FOR IMPACTS RELATED TO JURISDICTIONAL RESOURCES (ACRES)

	Mining Phase								Trails Outside Mining Phases (Perm)	Fuel Mod Zones Outside Mining Phases (Perm)	Total Impacts	Mitigation Ratio	Habitat Mitigation
	1		2		3		4						
Jurisdiction / Vegetation Community	**Perm[1]**	**Temp**	**Perm[1]**	**Temp**	**Perm[1]**	**Temp**	**Perm[1]**	**Temp**					
Waters of the United States/State (USACE/RWQCB)													
Non-Vegetated Channel[2]	0.01	0.08	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.36	1:1	0.36
CDFW/County of San Diego Jurisdiction													
Tamarisk Scrub[3]	0.53	11.83	0.10	12.79	0.01	3.54	0.02	11.02	1.62	0.00	41.46[4]	3:1	124.38[5]
Total[5]	**0.54**	**11.91**	**0.10**	**12.90**	**0.01**	**3.57**	**0.02**	**11.15**	**1.62**	**0.00**	**41.82**	**-**	**124.74**

[1] Permanent impacts within the mining phases are from the drop structure (Phase 1 only) and trails.
[2] Non-Vegetated Channel will be mitigated by restoration of Vegetated Channel since it is expected the post-mining grades and conditions will support native plants in the channel
[3] CDFW/County of San Diego jurisdictional areas subject to temporary impacts include small areas of Diegan coastal sage scrub (0.26 acre) and disturbed (0.17 acre) habitat types. These areas occur as small patches within a majority (39.41 acres) of jurisdictional tamarisk scrub habitat that would be impacted. For the purposes of this table, acreages of coastal sage scrub and disturbed habitat within CDFW and County of San Diego jurisdiction are rolled up into tamarisk scrub.
[4] Total impacts to tamarisk scrub habitat (125.43 acres) differs from the acreage presented in this table because not all tamarisk scrub habitat is located within areas subject to CDFW/County of San Diego jurisdiction.
[5] Total impacts to tamarisk scrub habitat (jurisdictional and non-jurisdictional areas; 41.81 acres) will be mitigated at a 3:1 ratio (total of 125.43 acres of mitigation) by a combination of restoration of native Riparian Forest and Riparian Scrub habitats within post-mining areas (62.71 acres; 1.5:1), and restoration of riparian and transitional habitat outside of mining limits but within the project site (62.72 acres, rounded up to 64.16 acres to address all riparian areas on-site; 1.5:1) via exotic plant removal and activities to promote native plant revegetation.

TABLE 5
HABITAT-BASED MITIGATION PER PHASE (ACRES)

Mitigation	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Total
Southern Cottonwood Willow Riparian Forest	13.11	15.01	5.67	12.64	46.43
Southern Willow Scrub	8.87	4.33	0.00	3.44	16.64
Vegetated Streambed	0.09	0.11	0.03	0.13	0.36
Total	22.07	19.45	5.70	16.21	63.43

TABLE 6
MITIGATION FOR IMPACTS RELATED TO JURISDICTIONAL RESOURCES (ACRES)

Jurisdictional Resource	Impacts	Mitigation Ratio[1]	Required Mitigation
Riparian (CDFW and County)	41.46	3:1	124.38
Non-vegetated Streambed/Non-Wetland Waters (CDFW and USACE)	0.36	1:1	0.36

1 Wetland mitigation shall include a minimum 1:1 creation or restoration (re-establishment) component, while restoration (rehabilitation) or enhancement of existing habitats may be used to make up the remaining requirements.

4.4 Discussion and Conclusions

Two primary features within the project boundary have been identified as potentially being regulated by the USACE, RWQCB, CDFW, and the County of San Diego. The limits of jurisdiction for each regulatory agency are summarized below. However, these estimates are preliminary and the final determination of jurisdiction will be made by each regulatory agency during the permitting/approval process. Impacts to USACE jurisdictional waters will require applying for a CWA Section 404 Nationwide Permit (NWP) 44 with a 300-foot limit waiver or application for Individual Permit. Impacts to CDFW jurisdictional waters will require applying for a 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA). Impacts to RWQCB jurisdictional waters will require applying for a CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification. While all three permit applications can be submitted concurrently, the processing time for each application varies from 3 months to 12 months.

Waters of the United States

Waters of the United States that are subject to the jurisdiction of the USACE include the ephemeral channel (OHWM limits) within the San Diego River floodplain. The San Diego River, a non-RPW through this portion of the project boundary, functions as a riverine and palustrine system that conveys water flow downstream toward the Pacific Ocean, a TNW. The San Diego River within the project boundary is mapped as palustrine by the USFWS Wetlands Mapper; however, based on data collected during the field survey, the river contains riparian habitat but lacks hydric soils to be considered a federally protected wetland. Additionally, no hydric soils are mapped for the entire San Diego River. Therefore, a total of 1.66 acres of non-wetland waters of

the United States (ephemeral channel), subject to USACE jurisdiction under Section 404 of the CWA, occurs in the project boundary. Additionally, the ponded area in the northeastern portion of the project boundary contains all three wetland parameters to be considered a federally protected wetland. Therefore, 0.39 acre of wetland waters of the United States subject to USACE jurisdiction occur in the project boundary. The total waters of the United States delineated on the project boundary is 2.05 acres, of which 0.36-acre of non-wetland waters may be impacted by the proposed project that would require permitting mitigation at a 1:1 ratio.

Waters of the State

The features described above as subject to USACE's jurisdiction also potentially fall under the authority of the San Diego RWQCB in accordance with Section 401 of the CWA. Therefore, 1.66 acres of non-wetland waters of the State and 0.39 acre of wetland waters of the State are subject to RWQCB jurisdiction within the project boundary. Therefore, a total of 2.05 acres of waters of the State occur within the project boundary, of which 0.36-acre of non-wetland waters may be impacted by the proposed project that would require permitting mitigation at a 1:1 ratio.

CDFW Jurisdiction

Areas potentially under CDFW jurisdiction include the San Diego River floodplain and associated riparian habitat (tamarisk scrub), as well as the ponded area in the northeast portion of the project boundary. Based on the data collected during the delineation survey, the ephemeral floodplain of the San Diego River displays evidence of flow, and the outer limits of the tamarisk scrub canopy provide habitat for a number of species. Therefore, the 86.14 acres of the San Diego River within the project boundary is potentially subject to CDFW jurisdiction. Additionally, the ponded area in the northeast portion of the project boundary contains surface water at least periodically and associated southern willow scrub vegetation that provides habitat for species. Therefore, the ponded area contains 0.39 acre of wetland habitat subject to CDFW jurisdiction. The total waters and wetlands present on the project boundary, potentially subject to CDFW jurisdiction, is 86.53 acres. The proposed project may result in a total of 41.46 acres of impacts to CDFW jurisdiction, which would require permitting and mitigation at a 3:1 ratio.

County of San Diego Wetlands

Areas potentially considered County of San Diego wetlands and subject to regulation under the County RPO include the 86.53 acres of the San Diego River and associated tamarisk scrub habitat, and the 0.39-acre ponded area in the northeast portion of the project boundary. These areas contain a dominance of hydrophytes and the presence of a perennial stream, and a total 86.92 acres of County of San Diego wetlands occur in the project boundary. 5. Supplemental Information

5.1 Directions to the Project

From Los Angeles, take Interstate 5 south, to Interstate 805 south, to State Route 52 east, to State Route 67 north, to the Mapleview Street exit. Head east on Mapleview Street to Ashwood Street and turn north, continuing for approximately 0.6 mile to the project boundary on the east side of Ashwood Street.

5.2 Project Applicant Contact Information

Bill Adams
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1335 San Lucas Court
Solana Beach, CA 92075

5.3 Field Delineator Contact Information

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San Diego, CA 92101
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APPENDIX A

Wetland Datasheets

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Arid West Region

Project/Site: El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve City/County: Lakeside/San Diego Sampling Date: 1/21/2016

Applicant/Owner: El Monte Nature Preserve/County of San Diego State: CA Sampling Point: DP1

Investigator(s): T. Molioo and A. Bennett Section, Township, Range: Sec 9,10, and 16, T15S, R1E

Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): slope Local relief (concave, convex, none): concave Slope (%): 2%

Subregion (LRR): C Lat: 32.88445363070 Long: -116.86863151 Datum: NAD83

Soil Map Unit Name: Tujunga Sand NWI classification: N/A

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes x No _____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes x No _____

Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes x No _____ Hydric Soil Present? Yes _____ No x Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes x No _____	**Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?** **Yes** _____ **No** x

Remarks:

upland area immediately adjacent to wetland (ponded area)

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30')	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1. Nicotiana glauca	1	yes	FAC
2.			
3.			
4.			
	1	= Total Cover	
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 10')			
1. Baccharis salicifolia	15	yes	FACW
2. Heterotheca grandiflora	1	no	UPL
3.			
4.			
5.			
	16	= Total Cover	
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5')			
1. Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens	90	yes	UPL
2. Salsola tragus	1	no	UPL
3. Sonchus oleraceus	1	no	UPL
4. Glebionis segetum	1	no	UPL
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
	93	= Total Cover	
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size:)			
1.			
2.			
		= Total Cover	

% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum 10 % Cover of Biotic Crust _____

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 2 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 3 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 66.7% (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:	
OBL species	x 1 =	
FACW species 15	x 2 =	30
FAC species 1	x 3 =	3
FACU species	x 4 =	
UPL species 94	x 5 =	470
Column Totals: 110 (A)		503 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 4.57

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

x Dominance Test is >50%

___ Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]

___ Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? **Yes** x **No** _____

Remarks:

willow, tamarisk, cottonwood in the middle of pond

SOIL

Sampling Point: DP1

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth (inches)	Matrix Color (moist)	Matrix %	Redox Features Color (moist)	Redox Features %	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-18	10 YR 3/3	100					coarse sand	UPL soil pit, no redox, 4' up from water

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, RC=Root Channel, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ Stratified Layers (A5) (**LRR C**)
- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) (**LRR D**)
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ___ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)
- ___ Vernal Pools (F9)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) (**LRR C**)
- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) (**LRR B**)
- ___ Reduced Vertic (F18)
- ___ Red Parent Material (TF2)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present.

Restrictive Layer (if present):

Type: _____

Depth (inches): _____

Hydric Soil Present? Yes _____ No __x__

Remarks:

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (any one indicator is sufficient)

- ___ Surface Water (A1)
- ___ High Water Table (A2)
- ___ Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1) (**Nonriverine**)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) (**Nonriverine**)
- _x_ Drift Deposits (B3) (**Nonriverine**)
- ___ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- _x_ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
- ___ Salt Crust (B11)
- ___ Biotic Crust (B12)
- ___ Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Plowed Soils (C6)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- ___ Water Marks (B1) (**Riverine**)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) (**Riverine**)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3) (**Riverine**)
- ___ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Thin Muck Surface (C7)
- ___ Crayfish Burrows (C8)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ___ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes _____ No __x__ Depth (inches): _____

Water Table Present? Yes _____ No __x__ Depth (inches): _____

Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes _____ No __x__ Depth (inches): _____

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes __x__ No _____

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

Soil is wet but not saturated. Recent rainfall has created wet conditions.

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Arid West Region

Project/Site: El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve City/County: Lakeside/San Diego Sampling Date: 1/21/2016

Applicant/Owner: El Monte Nature Preserve/County of San Diego State: CA Sampling Point: DP2

Investigator(s): T. Molioo and A. Bennett Section, Township, Range: Sec 9,10, and 16, T15S, R1E

Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): slope Local relief (concave, convex, none): concave Slope (%): 2%

Subregion (LRR): C Lat: 32.884459536 Long: -116.868618706 Datum: NAD83

Soil Map Unit Name: Tujunga Sand NWI classification: N/A

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes x No _____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes x No _____

Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes x No _____	**Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?** **Yes x No _____**
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes x No _____	
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes x No _____	

Remarks:

Sampling point ~3 feet closer to water's edge than DP1.

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30')	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1. Nicotiana glauca	1	yes	FAC
2.			
3.			
4.			
	1 = Total Cover		
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 10')			
1. Baccharis salicifolia	15	yes	FACW
2. Heterotheca grandiflora	1	no	UPL
3.			
4.			
5.			
	16 = Total Cover		
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5')			
1. Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens	90	yes	UPL
2. Salsola tragus	1	no	UPL
3. Sonchus oleraceus	1	no	UPL
4. Glebionis segetum	1	no	UPL
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
	93 = Total Cover		
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: _____)			
1.			
2.			
	_____ = Total Cover		

% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum 10 % Cover of Biotic Crust _____

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 2 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 3 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 66.7% (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:	
OBL species	x 1 =	
FACW species 15	x 2 =	30
FAC species 1	x 3 =	3
FACU species	x 4 =	
UPL species 94	x 5 =	470
Column Totals: 110 (A)		503 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 4.57

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

x Dominance Test is >50%

___ Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]

___ Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? **Yes x No _____**

Remarks:

willow, tamarisk, cottonwood in the middle of pond

SOIL

Sampling Point: DP2

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth (inches)	Matrix Color (moist)	%	Redox Features Color (moist)	%	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-2								organic layer
2-6	10 YR 3/2	100					coarse sand w/muck	
6-18	10 YR 4/3	100					coarse sand	

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, RC=Root Channel, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ Stratified Layers (A5) (**LRR C**)
- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) (**LRR D**)
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- x Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ___ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)
- ___ Vernal Pools (F9)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) (**LRR C**)
- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) (**LRR B**)
- ___ Reduced Vertic (F18)
- ___ Red Parent Material (TF2)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present.

Restrictive Layer (if present):

Type: ___

Depth (inches): ___

Hydric Soil Present? Yes x No ___

Remarks:

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (any one indicator is sufficient)

- x Surface Water (A1)
- x High Water Table (A2)
- x Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1) (**Nonriverine**)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) (**Nonriverine**)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3) (**Nonriverine**)
- ___ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
- ___ Salt Crust (B11)
- ___ Biotic Crust (B12)
- ___ Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Plowed Soils (C6)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- ___ Water Marks (B1) (**Riverine**)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) (**Riverine**)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3) (**Riverine**)
- ___ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Thin Muck Surface (C7)
- ___ Crayfish Burrows (C8)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ___ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes x No ___ Depth (inches): 1”

Water Table Present? Yes x No ___ Depth (inches): 1”

Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes x No ___ Depth (inches): entire

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes x No ___

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

Completely ponded area.

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Arid West Region

Project/Site: El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve City/County: Lakeside/San Diego Sampling Date: 1/21/2016

Applicant/Owner: El Monte Nature Preserve/County of San Diego State: CA Sampling Point: DP3

Investigator(s): T. Molioo and A. Bennett Section, Township, Range: Sec 9,10, and 16, T15S, R1E

Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): riverbed Local relief (concave, convex, none): concave Slope (%): 0%

Subregion (LRR): C Lat: 32.883029176 Long: -116.861578837 Datum: NAD83

Soil Map Unit Name: Riverwash NWI classification: R4SBA - Riverine

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes x No _____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes x No _____

Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes x No _____ Hydric Soil Present? Yes _____ No x Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes x No _____	**Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?** **Yes** _____ **No** x

Remarks:

Data point taken in riverbed/low-flow channel.

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1. Tamarix ramosissima	25	Yes	FAC
2. Baccharis salicifolia	10	Yes	FACW
3.			
4.			
	35 = Total Cover		
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 10)			
1. Baccharis salicifolia	20	Yes	FACW
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
	20 = Total Cover		
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5)			
1. Bromus rubens ssp. madritensis	60	Yes	UPL
2. Sysimbrium irio	15	No	UPL
3. Hirschfeldia incana	5	No	UPL
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
	80 = Total Cover		
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: _____)			
1.			
2.			
	_____ = Total Cover		

% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum 20 % Cover of Biotic Crust _____

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 3 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 4 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 75.0% (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:
OBL species 0	x 1 = 0
FACW species 35	x 2 = 60
FAC species 20	x 3 = 75
FACU species 0	x 4 = 0
UPL species 80	x 5 = 400
Column Totals: 135 (A)	535 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 3.96

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

x Dominance Test is >50%

___ Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]

___ Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? **Yes** x **No** _____

Remarks:

SOIL

Sampling Point: DP3

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth (inches)	Matrix Color (moist)	Matrix %	Redox Features Color (moist)	Redox Features %	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-12	10 YR 3/2	100					sandy loam	low-flow channel

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, RC=Root Channel, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ Stratified Layers (A5) (**LRR C**)
- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) (**LRR D**)
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ___ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)
- ___ Vernal Pools (F9)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) (**LRR C**)
- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) (**LRR B**)
- ___ Reduced Vertic (F18)
- ___ Red Parent Material (TF2)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present.

Restrictive Layer (if present):

Type: unknown; compacted soil/rock

Depth (inches): 12

Hydric Soil Present? Yes _____ No x

Remarks:

no redox

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (any one indicator is sufficient)

- ___ Surface Water (A1)
- ___ High Water Table (A2)
- ___ Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1) (**Nonriverine**)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) (**Nonriverine**)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3) (**Nonriverine**)
- x Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
- ___ Salt Crust (B11)
- ___ Biotic Crust (B12)
- ___ Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Plowed Soils (C6)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- ___ Water Marks (B1) (**Riverine**)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) (**Riverine**)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3) (**Riverine**)
- x Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Thin Muck Surface (C7)
- ___ Crayfish Burrows (C8)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ___ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes _____ No x Depth (inches): _____

Water Table Present? Yes _____ No x Depth (inches): _____

Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes _____ No x Depth (inches): _____

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes x No _____

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

Riverine feature

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Arid West Region

Project/Site: El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve City/County: Lakeside/San Diego Sampling Date: 1/21/2016

Applicant/Owner: El Monte Nature Preserve/County of San Diego State: CA Sampling Point: DP4

Investigator(s): T. Molioo and A. Bennett Section, Township, Range: Sec 9,10, and 16, T15S, R1E

Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): channel bank Local relief (concave, convex, none): none Slope (%): 0%

Subregion (LRR): C Lat: 32.8741030382 Long: -116.881986849 Datum: NAD83

Soil Map Unit Name: Tujunga Sand NWI classification: PSSC - Palustrine

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes x No _____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes x No _____

Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes x No _____ Hydric Soil Present? Yes _____ No x Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes _____ No x	**Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?** **Yes** _____ **No** x

Remarks:

Data point in upland area adjacent to low-flow channel

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1. Eucalyptus camaldulensis	40	yes	FAC
2. Quercus agrifolia	5	no	UPL
3.			
4.			
	45	= Total Cover	
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 10)			
1. Baccharis salicifolia	20	yes	FACW
2. Baccharis sarothroides	3	no	FAC
3.			
4.			
5.			
	23	= Total Cover	
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5)			
1. Bromus diandrus	100	yes	UPL
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
	100	= Total Cover	
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size: _____)			
1.			
2.			
	_____	= Total Cover	

% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum 0 % Cover of Biotic Crust _____

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 2 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 3 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 66.7% (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:	
OBL species 0	x 1 =	0
FACW species 20	x 2 =	40
FAC species 43	x 3 =	129
FACU species 0	x 4 =	0
UPL species 105	x 5 =	525
Column Totals: 168 (A)		694 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 4.13

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

x Dominance Test is >50%

___ Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]

___ Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? **Yes** x **No** _____

Remarks:

SOIL

Sampling Point: DP4

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth (inches)	Matrix Color (moist)	%	Redox Features Color (moist)	%	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-18	10 YR 4/2	100					coarse sand	Upland area 3' above bank

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, RC=Root Channel, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ Stratified Layers (A5) (**LRR C**)
- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) (**LRR D**)
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ___ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)
- ___ Vernal Pools (F9)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) (**LRR C**)
- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) (**LRR B**)
- ___ Reduced Vertic (F18)
- ___ Red Parent Material (TF2)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present.

Restrictive Layer (if present):

Type: _____

Depth (inches): _____

Hydric Soil Present? Yes _____ No x

Remarks:

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (any one indicator is sufficient)

- ___ Surface Water (A1)
- ___ High Water Table (A2)
- ___ Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1) (**Nonriverine**)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) (**Nonriverine**)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3) (**Nonriverine**)
- ___ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
- ___ Salt Crust (B11)
- ___ Biotic Crust (B12)
- ___ Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Plowed Soils (C6)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- ___ Water Marks (B1) (**Riverine**)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) (**Riverine**)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3) (**Riverine**)
- ___ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Thin Muck Surface (C7)
- ___ Crayfish Burrows (C8)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ___ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes _____ No x Depth (inches): _____

Water Table Present? Yes _____ No x Depth (inches): _____

Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes _____ No x Depth (inches): _____

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes _____ No x

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

In grassy area with upland vegetation.

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Arid West Region

Project/Site: El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve City/County: Lakeside/San Diego Sampling Date: 1/21/2016

Applicant/Owner: El Monte Nature Preserve/County of San Diego State: CA Sampling Point: DP5

Investigator(s): T. Molioo and A. Bennett Section, Township, Range: Sec 9,10, and 16, T15S, R1E

Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): channel bottom Local relief (concave, convex, none): concave Slope (%): 0%

Subregion (LRR): C Lat: 32.8741054523 Long: -116.882015813 Datum: NAD83

Soil Map Unit Name: Tujunga Sand NWI classification: PSSC - Palustrine

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes x No _____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes x No _____

Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? Yes x No _____ Hydric Soil Present? Yes _____ No x Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes _____ No x	**Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?** **Yes _____ No x**

Remarks:

Data point within low-flow channel

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1. Eucalyptus camaldulensis	40	yes	FAC
2. Quercus agrifolia	5	no	UPL
3.			
4.			
	45 = Total Cover		
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 10)			
1. Baccharis sarothroides	2	no	FAC
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
	2 = Total Cover		
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5)			
1. Bromus diandrus	100	yes	UPL
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
	50 = Total Cover		
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size:)			
1.			
2.			
	= Total Cover		

% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum 50 % Cover of Biotic Crust _____

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 2 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 3 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 66.7% (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:	
OBL species 0	x 1 =	0
FACW species 0	x 2 =	0
FAC species 42	x 3 =	126
FACU species 0	x 4 =	0
UPL species 55	x 5 =	275
Column Totals: 97 (A)		401 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 4.13

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

x Dominance Test is >50%

___ Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]

___ Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? **Yes x No _____**

Remarks:

SOIL

Sampling Point: DP5

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth (inches)	Matrix Color (moist)	%	Redox Features Color (moist)	%	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-18	10 YR 3/2	100					coarse sand	

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, RC=Root Channel, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ Stratified Layers (A5) (**LRR C**)
- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) (**LRR D**)
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ___ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)
- ___ Vernal Pools (F9)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) (**LRR C**)
- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) (**LRR B**)
- ___ Reduced Vertic (F18)
- ___ Red Parent Material (TF2)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present.

Restrictive Layer (if present):

Type: _____

Depth (inches): _____

Hydric Soil Present? Yes _____ No x

Remarks:

middle of low-flow channel/trail

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (any one indicator is sufficient)

- ___ Surface Water (A1)
- ___ High Water Table (A2)
- ___ Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1) (**Nonriverine**)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) (**Nonriverine**)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3) (**Nonriverine**)
- ___ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
- ___ Salt Crust (B11)
- ___ Biotic Crust (B12)
- ___ Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Plowed Soils (C6)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- ___ Water Marks (B1) (**Riverine**)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) (**Riverine**)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3) (**Riverine**)
- ___ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Thin Muck Surface (C7)
- ___ Crayfish Burrows (C8)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ___ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes _____ No x Depth (inches): _____

Water Table Present? Yes _____ No x Depth (inches): _____

Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes _____ No x Depth (inches): _____

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes _____ No x

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

Hydrology present during rain/storm events; ephemeral stream.

WETLAND DETERMINATION DATA FORM – Arid West Region

Project/Site: El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve City/County: Lakeside/San Diego Sampling Date: 1/21/2016

Applicant/Owner: El Monte Nature Preserve/County of San Diego State: CA Sampling Point: DP6

Investigator(s): T. Molioo and A. Bennett Section, Township, Range: Sec 9,10, and 16, T15S, R1E

Landform (hillslope, terrace, etc.): channel bottom Local relief (concave, convex, none): concave Slope (%): 0%

Subregion (LRR): C Lat: 32.872406795 Long: -116.902572176 Datum: NAD83

Soil Map Unit Name: Tujunga Sand NWI classification: PSSA - Palustrine

Are climatic / hydrologic conditions on the site typical for this time of year? Yes x No _____ (If no, explain in Remarks.)

Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ significantly disturbed? Are "Normal Circumstances" present? Yes x No _____

Are Vegetation _____, Soil _____, or Hydrology _____ naturally problematic? (If needed, explain any answers in Remarks.)

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS – Attach site map showing sampling point locations, transects, important features, etc.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present?	Yes _____	No x	**Is the Sampled Area within a Wetland?** **Yes _____ No x**
Hydric Soil Present?	Yes _____	No x	
Wetland Hydrology Present?	Yes _____	No x	

Remarks:

Data point within low-flow channel

VEGETATION – Use scientific names of plants.

Tree Stratum (Plot size: 30)	Absolute % Cover	Dominant Species?	Indicator Status
1. Salix gooddingii	5	yes	OBL
2. Tamarix ramosissima	20	yes	FAC
3.			
4.			
	= Total Cover		
Sapling/Shrub Stratum (Plot size: 10)			
1. Baccharis salicifolia	20	yes	FAC
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
	= Total Cover		
Herb Stratum (Plot size: 5)			
1. Hirschfeldia incana	10	yes	UPL
2. Erodium cicutarium	10	yes	UPL
3. Urtica dioica	5	no	FAC
4. Bromus diandrus	10	yes	UPL
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
	= Total Cover		
Woody Vine Stratum (Plot size:)			
1.			
2.			
	= Total Cover		

% Bare Ground in Herb Stratum 65 % Cover of Biotic Crust _____

Dominance Test worksheet:

Number of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 3 (A)

Total Number of Dominant Species Across All Strata: 6 (B)

Percent of Dominant Species That Are OBL, FACW, or FAC: 50% (A/B)

Prevalence Index worksheet:

Total % Cover of:	Multiply by:	
OBL species 5	x 1 =	5
FACW species 0	x 2 =	0
FAC species 45	x 3 =	135
FACU species 0	x 4 =	0
UPL species 30	x 5 =	150
Column Totals: 80 (A)		290 (B)

Prevalence Index = B/A = 3.63

Hydrophytic Vegetation Indicators:

___ Dominance Test is >50%

___ Prevalence Index is ≤3.0[1]

___ Morphological Adaptations[1] (Provide supporting data in Remarks or on a separate sheet)

___ Problematic Hydrophytic Vegetation[1] (Explain)

[1]Indicators of hydric soil and wetland hydrology must be present.

Hydrophytic Vegetation Present? **Yes _____ No x**

Remarks:

SOIL

Sampling Point: DP6

Profile Description: (Describe to the depth needed to document the indicator or confirm the absence of indicators.)

Depth (inches)	Matrix Color (moist)	%	Redox Features Color (moist)	%	Type[1]	Loc[2]	Texture	Remarks
0-4	10 YR 3/2	100					loamy sand	
SR								highly compacted

[1]Type: C=Concentration, D=Depletion, RM=Reduced Matrix. [2]Location: PL=Pore Lining, RC=Root Channel, M=Matrix.

Hydric Soil Indicators: (Applicable to all LRRs, unless otherwise noted.)

- ___ Histosol (A1)
- ___ Histic Epipedon (A2)
- ___ Black Histic (A3)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide (A4)
- ___ Stratified Layers (A5) (**LRR C**)
- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) (**LRR D**)
- ___ Depleted Below Dark Surface (A11)
- ___ Thick Dark Surface (A12)
- ___ Sandy Mucky Mineral (S1)
- ___ Sandy Gleyed Matrix (S4)
- ___ Sandy Redox (S5)
- ___ Stripped Matrix (S6)
- ___ Loamy Mucky Mineral (F1)
- ___ Loamy Gleyed Matrix (F2)
- ___ Depleted Matrix (F3)
- ___ Redox Dark Surface (F6)
- ___ Depleted Dark Surface (F7)
- ___ Redox Depressions (F8)
- ___ Vernal Pools (F9)

Indicators for Problematic Hydric Soils[3]:

- ___ 1 cm Muck (A9) (**LRR C**)
- ___ 2 cm Muck (A10) (**LRR B**)
- ___ Reduced Vertic (F18)
- ___ Red Parent Material (TF2)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

[3]Indicators of hydrophytic vegetation and wetland hydrology must be present.

Restrictive Layer (if present):

Type: highly compacted

Depth (inches): 4

Hydric Soil Present? Yes _____ No x

Remarks:

low-flow channel also used as trail

HYDROLOGY

Wetland Hydrology Indicators:

Primary Indicators (any one indicator is sufficient)

- ___ Surface Water (A1)
- ___ High Water Table (A2)
- ___ Saturation (A3)
- ___ Water Marks (B1) (**Nonriverine**)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) (**Nonriverine**)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3) (**Nonriverine**)
- ___ Surface Soil Cracks (B6)
- ___ Inundation Visible on Aerial Imagery (B7)
- ___ Water-Stained Leaves (B9)
- ___ Salt Crust (B11)
- ___ Biotic Crust (B12)
- ___ Aquatic Invertebrates (B13)
- ___ Hydrogen Sulfide Odor (C1)
- ___ Oxidized Rhizospheres along Living Roots (C3)
- ___ Presence of Reduced Iron (C4)
- ___ Recent Iron Reduction in Plowed Soils (C6)
- ___ Other (Explain in Remarks)

Secondary Indicators (2 or more required)

- ___ Water Marks (B1) (**Riverine**)
- ___ Sediment Deposits (B2) (**Riverine**)
- ___ Drift Deposits (B3) (**Riverine**)
- ___ Drainage Patterns (B10)
- ___ Dry-Season Water Table (C2)
- ___ Thin Muck Surface (C7)
- ___ Crayfish Burrows (C8)
- ___ Saturation Visible on Aerial Imagery (C9)
- ___ Shallow Aquitard (D3)
- ___ FAC-Neutral Test (D5)

Field Observations:

Surface Water Present? Yes _____ No x Depth (inches): _____

Water Table Present? Yes _____ No x Depth (inches): _____

Saturation Present? (includes capillary fringe) Yes _____ No x Depth (inches): _____

Wetland Hydrology Present? Yes _____ No x

Describe Recorded Data (stream gauge, monitoring well, aerial photos, previous inspections), if available:

Remarks:

APPENDIX B

Species Observed

Appendix B: Plant Species Observed

Scientific Name	Common Name	2006 Surveys	2010 Surveys	2015 Surveys	2016 Surveys	2017 Survey
Acmispon argophyllus var. argophyllus	Southern California silver lotus	--	--	--	--	x
Acmispon glaber	Deerweed	x	x	--	x	x
Acmispon maritimus	Coastal bird's-foot-trefoil	x	x	--	x	--
Acmispon strigosus	Strigose lotus	--	--	--	--	x
*Ailanthus altissima**	Tree of heaven	--	--	--	x	x
*Amaranthus albus**	White tumbleweed	--	--	--	x	x
Ambrosia psylostachya	Western ragweed	--	--	--	--	x
Amblyopappus pusillus	Pineapple weed	x	x	--	x	--
Ambrosia acanthicarpa	Annual bur-sage	x	x	x	x	--
Ambrosia psylostachya	Western ragweed	x	x	x	x	x
Amsinckia menziesii var. *intermedia*	Fiddleneck	x	x	x	x	x
*Anagallis arvensis**	Scarlet pimpernel	x	x	x	x	x
Antirrinum nuttallianum ssp. *nuttallianum*	Nuttall's snapdragon	--	--	--	x	--
Artemisia californica	California sagebrush	x	x	x	x	x
Artemisia douglasiana	Mugwort	x	x	x	x	--
Artemisia palmeri	Palmer's sagewort	--	x	x	x	--
*Arundo donax**	Giant reed	x	x	x	x	x
Atriplex canescens	Fourwing saltbush					x
*Atriplex semibaccata**	Australian saltbush	--	x	--	x	--
*Avena barbata**	Slender wild oat	--	x	x	x	x
Avena fatua*	Wild oat	x	--	--	x	x
Baccharis pilularis	Coyote brush	x	x	x	x	x
Baccharis salicifolia	Mule fat	x	x	x	x	x
Baccharis sarothroides	Broom baccharis	x	x	x	x	x
Bebbia juncea	Sweetbush	--	--	x	--	--

Scientific Name	Common Name	2006 Surveys	2010 Surveys	2015 Surveys	2016 Surveys	2017 Survey
*Brassica nigra**	Black mustard	--	x	x	x	--
*Brassica rapa**	Field mustard	--	x	x	x	--
Brassica sp.*	Mustard	x	--	x	--	--
*Brassica tournefortii**	Saharan mustard	--	--	--	--	x
Brickellia californica	California brickelbush	--	--	x	x	--
*Bromus diandrus**	Ripgut grass	x	x	x	x	x
*Bromus hordaceus**	Smooth brome	--	x	--	--	x
Bromus madritensis ssp. *rubens**	Foxtail chess	x	x	x	x	x
*Bromus tectorum**	Cheat grass	x	x	--	x	--
Callistemon sp.*	Bottlebrush	--	x	--	x	--
Calystegia macrostegia	California morning-glory	--	--	--	x	--
Camissonia californica	False mustard	--	--	--	x	--
Camissonia strigulosa	Contorted primrose	--	--	--	--	x
Camissoniopsis bistorta	California sun cup	--	--	x		--
Camissoniopsis cheiranthifolia	Beach evening-primrose	x	--	--	x	x
*Carduus pycnocephalus**	Italian thistle	x	x	x	x	--
Carpobrotus edulis	Hottentot fig	--	--	--	--	x
*Centaurea melitensis**	Star-thistle	x	x	x	x	x
*Cerastium glomeratum**	Mouse-eared chickweed	x	--	--	--	--
Chaenactis glabriuscula	Yellow pincushion	x	x	--	x	x
*Chenopodium album**	Lamb's quarters	x	x	x	x	x
Chenopodium californicum	California goosefoot	--	x	--	x	--
*Chenopodium murale**	Nettle-leaf goosefoot	--	--	--	x	x
*Cirsium vulgare**	Bull thistle	--	x	x	x	--
Claytonia perfoliata	Miner's lettuce	x	x	--	x	x
*Cnicus benedictus**	Blessed thistle	--	--	--	x	--
*Conyza canadensis**	Horseweed	--	x	x	x	--

Scientific Name	Common Name	2006 Surveys	2010 Surveys	2015 Surveys	2016 Surveys	2017 Survey
*Cotaderia jubata**	Pampas grass	x	x	x	x	--
Crassula connata	Pygmy weed	x	x	--	x	x
Croton californicus	California croton	--	--	--	--	x
Croton setigerus	Dove weed	x	x	x	--	--
Cryptantha intermedia	Nievitas cryptantha	--	--	--	x	--
Cucurbita foetidissima	Calabazaill	x	x	x	x	x
Cuscuta californica	Dodder	x	x	x	x	--
Cuscuta salina	Salicornia dodder	x	x	--	--	--
Cuscuta subinclusa	Dodder	x	x	--	--	--
Cynara cardunculus ssp. cardunculus	Globe artichoke	--	--	--	--	x
Cyperus sp.	Sedge	--	x	--	x	--
Datura wrightii	Jimsonweed	x	x	--	x	x
Daucus pusillus	Rattlesnake weed	x	x	--	x	--
Deinandra sp.	Tarplant	--	--	--	x	--
Dichelostoma capitatum	Blue eyed-grass	--	x	--	--	x
Distichlis spicata	Saltgrass	--	x	--	x	--
Emmenanthe penduliflora	Whispering bells	--	--	--	x	--
Encelia californica	California encelia	--	--	--	x	x
Encelia farinosa	Brittlebush	--	--	--	--	x
Ericameria palmeri var. palmeri	Palmer's goldenbush	--	--	x	--	--
Erigeron canadensis	Horseweed	--	--	--	--	x
Eriogonum fasciculatum	California buckwheat	x	x	x	x	x
Eriogonum gracile	Slender buckwheat	--	--	--	x	x
Eriophyllum sp.	Yarrow	--	--	--	x	--
*Erodium botrys**	Long-beaked filaree	--	x	x	x	x
*Erodium cicutarium**	White-stemmed filaree	--	x	x	x	x
*Erodium moschatum**	Greenstem filaree	--	x	x	--	x

Scientific Name	Common Name	2006 Surveys	2010 Surveys	2015 Surveys	2016 Surveys	2017 Survey
Erodium sp.*	Filaree	x	--	x	--	--
Eschscholzia californica	California poppy	--	--	--	--	x
Eucalyptus camaldulensis	Red gum	--	--	--	--	x
Eucalyptus spp.*	Eucaplyptus	x	x	x	x	--
*Euphorbia maculata**	Spotted spurge	--	--	x	--	x
*Euphorbia peplus**	Petty spurge	x	x	x	--	x
Euphorbia polycarpa	Small seeded spurge	--	--	--	--	x
*Festuca myuros**	Foxtail fescue	--	--	--	--	x
*Foeniculum vulgare**	Sweet fennel	--	x	x	x	--
Galium angustifolium ssp. *angustifolium*	Narrow-leafed bedstraw	x	x	x	x	--
Galium aparine	Common bedstraw	--	--	--	--	x
Geranium sp.	Geranium	--	--	--	--	x
*Glebionis coronarium**	Crown daisy	x	x	x	x	x
Gnaphalium bicolor	Bicolored everlasting	x	x	--	x	--
Gnaphalium californicum	California everlasting	--	--	--	x	--
Gnaphalium leucocephalum	White-head cudweed	--	--	--	x	--
Heliotropium curassavicum	Salt heliotrope	x	x	x	x	x
*Helminthotheca echioides**	Bristly ox-tongue	--	x	x	x	--
Hesperoyucca whipplei	Chaparral candle	--	x	--	--	--
Heterotheca grandiflora	Telegraph weed	x	x	x	x	x
*Hirschfeldia incana**	Perennial mustard	--	x	x	x	x
*Hordeum murinum**	Wild barley	x	x	--	--	x
*Hordeum vulgare**	Common barley	x	--	--	--	--
*Hypochoeris glabra**	Smooth cat's ear	--	x	--	x	x
Isocoma menziesii var. *menziesii*	Coast goldenbush	--	x	x	x	--
Juncus bufonius	Toad rush	--	x	--	x	--
Justicia californica	Chuparosa	--	--	x	--	--
*Lactuca serriola**	Prickly lettuce	x	x	x	x	x

Scientific Name	Common Name	2006 Surveys	2010 Surveys	2015 Surveys	2016 Surveys	2017 Survey
*Lamarckia aurea**	Goldentop	x	x	--	x	x
*Lamium amplexicaule**	Dead nettle	x	x	--	x	--
Lastarriaea coriacea	Lastarriaea	--	--	--	x	x
Lasthenia coronaria	Royal goldfields	--	--	--	--	x
Lepidium nitidum	Peppergrass	x	x	--	x	x
Lessingia filaginifolia var. *filaginifolia*	California sand-aster	--	x	--	x	x
*Lobularia maritima**	Sweet alyssum	x	x	--	--	--
*Logfia gallica**	Narrowleaf cottonrose	--	--	--	--	x
*Lolium perenne**	Perennial rye grass	--	x	--	--	--
Lupinus bicolor	Dove lupine	x	x	--	x	x
Lupinus concinnus	Bajada lupine	--	--	--	--	x
Lupinus hirsutissimus	Stinging lupine	x	x	--	x	x
Malacothamnus fasciculatus	Chaparral mallow	--	x	--	x	x
Malosma laurina	Laurel sumac	x	x	x	x	x
*Malva parviflora**	Cheeseweed	x	x	--	x	x
Marah macrocarpus	Wild cucumber	x	x	--	x	x
*Marrubium vulgare**	Horehound	x	x	x	x	x
Matricaria discoidea	Pineapple weed	--	--	--	--	x
*Medicago polymorpha**	Burclover	x	x	--	--	x
*Melia azedarach**	China berry tree	--	--	--	--	x
*Melilotus officinalis**	Yellow sweetclover	x	x	x	x	x
Mentha sp.*	Mint	--	--	--	x	--
*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum**	Crystalline iceplant	--	--	--	x	x
Micropus californicus		--	--	--	--	x
*Nicotiana glauca**	Tree tobacco	x	x	x	x	x
Oenothera californica	California evening primrose	x	--	--	x	--

Scientific Name	Common Name	2006 Surveys	2010 Surveys	2015 Surveys	2016 Surveys	2017 Survey
Oenothera elata	Tall yellow evening primrose	x	--	--	--	--
*Opunitia ficus-indica**	Indian-fig	--	x	x	x	x
Opuntia littoralis	Coastal prickly pear	x	x	x	--	x
*Oxalis pes-caprae**	Bermuda buttercup	--	x	--	x	--
Parkinsonia microphylla	Palo verde	--	x	--	x	--
Pectocarya penicillata	Pectocarya	x	x	x	--	--
*Pennisetum setaceum**	African fountain grass	x	x	x	x	x
Phaceclia circutaria	Catterpillar phacelia	x	x	x	x	--
Phacelia parryi	Parry's phacelia	x	x	x	x	--
*Phalaris canariensis**	Canary grass	--	x	--	--	--
*Pholistoma auritum**	Fiesta flower	x	x	--	--	x
Plagiobothrys canescens	Grey popcorn flower	--	--	--	--	x
Plagiobothrys collinus	Cooper's popcornflower	--	--	--	--	x
Platanus racemosa	Western sycamore	x	x	x	x	x
Pluchea sericea	Arrow weed	x	x	x	x	--
*Polypogon monspeliensis**	Annual beard grass	--	x	--	--	x
Populus freemontii	Cottonwood	x	x	x	x	x
Pseudognaphalium beneolens	Fragrant everlasting	--	--	--	x	--
Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum	White-head cudweed	--	--	--	--	x
Pseudognaphalium palustre	Lowland cudweed	--	--	--	--	x
Pseudognaphalium stramineum	Cottonbatting plant	--	--	--	--	x
Quercus agrifolia	Coast live oak	x	x	x	x	x
*Raphanus sativus**	Wild radish	x	x	x	x	x
Rhus ovata	Sugarbush	--	--	--	x	--
*Ricinus communis**	Castor bean	x	x	x	x	--
*Rumex crispus**	Curley dock	--	x	--		x
Salix exigua	Sandbar willow	--	x	--	x	--

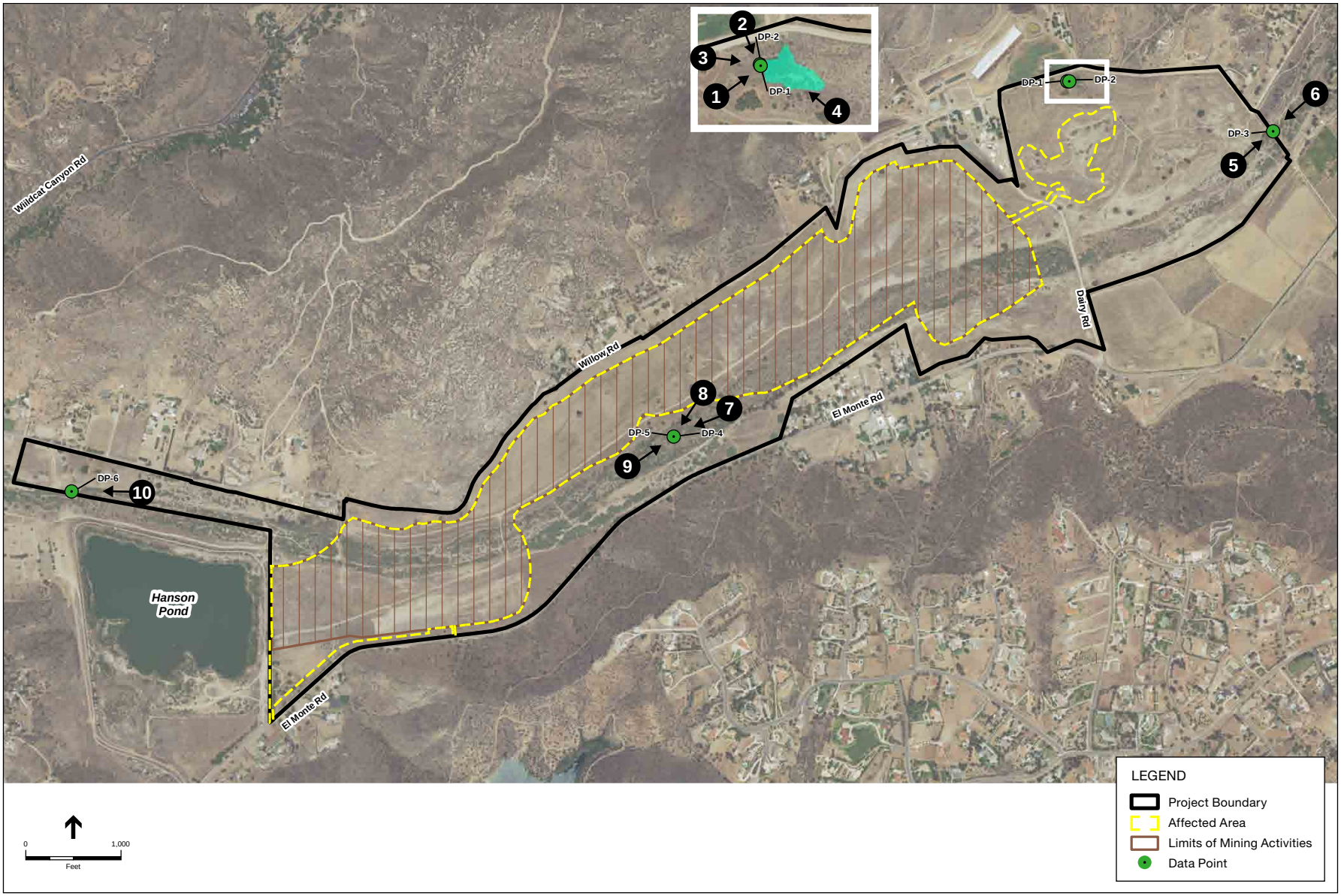
Scientific Name	Common Name	2006 Surveys	2010 Surveys	2015 Surveys	2016 Surveys	2017 Survey
Salix gooddingii	Goodding's black willow	x	x	x	x	x
Salix laevigata	Red willow	--	--	x	x	x
Salix lasiolepis	Arroyo willow	--	x	x	x	--
*Salsola tragus**	Russian thistle	x	x	--	x	x
Sambucus mexicana	Mexican elderberry	x	x	x	x	x
*Schinus molle**	Peruvian pepper tree	x	x	--	x	x
*Schinus terebinthifolius**	Brazialian pepper tree	--	x	--	x	--
*Schismus barbatus**	Mediterranean schismus	x	x	--	x	--
Scrophularia californica ssp. *floribunda*	California beeplant	--	--	--	x	--
*Senecio vulgaris**	Common grounsel	--	x	--	--	--
*Silene gallica**	Windmill pink	--	x	--	--	x
*Sisymbrium irio**	London rocket	x	--	--	x	x
Solanum americanum	Common nightshade	x	x	--	x	--
*Sonchus asper**	Spiny-leaf sow-thistle	x	x	x	x	x
*Sonchus oleraceus**	Common sow-thistle	--	x	x	x	x
*Spergularia bocconi**	Boccone's sand spurry	--	--	--	--	x
Stephanomeria virgata	Virgate wreath plant	--	x	x	x	--
Stipa lepida	Foothill needlegrass	--	x	--	x	x
Stylocline gnaphaloides	Everlasting nest straw	x	x	--	--	x
*Tamarix ramosissima**	Tamarisk/salt-cedar	x	x	x	x	x
*Taraxacum officinale**	Common dandelion	x	x	--	x	--
Thalictrum fendleri var. *polycarpum*	Many fruit meadow-rue	x	x	--	x	--
Torilis arvensis	Tall sock-destroyer	x	--	--	--	--
Toxicodendron diversilobum	Poison oak	--	x	--	x	--
*Trifolium hirtum**	Rose clover	--	--	--	--	x

Scientific Name	Common Name	2006 Surveys	2010 Surveys	2015 Surveys	2016 Surveys	2017 Survey
Urtica dioica ssp. *holosericea*	Hoary nettle	--	x	x	x	--
*Urtica urens**	Dwarf nettle	x	x	x	x	x
*Vulpia myuros**	Foxtail fescue	--	x	--	--	--
*Washingtonia robusta**	Mexican fan palm	--	x	--	--	--
Xanthium strumarium	Cocklebur	--	x	--	x	--

*=not native to California

APPENDIX C

Site Photographs



SOURCE: ESRI 2015; EnviroMine 2015

Appendix C
Site Photograph Locations

Site Photograph 1: Taken near the ponded area, facing north towards DP1.

Site Photograph 2: Taken near the ponded area, facing south towards DP2.

SOURCE: ESA 2016

Appendix C

Site Photographs 1 and 2

Site Photograph 3: Taken near the ponded area, facing northeast towards DP2. Note non-native vegetation surrounding ponded area.

Site Photograph 4: Taken near the ponded area, facing northwest towards the pond and wetland area. Note native wetland vegetation within the ponded area.

SOURCE: ESA 2016

Appendix C
Site Photographs 3 and 4

Site Photograph 5: Taken from the low-flow channel of the river, facing east towards DP3. Note channel is unvegetated and disturbed as a trail.

Site Photograph 6: Taken from the river channel, facing west towards DP3.

SOURCE: ESA 2016

Appendix C

Site Photographs 5 and 6

Site Photograph 7: Taken from an upland area adjacent to the river channel, facing west towards DP4.

Site Photograph 8: Taken from the low-flow channel of the river, facing west towards DP5. Note non-native grasses dominate the adjacent upland areas.

SOURCE: ESA 2016

Appendix C
Site Photographs 7 and 8

Site Photograph 9: Taken from the low-flow channel of the river, facing east towards DP5. Note non-native tree cover in background.

Site Photograph 10: Taken near the western boundary of the project, facing west towards DP6. Note use of channel as trail for hikers and horses.

SOURCE: ESA 2016

Appendix C

Site Photographs 9 and 10

APPENDIX G: 2011 OAK TREE ASSESSMENT REPORT

ESA Biological Resources

21650 Oxnard Street
Suite 1680
Woodland Hills, CA 91367
818.703.8600 phone
818.703.5118 fax

www.esassoc.com

memorandum

date July 21, 2011

to Tom Barnes

from Greg Ainsworth

subject El Monte Valley Oak Tree Assessment

On January 26, 2011, I assessed the oak trees located on the Helix Water District – El Monte Valley project to identify those trees that may be considered for preservation. Data were collected for the following parameters:

- Size of tree (trunk diameter, height, and crown diameter)
- Health and vigor
- Aesthetic appearance
- Equestrian value (i.e., shade and proximity to existing and future trails)
- Existing grade around trees
- Issues or unique features

All of the oak trees within the project boundary are coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). Generally, the differences between the trees are too minimal to allow for a conclusive determination on which should remain and which may be removed merely on tree health and size. Most trees are in good health and of similar age. On average, oak trees are about 35 to 40 feet tall with a crown diameter of approximately 30 to 40 feet. All trees but one are in good health and provide equestrian value. Based on the high amount of red-tailed hawk and other bird use, all of the oak trees are presumed to provide good habitat to raptor and passerine species as well as local terrestrial mammals and reptiles. Lastly, several of the trees located on the eastern portion of the project occur on man-made mounds that were created from previous golf course construction or sit along side of the river's steep embankment. Therefore, grade change from the El Monte Valley project around several of the oak trees would not drastically change the overall grade that currently exists around these trees. The trees located in the central and western portions of the site occur generally on flat terrain.

Based on my research of impacts to oak trees from construction activities and preservation techniques, and based on my own professional opinion, the following options exist for preserving the oak trees on the site while maximizing the amount of aggregate that can be mined.

While grade-changes outside the drip line and root zone of the oaks may not directly injure the tree, there are some indirect effects to consider. For example, if fill material outside the tree canopy results in change of drainage or water movement patterns so that soil under the tree is saturated, it may result in a weakening of the tree and susceptibility to crown or root rot. Also, substantial cuts away from trees may change drainage patterns and cause the soil to dry more rapidly in the summer. This could result in insufficient moisture available to the trees; in turn, they may die of a lack of water, or weaken with a greater exposure to disease.

Retaining walls could be used outside of the root zone to retain the natural grade to protect existing root zones. These walls should be constructed no closer than 5 ft from the drip line in areas where excavation and mining would occur. This will preserve the sensitive area underneath the tree that contains feeder roots located between 6 to12 inches below the surface, and will preserve available water and nutrients that are vital within this zone. This critical root zone extends to approximately 5 feet from the drip line of the tree and is often referred to as the "protective zone". I suggest no more that a 4:1 cut slope near the protective zone to preserve roots, nutrients and water, and to reduce erosion from within this zone. The ratio can be reduced to 3:1 at about double the canopy distance, and to 2:1 at approximately triple the canopy distance. In areas where fill may be required, I recommend to provide a tree well and /or aeration systems. If feasible, settling ponds associated with the processing plant and recharge basins should be designed to avoid oak trees where feasible. One possibility is to add depth to minimize width where possible.

Implementation of the measures discussed above may result in the preservation of up to 40 oak trees and the removal of only 4 trees due to permanent impact associated with proposed ponds and underground pipelines.

Another option is boxing the trees for future relocation. There are costs associated with this option to consider that include removal, boxing and storage; maintenance until they can be relocated, as well as post-planting maintenance and monitoring for approximately 5 years.

APPENDIX H: 2015 COASTAL CALIFORNIA GNATCATCHER SURVEY REPORT

ESA

550 West C Street
Suite 750
San Diego, CA 92101
619.719.4200 phone
619.719.4201 fax

www.esassoc.com

November 25, 2015

Stacey Love
Recovery Permit Coordinator
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250
Carlsbad, CA 92008

RE: Results of 2015 Coastal California Gnatcatcher Surveys for El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve Project, Lakeside, California

Dear Stacey:

The purpose of this letter is to document the results of the 2015 focused survey for coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) within the El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve Project (project) survey area. The survey area is located in the San Diego River watershed in the Lakeside Community planning area, within the unincorporated portion of San Diego County (**Figure 1**). The project site is bordered by El Monte Road to the south, Willow Road to the north, and Highway 67 to the west. The El Capitan Dam is located approximately two miles upstream and east of the project, and El Cajon Mountain is located to the northeast. The project is located within Township 15 South, Range 1 East, of portions of Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the El Cajon Mountain, California. The project site consists of approximately 489 acres and the survey area includes a 100-foot buffer around the project boundary.

Methods

CAGN is a federally threatened species, a California Species of Special Concern, and a County Group 1 species. The purpose of CAGN surveys was to determine the presence or absence of CAGN in potentially suitable habitat within the survey area. The surveys were conducted by qualified Environmental Science Associates (ESA) biologists Rosanne Humphrey and Alanna Bennett, and were performed following the most current U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service protocols (USFWS 1997). Rosanne Humphrey holds a valid USFWS permit for the CAGN **(**Recovery Permit No.: TE50466A-2).

Breeding season protocol-level surveys conducted within areas not covered by a Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) between February 15 and August 30 require six surveys to be conducted a minimum of one week apart, and non-breeding season surveys require nine surveys conducted two weeks apart. For this project, a total of nine surveys were conducted between July 10 and November 5, 2015. Surveys were conducted by walking slowly, and watching and listening for CAGN between dawn and 12:00 PM, during weather conducive to observing the species. Surveys were not conducted during inclement weather. If a bird was not observed or heard after several minutes, a recorded call was played.

Surveys were conducted within a total of 5.1 acres of CSS within the project area. The characteristic plant species of CSS are California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*). Laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), white sage (*Salvia apiana*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), bush mallow (*Malacothamnus fasciculatus*), lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*), and foothill needle grass (*Stipa lepida*) are also common species of CSS vegetation communities. Within the project site, the habitat consists of several disjunct habitat fragments, many of which were highly disturbed (i.e., low native species diversity and high cover of non-native grasses and forbs) (**Figure 2**).

Results

Table 1 summarizes the results of the nine surveys that were conducted between July 10 and November 5, 2015. CAGN was observed within three habitat fragments. Locations of CAGN occurrences, as well as other sensitive species observed while performing these surveys, are shown in **Figure 3**.

TABLE 1
2015 CAGN SURVEY RESULTS

Date	Personnel	Start Time	End Time	Observations	Environmental Conditions
7/10/2015	R. Humphrey, A. Bennett	6:50	12:00	No CAGN detected	Cloudy 69 F, wind 0-2 mph
7/24/2015	R. Humphrey, A. Bennett	7:15	12:00	**CAGN pair detected**	Sunny, 70 F, wind 0-5 mph
8/7/2015	R. Humphrey, A. Bennett	6:57	12:00	No CAGN detected	Sunny, 72 F, wind 0-2 mph
8/21/2015	R. Humphrey, A. Bennett	6:50	12:00	No CAGN detected	Partly cloudy, 71 F, wind 1-3 mph
9/4/2015	R. Humphrey	7:00	12:00	No CAGN detected	Partly cloudy, 72 F, wind 0-2 mph
9/18/2015	R. Humphrey, A. Bennett	6:40	12:00	**CAGN pair detected**	Sunny, 71 F, wind 0 mph
10/2/2015	R. Humphrey, A. Bennett	7:00	12:00	**CAGN single detected**	Sunny, 66 F, wind 0-4 mph
10/22/2015	R. Humphrey, A. Bennett	8:00	12:00	**CAGN family group detected (3 individuals)**	Sunny, 66 F, wind 0-1 mph
11/5/2015	R. Humphrey, A. Bennett	7:00	12:00	**CAGN pair detected**	Sunny, 53 F, wind 0-3 mph

CAGN was detected during five out of the nine 2015 surveys in three locations. One location is located just north of Hanson Pond. This location is just outside of the project boundary. The CSS in this location consists of a thin strip of mostly California sagebrush that is growing along a dirt access road. CAGN was also observed north of the Hanson Pond location in a patch of moderate quality CSS habitat, dominated by California buckwheat and broom baccharis, and a high cover of non-native grasses. A third observation is located east of Hanson Pond in a fairly low-quality patch of CSS, consisting primarily of scattered California buckwheat with an understory of non-

native grasses. Note that USFWS critical habitat for CAGN runs through the center of the site (**Figure 4**); however, none of the CSS onsite is high quality (larger patches, high biodiversity, low cover of invasive species). A complete list of all bird species observed during the CAGN 2015 surveys can be found in **Attachment A**.

I certify that the information in this survey report and attached exhibits fully and accurately represent my work.

Rosanne Humphrey **November 25, 2015**
Recovery Permit No.: TE50466A-2

Alanna Bennett **November 25, 2015**

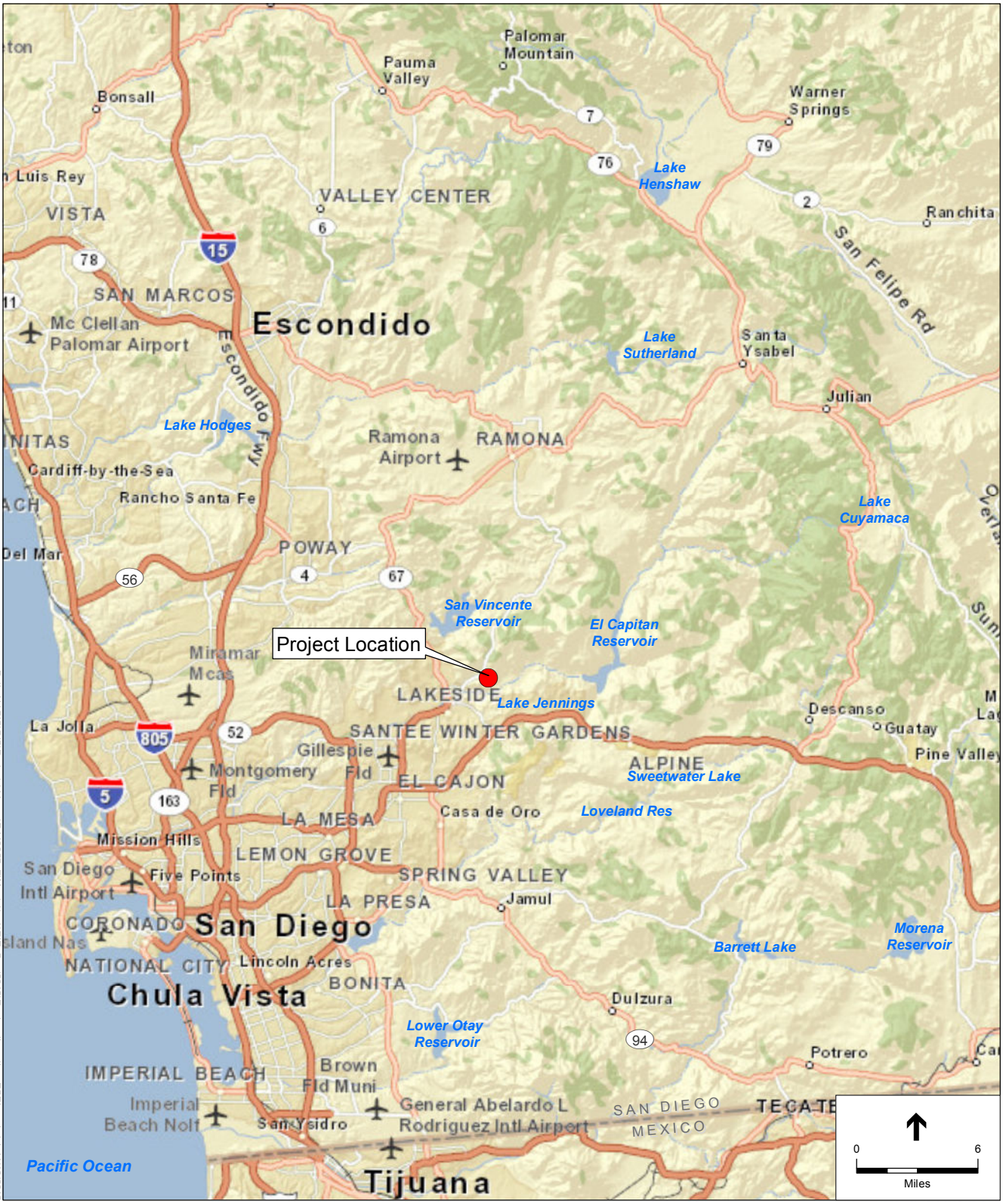
Attachments:

Figure 1. Regional Location Map
Figure 2. Vegetation Communities Map
Figure 3. Special Status Species Detected during Coastal California Gnatcatcher Surveys
Figure 4. USFWS Critical Habitat Map

Attachment A Bird Species Observed during 2015 Survey

References

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), 1997. Coastal California Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) Presence/Absence Survey Guidelines, February 28, 1997.

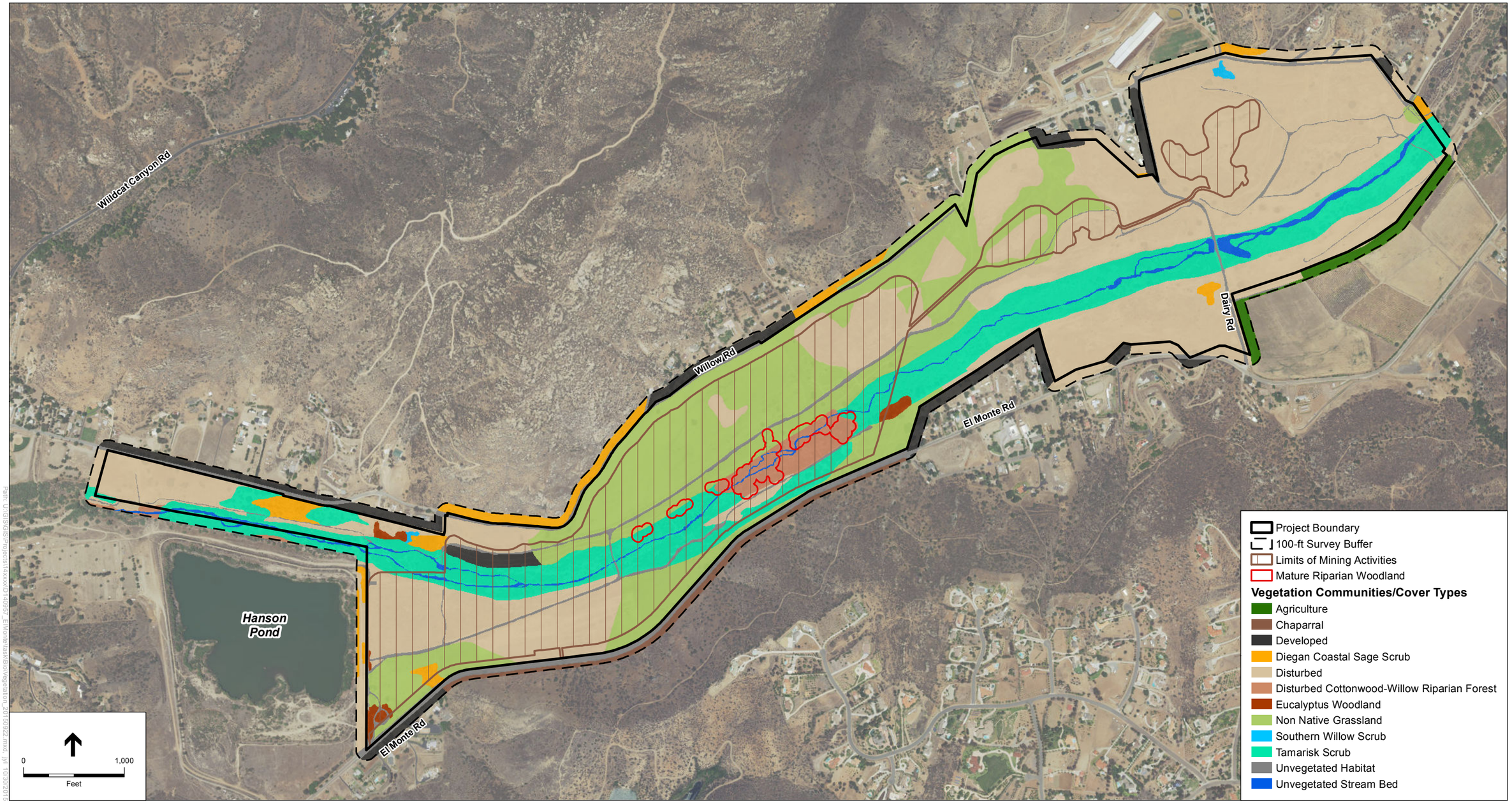


SOURCE: ESRI

El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve . 140957

Figure 1

Regional Location



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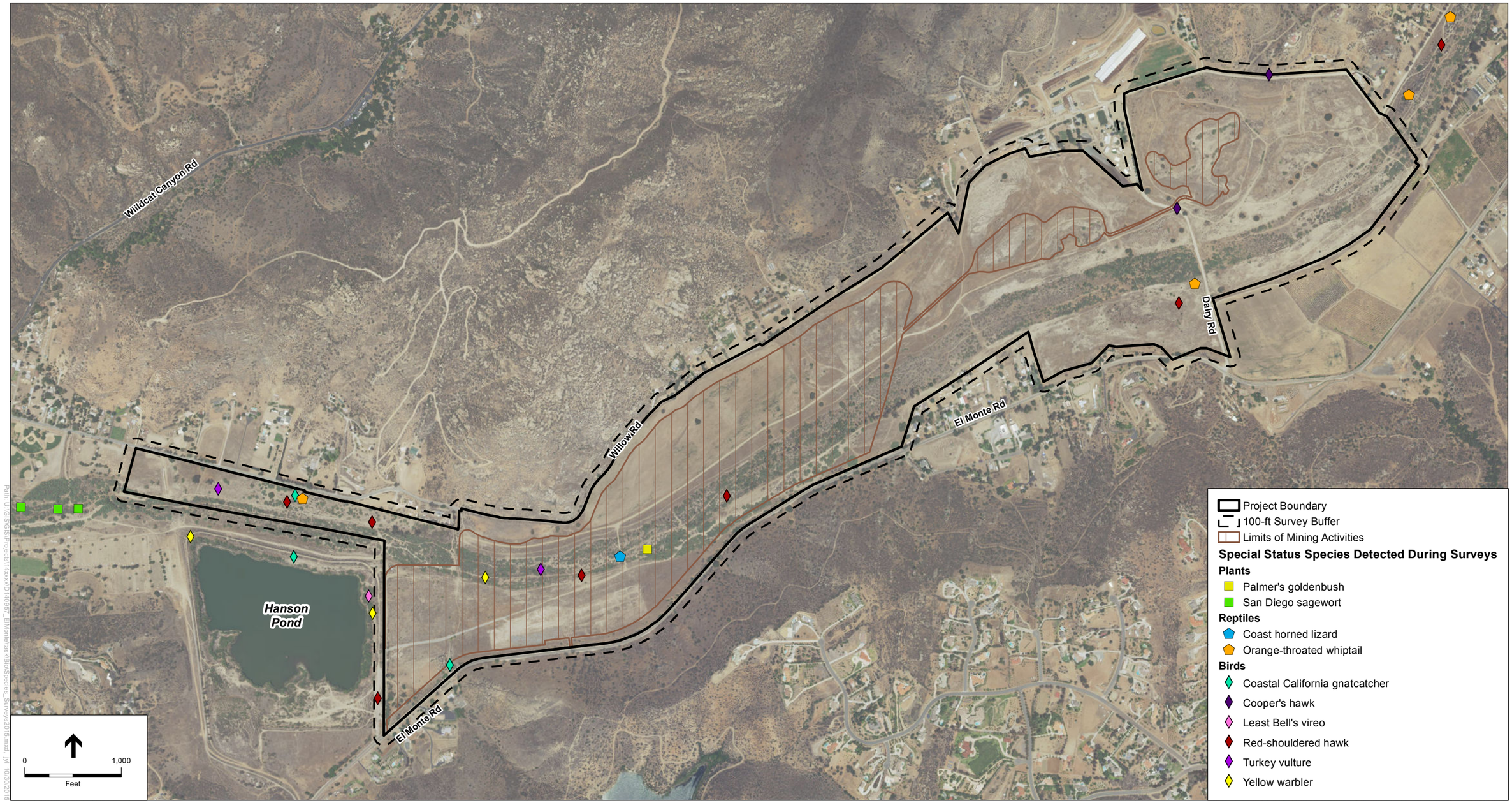
SOURCE: ESRI 2015; EnviroMine 2015

El Monte Sand Mine and Nature Preserve. D140957

Figure 2

Vegetation Communities and Cover Types



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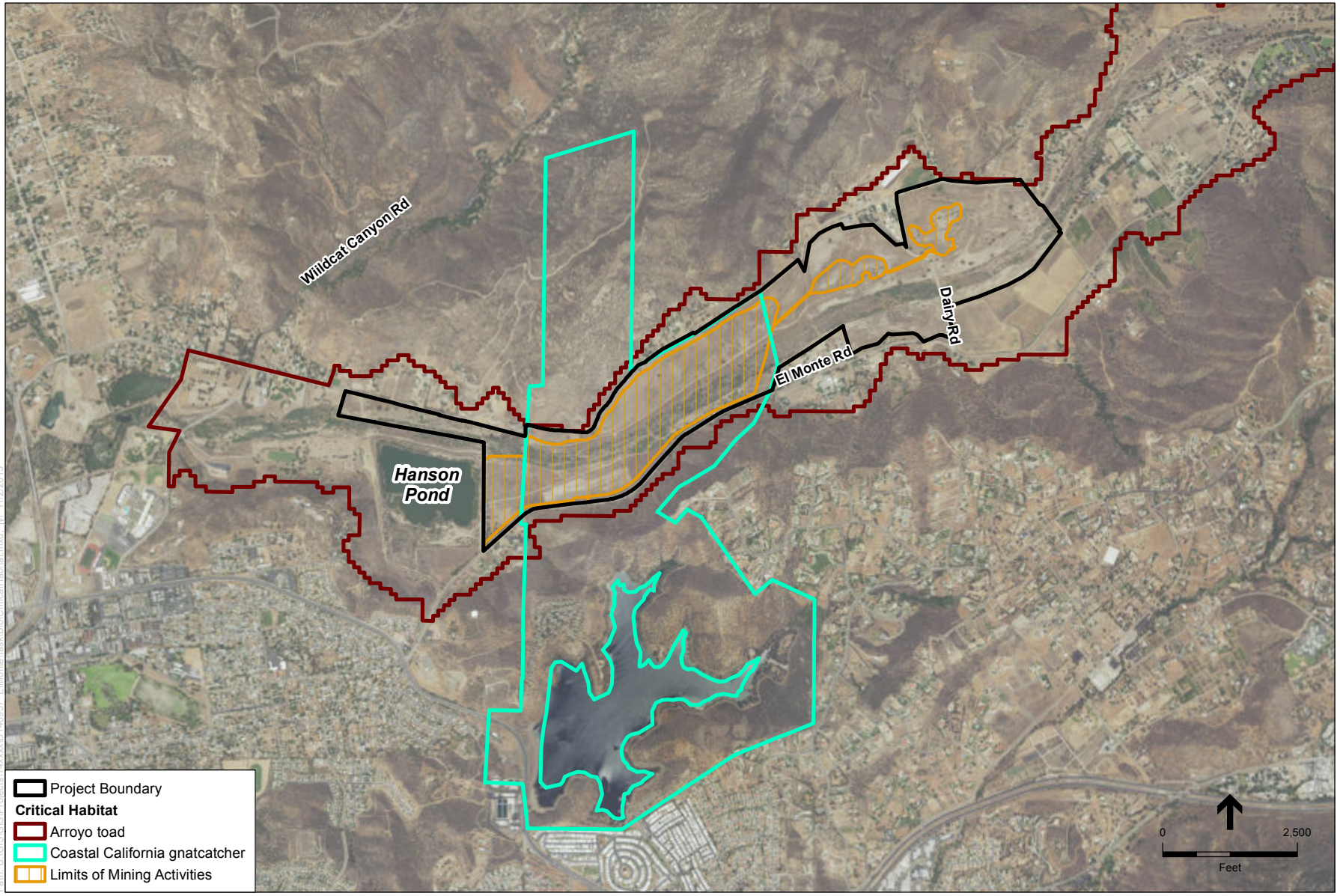
SOURCE: ESRI 2015; EnviroMine 2015

El Monte Sand Mine and Nature Preserve. D140957

Figure 3

Special Status Species Detected During 2015 Surveys



SOURCE: ESRI 2015; EnviroMine 2015; USFWS 2015

El Monte Sand Mine and Nature Preserve . D140957

Figure 4

Critical Habitat

Attachment A
BIRD SPECIES OBSERVED DURING 2015 SURVEYS

Common Name	Scientific Name
Cooper's hawk	*Accipiter cooperii*
Western scrub-jay	*Aphelocoma californica*
Great egret	*Ardea alba*
Great blue heron	*Ardea herodias*
Red-tailed hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*
Red-shouldered hawk	*Buteo lineatus*
California quail	*Callipepla californica*
Anna's hummingbird	*Calypte anna*
House finch	*Carpodacus mexicanus*
Cassin's finch	*Carpodacus cassinii*
Turkey vulture	*Cathartes aura*
Canyon wren	*Catherpes mexicanus*
Wrentit	*Chamaea fasciata*
Lark sparrow	*Chondestes grammacus*
Northern flicker	*Colaptes auratus*
American crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*
Common raven	*Corvus corax*
American kestrel	*Falco sparverius*
Greater roadrunner	*Geococcyx californianus*
Common yellowthroat	*Geothlypis trichas*
Caspian tern	*Hydroprogne caspia*
Hooded oriole	*Icterus cucullatus*
Acorn woodpecker	*Melanerpes formicivorus*
Song sparrow	*Melospiza melodia*
Northern mockingbird	*Mimus polyglottos*
Brown-headed cowbird	*Molothrus ater*
Ash-throated flycatcher	*Myiarchus cinerascens*
Osprey	*Pandion haliaetus*
Black-headed grosbeak	*Pheucticus melanocephalus*
Nuttall's woodpecker	*Picoides nuttallii*
California towhee	*Pipilo crissalis*
Spotted towhee	*Pipilo maculatus*
Blue-gray gnatcatcher	*Polioptila caerulea*
Coastal California gnatcatcher	*Polioptila californica californica*
Bushtit	*Psaltriparus minimus*
Ruby-crowned kinglet	*Regulus calendula*
Rock wren	*Salpinctes obsoletus*
Black phoebe	*Sayornis nigricans*
Say's phoebe	*Sayornis saya*
Yellow-rumped warbler	*Setophaga coronata*
Yellow warbler	*Setophaga petechia*

Common Name	Scientific Name
Lesser goldfinch	*Spinus psaltria*
Northern rough-winged swallow	*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*
Eurasian-collared dove	*Streptopelia decaocto*
European starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*
Bewick's wren	*Thryomanes bewickii*
California thrasher	*Toxostoma redivivum*
House wren	*Troglodytes aedon*
Cassin's kingbird	*Tyrannus vociferans*
Orange-crowned warbler	*Vermivora celata*
Least Bell's vireo	*Vireo bellii pusillus*
Mourning dove	*Zenaida macroura*
White-crowned sparrow	*Zonotrichia leucophrys*

APPENDIX I: 2015 LEAST BELL'S VIREO SURVEY REPORT

ESA

550 West C Street
Suite 750
San Diego, CA 92101
619.719.4200 phone
619.719.4201 fax

www.esassoc.com

August 26, 2015

Stacey Love
Recovery Permit Coordinator
Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2177 Salk Avenue, Suite 250
Carlsbad, CA 92008

RE: Results of 2015 Least Bell's Vireo Surveys for El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve Project, Lakeside, California

Dear Stacey:

The purpose of this letter is to document the results of the 2015 focused surveys for least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) within the El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve survey area. The survey area is located in the San Diego River watershed in the Lakeside Community planning area, within the unincorporated portion of San Diego County (**Figure 1**). The survey area consists of approximately 565 acres and is bordered by El Monte Road to the south, Willow Road to the north, and Highway 67 to the west. The El Capitan Dam is located about two miles upstream of the proposed survey area, to the east, and El Cajon Mountain is located to the northeast. The project is located within Township 15 South, Range 1 East, of portions of Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the El Cajon Mountain, California, USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle, San Bernardino Base and Meridian.

Methods

Least Bell's vireo (LBVI) is a state and federally-listed endangered species and a County Group 1species. The purpose of the LBVI surveys was to determine the presence or absence of LBVI in potentially suitable habitat within the survey area. The surveys were conducted by qualified Environmental Science Associates (ESA) biologists Rosanne Humphrey, Alanna Bennett, and Tommy Molioo following the most current U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service protocol (USFWS 2001). A total of eight surveys were conducted during appropriate weather conditions between May 8 and July 28, 2015.

The survey area is defined as the outer boundary within which the proposed project will be implemented. When the surveys were conducted, the project details (e.g., specific methodology and impact boundary) had not yet been finalized, as the project proponent and scope had recently changed; therefore, the survey area encompasses the largest possible area within which any project impacts could occur. Surveys were conducted in riparian habitat communities along the San Diego River corridor, which traverses east to west through the survey area. **Figure 2** shows the survey area and **Table 1** lists the acreages of each habitat and vegetation community that was surveyed. The survey area contains three communities of potentially suitable riparian habitat for

the LBVI including; southern willow scrub, southern cottonwood willow forest, and tamarisk scrub; these communities total 129.5 acres.

TABLE 1
HABITAT TYPES/VEGETATION COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE PROJECT AREA

Habitat Type	Acreage
Southern willow scrub	0.6
Disturbed cottonwood-willow riparian forest	20.3
Tamarisk scrub	08.6
TOTAL	**29.5**

Results

Least Bell's vireos are known to establish territories in riparian habitats of moderate to high quality such as the remnant riparian woodland patches observed on-site. The characteristic plant species of the southern willow scrub and cottonwood-willow habitat found within the survey areas include: Gooding's black willow (*Salix gooddingii*), Arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), and Fremont's cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*).

Southern Willow Scrub (Holland Code 63320)- Southern willow scrub is defined as a deciduous, riparian community dominated by dense thickets of one or more willow tree species and various other scattered shrubs and larger emergent trees. On-site, this community consists mainly of arroyo willow, Gooding's black willow and sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*), mixed with patches of mule fat, cottonwood, and western sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*). Much of this habitat within the survey area is between 10 and 20 feet high and varies in density.

Southern Cottonwood-Willow Riparian Forest (Holland Code 61330)- Southern cottonwood-willow riparian forest is defined as a tall, relatively open, broadleaved winter-deciduous riparian forest dominated by cottonwood trees and willow tree and shrub species with occasional emergent western sycamore trees. It usually occurs along stream banks with well-drained mineral soils. Within the survey area, southern cottonwood-willow riparian forest occurs as fragmented patches on either side of the river in the middle region and along the western edges, typically surrounded by non-native habitats such as tamarisk scrub and non-native grassland. Southern cottonwood-willow riparian forest fragments are dominated by cottonwood, arroyo willow and Gooding's willow and has an understory of native annual forbs such as mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*) and nettle (*Urtica dioica* ssp. *holosericea*).

All cottonwood-willow riparian forest fragments observed within the survey area, which totals 20.3 acres, are considered disturbed due to the relatively high abundance of non-native, invasive species such as castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), tamarisk, non-native grasses and invasive mustards. The abundance of non-native upland species and fragmented nature of this habitat observed within the survey area are likely indicative of the encroachment of more drought-tolerant and opportunistic, non-native habitats, such as tamarisk scrub (described below).

Tamarisk Scrub (Holland Code 63810)- Tamarisk scrub usually occurs as a dense monoculture where natural, riparian vegetation has been completely or almost completely replaced often by a single invasive, non-native tamarisk species. It usually forms in sandy or gravelly braided washes or intermittent streams in areas where high evaporation increases stream salinity. Tamarisk is a strong phreatophyte (a deep-rooted plant that obtains water from a permanent ground supply or from the water table) and prolific seeder with a high tolerance to changes in salinity and water table depth—attributes that predispose the species to be aggressive competitors in disturbed riparian corridors, where it can quickly supersede existing native riparian species.

Tamarisk scrub covers 108.6 acres of the project area and is characterized by sparse to dense stands that included chiefly tamarisk (*Tamarix ramossisima*) with little to no understory. Dense patches within the river channel are generally impenetrable, while open stands observed both within the channel and in upland areas are punctuated by patches of curly dock (*Rumex* sp.), castor-bean, cockle-bur (*Xanthium strumarium*), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), and pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*). In various areas this habitat contains remnants of native habitats that include mule fat, broom baccharis (*Baccharis sarothroides*), scattered individual willow and cottonwood trees, and infrequent western sycamore trees; however, those areas are not large enough to be identifiable as functional native woodland or scrub communities. Tamarisk scrub is the most commonly observed habitat within and surrounding the river channel and floodplain, as well as in some upland areas adjacent to the channel.

Table 2 summarizes the results of the eight surveys that were conducted between May 8 and July 28, 2015. During these surveys, avian species were identified aurally and visually with 8 X 42 or similar binoculars between dawn and 11:00 AM. Surveys were not conducted during inclement weather. Locations of LBVI observations were recorded with a GPS device and mapped.

TABLE 2
2015 LBVI SURVEY RESULTS

Date	Personnel	Start Time	End Time	Observations	Environmental Conditions
5/8/2015	R. Humphrey, A. Bennett	7:50	11:00	No LBVI detected	Cloudy and drizzly, 48 F, wind 0-2 mph
5/22/2015	R. Humphrey, A. Bennett	6:40	11:00	No LBVI detected	Cloudy and drizzly, 57 F, wind 0-5 mph
6/2/2015	R. Humphrey, A. Bennett	6:50	11:00	No LBVI detected	Sunny, 68 F, wind 1-3 mph
6/12/2015	R. Humphrey, A. Bennett	6:50	11:00	LBVI detected	Cloudy, 69 F, wind 1-3 mph
6/23/2015	T. Molioo, A. Bennett	7:15	11:00	No LBVI detected	Sunny, 80 F, wind 0-1 mph
7/6/2015	R. Humphrey, A. Bennett	6:50	11:00	LBVI detected	Cloudy and humid, 71 F, wind 1-2 mph
7/16/2015	R. Humphrey, A. Bennett	7:00	11:00	LBVI detected	Cloudy, 70 F, wind 2-4 mph
7/28/2015	R. Humphrey, A. Bennett	7:15	11:00	No LBVI detected	Sunny, 69 F, wind 0-5 mph

One LBVI territory was detected and mapped on-site (Figure 2). LBVI was detected in this location during three separate surveys that occurred on June 12, July 6, and July 16. Attachment A lists all bird species that were observed during the 2015 surveys.

Sincerely,

Rosanne Humphrey
Senior Biologist

Attachments:

Figure 1	**Regional Location**
Figure 2	**Survey Area and Biological Resources**
Attachment A	**Bird Species Observed during 2015 Surveys**

References

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), 2001. Least Bell's Vireo Survey Guidelines, January 19, 2001.

I certify that the information in this survey report and attached exhibits fully and accurately represents my work.

Rosanne Humphrey **August 26, 2015**

Alanna Bennett **August 26, 2015**

Tommy Molioo **August 26, 2015**

SOURCE: ESRI

El Monte Sand Mining and Nature Preserve . 140957

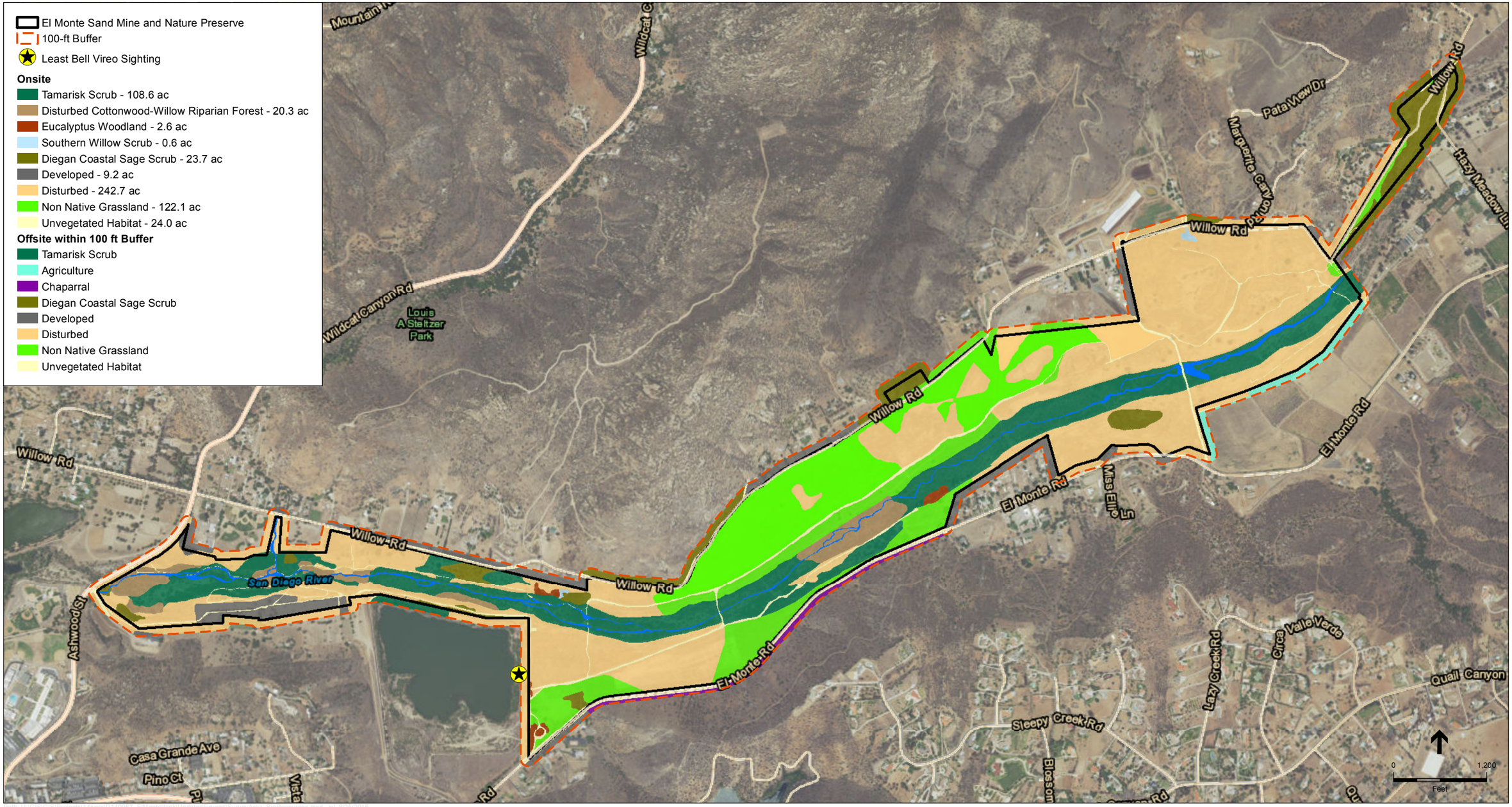
Figure 1

Regional Location

El Monte Sand Mine and Nature Preserve
100-ft Buffer
Least Bell Vireo Sighting

Onsite
- Tamarisk Scrub - 108.6 ac
- Disturbed Cottonwood-Willow Riparian Forest - 20.3 ac
- Eucalyptus Woodland - 2.6 ac
- Southern Willow Scrub - 0.6 ac
- Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub - 23.7 ac
- Developed - 9.2 ac
- Disturbed - 242.7 ac
- Non Native Grassland - 122.1 ac
- Unvegetated Habitat - 24.0 ac

Offsite within 100 ft Buffer
- Tamarisk Scrub
- Agriculture
- Chaparral
- Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub
- Developed
- Disturbed
- Non Native Grassland
- Unvegetated Habitat



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SOURCE: ESRI; EnviroMine; ESA 2015

El Monte Sand Mine and Nature Preserve. D140957

Figure 2

Survey Area and Biological Resources

ATTACHMENT A

BIRD SPECIES OBSERVED DURING 2015 SURVEYS

Common Name	Scientific Name
Cooper's hawk	*Accipiter cooperii*
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*
Western scrub-jay	*Aphelocoma californica*
Black-chinned hummingbird	*Archilochus alexandri*
Great egret	*Ardea alba*
Great blue heron	*Ardea herodias*
Oak titmouse	*Baeolophus inornatus*
Red-tailed hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*
Red-shouldered hawk	*Buteo lineatus*
California quail	*Callipepla californica*
Anna's hummingbird	*Calypte anna*
Costa's hummingbird	*Calypte costae*
Cactus wren	*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*
House finch	*Carpodacus, mexicanus*
Turkey vulture	*Cathartes aura*
Wrentit	*Chamaea fasciata*
Lark sparrow	*Chondestes grammacus*
American crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*
Common raven	*Corvus corax*
Pacific-slope flycatcher	*Empidonax difficilis*
Greater roadrunner	*Geococcyx californianus*
Common yellowthroat	*Geothlypis trichas*
Barn swallow	*Hirundo rustica*
Caspian tern	*Hydroprogne caspia*
Bullock's oriole	*Icterus bullockii*
Hooded oriole	*Icterus cucullatus*
Acorn woodpecker	*Melanerpes formicivorus*
Song sparrow	*Melospiza melodia*
Northern mockingbird	*Mimus polyglottos*
Brown-headed cowbird	*Molothrus ater*
Ash-throated flycatcher	*Myiarchus cinerascens*

Common Name	Scientific Name
Phainopepla	*Phainopepla nitens*
Black-headed grosbeak	*Pheucticus melanocephalus*
Nuttall's woodpecker	*Picoides nuttallii*
California towhee	*Pipilo crissalis*
Spotted towhee	*Pipilo maculatus*
Bushtit	*Psaltriparus minimus*
Common grackle	*Quiscalus quiscula*
Black phoebe	*Sayornis nigricans*
Say's phoebe	*Sayornis saya*
Yellow warbler	*Setophaga petechia*
Western bluebird	*Sialia mexicana*
White-breasted nuthatch	*Sitta carolinensis*
Lesser goldfinch	*Spinus psaltria*
American goldfinch	*Spinus tristis*
Northern rough-winged swallow	*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*
Eurasian-collared dove	*Streptopelia decaocto*
Bewick's wren	*Thryomanes bewickii*
California thrasher	*Toxostoma redivivum*
House wren	*Troglodytes aedon*
Western kingbird	*Tyrannus verticalis*
Cassin's kingbird	*Tyrannus vociferans*
Least Bell's vireo	*Vireo bellii pusillus*
Mourning dove	*Zenaida macroura*

APPENDIX J: USGS HERPETOFAUNAL SPECIES MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS MEMO

U. S. Department of the Interior
U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WESTERN ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTER
San Diego Field Station
4165 Spruance Road
San Diego, California 92101
Phone (619) 225-6420

September 21, 2017

Mr. William Adams
El Monte Nature Preserve, LLC
1335 San Lucas Court
Solana Beach, CA 92075

Re: El Monte Sand Mining Project – Suggestions For Herpetofaunal Mitigation Plan

Dear Mr. Adams:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed project and suggested mitigations for the herpetofauna. We have been conducting extensive research on reptiles and amphibians in southern California since the mid-1990's and have gained and published knowledge and insight into reserve design, restoration, and impacts to these species. We have worked across many habitat types, and the opportunity to work in the El Monte Valley and the sand deposits there was unique for us, and we hope our suggestions are helpful in mitigating impacts from proposed projects and for restoring the biodiversity once the projects are completed.

As we discussed, the following are a suggested mitigation plan elements to address the potential impacts to herpetofaunal species from the proposed El Monte Sand Mining Project (proposed project). The project site is a total of approximately 479.5 acres and mining activities would occur within approximately 236 acres. The proposed project is located in El Monte Valley in the Lakeside Community planning area, within the unincorporated portion of San Diego County. It is bordered by El Monte Road to the south and Willow Road to the north and is 1.5 miles east of SR-67, where SR-67 crosses the San Diego River, and is three miles west of the El Capitan Dam.

Biologists from the USGS Western Ecological Research Center conducted field surveys on the Project Site (MUP Boundary) (hereinafter referred to project site) and in El Monte Valley from June 2015 to May 2016. According to our recent publication, "Rare alluvial sands of El Monte Valley, California (San Diego County), support high herpetofaunal species richness and diversity, despite severe disturbance" (Richmond, Rochester, Smith, Nordland, and Fisher 2016, Southwestern Naturalist 61:294-306), the project site and El Monte Valley has been found to support a variety of herpetofaunal species, including state Species of Special Concern and County Group I and Group II

species such as the California glossy snake (*Arizona elegans occidentalis*), despite an on-going drought and prominent habitat disturbance throughout the project site and El Monte Valley.

In order to mitigate for potential impacts to various herpetofaunal species found on the project site and in El Monte Valley that could occur from implementation of the proposed project, the following mitigation measures are recommended by the USGS:

1. Impacts to herpetofaunal species could include the removal of habitat and disturbance of species within mining areas or fuel modification areas during the site preparation and sand mining components of the proposed project. To avoid and minimize these impacts, the following measures could be implemented:

    a. Trapping and collection of herpetofaunal species prior to any site preparation and mining activities. Once the herpetofaunal species are collected, they could be relocated to and set free outside of the mining boundaries, in the eastern portion of the project site, east of Dairy Road. They could be marked to track over time the success of this action.

    b. A qualified Biologist should conduct a preconstruction herpetofaunal species survey no more than 10 days prior to excavation activities associated with site preparation and sand mining activities in a particular area of the project site. Surveys need not be conducted for the entire project site at one time; they may be phased so that surveys occur in portions of the project site shortly before excavation is to occur.

    c. Overburden excavated and collected during site preparation and mining activities should be moved (to the extent feasible) to the eastern portion of the project site, outside of the mining limits, to improve the habitat for the herpetofaunal species on the project site and in the El Monte Valley. Particularly as fill into some of the previously dug holes in the eastern portion of the site where limited species observations have been documented.

Thank you for working with us to develop and implement an appropriate herpetofaunal species mitigation plan for the proposed project. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at (619) 225-6422 or rfisher@usgs.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert Fisher, Biologist
USGS Western Ecological Research Center
San Diego Field Station

cc: Eric Ruby, ESA
Trina Abbott, The Altum Group

APPENDIX K: MITIGATION REQUIREMENTS PER APPROVAL OF MSCP BOUNDARY LINE ADJUSTMENT REQUEST

Appendix K

Mitigation Requirements Per Approval of MSCP Boundary Line Adjustment Request

As discussed in the *El Monte Sand Mining Project Biological Resources Report* (BRR), the project proposes a Boundary Line Adjustment (BLA) to the Pre-Approved Mitigation Area (PAMA) of the County of San Diego (County) Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Subarea Plan (County of San Diego 1997). In accordance with the MSCP, adjustments to the preserve boundaries can be made without amending a subarea plan if the adjustment would result in the same or higher biological value of the preserve and with concurrence from the wildlife agencies (i.e., CDFW and USFWS). The proposed BLA would contribute the total 479.5-acre project area to the PAMA of the County's MSCP Subarea Plan thereby increasing the total size of the PAMA. A written request for the BLA has been submitted to the wildlife agencies for concurrence and is included as Appendix V to the Draft EIR (ESA 2018a).

If the requested BLA is approved, mitigation for the project would be required in accordance with the Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO). If the BLA is not approved, another process may be identified as determined by the state and federal wildlife agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife) Mitigation requirements per the BMO would be dependent on whether the impacted land and mitigation land qualifies as a biological core resource area (BCRA), per section 86.506 of the BMO. In this case, mitigation for the project would be onsite, thus the impacted land and mitigation land are the same. Based on the analysis discussed in the BRR, it is anticipated the site would be considered a BCRA, for the following reasons consistent with the BMO:

- The project is within Lake Jennings/Wildcat Canyon Biological Resource Core Area (County of San Diego 1997). The site does offer function as east-west and north-south corridor across and through the western portion of El Monte Valley, including access across the valley to Lake Jennings, although its viability as a north-south habitat linkage could be improved by revegetation by converting non-native, structurally limited vegetation onsite to native vegetation.

- The land is located within an area of habitat which contains biological resources that support or contribute to the long-term survival of sensitive species. One special-status wildlife species of note, the glossy snake (*Arizona elegans*), was detected by U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) biologists in 2016 and was the second most frequently detected snake out of 13 species detected within the project area during a focused herpetofauna assessment of the El Monte Valley (Richmond et al. 2016). The USGS assessment concluded the El Monte Valley where the project is located has high herpetological species richness and diversity.

- The land is adjacent or contiguous to preserved habitat that is within the preapproved mitigation area, as shown in Figure 10 of the BRR.

- The land contains a high number of sensitive species and is adjacent and contiguous with surrounding undisturbed habitats.

Based on these reasons, if the requested BLA is approved, mitigation ratios for each tier are based on the assumption that both the impacted land and conserved land meet the criteria for biological core resource area and are presented in accordance with Table 4-8 *Schedule of Mitigation Ratios* in the MSCP (County of San Diego 1997). Anticipated impacts, tier, mitigation ratios per Table 4-8, and required mitigation is presented by community in **Table 1**.

TABLE 1. VEGETATION COMMUNITIES, IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION (ACRES)

Habitat Type / Vegetation Community	Tier	Total Impacts	Mitigation Ratio[1]	Mitigation Required
Riparian and Wetlands				
Southern Cottonwood-willow Riparian Forest	I	0.00	2:1	0.00
Southern Willow Scrub	I	0.12	2:1	0.24
Tamarisk Scrub[3]	I	41.81	2:1	83.62
Non-Vegetated Channel	I	0.36	2:1	0.72
Subtotal		*42.29*		*84.58*
Uplands				
Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub	II	3.61	1.5:1	5.42
Non-Native Grassland	III	86.55	0.5:1	43.27
Eucalyptus Woodland	IV	1.30	N/A	0.00
Subtotal		*91.46*		*48.69*
Other Cover Types				
Disturbed Habitat	IV	126.04	N/A	0.00
Developed	IV	2.55	N/A	0.00
Subtotal		*128.59*		*0.00*
Mine Project Totals[2]		**262.34**		**133.27**
2005 Golf Course Totals		**0.18[4]**	**2:1[4]**	**0.36**
Totals		**265.62**		**133.63**

[1] Habitat mitigation ratios are provided from MSCP Table 4-8, consistent with the County's BMO.
[2] Due to rounding, totals may differ slightly from numbers in column.
[3] Although a nonnative vegetation type, tamarisk scrub is considered a Tier I community.
[4] Grading in 2005 from the previously approved golf course project that was halted temporarily impacted 0.18 acre of disturbed riparian scrub (tamarisk scrub). The planned golf course cart path crossing of the river associated with this grading was not ultimately constructed. This is the only impact to a sensitive vegetation community outside of the planned mine project footprint that requires mitigation. This riparian habitat shall be mitigated at a 2:1 replacement ratio in accordance with Table 4-8 of the MSCP (County of San Diego 1997) by conducting 0.36 acre of southern willow scrub restoration in mining Phase 1.

Additionally, a total of 0.18 acre of disturbed riparian scrub was impacted in 2005 by the previous golf course project outside of the current proposed mine area. It is currently proposed in the Revegetation Plan (ESA 2018b) to mitigation for these impacts at a 3:1 replacement ratio through the restoration of 0.54 acre of riparian scrub on-site. If the

BLA is approved, mitigation would be required at a 2:1 ratio, thus 0.36 acre of riparian scrub mitigation would be required instead of 0.54, which is reflected in Table 1.

It should be noted that mitigation as currently presented in the Biological Resources Report (ESA 2018c) and Revegetation Plan (2018b) are in accordance with the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance for Biological Resources (September 2010) per the current status of the project site as outside of the MSCP. If the BLA is approved, mitigation ratios and acreages for the project would be adjusted in accordance with the MSCP, as detailed in Table 1 above. If the BLA is not approved, additional mitigation may be required by the wildlife agencies and/or a different process to amend the project into the MSCP may be required by the wildlife agencies.

References

County of San Diego. 1997. MSCP Subarea Plan. Adopted October 22.

Environmental Science Associates (ESA). 2018a. Draft Environmental Impact Report. El Monte Sand Mining Project, PDS2015-MUP-98-014W2, PDS2014-RP-15-001; LOG NO. PDS2015-ER-98-14-016B, SCH No. 1996091016. July.

Environmental Science Associates (ESA). 2018b. Draft Revegetation Plan for the El Monte Sand Mining Project. July.