

A-3.4 CALIFORNIA FISH AND WILDLIFE ATTACHMENT 4

Comment Letter A-3.4

Attachment 4

Email from Rob Cameron to City of Chula Vista and
Wildlife Agencies referencing the Baldwin
Agreement with Graphic Showing
PV1, PV2, PV3 to “Add Preserve”

A-3.4-1

From: "Rob Cameron" <rcameron@otayranch.com>
To: GLaube@ci.chula-vista.ca.us; mlundstedt@ci.chula-vista.ca.us;
 Cathleen_Brubaker@fws.gov; ELucas@dfg.ca.gov; Amber_Himes@fws.gov
Date: 2/26/2009 4:42:45 PM
Subject: Quarry boundary Adjustment

Thank you all for meeting with us last week to discuss the proposed MSCP boundary adjustment adjacent to the rock quarry. We are in the process of responding to all of your comments, but thought we would transmit a few of the more immediate items early. We have tried to briefly respond to some of the initial concerns you raised in our meeting.

1) With regard to the bio data, we are attaching exhibits that show 1) the survey boundaries and results from the Village Two/Three analyses conducted in 2003 and 2004; and (2) the survey boundaries and results from the 2007 surveys completed in conjunction with the CORR mining permits. For the areas outside these survey boundaries, we provided the species and vegetation data from the MSCP data set in the exhibits delivered to you previously. In this regard, please note - as we tried to explain in our meeting - that the MSCP data concluded that there were no species occupying the area that we are proposing to take, and there is no evidence to suggest that this area was included in the reserve due to the presence or densities of gnatcatchers within this portion of the Preserve. In addition, the more recent surveys show gnatcatcher and other sensitive occurrences in and adjacent to the vegetation polygons that we are proposing to add to the Preserve. The 2007 survey, for example, shows gnatcatcher sightings in and around the .5 acre parcel of coastal sage in the southeast corner of the quarry property and in the vicinity of the 12.9 acre parcel of coastal sage along the western boundary of the quarry. Likewise, the 2003/2004 surveys show numerous special status plant species and a gnatcatcher sighting in the area adjacent to and within the Village 3 area that we are proposing to restore and add to the Preserve.

2) With regard to the RDA/LDA areas, you expressed concern that the location of the RDA/LDA areas might indicate that the original intent of the RMP was to preserve a corridor through this area and that the boundary adjustment might be compromising that intent. While you may be correct as to the original intent of the LDAs, the preserve design in that area has, with the consent of the agencies, already been changed dramatically reducing the effectiveness of habitat connectivity in this area. When the LDAs were first established, they effectively served as an "entrance" into a 70 acre finger of the Preserve leading to the top of Rock Mountain (see attached RMP Preserve exhibit). In 1995, however, as a result of the "Baldwin Agreement," the USFWS, CDFG, City of Chula Vista and the County of San Diego, all agreed that this area was not a significant enough resource to preserve and, thus, agreed to eliminate

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70 acres from the Preserve and provide for development instead. attached Baldwin Agreement exhibit). What remains, even with the is literally an appendage of the Preserve with a high edge to area , exposed to adverse indirect effects from an operating quarry all the noise, air, dust and other effects associated with daily ing, trucking and crushing operations) and approved residential opment in Village 4. Connectivity with Rock Mountain is no longer mpleted as part of the Preserve.

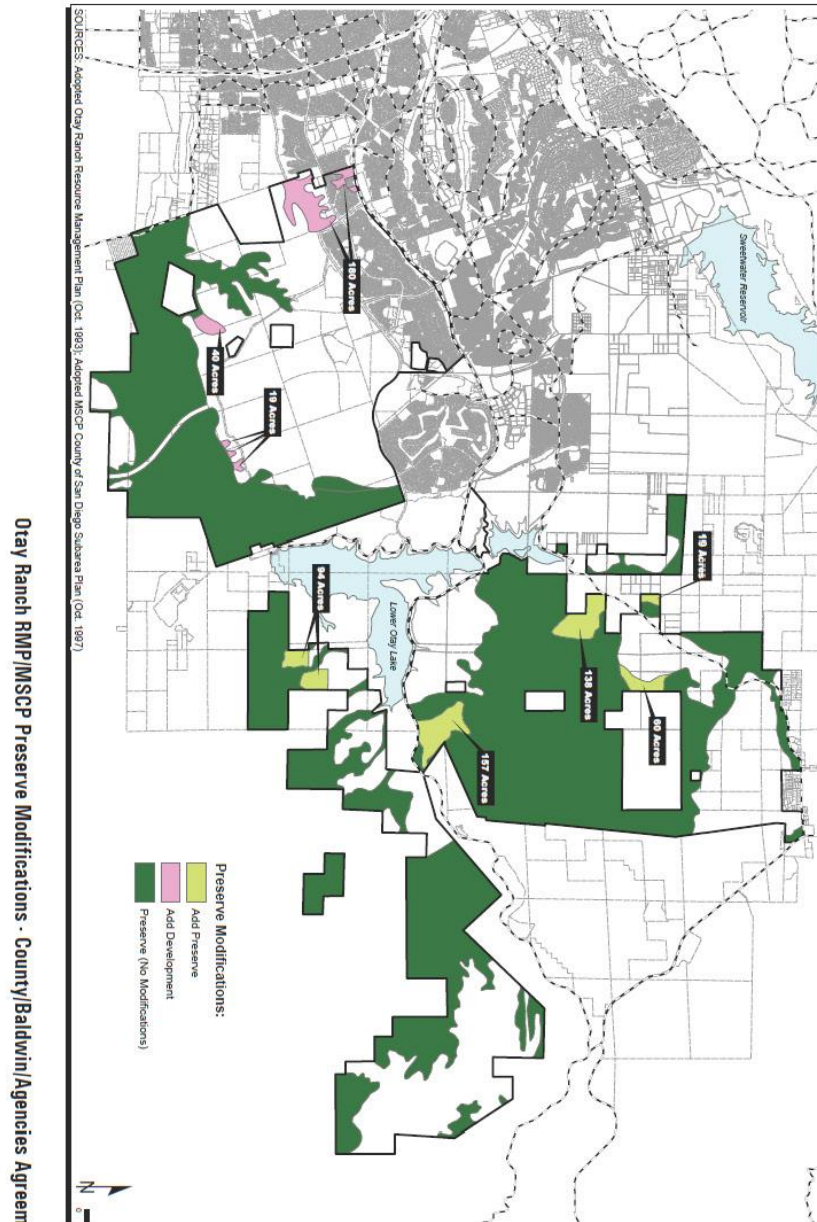
rtually all of our conversations with the agencies over the years, ve been informed that this isolated "sliver" of habitat is merely nant, and is not deemed to be an important part of the Preserve. In t meetings - reiterating this position -- we were told that the ies would prefer to support expansion of this quarry as a regional rather than encouraging new quarries in other areas (e.g., Otay . With this in mind, we hope you understand why we were somewhat aback the other day by what we perceived to be hesitation on your to move forward with the boundary adjustment. This is, as we have ined to you, a very important issue to us and - our self interest - involves a quarry that SANDAG and others have identified as a cal asset for southern California as we move into the next decades. e hopeful that all concerned will agree with the Dudek conclusion the overall proposal significantly improves the design of the rve while impacting, on a net basis, only 6 acres of poorly located al sage within an 11,375 acre Preserve.

ll continue to put together a response to all of your comments, ding the additional data and technical analyses you requested, and hat to you as quickly as possible.

you again for all of your time the other day.

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Attachment "Baldwin Agreement Exhibit"



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