Attachment A

County of San Diego

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
5500 OVERLAND AVENUE, SUITE 410, SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
www.sdparks.org

~~November 15, 2023~~February29, 2024

~~Draft~~ Final

CEQA Initial Study – Environmental Checklist Form
(Based on the State CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G)

STATE CLEARING HOUSE NO. 2023110494

1. Project Name:

   Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Habitat Restoration Plan (Proposed Project)

2. Lead agency name and address:
   County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation
   5500 Overland Avenue, Suite 410
   San Diego, CA 92123-1239

3. Contacts:
   Kiran Seibel, Project Manager
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   ~~Email: MeganE.Doran@sdcounty.ca.gov~~

4. Project location:

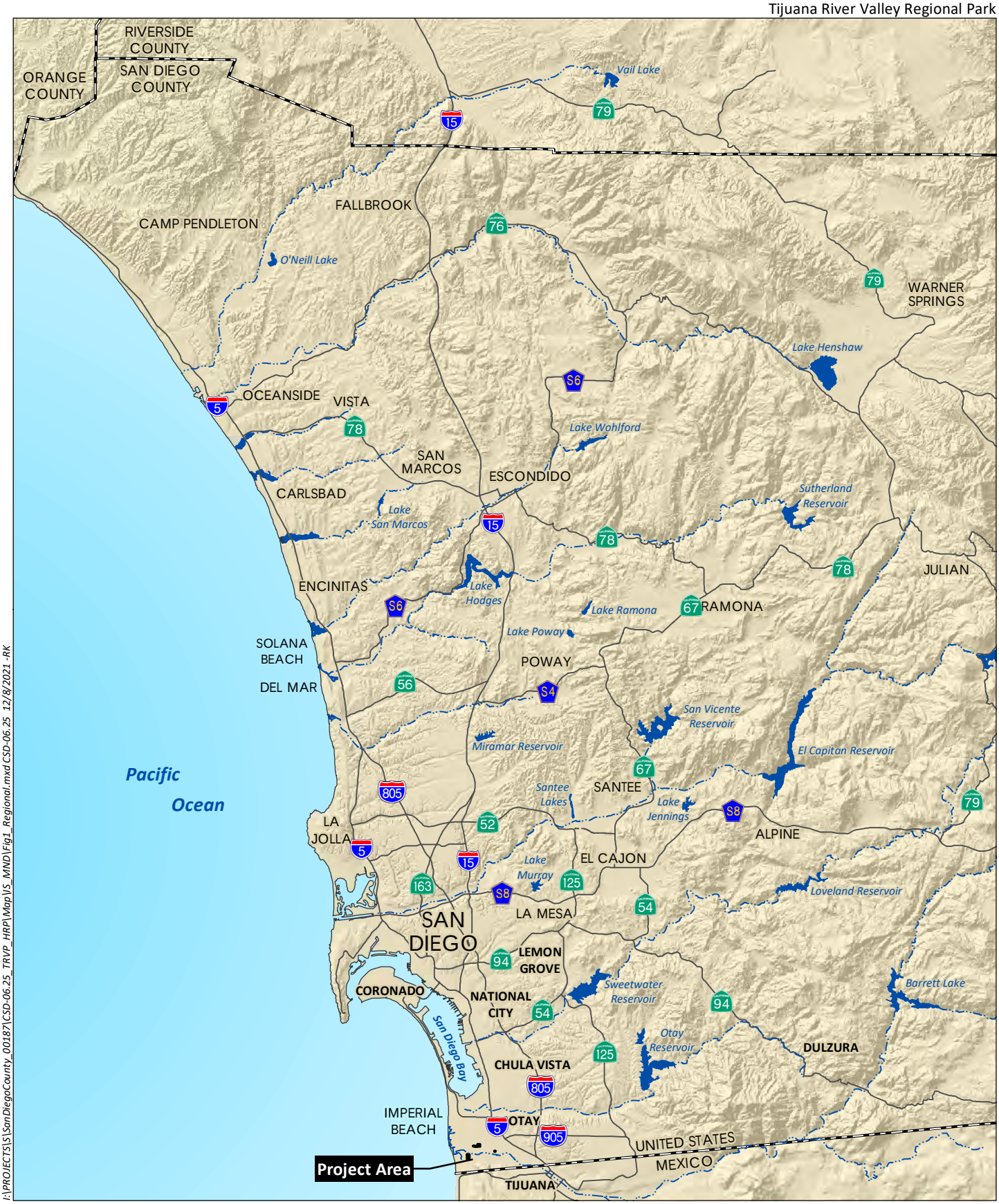
The Proposed Project area is the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park (TRVRP). The greater TRVRP encompasses 1,800 acres within the City of San Diego (City). Approximately 1,617 acres of the 1,800-acre TRVRP are owned by the County of San Diego (County), with the remaining other landowners consisting of the City, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), U.S. Federal government, and private entities. TRVRP is found in southwestern San Diego County (Figure 1, *Regional Location*). The Proposed Project is a grant-funded Habitat Restoration Plan (HRP) for restoration activities on County parcels located within the TRVRP (Appendix A).

The area covered by the HRP (Proposed Project area) totals approximately 1,740 acres. The Proposed Project area is the combination of the approximately 1,617 acres of County-owned and County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)-managed lands and approximately 123 acres of City-owned land. City-owned areas are included in this HRP to provide an opportunity for contiguous habitat restoration. Before moving forward with phases that include these areas, DPR would coordinate with the City and obtain all necessary approvals and agreements.

The TRVRP is bound to the north by Sunset Avenue, to the south by the U.S.-Mexico International Border, to the west by Border Field State Park and the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR), and to the east by Dairy Mart Road and the residential community of San Ysidro (except for the part of the Dairy Mart Ponds that extend further east between the Interstate 5 (I-5) corridor and Camino de la Plaza). The Proposed Project area is situated within Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 32, 33, 34, and 35, Townships 18 and 19 South, and Range 2 West of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Imperial Beach topographic quadrangle map (Figure 2, *Project Vicinity [Aerial Photograph]*). The entire Proposed Project area is located within the coastal zone and portions of the Proposed Project area along the Tijuana River are designated by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as final critical habitat for the Federally listed endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*). Designated Federal and State open space is found next to the Proposed Project area and includes Border Field State Park, TRNERR, and the Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge (TSNWR; Figure 3, *Regional Designations and Conserved Lands*).

The Proposed Project area is within the Coastal Zone, with portions in the Appealable Area and portions within the Deferred Certification Area. Appealable area means the area, as defined by California Public Resources Code Section 30603, within the coastal zone that constitutes the appeal jurisdiction of the California Coastal Commission (CCC). This area includes lands between the sea and the first public road paralleling the sea, or within 300 feet of the inland extent of any beach or of the mean high tideline of the sea where there is no beach, whichever is the greater distance; or within 100 feet of any wetland, estuary, or stream, or within 300 feet of the top of the seaward face of any coastal bluff. Development within this zone is regulated under the City's approved Local Coastal Program (LCP), although the CCC retains appeal authority. Developments in deferred certification areas designated by the certified LCP require a permit or exemption issued by the CCC in accordance with the procedures specified by the Coastal Act.

The TRVRP is composed of 88 Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) owned by the County, City, state of California, U.S. Federal government, and private landowners (Figure 3 and Table 1, *TRVRP Ownership Summary*).



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Source: Base Map Layers (SanGIS, 2016)

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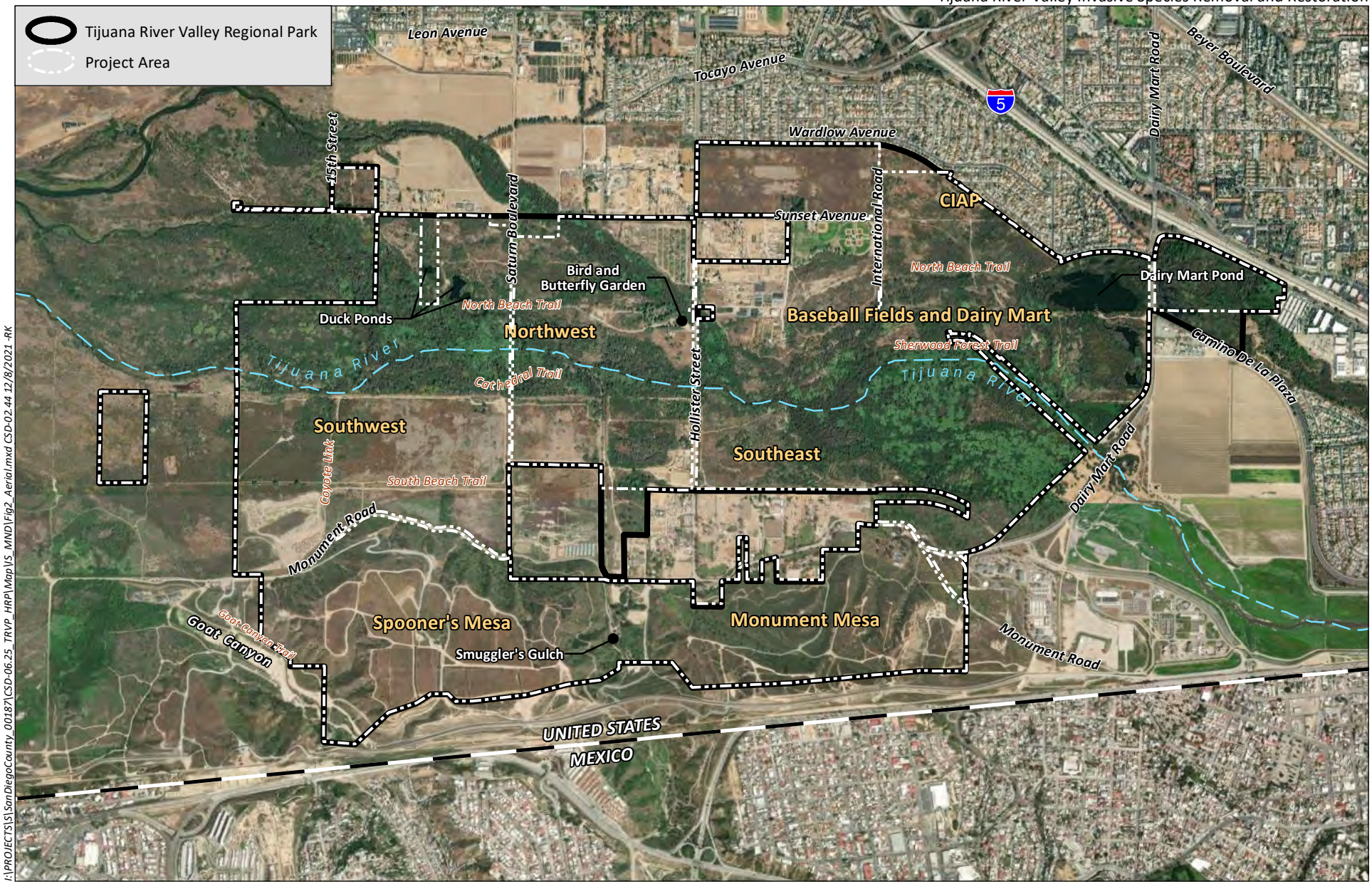
Regional Location

Figure 1



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Source: Aerial Photo (Esri 2020)

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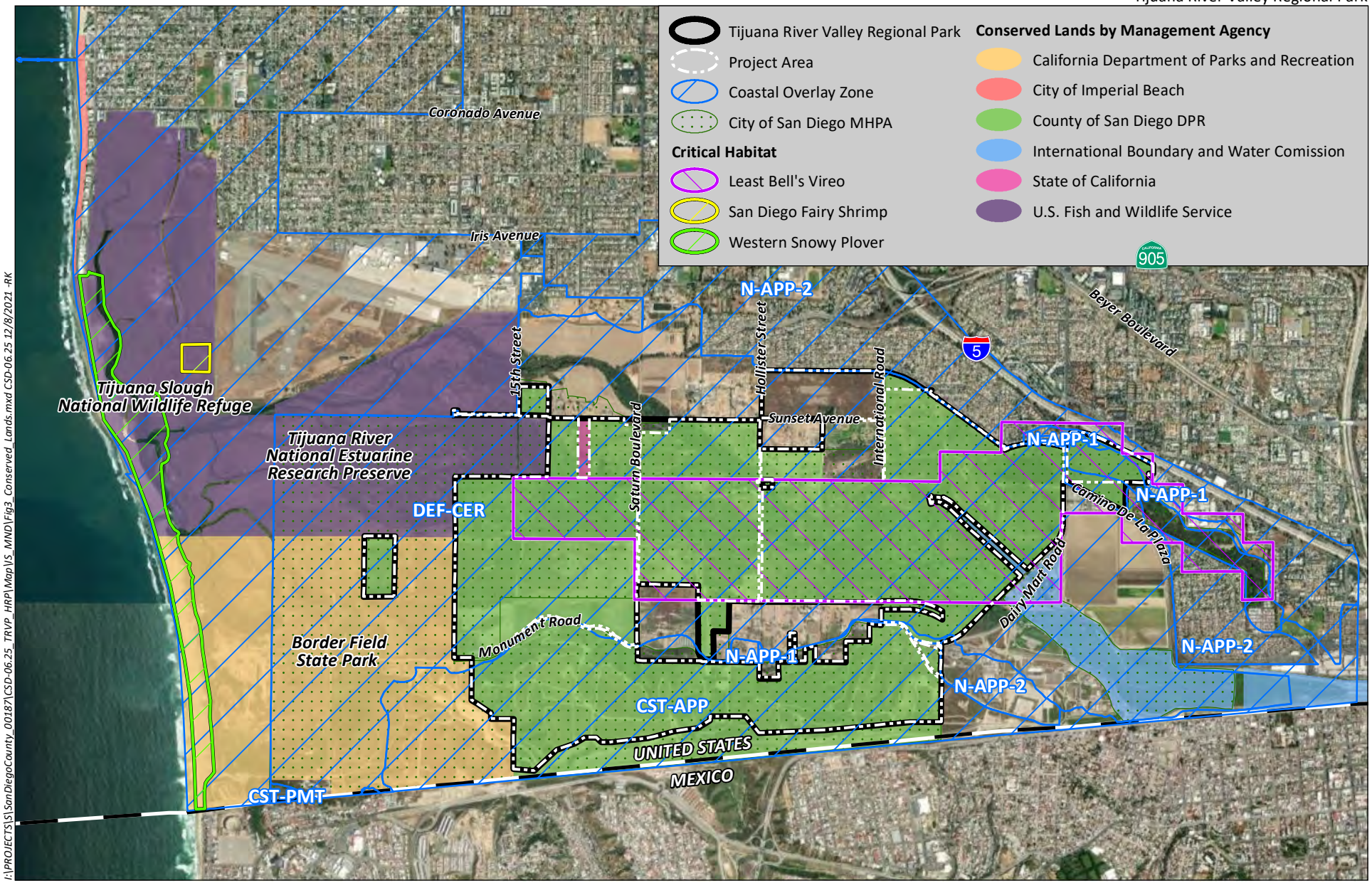
Project Vicinity (Aerial Photograph)

Figure 2



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Source: Aerial Photo (Esri 2020); Conserved Lands (SANDAG Technical Services - GIS 2018); MHPA (SanGIS 2006); Critical Habitat (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2020)

0 3,000 Feet

Regional Designations and Conserved Lands

Figure 3

TABLE 1: TRVRP OWNERSHIP SUMMARY

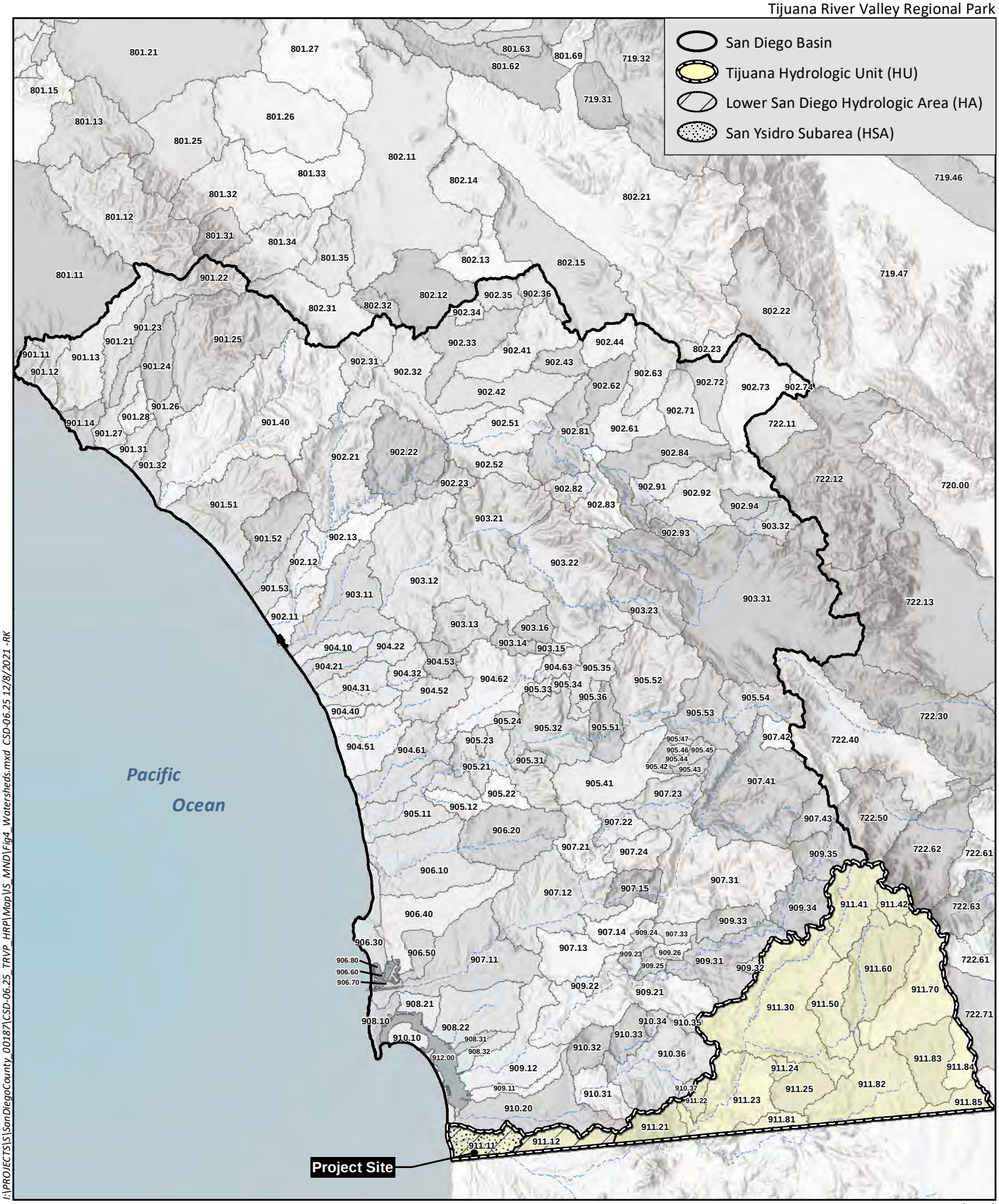
Landowner	Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs)[1]
County of San Diego	63601010, 63602020, 63602048, 63602059, 63602105, 63701007, 63701008, 63701009, 63701010, 63701011, 63701034, 63701036, 63701037, 63701067, 63701072, 63701073, 63704103, 63704104, 63808041, 66202005, 66202006, 66202009, 66202012, 66202013, 66202025, 66301044, 66301045, 66301048, 66301049, 66301050, 66301051, 66301052, 66301054, 66301104, 66301106, 66301112, 66303006, 66303008, 66401021, 66401026, 66401032, 66401033, 66401036, 66401037, 66401038, 66401040, 66401044, 66401045, 66401047, 66401048, 66401049, 66401050, 66401053, 66401054, 66401055, 66401057, 66401102, 66401103, 66401104, 66401105, 66402004, 66501001, 66501002, 66501045, 76010799, 76024201, 76024220, 76024221, 76024223
City of San Diego	63701074, 66202004, 66301011, 66301038, 66301101, 66301102, 66301103, 66301105, 66401035, 66501003
State of California	63602019
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	63602049, 63602104
Private	76010795, 76010797, 76024222, 76010793, 76024236, 76010787

[1] APNs are provided as eight-digit numbers, the last two numbers of each APN being 00.

The Proposed Project area occurs entirely within the City of San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Plan (MSCP) Subarea Plan Subregion (City 1997). Within the City's MSCP Subregion, the Proposed Project area occurs within the Tijuana Estuary/River Valley Biological Resource Core Area (BRCA), as identified in the Final MSCP Plan (County 1998). Within the City's MSCP Subregion, the City has delineated a 56,831-acre Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA) that would serve to protect critical sensitive biological resources, and the City proposes to keep 94 percent of the Tijuana Estuary/River Valley BRCA within the MHPA. As such, the Proposed Project area lies almost entirely in the MHPA (Figure 3).

The topography of the Proposed Project area is bisected by the Tijuana River. The Tijuana River flows in a northwesterly direction originating in Mexico, flows through the TRVRP, continues west into the TRNERR, and drains into the Pacific Ocean just south of the TSNWR (Figure 4, *Watersheds/Hydrologic Designations*).

Formal areas within the TRVRP include the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) area, the Baseball Fields, Dairy Mart, Spooner's Mesa, Monument Mesa, Duck Ponds, Bird and Butterfly Garden, TRVRP Campground, and Smuggler's Gulch. The Duck Ponds and Bird and Butterfly Garden are located in the northwest, north of Tijuana River, south of Sunset Avenue, and west of Hollister Street. The CIAP area is located to the east of Sunset Avenue and north of North Beach Trail. The Baseball Fields and Dairy Mart occur to the south of Sunset Avenue, north of Tijuana River, and west of Dairy Mart Road and contain the Southwest Little League baseball fields and Dairy Mart Pond. Spooner's Mesa and Monument Mesa are located south of Monument Road and separated by Smuggler's Gulch. Goat Canyon is located directly west of Spooner's Mesa outside of the TRVRP.



Source: RWQCB (1999)

0 12 Miles

Watersheds/Hydrologic Designations

Figure 4

The Proposed Project area contains a formal 22.5-mile trail network, in addition to an existing informal network of unplanned and unauthorized dirt roads and pathways. The formal 22.5-mile trail network includes the following types of trails (Figure 5, *TRVRP Trails*):

- 13.9 miles of 6-foot wide multi-use trails (i.e., pedestrian/equestrian/bicycle) within existing dirt road and pathway alignments; and
- 8.6 miles of 4-foot wide pedestrian/equestrian trails within existing dirt road and pathway alignments.

Revegetation of 40.9 miles of existing informal trails and dirt roads was initiated in December 2015 and was designed to allow and facilitate native habitat re-growth resulting in the active and passive restoration of approximately 34.11 acres of riparian and upland vegetation communities. Several designated and maintained trails between four to six feet wide run throughout the Proposed Project area, which are frequently used by horseback riders, for recreational purposes, and may be used as access points by vehicles and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents. The Proposed Project does not impact any of these trails or existing recreational amenities within the TRVRP. The Proposed Project also does not involve creation of new trails or new recreational amenities within the TRVRP. Rather, the Proposed Project focuses on a comprehensive habitat restoration throughout the TRVRP in areas not currently used as trails/active recreation or proposed to be used as trails/active recreation in the future. Additionally, any future consideration for development of areas within the TRVRP as trails, active recreation, or other types of development are not covered under the Proposed Project and would be subject to separate review under local, state, and federal guidelines and regulations.

5. Project Applicant name and address:

   County of San Diego, Department of Parks and Recreation
   5500 Overland Avenue, Suite 410
   San Diego, CA 92123-1239

6. General Plan

   Community Plan: Tijuana River Valley Community Plan, San Ysidro Community Plan

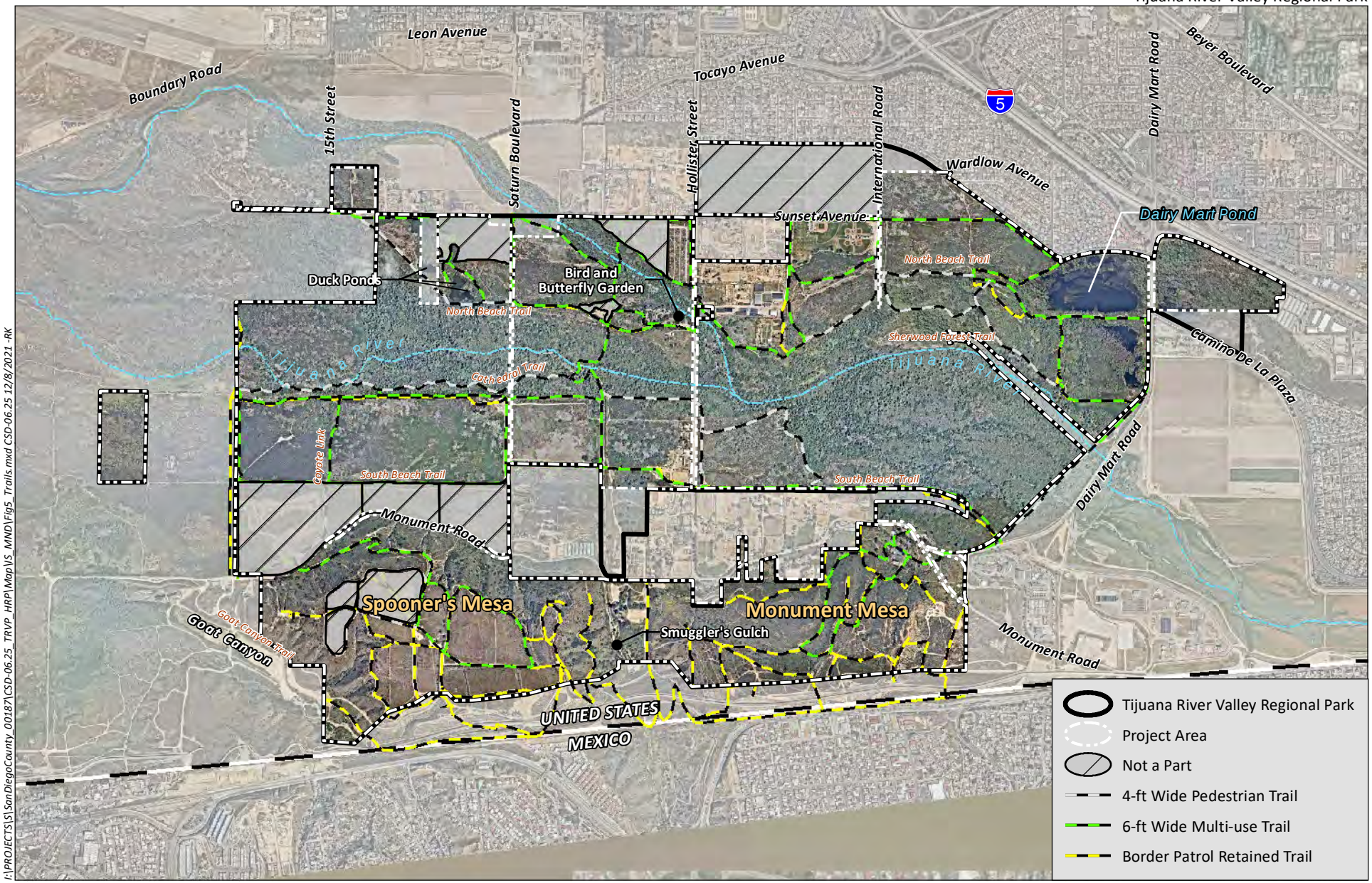
   Land Use Designation: Multi-Species Conservation Open Space and Other Community Open Space/Agriculture (Tijuana River Valley Community Plan); Open Space (San Ysidro Community Plan)

7. Zoning

   Use Regulation: Open Space – Floodplain (OF-1-1) and Agricultural – Residential (AR-1-1, AR-1-2)

   Minimum Lot Size: OF-1-1 – 10 acres; AR-1-1 – 10 acres; AR-1-1 – 1 acre

   Special Area Regulation: None



Source: Aerial Photo (Nearmap 2021)

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0 2,000 Feet

TRVRP Trails

Figure 5

8. Description of project:

Project Overview

This restoration effort, hereby referred to as the Proposed Project, is a conceptual HRP for restoration activities on primarily County-owned or managed parcels located within the TRVRP. The HRP is provided in full as Appendix A to this IS/MND (HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. [HELIX] ~~2023a~~2024a). The Proposed Project is being performed per a grant that was obtained by DPR from the CDFW Prop 1 Watershed Restoration Grant Program. The activities detailed in this plan include an implementation, maintenance, and monitoring program addressing the restoration of approximately 1,740 acres of mixed wetland, riparian, and upland habitats. Specifically, the step-by-step process for phased implementation of this HRP would include (1) project identification/phasing; (2) Execution Plan development; (3) pre-restoration implementation activities; (4) restoration implementation activities; and (5) post-implementation maintenance activities.

The goal of the HRP (Appendix A) is to identify, prioritize, and implement phased large-scale restoration throughout County-owned and managed property within the TRVRP. By developing a comprehensive HRP, invasive non-native plant species would be targeted for removal, and native plant restoration would occur over several independent phases. Subsequent to this HRP (Appendix A), Execution Plans would be prepared for each individual phase. The required Execution Plans would provide detail on the physical extent of the phase and appropriate implementation practices, methods, timing, and expected restoration outcomes specific to that phase.

Within three years following implementation, the goal is that each phase of the Proposed Project would be approaching the functions and values of adjacent, preserved riparian and upland habitats found within the TRVRP. Restoration is expected to have secondary benefits resulting from improved ecological and hydrological functions, such as reduced concentrations of pollutants and sediments, improved water quality, and enhanced flood control. The restoration would also potentially supply suitable breeding and foraging habitat for special status species known to occur in the TRVRP, including Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphydryas editha quino*), western spadefoot toad (*Spea hammondii*), Baja California coachwhip (*Coluber fuliginosus*), Blainville's horned lizard (*Phrynosoma blainvillii*), Belding's orange-throated whiptail (*Aspidoscelis hyperythra beldingi*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*), coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), and least Bell's vireo *(Vireo bellii pusillus*) (HELIX ~~2023a~~2024a). Following successful restoration, the entire site would continue to be preserved, managed, and maintained in perpetuity by the County.

While the Proposed Project area includes approximately 1,740 acres of land, invasive non-native plant treatment and restoration areas would not occur in the entirety of the Proposed Project area, as patches of native vegetation would not be treated/restored. Following treatment of the invasive non-native plant areas and point locations, the areas would be restored to native habitats. As the Proposed Project is implementation of the

HRP, including habitat restoration, impacts to biological resources incurred during implementation are considered temporary and would be self-mitigated through the completion of the Proposed Project itself. The HRP would be used during the submittal process relative to agency permitting, updated as necessary, and incorporated into final permit conditions.

Treatment of invasive non-native plants throughout the Proposed Project area is proposed to occur in twelve separate phases that would be implemented based on a variety of conditions such as timing, funding availability, and capacity of County staff. The restoration activities in each phase of the Proposed Project would be (a) consistent with the County's Area Specific Management Directives (ASMDs) for the TRVRP (County 2007b); (b) consistent with the City's Specific Management Policies and Directives for the Tijuana River Valley (City 1997); (c) implemented in conformance with the City's MHPA Guidelines (City 1997); (d) compatible with adjacent land uses and future uses in the TRVRP; and (e) preserved, managed, and maintained in perpetuity by DPR, helping to ensure the long-term viability of the habitat restoration effort. Phase prioritization and phase-specific implementation activities are described in more detail below.

HRP Implementation and Phasing

The purpose of the HRP (Appendix A) is to outline the methods for habitat restoration and revegetation of County-owned or managed portions of the TRVRP. Given the size and complexity of the Proposed Project, the HRP strives to provide a framework for activities that would be applied in a phased manner in identified locations, as funding becomes available. The methodologies used in the HRP are applicable in a broad set of conditions. Timing of implementation of the phases would be determined in the future, based on County priorities, site conditions, and funding. Prior to the implementation of each phase, the County would prepare an Execution Plan for that specific phase of work, drawing upon the information provided in the HRP and refining parameters. Phases may be sub-divided into smaller sub-phases as funding allows.

When work is proposed to commence in a specific phase of the Proposed Project, the existing conditions and constraints present in that phase of work would be identified, and the restoration activity and potential mitigation prescriptions corresponding to those conditions would be applied. A second level of prescription would also be enacted to accommodate for seasonally present conditions such as flooding or nesting birds. All applicable prescriptions would be outlined within the Execution Plan for that phase. An Execution Plan would be prepared and approved by DPR prior to beginning any new phase of work. If the Execution Plan is consistent with the prescriptions included in the HRP and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) adopted for the Proposed Project, no further Resource Agency approval is required. If the Execution Plan deviates from the prescription provided in the HRP or MMRP, additional Resource Agency approvals may be needed.

The following flow chart (Table 2, *Flow Chart Listing Step-by-Step Process for Implementation of the HRP*) and treatment matrix (Table 3, *Restoration Measures and Considerations for Implementation*) further describe the implementation process and

considerations for restoration activities to be prescribed in the future Execution Plans that would be developed as each phase is funded. A "Yes" response in Table 3 indicates the non-native control method could be used given the constraint, while a "No" response indicates that the treatment method would not be used given the constraint.

TABLE 2: FLOW CHART LISTING STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HRP

Project Identification/ Phasing	Ongoing, Dependent on funding Site Characterization/Baseline Surveys
Execution Plan development	Within 60 days of specific phase identification
Pre-Restoration Implementation Activities	
Vegetation Impact Avoidance and Minimization	Prior to contractor mobilization and throughout construction phase
Soil and Plant Salvage and Storage	Plants: Spring or Fall (or as proper for target species) Soil: At site grading initiation
Restoration Implementation Activities	
Trash and Debris Removal	Prior to soil work or planting activities
Weed Removal	Spring/Summer (or as proper for target species)
Soil Decompaction	Prior to planting or seeding
Soil Recontouring	Prior to planting or seeding
Spread of Salvaged Topsoil	Prior to planting or seeding
Seeding	Fall/Winter
Nursery Stock Planting	Fall/Winter
Watering	In conjunction with planting, and as needed throughout establishment and maintenance period
Erosion Control	Fall/Winter/Spring as needed
Post- Implementation Maintenance Activities	
Weed Removal	Spring/Summer (or as proper for target species) as needed
Erosion Control	Fall/Winter/Spring as needed
Watering	As needed in planted areas only for plant establishment

TABLE 3: RESTORATION MEASURES AND CONSIDERATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION[1]

Prescriptive Conditions	Herbicide Treatment	Hand Removal	Mowing	Mechanized Clearing	Topographic Modifications	Planting	Seeding	Erosion Control	Solarization
Constraint	**Primary (year-round)**								
Cultural Resource Site	Yes	Yes	Yes	Buffer	Buffer	Monitor	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sensitive Wildlife Species Presence	Yes	Yes	Buffer	Buffer	Buffer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Buffer
Invasive Non-native pest (i.e., insect/ pathogen)	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Existing Sensitive Vegetation	Yes	Yes	Yes	Buffer	Buffer	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Limited Access	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Public access	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Active Flow Areas (Ordinary High Water Mark present)	Yes	Yes	Buffer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No
Constraint	**Secondary (seasonally present)**								
Nesting Birds	Yes	Yes	Buffer	Buffer	Buffer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Saturated soils	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Contaminated water	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No

[1] Certain activities may be allowed with established buffers and other impact avoidance and minimization measures that would ensure protection of the resource being buffered. Through development of Execution Plans, buffers and other impact avoidance and minimization measures may be identified for an activity that would yield desired results if site constraints were present. For a complete description of the avoidance and minimization measures associated with each restoration measure outlined, please see the HRP (Appendix A).

A. Phase Prioritization

Due to the size of the Proposed Project area, restoration would not occur within the entirety of the system in a single event under one Execution Plan. Rather the Proposed Project would be broken into phases with specific Execution Plans, based on a variety of conditions such as timing, funding availability, or capacity of County staff.

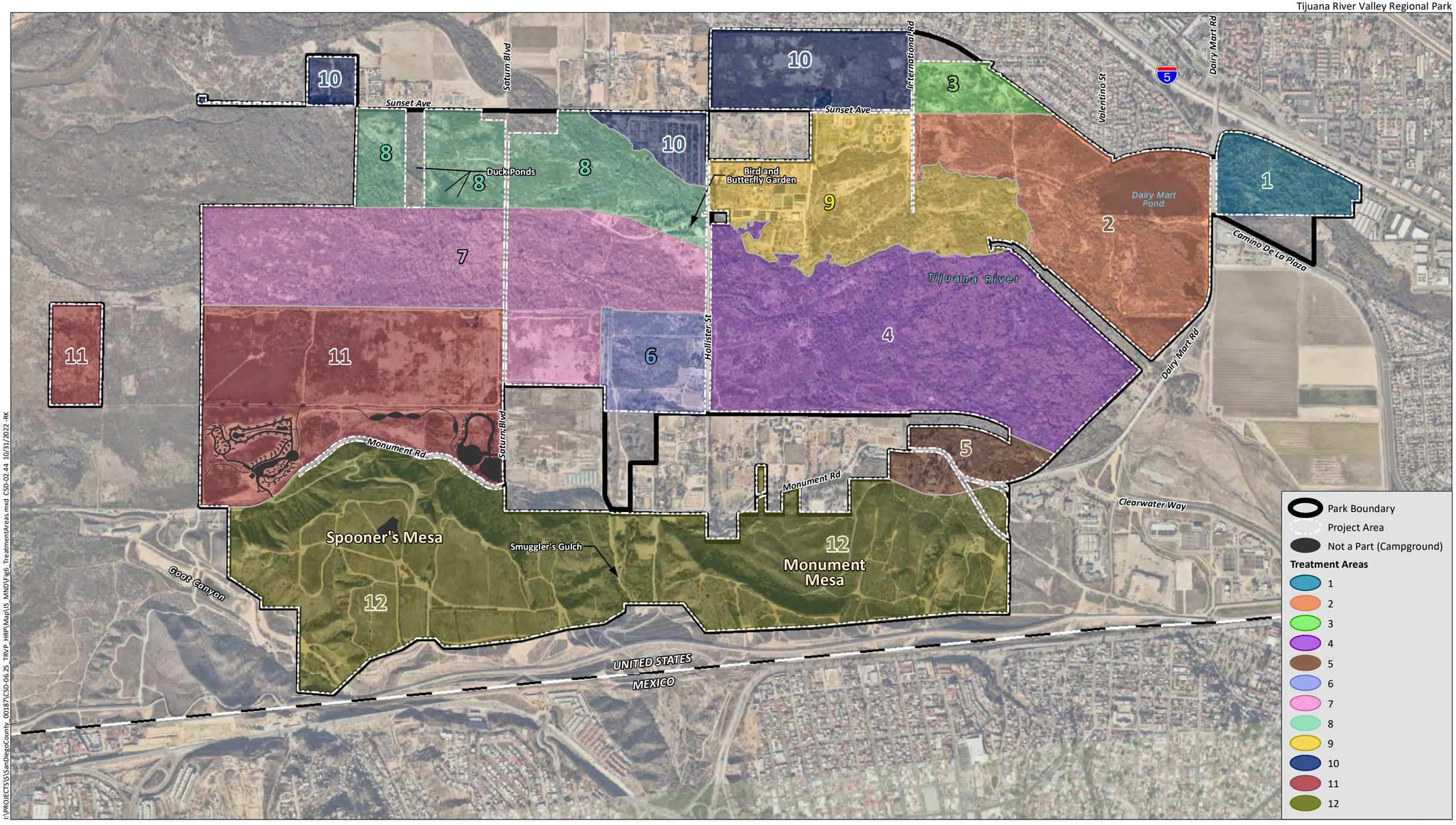
Sites identified for restoration activities would be prioritized based on a phase's overall ecological benefit that would achieve the greatest Proposed Project objectives, whether it be invasive species control, water quality, sensitive species habitat, or connectivity to adjacent resources. A restoration site may further be prioritized based on stakeholder preferences and partnerships, site access, land ownership, position in the watershed, habitat type and adjacency to sensitive resources, expansion of sensitive resource habitats, relative cost for implementation and maintenance, and other factors. In general, it would be most beneficial to initiate activities which are positioned furthest upstream, so they are not later disrupted by subsequent projects under the HRP (Appendix A).

B. Phase-Specific Planning Activities

The Proposed Project area includes twelve phases covering 1,740 acres (please refer to Figure 6, *Treatment Areas*). As described above, these phases may be subdivided into smaller phases, or merged, as budgets and prioritization allow and based on current site conditions. Phase boundaries may also be modified if a significant biological, cultural, or other resource is discovered during pre-construction surveys that would need to be permanently or temporally avoided. These potential phases are provided in no particular order, but initially, there would be a preference to implement the phases from upstream to downstream.

A description of each phase including location, constraints, and expected restoration strategies can be found in Table 4, *Phase Areas*. A matrix identifying key elements of each phase and prioritization components are included in Table 5, *Project Phases and Elements*. In all, it is expected that approximately 587.93 acres of disturbed and invasive non-native plant communities, would be treated and restored into native habitats. Additionally, 7.21 acres of invasive species point locations occurring within the phase areas' native habitat would be treated and restored into native habitats.

Tijuana River Valley Regional Park



Aerial Photo: Nearmap 2021

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Treatment Areas

Figure 6

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TABLE 4: PHASE AREAS

Phase	Location	Size	Invasive Non-Native Target Species	Constraints	Restoration Strategy
Phase 1	Upstream of Dairy Mart Road.	35.47 acres; 9.28 acres of invasive weed removal within Arundo-dominated and non-native riparian habitats as well as localized populations of eucalyptus and tamarisk.	Giant reed, salt cedar, eucalyptus, non-native invasive annual species.	This area is entirely fenced and can be accessed along the southern border from Camino de la Plaza. Special status plant species were not observed upstream of Dairy Mart Road during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys. Special status animal species observed during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys in this area included least Bell's vireo (Federally Endangered [FE], State Endangered [SE], County Group 1, MSCP Covered, MSCP Narrow Endemic [NE]), Cooper's hawk (State Watch List [WL], County Group 1, MSCP Covered), red-shouldered hawk (County Group 1), turkey vulture (County Group 1), and yellow warbler (Bird of Conservation Concern [BCC], State Species of Special Concern [SSC], County Group 2).	Hand removal of small stands, container planting, herbicide treatments of isolated individuals.
Phase 2	Downstream of Dairy Mart Road bridge and north of the South Bay Reclamation Plant property cut out.	154.98 acres; 39.83 acres of invasive weed removal in both upland (29.93 acres) and riparian (9.90 acres) habitat types	Giant reed, salt cedar, mustards, garland daisy, non-native invasive annual species.	Access occurs from Dairy Mart Road where two separate six-foot multi-use trails lead west. No Federally or State listed plant species were observed within this area during the 2018 biodiversity study. The following special status plant species were observed in this area: single-whorl burrobrush (CRPR 2B.2) and San Diego marsh elder (CRPR 2B.2, County List B). Federally or State listed special status animal species observed during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys in this area included least Bell's vireo (FE, SE, SSC, County Group 1, MSCP Covered), yellow warbler (BCC, SSC, County Group 2), yellow-breasted chat (SSC), Cooper's hawk (WL, County Group 1, MSCP Covered), double-crested cormorant (WL, County Group 2),western mastiff bat (SSC, County Group 1), American white pelican (SSC, County Group 2), western red bat (SSC, County Group 2), and white-tailed kite (FP, County Group 2).	Hand removal of small stands and mowing (mastication) of contiguous large accessible stands, container planting, herbicide treatments of isolated individuals.

Phase	Location	Size	Invasive Non-Native Target Species	Constraints	Restoration Strategy
				Additional special status species observed in this area included barn owl (County Group 2), gadwall (County Group 2), great blue heron (County Group 2), green heron (County Group 2), turkey vulture (County Group 1), western bluebird (County Group 2, MSCP Covered), and Yuma myotis (County Group 2).	
Phase 3	East of International Road and North of Sunset Avenue (CIAP area).	21.55 acres; 12.14 acres of invasive weed removal within upland (8.00 acres) and riparian (4.14 acres) habitat types	Salt cedar, mustards, garland daisy, non-native invasive annual species.	Access occurs from the eastern terminus of Sunset Avenue where a six-foot multi-use trail leads west into the CIAP area. Federally or State listed plant species were observed within this area during the 2018 biodiversity study. The following special status plant species were observed in this area: San Diego marsh elder (CRPR 2B.2, County List B). Federally or State listed special status animal species observed during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys in this area included least Bell's vireo (FE, SE, SSC, County Group 1, MSCP Covered), yellow warbler (BCC, SSC, County Group 2), yellow-breasted chat (SSC), white-tailed kite (FP, County Group 2), and American white pelican (SSC, County Group 2). No additional special status species were observed in this area.	Hand removal of small stands and mowing (mastication) of contiguous large accessible stands, container planting, herbicide treatments of isolated individuals.
Phase 4	Central eastern portion of Proposed Project area, main river channel.	253.52 acres: 116.87 acres of invasive weed removal within upland (12.59 acres) and riparian (104.28 acres) habitat types	Giant Reed, salt cedar, eucalyptus, castor bean, non-native invasive annual species.	Access occurs from Dairy Mart Road where a single six-foot multi-use trail leads west, and from Hollister Street where single six-foot multi-use trail leads east. No Federally or State listed plant species were observed within this area during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys. The following special status plant species were observed in this area: San Diego marsh elder (CRPR 2B.2, County List B), single-whorl burrobrush (CRPR 2B.2) and San Diego sagewort (CRPR 4.2, County List D).	Mowing (mastication) large stands, hand removal of isolated populations, topographic recontouring, revegetation with container plantings.

Phase	Location	Size	Invasive Non-Native Target Species	Constraints	Restoration Strategy
				Federally or State listed special status animal species observed during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys in this area included least Bell's vireo (FE, SE, SSC, County Group 1, MSCP Covered), yellow warbler (BCC, SSC, County Group 2), yellow-breasted chat (SSC), northern harrier (SSC, County Group 1, MSCP Covered), white-tailed kite (FP, County Group 2), and Cooper's hawk (WL, County Group 1, MSCP Covered). Additionally, turkey vulture (County Group 1) and red-shouldered hawk (County Group 1) was observed in this area during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys.	
Phase 5	North of Monument Road and south of trail.	30.41 acres; 9.61 acres of invasive weed removal in both upland (7.48 acres) and riparian (2.13 acres) habitat types	Giant reed, salt cedar, eucalyptus, Brazilian peppertree, castor bean, Mexican fan palm, non-native invasive annual species	Access occurs from Dairy Mart Road where a single six-foot multi-use trail leads west. No Federally, State, or other listed special status plant species were observed within this area during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys. One special status plant species was observed in this area: single-whorl burrobrush (CRPR 2B.2). Federally or State listed special status animal species observed during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys in this area included least Bell's vireo (FE, SE, SSC, County Group 1, MSCP Covered), yellow warbler (BCC, SSC, County Group 2), yellow-breasted chat (SSC), and Cooper's hawk (WL, County Group 1, MSCP Covered). Additionally, turkey vulture (County Group 1) and red-shouldered hawk (County Group 1) were observed in this area during 2021 focused species surveys.	Hand removal of small stands, remove or girdle large trees and remove new saplings, container planting, herbicide treatments of isolated individuals.
Phase 6	West of Hollister Avenue, east of Arroyo Cañon Matadero, to main riparian corridor.	42.21 acres of mostly riparian habitat with 8.39 acres of invasive species in both upland (7.70 acres) and riparian (0.69-acre) habitat types	Giant reed, salt cedar, eucalyptus, tree tobacco, garland daisy, non-native invasive annual species	Access occurs from Hollister Street where a single six-foot multi-use trail and a single four-foot multi-use trail leads west. Additionally, a six-foot multi-use trail leads south into this area from the Bird and Butterfly Gardens. No Federally, State, or other listed special status plant species were observed within this area during	Hand removal of small stands, remove or girdle large trees and remove new saplings, container planting, herbicide treatments of isolated individuals.

Phase	Location	Size	Invasive Non-Native Target Species	Constraints	Restoration Strategy
				the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys. One special status plant species was observed in this area: single-whorl burrobrush (CRPR 2B.2). Federally or State listed special status animal species observed during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys in this area included least Bell's vireo (FE, SE, SSC, County Group 1, MSCP Covered) and yellow warbler (BCC, SSC, County Group 2). No other special status animal species were observed in this area.	
Phase 7	Central western portion of Proposed Project area, main riparian corridor.	223.13 acres; 57.93 acres of invasive weed removal in both upland (34.90 acres) and riparian (23.03 acres) habitat types	Giant reed, salt cedar, castor bean, Brazilian peppertree, mousehole tree (Myoporum laetum), mustards, non-native invasive annual species	Access occurs from Hollister Street where a single six-foot multi-use trail leads south from the Bird and Butterfly Garden. Additionally, a six-foot multi-use trail leads south into this area from Saturn Boulevard. No Federally or State listed plant species were observed within this area during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys. The following special status plant species were observed in this area: single-whorl burrobrush (CRPR 2B.2), San Diego sagewort (CRPR 4.2, County List D), southwestern spiny rush (CRPR 4.2, County List D), and Torrey pine (CRPR 1B.2, MSCP Covered). Federally or State listed special status animal species observed during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys in this area included least Bell's vireo (FE, SE, SSC, County Group 1, MSCP Covered), yellow warbler (BCC, SSC, County Group 2), and yellow-breasted chat (SSC). Additionally, red-shouldered hawk (County Group 1), barn owl (County Group 2), were observed in this area during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys.	Mowing (mastication) large stands, hand removal of isolated populations, topographic modification, revegetation with container plantings. A small portion (0.37-acre) of this Phase, mapped as "disturbed habitat," is located along the North Beach Trail and west of the existing Bird and Butterfly Garden has been identified in the TRVRP Feasibility Study (AECOM 2017) as a potential site as a rentable venue facility (a majority of this feature is located in Phase 8). Any planned restoration activity within this Phase should coordinate with County to ensure it does not conflict with any planned future development.

Phase	Location	Size	Invasive Non-Native Target Species	Constraints	Restoration Strategy
Phase 8	West of 19th street, south of Sunset Ave to main riparian corridor.	112.19 acres total, with approximately 3.0 acres identified in the 2017 Feasibility Study as a potential rentable venue; 19.31 acres of invasive weed removal in both upland (14.70 acres) and riparian (4.61 acres) habitat types, including scattered invasive weed point locations	Giant reed, eucalyptus, salt cedar, garland daisy, non-native invasive annual species.	Access occurs from Saturn Boulevard where a single six-foot multi-use trail leads south. Additionally, six-foot and four-foot multi-use trails lead south into this area from Sunset Avenue. No Federally or State listed plant species were observed within this area during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys. The following special status plant species were observed in this area: single-whorl burrobrush (CRPR 2B.2), San Diego sagewort (CRPR 4.2, County List D), southwestern spiny rush (CRPR 4.2, County List D), San Diego marsh elder (CRPR 2B.2, County List B), Southern California black walnut (CRPR 4.2, County List D), and Torrey pine (CRPR 1B.2, County List A, MSCP Covered). Federally or State listed special status animal species observed during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys in this area included least Bell's vireo (FE, SE, SSC, County Group 1, MSCP Covered), yellow warbler (BCC, SSC, County group 2), yellow-breasted chat (SSC), Lawrence's goldfinch (BCC), Cooper's hawk (WL, County Group 1, MSCP Covered), northern harrier (SSC, County Group 1, MSCP Covered), double crested cormorant (WL, County Group 2), Belding's orange-throated whiptail (WL, County Group 2, MSCP Covered), Baja California coachwhip (SSC), Blainville's horned lizard (SSC, County Group 2, MSCP Covered), western red bat (SSC, County Group 2). Additionally, barn owl (County Group 2), red-shouldered hawk (County Group 2), Yuma myotis (County Group 2), and monarch (County Group 1) were observed in this area during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys.	Hand removal of small stands, remove or girdle large trees and remove new saplings, container planting, herbicide treatments of isolated individuals. Portions of this Phase located along the North Beach Trail and west of the existing Bird and Butterfly Garden have been identified in the TRVRP Feasibility Study (AECOM 2017) as a potential site as a rentable venue facility. Any planned restoration activity within this Phase should coordinate with County to ensure it does not conflict with any planned future development.

Phase	Location	Size	Invasive Non-Native Target Species	Constraints	Restoration Strategy
Phase 9	South of ballfields between Hollister Avenue and Dairy Mart Pond.	125.72 acres; 28.88 acres of invasive weed removal in both upland (19.20 acres) and riparian (9.68 acres) habitat types	Brazilian peppertree, castor bean, Mexican fan palm, garland daisy, mustards, giant reed, salt cedar, non-native invasive annual species	Access occurs from Sunset Avenue and International Road where multiple six-foot and four-foot multi-use trails lead into the area. No Federally or State listed plant species were observed within this area during the 2018 biodiversity study or 2021 focused species surveys. The following special status plant species were observed in this area: single-whorl burrobrush (CRPR 2B.2), San Diego sagewort (CRPR 4.2, County List D), southwestern spiny rush (CRPR 4.2, County List D), Torrey pine (CRPR 1B.2, County List A, MSCP Covered), and San Diego marsh elder (CRPR 2B.2, County List B). Federally or State listed special status animal species observed during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys in this area included least Bell's vireo (FE, SE, SSC, County Group 1, MSCP Covered), yellow warbler (BCC, SSC, County Group 2), yellow-breasted chat (SSC), northern harrier (SSC, County Group 1, MSCP Covered), white-tailed kite (FP, County Group 2), Cooper's hawk (WL, County Group 1, MSCP Covered), and Belding's orange-throated whiptail (WL, County Group 2, MSCP Covered). Additionally, red-shouldered hawk (County Group 2) and turkey vulture (County Group 1) were observed in this area during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys.	Hand removal of small stands, remove or girdle large trees and remove new saplings, container planting, herbicide treatments of isolated individuals.

Phase	Location	Size	Invasive Non-Native Target Species	Constraints	Restoration Strategy
Phase 10	West of International Road, north of Sunset Avenue.	95.13 acres total, with 64 acres planned for a future Active Recreation Complex; 9.2 acres planned for a potential Community Garden and 16.2 acres for a planned Bike Skills Park. A total of 76.40 acres of invasive weed removal could occur within upland (75.50 acres) and riparian (0.90-acre) habitat types, including scattered invasive weed point locations.	Predominantly upland herbaceous non-native species within portions not proposed for future development.	Access occurs from Sunset Avenue and Hollister Street where multiple six-foot and four-foot multi-use trails lead into the area. No Federally listed, State listed, or special status plant species were observed within this area during the 2018 biodiversity study or 2021 focused species surveys. Federally or State listed special status animal species observed during the 2018 biodiversity study in this area included least Bell's vireo (FE, SE, SSC, County Group 1, MSCP Covered), yellow warbler (BCC, SSC, County group 2), northern harrier (SSC, County Group 1, MSCP Covered), Blainville's horned lizard (SSC, County Group 2, MSCP Covered). Additionally, barn owl (County Group 2) and red-shouldered hawk (County Group 2) were observed in this area during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys.	The TRVRP Public Use Feasibility Study (AECOM 2017) identifies two future development Projects within this Phase: (1) an active Recreation Complex, and (2) a community garden. The more certain development project, the Active Recreation Complex, is a 64-acre multi-sport facility between International Road and Hollister Street, and north of Sunset Avenue. The venue will consist of soccer, baseball, tennis, basketball, and multi-use turf fields and courts, as well as a host of ancillary facilities associated with this amenity. The community garden would be a 9.2-acre community facility located west of Hollister Street and south of Sunset Avenue and serve as an expansion to the existing community garden to the east, which encompasses another approximate 10-acres. A Bike Skills Park (16.2 acres) is also proposed south of Sunset Avenue and west of 19th Street. The remaining portions of this restoration Phase that is not planned for future development is largely non-native upland and ruderal vegetation situated between the developed community garden and the Tijuana River riparian corridor. Beneficial restoration of these

Phase	Location	Size	Invasive Non-Native Target Species	Constraints	Restoration Strategy
					areas would include treatment of non-native annual weeds, followed by conversion of the disturbed areas into native upland buffer and transitional habitats through seeding and native plantings. If the community garden is not expanded, larger portions of this area would be available for restoration.
Phase 11	North of Monument Road, west of Hollister St. and extending to the western Proposed Project area boundary, and south of the Tijuana River channel.	218.45 acres total, with approximately 72.26-acres potentially available for restoration (57 acres planned for potential campgrounds and another 17.4 acres planned for a potential equestrian center); 115.87 acres of non-native weed removal within both upland (109.00 acres) and riparian (6.87 acres) habitat types.	Salt cedar, giant reed, mustards, non-native grasses, and annual weeds.	Access occurs from Monument Road where multiple six-foot and four-foot multi-use trails lead into the area. No Federally or State listed special status plant species were observed within this area during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys. Two special status plant species were observed in this area during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys: San Diego sagewort (CRPR 4.2, County list D) and southwestern spiny rush (CRPR 4.2, County List D). Federally or State listed special status animal species observed during the 2018 biodiversity study in this area included coastal California gnatcatcher (FT, SSC, County Group 1, MSCP Covered), western spadefoot (SSC, County Group 2), Northern harrier (SSC, County Group 1, MSCP Covered), and black-tailed jackrabbit (SSC, County Group 2). Additionally, barn owl (County Group 2), was observed in this area during the 2018 biodiversity study.	This restoration Phase is largely within upland areas of the Proposed Project area and restoration activities may include initial weed removal by mowing/discing, planting, seeding, and/or providing supplemental water. Portions of this Phase have been identified in the TRVRP Feasibility Study (AECOM 2017) as a potential site for future campground and equestrian facility, in addition to the campground facility already under construction. Any planned restoration activity within this Phase should coordinate with County to ensure it does not conflict with any planned future development. Although drainages and jurisdictional areas exist within this Phase which drain upland habitats and feed into TRV, all restoration work would be conducted outside of jurisdictional features.

Phase	Location	Size	Invasive Non-Native Target Species	Constraints	Restoration Strategy
					Restoration efforts in this Phase will focus on removal of non-native and invasive species, through line trimming and mowing large stands of invasive weeds, removing, or girdling large trees and removing new saplings, container planting, herbicide treatments of isolated individuals.
Phase 12	South of Monument Road to the park boundary and west, including Monument Mesa and Spooners Mesa, to Goat Canyon	427.99 acres total, with approximately 78.57-acres potentially available for restoration (21.3 acres planned for potential campgrounds and rentable venue within Spooner's Mesa); 100.63 acres of non-native weed removal within both upland (98.80 acres) and riparian (1.83 acres) habitat types.	Garland daisy, mustards, giant reed, non-native grasses, and annual weeds.	Access occurs from Monument Road where multiple six-foot and four-foot multi-use trails lead into the area. No Federally listed plant species were observed within this area during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys. One State listed plant species was observed within this area during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 surveys: Baja California bird brush (SE, CRPR 2B.1, County List B). The following special status plant species were additionally observed in this area: San Diego viguiera (County List D), wart-stemmed ceanothus (CRPR 2B.2, County List B, MSCP covered), Nuttall's scrub oak (CRPR 1B.1, County List A), San Diego barrel cactus (CRPR 2B.1, County List B, MSCP covered), ashy spike-moss (CRPR 4.1, County List D), sea dahlia (CRPR 2B.2, County List B), cliff spurge (CRPR 2B.2, County List B), golden-spined cereus (CRPR 2B.2, County List B), single-whorl burrobrush (CRPR 2B.2), western dichondra (CRPR 4.2, County List D), and San Diego bur-sage (CRPR 2.1, County List B). Federally or State listed special status animal species observed during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys in this area included least Bell's vireo (FE, SE, SSC, County Group 1, MSCP Covered), coastal California gnatcatcher (FT, SSC, County Group 1, MSCP covered), peregrine falcon (BCC, FP, County Group 1, MSCP Covered),	This restoration Phase is largely within upland areas of the Proposed Project area and restoration activities may include initial weed removal by mowing/discing, planting, seeding, and/or providing supplemental water. Portions of this Phase within Spooner's Mesa have been identified in the TRVRP Feasibility Study (AECOM 2017) as a potential site for future campground and rentable venue. Any planned restoration activity within this Phase should coordinate with County to ensure it does not conflict with any planned future development. Although drainages and jurisdictional areas exist within this Phase which drain upland habitats and feed into TRV, all restoration work would be conducted outside of jurisdictional features. Restoration efforts in this Phase will focus on removal of non-native and invasive species, through line trimming and mowing large stands of invasive

Phase	Location	Size	Invasive Non-Native Target Species	Constraints	Restoration Strategy
				Coopers hawk (WL, County Group 1, MSCP covered), sharp-shinned hawk (WL, County Group 1), white-tailed kite (FP, County Group 2), southern California rufous-crowned sparrow (WL, County Group 1, MSCP Covered), northern harrier (SSC, County Group 1, MSCP covered), Costa's hummingbird (BCC), California horned lark (WL, County Group 2), merlin (WL, County Group 2), Belding's orange-throated whiptail (WL, County Group 2, MSCP covered), San Diego Bryant's woodrat (SSC, County Group 2), black-tailed jackrabbit (SSC, County Group 2), western mastiff bat (SSC, County Group 2), western red bat (SSC, County Group 2), and pocketed free-tailed bat (SSC, County Group 2). Additionally, barn owl (County Group 2), turkey vulture (County Group 1), red-shouldered hawk (County Group 1), and Yuma myotis (County Group 2) was observed in this area during the 2018 biodiversity study and 2021 focused species surveys.	weeds, removing, or girdling large trees and removing new saplings, container planting, herbicide treatments of isolated individuals.

TABLE 5: POTENTIAL PROJECT PHASES AND ELEMENTS

Phase	Invasive Species Control	Water Quality	Least Bell's Vireo Habitat Restoration	Other Sensitive Species	Corridor/ Habitat Connectivity	Watershed Position	Open Water Habitat	Southern Willow Scrub	Mule Fat Scrub	Other Habitats	Site Access	Seasonal Constraints
1	GR, SC, NNIS	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Upper	No	Yes	No	No	Poor	Yes
2	GR, M, GD, NNIS	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Upper	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Fair	Yes
3	SC, M, GD, NNIS	No	Yes	No	No	Upper	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Good	Yes
4	GR, SC, CB, NNIS	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Middle	Yes	Yes	No	No	Poor	Yes
5	GR, SC, E, NNIS	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Middle	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Good	Yes
6	GR, SC, GD, NNIS	No	Yes	No	Yes	Lower	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Good	No
7	GR, SC, CB, NNIS	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Lower	Yes	Yes	No	No	Poor	Yes
8	E, SC, GD, NNIS	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Lower	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Good	Yes
9	GD, M, GR, SC, NNIS	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Middle	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Good	Yes
10	E	No	No	Yes	No	Middle	No	No	No	Yes	Good	No
11	M, NNIS, SC	No	No	Yes	Yes	Lower	No	No	Yes	Yes	Good	No
12	GD, M, SC, NNIS, E	No	No	Yes	Yes	Middle-Lower	No	Yes	No	Yes	Good	Yes

Species Code: GR = giant reed; SC = salt cedar; NNIS = non-native invasive species (annuals);
M = mustards; CB = castor bean; GD = garland daisy; E = eucalyptus

Technical Approach to Initiating Each Phase

At the initiation of each phase, a general field survey would be conducted to confirm that field conditions within and immediately adjacent to the phase location are consistent with the baseline biological mapping in the HRP. The general field surveys will be used to refine and verify site-specific details, including existing trash, remnant building materials, and debris, dominant vegetation, cover and density of native vegetation, location of drainages or other potentially jurisdictional resources, site topography, and presence of any invasive non-native plant species and the extents of their populations. The field surveys will define the pre-disturbance baseline conditions on all temporary disturbance areas planned for restoration and revegetation efforts. The information collected from these efforts will be used to refine site-specific habitat restoration methods. Native species observed during botanical surveys of the Proposed Project will be used as a guide to site-specific plant selection for container plant and seed restoration palettes.

Additionally, a review of cultural resources information will be conducted to identify potential impacts to archaeological sites. The review will focus on the phased restoration activity areas that may involve ground disturbance and contain recorded cultural resources. All known cultural resources within the phased restoration activity areas will be mapped, and significant, or potentially significant, resources will be identified as 'high cultural resources sensitivity' areas. Phase boundaries may be modified, or ground disturbance limited, in these areas.

Execution Plan Development

Prior to initiating a phased restoration activity, an Execution Plan would be prepared by DPR. The Execution Plans would name the specific techniques in greater detail that would be used to revegetate and rehabilitate the area(s) described. The Execution Plans for each phase would be reviewed by DPR prior to implementation to ensure consistency with the HRP (Appendix A) and the adopted MMRP for the Proposed Project. Each Execution Plan would specify the site preparation, weed removal strategy, as well as necessary seeding, planting, irrigation, monitoring, and maintenance techniques that will be implemented at each restoration site identified. The Execution Plan would also include seed mixes, container plant lists, and an implementation schedule. An Execution Plan may also prohibit specific activities during restricted seasons or identify areas for avoidance (e.g., cultural, biological, or other).

Depending on the activity proposed, an Execution Plan may contain cross-sectional details or other project specifics to further describe the activity proposed. If any ground disturbance is anticipated, an additional explanation of the ecological benefit of the proposed activity will be provided. Site-specific figures would present anticipated temporary impacts and revegetation strategies and schedules following implementation activities.

Pre-Construction Activities

Each phase would involve specified pre-construction activities that may need to occur prior to implementation of an Execution Plan. These activities may not be restricted to the footprint of the Proposed Project area. Pre-construction activities are meant to prepare the Proposed Project site for implementation. In general, pre-construction activities are intended to be ~~no-impact, non~~minimal-soil disturbing measures, that have ~~benign~~ limited environmental impacts. As described in more detail in the HRP (Appendix A), pre-construction activities may include sensitive species surveys, seed collection, invasive non-native plant treatment (including the use of herbicides and plant removal), trash and debris removal, including removal of dilapidated remnants of small structures, such as outbuildings and sheds, and public notification and postings.

Construction Activities

As described in more detail in the HRP (Appendix A), several activities and protocols would be undertaken during implementation of each phase to avoid and minimize impacts to sensitive resources. These include biological and cultural resource monitoring; sensitive species avoidance and minimization measures; soil and plant salvage and storage, including vertical mulching; and invasive non-native plant treatment and biomass removal, including herbicide treatments, hand removal, mechanical mowing, discing and clearing, and solarization. As part of these activities, small topographic modifications and small surface recontouring (potentially up to 0.25-acre per occurrence) may be proposed to enhance hydrologic functions over larger swaths of vegetation communities. Examples of topographic modification within wetland and riparian areas may include the removal of an impediment to a low flow channel that has been caused by an accumulation of debris or rhizomatous root masses which are altering the natural topography of the floodplain. Topographic modification within upland areas may include the redirection of concentrated surface flows to reduce point source erosion and the creation of water bars along dirt roads/trails. A topographic modification project may be performed by a small skip-loader, skid-steer, or small bulldozer. Any impacts created from this activity would be temporary and then disturbed areas would be revegetated.

Seeding and Planting

Plant palettes would be created for specific revegetation sites from seed or other propagules (i.e., vegetative cuttings) collected near a Proposed Project area or purchased seeds collected from within 25 miles of the Proposed Project area or within the Jepson Herbarium California Floristic Province South Coast ecoregion (Jepson 2023), if feasible. Preference would be given to seed and plants sourced from southern coastal San Diego County, if available. If seed and plants are not available in the immediate counties, seed or plants may be acquired from other southern California counties or from commercial sources, as available and deemed appropriate. Representative species palettes for plantings, cuttings, and seedings are presented in the HRP (Appendix A). During development of the Execution Plans, these plant palettes would be customized for each phase according to target habitat type and adjacent dominant vegetation. Only native species would be used for planting and seeding. Appendix A includes a complete list of

native species observed within TRVRP, which may be used for restoration planting and seeding.

Post-Construction Activities

Following completion of the Proposed Project's construction activities, any trash and debris remaining within the Proposed Project area to be restored would be removed and hauled off-site for disposal. Decompaction of soils following construction activities is anticipated to be required for temporary disturbance areas that have been subjected to use by heavy machinery and where heavily compacted soils occur. Proposed Project sites that require topographic modifications would be contour-graded to mimic natural surface topographies prior to implementation of restoration activities. In areas where topsoil has been salvaged, the finished grade would be scarified to a minimum depth of six inches, and the salvaged soil spread over the restoration area to the maximum depth based on the availability of soil. In all areas where soil has been disturbed, erosion control devices would be installed to reduce erosion and sedimentation, bank stabilization, runoff management, and may also function to facilitate revegetation efforts. Supplemental watering would also likely occur. No matter what type of supplemental watering is implemented, the timing and frequency of watering events would be determined by seasonal conditions and/or at the direction of the restoration specialist with the goal of successful plant establishment.

Maintenance, Monitoring, and Reporting Requirements and Performance Criteria

Maintenance, monitoring, and reporting of the revegetation or restoration sites would begin with the implementation of the restoration and revegetation work at each of the Proposed Project's temporary disturbance areas and would continue until the defined success criteria are met or up to three years, whichever is shorter. Restored sites would be maintained per the schedule presented in Table 6, *Maintenance Schedule* and the methods outlined in the following subsections. More detail regarding the methods, success criteria, and reporting requirements to be used are included in the HRP (Appendix A).

TABLE 6: MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Maintenance Activity	Frequency
Watering (container plants, cuttings, or as deemed necessary as a remedial action)	• Once or twice weekly during the establishment period (the first three months after planting). • Once or twice monthly for the first year. • As deemed necessary by a qualified biologist for the second year or as a remedial action for under-performing sites. • Irrigation frequencies will be determined by precipitation patterns and site conditions.
Weed Control	Four times per year and additional times according to weed growth cycles. Frequency may be adjusted as needed on a site-by-site basis.
Erosion Control	Once per year in spring (February to April). More visits conducted as conditions (flood, fire, etc.) require.
Trash/ Debris Removal	Trash and debris removal will occur concurrent with other maintenance activities.
Vegetation Trimming	As needed to make safe passage for existing trail use

Contingency Measures

Contingency measures may be warranted in order to address changed circumstances within a specific phase of the Proposed Project or changed circumstances over several phases. For instance, in the event of a disease or insect outbreak, DPR may change courses and take measures to restore defoliated forest habitat by reprioritizing funds for forest restoration or tree thinning in lieu of planting and weed control. If DPR determines upon receipt of any of the annual monitoring reports that the habitat restoration effort is not meeting success standards due to changed circumstances, they may discuss the implementation of contingency measures with the restoration specialist.

Long-Term Management

Following completion of the Proposed Project, long-term maintenance and management of the restoration site would be executed by DPR. Specifically, the site would be part of the DPR Preserve, and as such, would be patrolled regularly by DPR rangers. Park rangers may hand pull any invasive non-native plants in the early stages of growth that are observed during patrols and communicate observations of new or problematic invasive non-native plant species infestations to DPR district managers and/or Resource Management Division staff. Follow-up treatment would then be organized and implemented through coordination with the DPR staff.

9. Surrounding land uses and setting:

   The surrounding land uses include recreation, open space, residential, public agency lands, and vacant/undeveloped land. Additionally, I-5 is located along the northeast boundary of the Proposed Project area and the border between the U.S. and Mexico is located to the south.

10. Other public agencies whose approval may be required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

Potential Permit/Approval	Responsible Agency
Clean Water Act Section 401 permit	Regional Water Quality Control Board
Clean Water Act Section 404 permit	Army Corps of Engineers
Streambed Alteration Agreement	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Coastal Development Permit (potential)	City of San Diego

11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the Project Area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code §21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun?

YES ☒ NO ☐

Note: Conducting consultation early in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process allows tribal governments, public lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts on tribal cultural resources, and to reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process (see Public Resources Code Section 21083.3.2). Information is also available from the Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code Section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code Section 21082.3(e) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

AB 52 consultation with registered tribes was initiated between the County and each tribal contact on February 3, 2022, and the consultation request period ended March 12, 2022. On February 4, 2022, via certified mail and email, County staff provided project notification pursuant to AB 52 to seven tribes who have requested that the County provide, in writing, notification to the tribe of projects in the tribe's area of traditional and cultural affiliation. Notified tribes include the Barona Group of the Capitan Grande, Campo Band of Mission Indians, Jamul Indian Village (Jamul), Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Mission Indians, Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Nation, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, and Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians (Viejas).

On April 19, 2022, Jamul responded via email requesting consultation. County staff responded via email sent to Lisa Cumper on September 29, 2022, and again on December 14, 2022, requesting meeting availability for consultation. County staff met with Jamul on January 20, 2023, March 3, 2023, and April 7, 2023. Jamul requested a monitor be present during extensive grading and in known high-sensitivity areas. Ms. Cumper expressed the importance of the Tijuana River Valley to the Jamul Tribe and their history, in terms of cultural resources but also environmental, ethnographical, geographical, and biological resources. The Jamul

Tribe considers the entire valley as an important tribal cultural resource. This discussion on the importance of the Tijuana River Valley to Jamul and the tribal history has been included in the Tribal Cultural Resource section of the MND and the Cultural Resources Inventory and Assessment. Jamul's request for a monitor during extensive grading and in known culturally high-sensitivity areas is reflected in **MM-CUL-3.** Consultation closure was confirmed via email following the meeting on April 7, 2023.

Viejas responded via email on February 4, 2022, requesting that a cultural Native American monitor be present during ground disturbance; requesting a copy of the cultural report; and sharing that they are aware that there are TCRs in the Tijuana River Valley, but do not know specifically where they are located. County staff met with Viejas on September 21, 2022. County staff sent the cultural resources report to Viejas via email on December 14, 2022, and requested for a follow up phone call. County staff sent an additional email to Viejas on January 18, 2023 requesting a phone call. Viejas responded on January 18 asking if there would be any ground disturbing activities as part of the Proposed Project and if Jamul had been provided the same information. County staff responded via email that there may be ground disturbance and that Jamul had received the same information as Viejas. Viejas responded via email on January 18, 2023 that they defer to Jamul on this consultation. Consultation was closed via email on January 18, 2023. No responses or requests for consultation were received from the remaining tribes.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project and involve at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" or a "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated," as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture and Forest Resources	☐ Air Quality
☒ Biological Resources	☒ Cultural Resources	☐ Energy
☒ Geology & Soils	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials
☐ Hydrology and Water Quality	☒ Land Use & Planning	☐ Mineral Resources
☒ Noise	☐ Population & Housing	☐ Public Services
☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation	☒ Tribal Cultural Resources
☐ Utilities and Service Systems	☐ Wildfire	☒ Mandatory Findings of Significance

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ On the basis of this Initial Study, Department of Parks and Recreation finds that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ On the basis of this Initial Study, Department of Parks and Recreation finds that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ On the basis of this Initial Study, Department of Parks and Recreation finds that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

Signature	11/15/2023 Date
Crystal Benham Printed Name	Chief, Resource Management Division Title

INSTRUCTIONS ON EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4. "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.

5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

    a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.

    b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

    c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures that were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7. The explanation of each issue should identify:

    a. The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and

    b. The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

I. AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21009, would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☒ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

A vista is a view from a particular location or composite views along a public roadway or trail. Scenic vistas often refer to views of natural lands but may also be compositions of natural and developed areas, or even entirely of developed and unnatural areas, such as a scenic vista of a rural town and surrounding agricultural lands. What is scenic to one person may not be scenic to another, so the assessment of what constitutes a scenic vista must consider the perceptions of a variety of viewer groups.

The features that can be seen within a vista are visual resources. Adverse impacts on individual visual resources or the addition of structures or developed areas may or may not adversely affect the vista. Determining the level of impact on a scenic vista requires both analyzing the changes to the vista as a whole and to individual visual resources.

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project occurs within the TRVRP, which has a visual character categorized by diverse vegetation and the Tijuana River. The Proposed Project involves habitat rehabilitation, which would include activities such as removal of invasive non-native plant species, weed removal, trash/debris removal, seeding, watering, and erosion control. The Proposed Project would not construct permanent structures that would substantially alter the scenic quality in the region. Rather, the Proposed Project is anticipated to improve the scenic quality of the site by removing trash and debris and restore native vegetation. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

The Proposed Project would not result in cumulative impacts on a scenic vista based on an evaluation of the Proposed Project viewshed and past, present, and future projects within that viewshed to determine their cumulative effects. Refer to XXI, Mandatory Findings of Significance, for further discussion. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in adverse project, or cumulative-level impacts on a scenic vista.

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☒ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

State scenic highways refer to those highways that are officially designated by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) as scenic (Caltrans - California Scenic Highway Program). Generally, the area defined within a State scenic highway is the land adjacent to and visible from the vehicular ROW. The dimension of a scenic highway is usually identified using a motorist's line of vision, but a reasonable boundary is selected when the view extends to the distant horizon. The scenic highway corridor extends to the visual limits of the landscape abutting the scenic highway.

Less Than Significant Impact: Scenic resources constitute the general visual appearance of a location or landscape, which is dependent on natural features such as geology, vegetation, landforms, and human developments. The Proposed Project is not near or visible within the composite viewshed of a State scenic highway and would not damage or remove visual resources within a State scenic highway. The nearest designated State scenic highway is a portion of State Route (SR-)75, which is located approximately 2.4 miles northwest of the Proposed Project site. The nearest eligible State scenic highway is a portion of I-5 located adjacent to the eastern portion of the Proposed Project site. Although the Proposed Project would be visible from the portion of I-5 that is eligible, the Proposed Project involves habitat restoration and would not substantially damage scenic resources. The Proposed Project involves the removal of invasive non-native vegetation, trash, and debris in the Proposed Project area, which would improve the scenic quality of the site. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

The Proposed Project would not result in cumulative impacts to scenic resources within a State scenic highway as the Proposed Project is not visible within the composite viewshed of a State scenic highway and would not damage or remove visual resources within a State scenic highway. No cumulative projects were identified within the vicinity of the Proposed Project. Refer to XXI, Mandatory Findings of Significance, for further discussion. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in any adverse project or cumulative level effect on a scenic resource within a State scenic highway.

c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the Project is in an urbanized area, would the Project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☒	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: Visual character is the objective composition of the visible landscape within a viewshed. Visual quality is the viewer's perception of the visual

environment and varies based on exposure, sensitivity, and expectation of the viewers. The Proposed Project site is located within the TRVRP, which has a visual character categorized by diverse vegetation and the Tijuana River. The Proposed Project involves habitat rehabilitation, which would include activities such as removal of invasive non-native plant species, weed removal, trash/debris removal, seeding, watering, and erosion control. Following completion of the Proposed Project, the Proposed Project site would continue to operate as a regional park. The Proposed Project is compatible with the existing visual environment's visual character and is anticipated to improve the visual quality of the site by removing existing trash and debris. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not substantially degrade the existing visual character and/or visual quality of the site or in the surrounding area.

The Proposed Project would not result in cumulative impacts on visual character or quality based on an evaluation of the existing viewshed. Refer to XXI, Mandatory Findings of Significance, for further discussion. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in any adverse project- or cumulative-level effect on visual character or quality on site or in the surrounding area.

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated
☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

No Impact: The Proposed Project's habitat rehabilitation activities would occur during daytime hours. The Proposed Project would not construct permanent structures that would use lighting or materials with highly reflective properties such as highly reflective glass or high-gloss surface colors. Following the completion of the Proposed Project, the Proposed Project site would continue to operate as a regional park and would have lighting identical to existing conditions. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not create a substantial source of light pollution that could adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

Would the project:

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance (Important Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, or other agricultural resources, to non-agricultural use?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: According to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Department of Conservation, the Proposed Project area includes land that is designated as Farmland of Local Importance, Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Urban and Built-Up Land, and Other Land (California Department of Conservation 2018). The Proposed Project area is not currently used for agricultural cultivation, and following successful restoration, the entire site would continue to be preserved, managed, and maintained in perpetuity by the County. Therefore, no potentially significant project- or cumulative-level conversion of agricultural resources to a non-agricultural use would result from implementation of the Proposed Project.

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

No Impact: The Proposed Project area includes land with several zoning designations, including Open Space – Floodplain (OF-1-1) and Agricultural – Residential (AR-1-1, AR-1-2) which is considered an agricultural zone. However, the Proposed Project would not result in an agricultural zoning conflict because it would not impact agricultural uses on or adjacent to the Proposed Project site. No agricultural cultivation presently occurs in the area. Following successful restoration, the Proposed Project would continue to be preserved, managed, and maintained in perpetuity by the County. Additionally, the Proposed Project site's land is not under a Williamson Act Contract. Further, the Proposed Project includes habitat restoration of the existing regional park and would not change existing uses of the land. Therefore, there would be no conflict with, or cumulatively significant impact on, existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract.

c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), or timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

No Impact: The Proposed Project site does not contain forest lands or timberland. The County does not have any existing Timberland Production Zones. In addition, the Proposed Project involves habitat restoration at the existing regional park and would not change the existing uses of the land. A rezone of the Proposed Project area is not proposed. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland production zones; or result in a cumulatively significant impact related to existing zoning of timberland.

d) Result in the loss of forest land, conversion of forest land to non-forest use, or involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact	☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

No Impact: The Proposed Project site does not contain any forest lands as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g); therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in the loss or conversion of forest land to a non-forest use. In addition, the Proposed Project is not located in the vicinity of off-site forest resources. Therefore, implementation of the Proposed Project would not result in the disturbance, loss, or conversion of forest resources to a non-forest use.

e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Important Farmland or other agricultural resources, to non-agricultural use?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact	☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

No Impact: No agricultural uses exist on the Proposed Project site. The Proposed Project would involve habitat restoration activities to the existing regional park, which would not limit or prevent the Proposed Project site from being used for agricultural operations in the future. As a result, the Proposed Project would not have a significant adverse impact or cumulative impact related to the conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance, or active agricultural operations to a non-agricultural use.

III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the San Diego Regional Air Quality Strategy (RAQS) or applicable portions of the State Implementation Plan (SIP)?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project site is located within the San Diego Air Basin (SDAB), which is governed by the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD). The SDAPCD develops and administers local regulations for stationary air pollutant sources within the SDAB, and also develops plans and programs to meet attainment requirements for both Federal and State ambient air quality standards (National Ambient Air Quality Standards [NAAQS] and California Ambient Air Quality Standards [CAAQS], respectively). The SDAPCD and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) are responsible for developing and implementing the clean air plan for attainment and maintenance of the Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS) in the SDAB. The SDAPCD has developed a series of policies and guidelines collectively known as the Regional Air Quality Strategy (RAQS). The RAQS outlines the SDAPCD's plans and control measures designed to attain the state air quality standards, including applicable portions of the California State Implementation Plan (SIP).

Included in the RAQS are short- and long-term goals for those pollutants that the SDAB is designated as a "nonattainment" area because the SDAPCD does not meet the NAAQS or CAAQS. Criteria pollutants of primary concern include ozone (O_3), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), particulate matter (including both respirable particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter [PM_{10}] and fine particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter [$PM_{2.5}$]), sulfur dioxide (SO_2), and lead. The SDAB is currently designated as a basic nonattainment area for the 8-hour NAAQS for ozone. The SDAB is designated as being in attainment for all other applicable criteria pollutants under the NAAQS. The SDAB is currently classified as a nonattainment area under the CAAQS for ozone, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$. It is in attainment for CO, NO_2, SO_2, and lead relative to state air standards.

The Proposed Project includes habitat rehabilitation within an existing regional park. The Proposed Project would not include the construction of permanent structures and would not result in a permanent increase of guests or inhabitants on the site. Furthermore, construction and maintenance jobs for the Proposed Project would likely recruit from the local pool of labor and would not create conditions for employment growth that exceeds growth estimates for the area. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not generate growth

that would conflict with the RAQS, SIP, or an applicable General Plan. Construction activities would be short-term and anticipated to consist of approximately 20 construction workers. Operation of the Proposed Project would not generate emissions over existing conditions. Following completion of the Proposed Project, the Proposed Project would continue to operate as a regional park. The Proposed Project would not construct features that would generate operational emissions.

As discussed in the Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Technical Analysis prepared for the Proposed Project, the Proposed Project would not generate criteria air pollutant emissions during construction activities that would exceed the screening level thresholds set by the SDAPCD (HELIX ~~2022~~2024; Appendix B). This analysis assumes standard construction BMPs will be in place to minimize dust, including reduced speed limits, watering, etc. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not conflict with implementation of applicable air quality plans and impacts would be less than significant.

Because the Proposed Project would not violate ambient air quality standards, it would also not result in a cumulatively considerable impacts on ambient air quality standards when combined with the cumulative projects listed in XVIII, Mandatory Findings of Significance, below.

b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☒	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project would generate criteria pollutants in the short-term during construction activities. Because the Proposed Project involves habitat restoration in a regional park, it would not increase long-term air pollutant emissions in the Proposed Project area, and therefore operational emissions were not modeled. To determine whether a project would result in emissions that would violate an air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation, a project's emissions are evaluated based on the quantitative emission thresholds established by the SDAPCD.

The Proposed Project's criteria pollutant emissions were calculated using equipment emission factors from the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) Version 2020.4.0. CalEEMod is a statewide land use emissions computer model designed to provide a uniform platform for government agencies, land use planners, and environmental professionals to quantify potential criteria pollutant and GHG emissions associated with both construction and operations from a variety of land use projects. The model was developed for the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association

(CAPCOA) in collaboration with the California air districts. Emissions resulting from worker commutes were quantified using emission factors from the California Air Resources Board's (CARB's) EMFAC Emissions Inventory (CARB 2021).

The Proposed Project would occur in 12 phases. Based on the current breakdown of phases, Phase 1 is anticipated to require handheld equipment such as chainsaws, leaf blowers, and trimmer/edgers. Phases 2-4 are anticipated to require the same equipment in addition to mowers and a tractor. Phases 5-12 are anticipated to require the same equipment as the previous phases, in addition to a chipper/grinder ~~and a bulldozer~~. A bulldozer has also been assumed for all phases.

Proposed Project phases would likely be constructed sequentially, but there is potential for two phases to overlap. This analysis conservatively estimates two phases to occur at a time, with each phase using separate construction equipment. As a conservative analysis, two phases (one of Phases 2-4 and one of Phases 5-12) are assumed to occur simultaneously at a given time. The analysis assumes that each of the 12 phases of the Proposed Project would last approximately 10 weeks. Each phase may also include additional pre-construction and post-construction activities (i.e., seed collection, plant treatment, trash/debris removal, including removal of dilapidated remnants of small structures), ~~but such activities would be minor and are not anticipated to require specialized equipment. As such, emissions associated with these activities were not modeled.~~

Construction of the Proposed Project would generate short-term criteria air pollutant emissions, including emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), NO_X, CO, SO_X, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$. An estimate of the maximum daily emissions of each criteria air pollutant during construction of the Proposed Project is presented in Table 7, *Maximum Daily Construction Emissions*.

TABLE 7: MAXIMUM DAILY CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS

Construction Phases	Pollutant Emissions (pounds per day)					
	VOC	**NO_X**	**CO**	**SO_X**	**PM_{10}**	**$PM_{2.5}$**
Phase 1	~~20~~23	~~<1~~32	~~66~~92	<1	~~<1~~2	~~<1~~1
Each of Phases 2-4	~~27~~30	~~7~~39	~~206~~232	<1	~~1~~3	~~1~~1
Each of Phases 5-12	32	44	309	<1	4	4
Maximum Daily Emissions[1]	~~59~~62	~~51~~83	~~515~~542	<1	~~5~~7	~~5~~6
SDAPCD Thresholds	75	250	550	250	100	55
Significant Impact?	No	No	No	No	No	No

Source: HELIX ~~2022~~2024

Note: Emissions are rounded to the nearest whole number.

[1] It is assumed a maximum of two phases (one of Phases 2-4 and one of Phases 5-12) would be constructed at a single time. Therefore, maximum daily emissions are calculated as the sum of one of Phases 2-4 and one of Phases 5-12.

VOC = volatile organic compound; NO_X = nitrogen oxides; CO = carbon monoxide; SO_X = sulfur oxides; PM_{10} = particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter; $PM_{2.5}$ = particulate matter 2.5 microns or less in diameter

As shown in Table 7, emissions of criteria pollutants related to construction of the Proposed Project, activities would be below the daily thresholds. Therefore, impacts from criteria pollutants generated during construction would be less than significant.

As discussed in section XXI, Mandatory Findings of Significance, the emissions associated with the Proposed Project would not create a cumulatively considerable impact nor a considerable net increase of PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$, NO_X, SO_X, CO, or VOCs.

c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☒	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Air quality regulators typically define sensitive receptors as schools (Preschool–Grade 12), hospitals, resident care facilities, or day-care centers, or other facilities that may house individuals with health conditions that would be adversely impacted by changes in air quality. The County also considers residences as sensitive receptors because they house children and the elderly.

Less Than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project would occur throughout approximately 1,740.75 acres within TRVRP. The nearest sensitive uses include the residences located adjacent to various areas of the Proposed Project site. However, the Proposed Project does not propose uses or activities that would result in exposure of sensitive receptors to significant pollutant concentrations and would not place sensitive receptors near carbon monoxide hotspots. Construction activities would be temporary and would require minimal equipment. As shown in item III b) above, the Proposed Project would not generate emissions that exceed the SDAPCD thresholds. Further, construction activities would occur throughout the Proposed Project site, with the majority of activities occurring amongst 578.93 acres so emissions would not be concentrated next to sensitive receptors. Following completion of the Proposed Project, the Proposed Project site would continue to operate as a regional park that would not generate significant air quality emissions. In addition, the Proposed Project would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations because no cumulative projects were identified within the vicinity of the Proposed Project. Refer to XXI, Mandatory Findings of Significance, for further discussion.

d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☒	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project could result in emissions during construction activities that produce objectionable odors, such as exhaust from

construction equipment. However, such odors would be a temporary source of nuisance that would not affect a substantial number of people and would be limited to areas closed during construction activities. Moreover, the effects of objectionable odors are localized to the immediate surrounding area and would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable odor. Following completion of the Proposed Project, the Proposed Project site would continue operating as a regional park that would not be a significant source of objectional odors. Refer to XXI, Mandatory Findings of Significance, for further discussion. As such, impacts as a result of odors generated by the Proposed Project would be less than significant.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☐	Less than Significant Impact
☒	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated: A Biological Resources Technical Report (BRTR) was prepared for the Proposed Project (HELIX ~~2023b~~2024b; Appendix C). The BRTR includes a comprehensive review of the biological resources present and potentially present at the Proposed Project site using methods such as literature review, vegetation mapping, habitat assessment, focused species surveys, and jurisdictional delineation.

According to the BRTR, the Proposed Project is intended to provide habitat restoration, and impacts incurred during implementation of the Proposed Project as described below are considered temporary and would be self-mitigated through the completion of the Proposed Project itself. In total, 17 special status plant species were observed within the study area during the BRTR surveys: San Diego bur-sage, singlewhorl burrobrush, San Diego sagewort, San Diego County viguiera, golden-spined cereus, wart-stemmed ceanothus, western dichondra, cliff spurge, San Diego barrel cactus, San Diego marsh-elder, southern California black walnut, southwestern spiny rush, sea dahlia Baja California birdbush, Torrey pine, Nuttall's scrub oak, and ashy spike-moss. The Proposed Project would potentially result in impacts to four special status plant species: San Diego marsh-elder, San Diego sagewort, southwestern spiny rush, and singlewhorl burrobrush. Impacts to San Diego sagewort and southwestern spiny rush are considered less than significant because these species occur within similar habitat adjacent to the study area and are widespread throughout the City MSCP Subarea Plan subregion (HELIX

~~2023b~~2024b). Potential significant impacts would occur to singlewhorl burrobrush and San Diego marsh-elder but would be mitigated to less than significant levels. Eleven special status plant species (Baja California birdbush, Nuttall's scrub oak, San Diego bur-sage, San Diego barrel cactus, golden-spined cereus, wart-stemmed ceanothus, cliff spurge, ashy spike-moss, western dichondra, southern California black walnut, and San Diego County viguiera) occur outside of proposed restoration areas where no impacts are proposed, and thus, Proposed Project impacts on these species are unlikely. Additionally, while Torrey pine occurs as planted individuals within the anticipated Proposed Project area in Phases 7 and 9, all individuals observed on-site would remain undisturbed and would not be impacted.

A total of 38 special status animal species were observed or detected on or within the study area, or observed flying over the study area, during biological surveys conducted for the BRTR, including 12 County Group 1 species, 20 County Group 2 species, one species that is not on the County Group lists, but is a state Species of Special Concern, one species that is not on the County Group lists, but is a state Watch List species, and two species that are not on County Group lists, but are a Federal Bird of Conservation Concern. The species include: monarch butterfly, Quino checkerspot butterfly, western spadefoot toad, Belding's orange-throated whiptail, Baja California coachwhip, Blainville's horned lizard, Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, southern California rufous-crowned sparrow, great blue heron, red-shouldered hawk, green heron, Costa's hummingbird, northern cardinal, turkey vulture, northern harrier, white-tailed kite, California horned lark, merlin, American peregrine falcon, yellow-breasted chat, gadwall, osprey, American white pelican, double-crested cormorant, white-faced ibis, coastal California gnatcatcher, yellow warbler, western bluebird, Lawrence's goldfinch, barn owl, least Bell's vireo, western mastiff bat, western red bat, San Diego black-tailed jackrabbit, Yuma myotis, San Diego desert woodrat, and pocketed free-tailed bat (HELIX ~~2023b~~2024b). Most Proposed Project effects on wildlife species would be through the temporary reduction in suitable habitat used by that species, but because of the mobility of wildlife and the amount of habitat available in the area, most impacts would not be significant. However, the Proposed Project would have the potential to cause significant direct or indirect impacts to three special status animal species: least Bell's vireo, coastal California gnatcatcher, and Quino checkerspot butterfly. The effects of the Proposed Project on these three species are discussed below.

Least Bell's vireo is a Federally and state listed endangered, County Group 1, and MSCP covered species. The least Bell's vireo was detected within the study area during the spring and summer months during multiple survey efforts in 2018 and 2021 in multiple locations. In total, the Proposed Project would temporarily impact a total of 176.52 acres of suitable habitat for this species (southern riparian forest [including disturbed], non-native riparian, southern willow scrub [including disturbed], mule fat scrub [including disturbed], tamarisk scrub, disturbed riparian scrub, and arundo-dominated riparian). The Proposed Project would also temporarily impact 221.42 acres of land within USFWS critical habitat for this species. Additionally, noise related to restoration activities adjacent to active nests could result in adverse indirect impacts. Following treatment and removal of invasive non-native plant species, the Proposed Project would restore additional, higher quality habitat for the species through the revegetation and restoration of

approximately 176.52 acres of native wetland/riparian habitat along the Tijuana River corridor.

Coastal California gnatcatcher is a Federally listed threatened, State Species of Special Concern, County Group 1 species, and MSCP covered species. The coastal California gnatcatcher was detected within the southern portion of the Study area during multiple HELIX survey efforts in 2018 and 2021 within the vicinities of Phases 11 and 12. In total, the Proposed Project would temporarily impact a total of 25.6 acres of suitable habitat for this species (Diegan coastal sage scrub [including disturbed], and Diegan coastal sage scrub: baccharis dominated [including disturbed]). Additionally, noise related to restoration activities adjacent to active nests could result in adverse indirect impacts. Following treatment and removal of invasive non-native plant species, the Proposed Project would restore additional, higher quality habitat for the species through the revegetation and restoration of a maximum of 418.6 acres of coastal sage scrub habitat. Phases 1, 3, 6, and 10 to 11 would not impact Diegan coastal sage scrub and would not pass within 500 feet of an observed coastal California gnatcatcher location documented during the 2021 protocol survey. Phases 2, 4, 5, 8, and 9 would impact Diegan coastal sage scrub but would not pass within 500 feet of an observed coastal California gnatcatcher location. Phase 12 would impact Diegan coastal sage scrub and occur within 500 feet of an observed coastal California gnatcatcher location.

Quino checkerspot butterfly were observed at three locations within Phase 12 during surveys conducted in 2019. Phase 12 would temporarily impact a total of 20.4 acres of suitable habitat for this species, comprising 20.4 acres of disturbed Diegan coastal sage scrub intermixed with the Quino's primary host plant dwarf plantain (*Plantago erecta*) and nectaring resources goldfields (*Lasthenia* spp.) and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*). Proposed Project construction within on-site breeding habitat for this sensitive species could result in adverse impacts. These impacts would be considered significant.

The BRTR divides the potential impacts identified above and associated mitigation measures by phase. Potential impacts and associated mitigation measures required per phase are detailed below.

Phase 1: Phase 1 has the potential to significantly impact suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo, the nesting success of County Group 1 birds and raptors (osprey, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, northern harrier, white-tailed kite, yellow-breasted chat, and yellow warbler), nesting success of least Bell's vireo and tree-nesting raptors. With implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1** and **MM-BIO-2**, impacts to least Bell's vireo and County Group 1 birds in Phase 1 would be less than significant.

Phase 2: Phase 2 has the potential to significantly impact suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo; however, with implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1** and **MM-BIO-2,** impacts to least Bell's vireo in Phase 2 would be less than significant. Phase 2 may also result in significant impacts to San Diego marsh elder and singlewhorl burrobrush; however, impacts to these species would be reduced to a less than significant level through implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-3 and MM-BIO-4**, respectively.

Phase 2 may also impact the nesting success of County Group 1 birds and raptors (osprey, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, northern harrier, white-tailed kite, yellow-breasted chat, and yellow warbler), and of least Bell's vireo, coastal California gnatcatcher, and tree-nesting raptors. With implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts to County Group 1 birds would be less than significant. Therefore, with implementation of **MM-BIO-1 through MM-BIO-4**, impacts in Phase 2 would be less than significant.

Phase 3: Phase 3 has the potential to significantly impact suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo; however, with implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1** and, **MM-BIO-2**, impacts to least Bell's vireo in Phase 3 would be less than significant. Phase 3 may also impact the nesting success of County Group 1 birds and raptors (osprey, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, northern harrier, white-tailed kite, yellow-breasted chat, and yellow warbler), and of least Bell's vireo and tree-nesting raptors. With implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts to County Group 1 birds would be less than significant. Therefore, with implementation of **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts in Phase 3 would be less than significant.

Phase 4: Phase 4 has the potential to significantly impact suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo; however, with implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1** and **MM-BIO-2**, impacts to least Bell's vireo in Phase 4 would be reduced to less than significant. Phase 4 may also result in significant impacts to singlewhorl burrobrush; however, impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through implementation of mitigation measure **MM-BIO-4**. Phase 4 may also impact the nesting success of County Group 1 birds and raptors (osprey, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, northern harrier, white-tailed kite, yellow-breasted chat, and yellow warbler), and of least Bell's vireo and tree-nesting raptors. With implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts to County Group 1 birds would be less than significant. Therefore, with implementation of **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2** and **MM-BIO-4**, impacts in Phase 4 would be less than significant.

Phase 5: Phase 5 has the potential to significantly impact suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo; however, with implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts to least Bell's vireo in Phase 5 would be reduced to less than significant. Phase 5 may also result in significant impacts to singlewhorl burrobrush; however, impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through implementation of mitigation measure **MM-BIO-4**. Phase 5 may also impact the nesting success of County Group 1 birds and raptors (osprey, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, northern harrier, white-tailed kite, yellow-breasted chat, and yellow warbler), and of least Bell's vireo and tree-nesting raptors. With implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts to County Group 1 birds would be less than significant. Therefore, with implementation of **MM-BIO-1, MM-BIO-2 and MM-BIO-4,** impacts in Phase 5 would be less than significant.

Phase 6: Phase 6 has the potential to significantly impact suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo; however, with implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts to least Bell's vireo in Phase 6 would be reduced to less than significant. Phase 6 may also impact the nesting success of County Group 1 birds and raptors (osprey,

Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, northern harrier, white-tailed kite, yellow-breasted chat, and yellow warbler), and of least Bell's vireo and tree-nesting raptors. With implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts to County Group 1 birds would be less than significant. Therefore, with implementation of **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts in Phase 6 would be less than significant.

Phase 7: Phase 7 has the potential to significantly impact suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo; however, with implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts to least Bell's vireo in Phase 7 would be reduced to less than significant. Phase 7 may also result in significant impacts to singlewhorl burrobrush; however, impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through implementation of mitigation measure **MM-BIO-4**. Phase 7 may also impact the nesting success of County Group 1 birds and raptors (osprey, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, northern harrier, white-tailed kite, yellow-breasted chat, and yellow warbler), and of least Bell's vireo and tree-nesting raptors. With implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts to County Group 1 birds would be less than significant. Therefore, with implementation of **MM-BIO-1, MM-BIO-2, and MM-BIO-4**, impacts in Phase 7 would be less than significant.

Phase 8: Phase 8 has the potential to significantly impact suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo; however, with implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1and MM-BIO-2**, impacts to least Bell's vireo in Phase would be reduced to less than significant. Phase 8 may also result in significant impacts to singlewhorl burrobrush; however, impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through implementation of mitigation measure **MM-BIO-4**. Phase 8 may also impact the nesting success of County Group 1 birds and raptors (osprey, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, northern harrier, white-tailed kite, yellow-breasted chat, and yellow warbler), and of least Bell's vireo and tree-nesting raptors. With implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts to County Group 1 birds would be less than significant. Therefore, with implementation of **MM-BIO-1, MM-BIO-2, and MM-BIO-4**, impacts in Phase 8 would be less than significant.

Phase 9: Phase 9 has the potential to significantly impact suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo; however, with implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts to least Bell's vireo in Phase 9 would be reduced to less than significant. Phase 9 may also result in significant impacts to San Diego march elder and singlewhorl burrobrush; however, impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-3 and MM-BIO-4**, respectively. Phase 9 may also impact the nesting success of County Group 1 birds and raptors (osprey, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, northern harrier, white-tailed kite, yellow-breasted chat, and yellow warbler), and of least Bell's vireo and tree-nesting raptors. With implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts to County Group 1 birds would be less than significant. Therefore, with implementation of **MM-BIO-1 through MM-BIO-4**, impacts in Phase 9 would be less than significant.

Phase 10: Phase 10 has the potential to significantly impact suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo; however, with implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts to least Bell's vireo in Phase 10 would be reduced to less than significant. Phase 10 may also impact the nesting success of County Group 1 birds and

raptors (osprey, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, northern harrier, white-tailed kite, yellow-breasted chat, and yellow warbler), and of least Bell's vireo and tree-nesting raptors. With implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts to County Group 1 birds would be less than significant. Therefore, with implementation of **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts in Phase 10 would be less than significant.

Phase 11: Phase 11 has the potential to significantly impact suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo and coastal California gnatcatchers; however, with implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts to least Bell's vireo and coastal California gnatcatcher in Phase 11 would be reduced to less than significant. Phase 11 may also impact the nesting success of County Group 1 birds and raptors (osprey, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, northern harrier, white-tailed kite, yellow-breasted chat, and yellow warbler), and of least Bell's vireo, coastal California gnatcatcher, and tree-nesting raptors. With implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts to County Group 1 birds would be less than significant. Therefore, with implementation of **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts in Phase 11 would be less than significant.

Phase 12: Phase 12 has the potential to significantly impact suitable habitat for least Bell's vireo, coastal California gnatcatcher, and Quino checkerspot butterfly. Impacts to least Bell's vireo habitat would be reduced to a less than significant level with implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**. Impacts to coastal California gnatcatcher habitat would be reduced to a less than significant level with implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1** and **MM-BIO-2**. Impacts to Quino checkerspot butterfly habitat would be reduced to a less than significant level with implementation of mitigation measure **MM-BIO-5**. Phase 12 may also result in significant impacts to singlewhorl burrobrush; however, impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through implementation of mitigation measure **MM-BIO-4**. Phase 12 may also impact the nesting success of County Group 1 birds and raptors (osprey, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, northern harrier, white-tailed kite, yellow-breasted chat, and yellow warbler), and of least Bell's vireo, coastal California gnatcatcher, and tree-nesting raptors. With implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts to County Group 1 birds would be less than significant. Therefore, with implementation of **MM-BIO-1, MM-BIO-2**, **MM-BIO 4, and MM-BIO-5**, impacts in Phase 12 would be less than significant.

With implementation of the proposed mitigation measures, the Proposed Project would result in less than significant impacts to sensitive species and their habitats. As discussed in the BRTR (Appendix C), all other sensitive species with the potential to occur on the Proposed Project site would experience less than significant impacts. As the Proposed Project would ultimately be in conformance with the City MSCP Subarea Plan and any other projects proposed in the vicinity would also have to follow the City MSCP Subarea Plan, cumulative impacts would be considered fully mitigated.

To reduce impacts to sensitive species from the Proposed Project implementation, the following mitigation measures would be required:

MM-BIO-1 Grubbing or clearing of vegetation of any phase of the Proposed Project during the general avian breeding season (February 1 to September 15), least Bell's vireo breeding season (March 15 to September 15), coastal California gnatcatcher breeding season (March 1 to August 15), or raptor breeding season (January 15 to July 15) shall be avoided to the extent feasible. If grubbing, clearing, or grading would occur during the breeding season, a pre-construction survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than three days prior to the commencement of activities to determine if active bird nests are present in the affected areas. If there are no nesting birds (includes nest building or other breeding/nesting behavior) within 300 feet of the survey area (500 feet for raptors), clearing, grubbing, and grading shall be allowed to proceed in that area. Furthermore, if clearing, grubbing, or grading activities are to resume in an area where they have not occurred for a period of seven or more days during the breeding season, an updated survey for avian nesting will be conducted by a qualified biologist within three days prior to the commencement of clearing, grubbing, or grading activities in that area. If active nests or nesting birds are observed within 300 feet of the survey area (500 feet for raptors), the biologist shall flag a buffer around the active nests, and clearing, grubbing, or grading activities shall not occur within 300 feet of active nests (500 feet for raptors) until nesting behavior has ceased, nests have failed, or young have fledged as determined by a qualified biologist. If the qualified biologist determines that the species will not be impacted with a reduced buffer (i.e., less than 300 feet for general avian species and 500 feet for raptors), potentially with the implementation of avoidance measures to reduce noise, as necessary, and/or the qualified biologist monitors the active nest during clearing, grubbing, or grading to ensure no impacts to the species occur, these activities may occur outside the reduced buffer during the breeding season, as long as the species is not impacted.

MM-BIO-2 If heavy equipment would be in operation in any phase of the Proposed Project during the breeding season for least Bell's vireo (March 15 to September 15), coastal California gnatcatcher (March 1 to August 15), or raptors (January 15 to July 15), pre-construction survey(s) shall be conducted by a qualified biologist, as appropriate, to determine whether these species occur within the areas potentially impacted by noise. If pre-construction surveys determine that active nests belonging to these species are absent from the potential impact area (within 300 feet for vireo or gnatcatcher, 500 feet for raptors, or as otherwise determined by a qualified biologist), clearing, grubbing, and grading shall be allowed to proceed. If pre-construction surveys determine the presence of active nests belonging to these species, then clearing, grubbing, and grading within 300 feet of the nest location(s) for vireo or gnatcatcher and 500 feet for raptors, shall: (1) be postponed until a permitted biologist determines the nest is no longer active; (2) be allowed to continue if nest monitoring by a qualified biologist determines that noise levels are not adversely affecting the nesting birds; or (3) not occur until a temporary noise barrier or berm is constructed at the edge of the clearing, grubbing, or grading footprint and/or around the piece of equipment to ensure that noise levels are reduced to below 60 A-weighted decibels (dBA) or ambient at the nest location. Decibel output for Item (3) will be confirmed by a qualified noise specialist and intermittent monitoring by a qualified biologist will be required to ensure that conditions have not changed.

MM-BIO-3 Mitigation for impacts occurring within all phases of the Proposed Project to six individuals of San Diego marsh elder, a CRPR 2B.2 and County List B plant species, shall occur through the inclusion of this species in the Proposed Project's restoration plant palette.

MM-BIO-4 Mitigation for impacts occurring within all phases of the Proposed Project to 68 individuals of singlewhorl burrobrush, a CRPR 2B.2 plant species, shall occur through the inclusion of this species in the Proposed Project's restoration plant palette.

MM-BIO-5 The following Quino conservation measures apply in Phase 12, shown as Quino Checkerspot Butterfly Avoidance Area on Figures 14a and 14e-14f of Appendix C to this IS/MND.

Step 1, Survey

- Additional Quino host plant mapping conducted prior to construction when host plants are blooming, in order to ensure host plant patches are delineated to the greatest extent feasible.

- During host plant mapping, host plant patches will be mapped using GPS so they can be flagged prior to construction.

Step 2, Avoidance and Minimization Measures

- Following host plant mapping, realign or leave potential restoration areas unimproved, as needed, to avoid direct impacts to host plants as much as possible.

- All construction within mapped Quino host plant patches will be prohibited during the Quino flight season (defined as the third week of February through the second Saturday in May).

- A qualified biologist will intermittently monitor construction within the Quino Avoidance Area to ensure that all flagged and mapped host plant locations planned for avoidance are avoided.

- The qualified biologist will conduct environmental awareness training for all contractors entering the site during the construction of the Proposed Project.

- Following restoration installation, maintenance activities in areas supporting Quino host plants within the Quino Avoidance Area shall either occur outside of the Quino flight season or be monitored, as appropriate, by a qualified biologist.

- Install signs and/or fencing along the avoided host plants stating, "Environmentally sensitive area. Please stay on trail," or similar language.

Step 3, Compensatory Mitigation

If the restoration cannot be redesigned to avoid impacts to all occupied Quino host plant patches, then in addition to the surveys and avoidance and minimization measures in Steps 1 and 2 above, consultation with USFWS will be required. Mitigation may consist of one or a combination of on- or off-site planting of host plants, providing long-term maintenance of existing host plants, preserving occupied Quino habitat, or similar measures to the satisfaction of the USFWS.

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☐	Less than Significant Impact
☒	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated: According to the BRTR (Appendix C), the Proposed Project may result in significant, temporary effects on particular biological resources – such as special-status species. Following County Guidelines, 595.14 acres of the approximately 1,740.75 Proposed Project area would be considered temporarily impacted as part of the Proposed Project. Of which, temporary impacts to sensitive habitats at a maximum would total 216.94 acres. These temporarily impacted areas are described for each phase below.

As the intent of the Proposed Project is habitat restoration, impacts incurred during Proposed Project implementation are considered temporary and would be self-mitigated through the completion of the Proposed Project itself. The HRP would be used during the submittal process relative to agency permitting, updated as necessary, and incorporated into final permit conditions. Because of the nature of the Proposed Project being habitat restoration, the temporary impacts to special status species described below are considered self-mitigating and therefore less than significant.

Phase 1: Implementation of Phase 1 of the Proposed Project would result in direct impacts to approximately 8.50 acres of sensitive vegetation communities, including 6.24 acres of non-native riparian, 0.75 acre of tamarisk scrub, and 1.51 acres of arundo-dominated riparian. These impacts would be temporary in nature and would be self-mitigated through the completion of the Proposed Project itself, as the intent of the Proposed Project is habitat restoration. Impacts would be less than significant, and no further mitigation is required nor proposed.

Phase 2: Implementation of Phase 2 of the Proposed Project would result in direct impacts to approximately 10.13 acres of sensitive vegetation communities, including 0.01 acre of saltgrass grassland, less than 0.01 acre (0.003 acre) of coastal valley and freshwater marsh, 0.03 acre of emergent wetland, 0.86 acre of southern riparian forest,

0.16 acre of non-native riparian, 0.33 acre of southern willow scrub, 0.06 acre of mule fat scrub, 1.76 acres of tamarisk scrub, and 6.69 acres of arundo-dominated riparian. These impacts would be temporary in nature and would be self-mitigated through the completion of the Proposed Project itself, as the intent of the Proposed Project is habitat restoration. Impacts would be less than significant, and no further mitigation is required nor proposed.

Phase 3: Implementation of Phase 3 of the Proposed Project would result in direct impacts to approximately 4.14 acres of sensitive vegetation communities, including 0.03 acre of southern willow scrub, 0.02 acre of mule fat scrub, and 4.09 acres of tamarisk scrub. These impacts would be temporary in nature and would be self-mitigated through the completion of the Proposed Project itself, as the intent of the Proposed Project is habitat restoration. Impacts would be less than significant, and no further mitigation is required nor proposed.

Phase 4: Implementation of Phase 4 of the Proposed Project would result in direct impacts to approximately 105.37 acres of sensitive vegetation communities, including 0.32 acre of southern riparian forest, 2.14 acres of disturbed southern riparian forest, 6.04 acres of non-native riparian, 0.14 acre of southern willow scrub, 0.13 acre of mule fat scrub, 5.74 acres of tamarisk scrub, 89.77 acres of arundo-dominated riparian, 0.2 acre of Diegan coastal sage scrub: baccharis dominated, 0.6 acre of disturbed Diegan coastal sage scrub: baccharis dominated, less than 0.1 acre (0.09 acre) of disturbed Diegan coastal sage scrub, and 0.2 acre of chenopod scrub. These impacts would be temporary in nature and would be self-mitigated through the completion of the Proposed Project itself, as the intent of the Proposed Project is habitat restoration. Impacts would be less than significant, and no further mitigation is required nor proposed.

Phase 5: Implementation of Phase 5 of the Proposed Project would result in direct impacts to approximately 3.31 acres of sensitive vegetation communities, including 0.04 acre of southern riparian forest, 0.03 acre of southern willow scrub, 0.04 acre of mule fat scrub, 2.02 acres of arundo-dominated riparian, less than 0.1 acre (0.08 acre) of Diegan coastal sage scrub, and 1.1 acres of disturbed Diegan coastal sage scrub. These impacts would be temporary in nature and would be self-mitigated through the completion of the Proposed Project itself, as the intent of the Proposed Project is habitat restoration. Impacts would be less than significant, and no further mitigation is required nor proposed.

Phase 6: Implementation of Phase 6 of the Proposed Project would result in direct impacts to approximately 0.69 acre of sensitive vegetation communities, including 0.03 acre of southern riparian forest, 0.13 acre of southern willow scrub, 0.22 acre of mule fat scrub, 0.28 acre of tamarisk scrub, and 0.03 acre of arundo-dominated riparian. These impacts would be temporary in nature and would be self-mitigated through the completion of the Proposed Project itself, as the intent of the Proposed Project is habitat restoration. Impacts would be less than significant, and no further mitigation is required nor proposed.

Phase 7: Implementation of Phase 7 of the Proposed Project would result in direct impacts to approximately 23.73 acres of sensitive vegetation communities, including 2.35 acres of southern riparian forest, 0.12 acre of southern willow scrub, 0.03 acre of mule fat scrub, 4.24 acres of tamarisk scrub, 16.29 acres of arundo-dominated riparian,

and 0.7 acre of disturbed Diegan coastal sage scrub. These impacts would be temporary in nature and would be self-mitigated through the completion of the Proposed Project itself, as the intent of the Proposed Project is habitat restoration. Impacts would be less than significant, and no further mitigation is required nor proposed.

Phase 8: Implementation of Phase 8 of the Proposed Project would result in direct impacts to approximately 4.81 acres of sensitive vegetation communities, including 0.38 acre of southern riparian forest, 0.31 acre of southern willow scrub, 0.13 acre of mule fat scrub, 2.10 acres of tamarisk scrub, 1.69 acres of arundo-dominated riparian, and 0.7 acre of disturbed Diegan coastal sage scrub. These impacts would be temporary in nature and would be self-mitigated through the completion of the Proposed Project itself, as the intent of the Proposed Project is habitat restoration. Impacts would be less than significant, and no further mitigation is required nor proposed.

Phase 9: Implementation of Phase 9 of the Proposed Project would result in direct impacts to approximately 11.88 acres of sensitive vegetation communities, including 0.26 acre of southern riparian forest, 0.51-acre of disturbed southern riparian forest, 0.29 acre of southern willow scrub, 0.52-acre of disturbed southern willow scrub, 1.88 acres of disturbed mule fat scrub, 3.12 acres of tamarisk scrub, 3.10 acres of arundo-dominated riparian, 1.8 acres of disturbed Diegan coastal sage scrub, and 0.4 acre of non-native grassland. These impacts would be temporary in nature and would be self-mitigated through the completion of the Proposed Project itself, as the intent of the Proposed Project is habitat restoration. Impacts would be less than significant, and no further mitigation is required nor proposed.

Phase 10: Implementation of Phase 10 of the Proposed Project would result in direct impacts to approximately 0.90 acre of sensitive vegetation communities, including 0.09 acre of disturbed southern willow scrub, 0.55 acre of tamarisk scrub, and 0.26 acre of arundo-dominated riparian. These impacts would be temporary in nature and would be self-mitigated through the completion of the Proposed Project itself, as the intent of the Proposed Project is habitat restoration. Impacts would be less than significant, and no further mitigation is required nor proposed.

Phase 11: Implementation of Phase 11 of the Proposed Project would result in direct impacts to approximately 11.57 acres of sensitive vegetation communities, including 0.02 acre of southern riparian forest, 0.41-acre of non-native riparian, 4.94 acres of disturbed southern willow scrub, 1.23 acres of tamarisk scrub, 0.27-acre of arundo-dominated riparian, and 4.7 acres of non-native grassland. These impacts would be temporary in nature and would be self-mitigated through the completion of the Proposed Project itself, as the intent of the Proposed Project is habitat restoration. Impacts would be less than significant, and no further mitigation is required nor proposed.

Phase 12: Implementation of Phase 12 of the Proposed Project would result in direct impacts to approximately 31.93 acres of sensitive vegetation communities, including 0.13 acre of disturbed southern willow scrub, 0.48 acre of tamarisk scrub, 0.06 acre of disturbed riparian scrub, 1.16 acres of arundo-dominated riparian, 20.4 acres of disturbed Diegan coastal sage scrub, and 9.7 acres of non-native grassland. These impacts would

be temporary in nature and would be self-mitigated through the completion of the Proposed Project itself, as the intent of the Proposed Project is habitat restoration. Impacts would be less than significant, and no further mitigation is required nor proposed.

The Proposed Project would result in impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and riparian habitats as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), CDFW, CCC, and/or County. Impacts to jurisdictional waters and wetlands include 151.70 acres of wetland waters of the U.S., 151.70 acres of wetland waters of the State, 174.50 acres of riparian habitat under CDFW jurisdiction, and 174.50 acres of CCC coastal wetlands. These impacts would be considered potentially significant. These impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through the implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-6 and MM-BIO-7**, which require the Proposed Project to obtain wetland permits through the appropriate wetland permitting agencies and prepare a HRP and subsequent Execution Plans to offset Proposed Project impacts to wetland habitat and water resources to wetland habitat and jurisdictional waters.

Indirect impacts to adjacent jurisdiction waters and wetlands could occur through inadvertent intrusion into these adjacent areas by construction vehicles, equipment, and personnel. These impacts would be mitigated through the implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-8 and MM-BIO-9**.

No groundwater withdrawals or activities that would result in lowering of the groundwater table are proposed. No significant impact would occur. Potentially significant indirect impacts to sensitive habitat resulting from human access, domestic animals, exotic plant species, and lighting would be avoided through the following Proposed Project design features: (1) signs precluding access to the restoration area shall be posted; (2) off-leash pets would not be allowed on trails or public areas and signs would be posted along trails notifying pet owners of this regulation; (3) only non-invasive, native plant species would be included in the landscape plan for the site (species not listed on the California Invasive Plant Inventory prepared by the California Invasive Plant Council); (4) if night lighting is utilized during construction, the Proposed Project would be required to direct all necessary lighting in a downward direction with appropriate shield and illumination technology to prevent adverse spillover of light; and (5) no operational project lighting is proposed; no significant impact would occur. The Proposed Project is exempt from the County's Resources Protection Ordinance (RPO) requirements, pursuant to Section 86.605(c) of the RPO. Therefore, no wetland buffer is required.

Impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and riparian habitats would require the following mitigation:

MM-BIO-6 Impacts to jurisdictional wetland and waterway resources require permits and authorizations by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and California Department of Fish and Wildlife prior to impacts. The County shall acquire appropriate permits and approvals from the resource agencies prior to impacts.

MM-BIO-7 A Habitat Restoration Plan addressing impacts and subsequent restoration of wetland habitat and jurisdictional waters, as well as sensitive upland habitats, shall be submitted to the County for review and approval. The Plan shall also be submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) for review and approval, with scope of review limited to impacts within each Agency's jurisdictional extent, as applicable.

MM-BIO-8 To help ensure errant impacts to sensitive vegetation communities outside of the impact footprint are avoided during construction, temporary environmental fencing (including silt fencing where determined necessary by the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan [SWPPP]), would be installed at the edges of the impact limits prior to initiation of grading. All construction staging shall occur within the approved limits of construction.

MM-BIO-9 A qualified biologist shall monitor the installation of environmental fencing wherever it would abut sensitive vegetation communities, jurisdictional waters or wetlands, or open space. The biologist also would conduct a pre-construction environmental training session for construction personnel prior to all phases of restoration to inform them of the sensitive biological resources on-site and avoidance measures to remain in compliance with Proposed Project approvals. The biologist shall monitor the initial vegetation clearing, grubbing, and grading activities to ensure that activities occur within the approved limits of work and avoid impacts to nesting birds. The biologist shall periodically monitor the limits of construction and restoration to ensure that restoration and avoidance areas are delineated with temporary fencing and that the fencing remains intact. As part of the pre-construction survey and periodic monitoring, construction personnel will review trenches and holes for entrapped wildlife prior to construction including pipes, culverts, and similar construction materials. If sensitive wildlife species are observed during the pre-construction survey, a qualified biologist shall require additional measures to reduce potential impacts.

Implementation of the Proposed Project restoration activities and these mitigation measures would reduce Proposed Project-level impacts to sensitive communities to less than significant. Furthermore, as the Proposed Project would provide mitigation in accordance with County and regulatory agency guidelines, the Proposed Project's contribution to cumulative impacts would not be considered significant.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact	☐ Less than Significant Impact
☒ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant: According to the BRTR, implementation of the Proposed Project would result in impacts to 151.70 acres of wetland waters of the U.S. Impacts to wetland and non-wetland waters of the U.S. would be considered potentially significant. Impacts to USACE wetland and non-wetland waters would be mitigated through the implementation of mitigation measure **MM-BIO-6**, above. The Proposed Project would also result in potentially significant impacts to RWQCB wetland waters of the State, CDFW -jurisdictional habitat, and CCC wetlands. Impacts to jurisdictional areas would require permitting through the appropriate regulatory agencies, as discussed below. Securing necessary wetland permits prior to ground disturbance would be required. Anticipated wetland permits include a Nationwide Permit (NWP) number 27 permit from the USACE, CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification or State Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Waste Discharge requirements from the RWQCB, California Fish and Game Code (CFGC) Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW and either a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) from the California Coastal Commission or from the City of San Diego under their Local Coastal Program. Final permit requirements would be determined through consultation with the USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW, and would reduce impacts to less than significant.

The Proposed Project's temporary impacts to 151.70 acres of USACE jurisdictional areas, comprising wetland waters of the U.S., while significant at the Proposed Project level would be fully self-mitigated through completion of the Proposed Project itself. The Proposed Project is habitat restoration and would include one or a combination of the following: on-site establishment, re-establishment, rehabilitation, enhancement, and/or preservation. The Proposed Project would conform to the USACE's no net loss policy, which would also be a requirement of other projects with potential for impacts to jurisdictional wetlands; thus, no cumulatively significant impact would occur.

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☒	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: Although the Proposed Project would temporarily impact areas used by species for foraging and breeding, the Proposed Project would not impede wildlife access to areas necessary for reproduction, as sufficient habitat to support these species occurs throughout the study area, vegetation impacts associated from restoration activities would be temporary, lines-of-sight would be maintained across restoration areas, wildlife may cross the restoration areas, and connections to off-site lands also

would be maintained. Similarly, wildlife may continue to access foraging habitat and water sources.

Access to these resources is expected to be maintained for a variety of species, including birds, terrestrial wildlife, and aquatic animals. Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would not impede access or lessen the area available for terrestrial wildlife movement. Coyotes are not known to avoid restoration sites. Movement of other medium-sized mammals, such as bobcat, is more likely to follow riparian areas associated with the Tijuana River and other areas with sufficient vegetative cover. Small animals could also cross the proposed restoration areas. The Proposed Project would maintain a continuous connection of undeveloped land and native habitat, including connections to the TSNWR. The Proposed Project would also conform to the goals and requirements of the City MSCP Subarea Plan and County Biological Mitigation Ordinance (BMO), including effects on habitat linkages and wildlife corridors.

To the greatest extent practicable, the proposed activities would restore native habitat to areas that have become infested with invasive non-native species, and large expanses of native habitat would be maintained and improved. Additionally, because the restoration areas are not lighted, they would be available for wildlife usage outside of daylight hours. Potential impediments to movement from removal/treatment of invasive non-native plant species would not substantially interfere with natural movement patterns or access due to alternate travel routes throughout the local area. Adequate space and connectivity of habitat would remain in the local area, and local and regional movement functions would continue throughout. In conclusion, although the Proposed Project would introduce new temporary disturbances from treatment/removal of invasive non-native plant species that would potentially result in minor interruptions to local wildlife movement within the site, the effects would not be substantially adverse and no artificial corridors would be created. Impacts would be less than significant.

Wildlife movement in the area has already been impacted by the construction of roads through the TRVRP (including Monument Road and Hollister Road), adjacent residential and commercial development, and agriculture, as well as the presence of existing trails, maintenance, and access roads. The Proposed Project maintains connectivity within the core wildlife habitat, to adjacent linkages, and to adjacent, undeveloped habitat. With the Proposed Project's location within and adjacent to undeveloped areas, incorporation of design features, and implementation of habitat mitigation measures at the specified ratios, the contribution of the Proposed Project to the cumulative impact on wildlife movement would not be considerable and would be less than significant.

e) Conflict with the provisions of any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Communities Conservation Plan, other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan or any other local policies or ordinances that protect biological resources?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☐	Less than Significant Impact
☒	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated: Implementation of the Proposed Project would have the potential to cause significant direct or indirect impacts to least Bell's vireo, coastal California gnatcatcher and other birds protected by CFGC 3503 and 3503.5 if vegetation clearing occurs during the general avian breeding season (February 1 to September 15), least Bell's vireo breeding season (March 15 to September 15), coastal California gnatcatcher breeding season (March 1 to August 15), or raptor breeding season (January 15 to July 15). Proposed Project construction activities could directly impact individuals or cause breeding birds to temporarily or permanently leave their territories, which could lead to reduced reproductive success and increased mortality. These impacts would be significant; however, mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2** would reduce impacts to less than significant.

As discussed in the BRTR (Appendix C), although the Proposed Project is located within the adopted City MSCP Subarea Plan, the Proposed Project would not interfere with the City MSCP Subarea Plan. The Proposed Project minimizes impacts to BRCAs in accordance with the MSCP. Additionally, all impacts would be temporary, and the Proposed Project would ultimately result in an increase in native habitat within the MSCP preserved lands. Additionally, implementation of the Proposed Project would be consistent with the ASMDs listed in the County's Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the TRVRP. No adopted Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP), Special Area Management Plan, Watershed Plan, or other regional planning efforts are applicable to the Proposed Project.

The Proposed Project area is located within a Biological Resource Core Area (BCRA). As part of the restoration process, the Proposed Project would substantially improve the condition of the existing BCRA by removing and treating invasive non-native vegetation and planting of native riparian or sage scrub habitat in its place. The Tijuana River riparian corridor would be maintained throughout the Proposed Project area, which would encourage and facilitate wildlife movement within the region. Therefore, the Proposed Project would ultimately conserve and enhance the functions and values of the BCRA in accordance with the MSCP and BMO. Impacts would be less than significant.

The Proposed Project would comply with the requirements of the CFGC, MBTA, BMO, and MSCP. All currently proposed and future projects within the cumulative study area would also be required to comply with these regulations; therefore, no significant cumulative impacts would occur.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to 15064.5?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☐	Less than Significant Impact
☒	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated: A Cultural Resources Inventory and Assessment was prepared for the Proposed Project (HELIX ~~2023c~~2024c; Appendix D). The Cultural Resources Inventory and Assessment included a records search, Sacred Lands File search, a review of historic aerial photographs and maps, and pedestrian surveys of the Proposed Project area. The records search with the South Coastal Information Center (SCIC) identified 58 previously recorded cultural resources within the TRVRP, 57 of which occur within the Proposed Project area. Of the 58 resources identified, nine are historic-period resources consisting of historic structures, building remains, artifact scatters and isolates, terraces, and a bridge. There are also two multi-component sites recorded within TRVRP consisting of building remains and historic trash scatters with shell/lithic scatters also present.

HELIX completed two pedestrian surveys in March and November of 2021, with the March survey focusing on a preliminary Proposed Project area encompassing approximately 850 acres centered along the Tijuana River and the November survey focusing on the 587.93 acres within the specific phase areas of the Proposed Project. HELIX also completed a review of additional archival sources including historic topographic maps and aerial imagery. The surveys resulted in discovery of two newly identified prehistoric isolated finds within the Proposed Project area. However, both isolates were identified along an established trail and not in areas targeted for invasive non-native plant removal and restoration.

According to the Cultural Resources Inventory and Assessment, resources located outside of the 587.93 acres of phase areas would not experience significant adverse impacts resulting from the Proposed Project. Of the resources previously discussed, a total of 27 cultural resources, all previously recorded, are located within the areas identified as disturbed habitats or containing invasive non-native plant species that would be targeted for removal and restoration. These resources would have a greater risk of experiencing significant adverse impacts resulting from the Proposed Project. Of these 27 resources, two are multi-component (P-37-0008595, P-37-010488) and five are historic-period resources (P-37-011095, P-37-011096, P-37-025705, P-37-025924, P-37-033838). The historic-era resources primarily stem from the residential development of the Proposed Project region in the late nineteenth century or early twentieth century. The

historic site types present within the Proposed Project area primarily consist of the remains of residential homesteads, such as P-37-011096 and P-37-025705, or other residential trash/debris or infrastructure-related debris, such as at P-37-011095 and P-37-010488. P-37-008595, is the result of a trash dump/debris scatter, possibly resulting from a U.S. Navy mess hall on Spooner's Mesa.

Of the seven known historic resources occurring within the phase areas of the Proposed Project, one resource (Hollister Street Bridge, P-37-025924) has been previously evaluated as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Two resources (P-37-0008595 and P-37-011095) have been previously evaluated as not eligible for NRHP, and one resource (P-37-025705) has been previously evaluated as not eligible for California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). Two resources (P-37-010488 and P-37-011096) have not been evaluated. One resource (P-37-033838) does not meet the criteria for inclusion in the CRHR or the NRHP. The significant or unevaluated resources within the phase areas identified as disturbed habitats or as containing invasive non-native plant species that would be targeted for removal and restoration have been identified as 'high cultural resources sensitivity' areas, as indicated on Figure 8 of Appendix D. If the Proposed Project were to cause adverse impacts to the resource previously evaluated as eligible for the NRHP or the two resources that have not yet been evaluated, the Proposed Project would result in significant impacts to historical resources. However, due to natural alluvial erosion and human impacts that have occurred within the TRVRP, implementation of the Proposed Project phase activities involving invasive non-native plant treatments limited to herbicide treatment, hand removal, mowing, and solarization techniques would not be expected to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource. In addition, shallow planting activities would also not be expected to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource. However, mechanized discing/ clearing and topographic modification restoration techniques (i.e., those involving bulldozers and excavators) occurring during the implement of the HRP could result in soil disturbances that may cause an adverse impact to significant cultural resources. These potential impacts would be mitigated through the implementation of **MM-CUL-1 through MM-CUL-3** discussed below, and impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level.

MM-CUL-1: Prior to the finalization of each Execution Plan that will be prepared as implementation documents for the twelve phases under the guidance of the HRP, DPR will retain a cultural resource specialist who is a qualified archaeologist(s) meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards, as promulgated in Code of Federal Regulations, Title 36, Section 61. The supervision of the cultural resources avoidance and monitoring programs will be the responsibility of the cultural resource specialist. Once the specific location and size of each Proposed Project phase are identified, the cultural resource specialist will conduct a review of cultural resources information to confirm or identify any additional potential impacts to archaeological sites. The review will focus on the phased restoration activity areas that may involve mechanized clearing and topographic modification restoration techniques and contain recorded cultural resources. Known cultural resources within the phased restoration activity areas will be updated as appropriate, and significant, or potentially significant

(e.g., unevaluated) resources, identified as 'high cultural resources sensitivity' areas (see Figure 8 of Appendix D) will be confirmed. In order to minimize impacts to known cultural resources and disturbance of subsurface archaeological deposits, the cultural resource specialist will flag areas for avoidance per **MM-CUL-2** and provide oversite during the implementation of cultural resources monitoring (**MM-CUL-3**).

MM-CUL-2: Cultural resources 37-008602, P-37-010487, P-37-010488, P-37-010669, P-37-011096, P-37-011099, P-37-011946, and P-37-025919 shall be identified as 'high cultural resources sensitivity' areas in order to ensure no adverse impacts to the resources occur. If the cultural resource review (MM-CUL-1) identifies any additional significant, or potentially significant resources, they shall also be identified as 'high cultural resources sensitivity' areas.

- The established 'high cultural resources sensitivity' area shall consist of the recorded site boundary and a 100-foot buffer and be established by the cultural resource specialist in consultation with DPR and the habitat restoration designer to ensure the resources are not adversely impacted directly or indirectly.

- The 'high cultural resources sensitivity' locations shall be provided to the habitat restoration designer during the preparation of the Execution Plan, and the locations shall be avoided by all Proposed Project design considerations for mechanized clearing and topographic modification restoration measures. If during the preparation of the Execution Plan, it is determined that avoidance of a 'high cultural resources sensitivity' location proves infeasible, additional measures are to be developed for inclusion in the Execution Plan to be approved by DPR, including appropriate methodologies to address the preservation, minimization of impacts, or mitigation of potential impacts/adverse effects to significant cultural/historical resources.

- Prior to Proposed Project activities involving ground disturbance, the 'high cultural resources sensitivity' areas shall be temporarily flagged with oversight by the cultural resource specialist.

MM-CUL-3: DPR shall retain a qualified archaeologist/cultural resource specialist and a Native American representative to monitor ground-disturbing activities related to the implementation of the HRP (excluding shallow planting) occurring within the 'high cultural resources sensitivity' areas. The monitoring program shall include attendance by the cultural resource specialist and Native American monitor at a pre-construction meeting with construction personnel for the phase to provide environmental training to all personnel of the cultural resources sensitivity of the area; outline protocols to follow in the event inadvertent cultural resources are identified; and to discuss monitoring scheduling and coordination.

- Restoration activities involving ground-disturbance (excluding shallow planting) occurring within the 'high cultural resources sensitivity' areas (MM-CUL-2) shall be monitored by an archaeological monitor; in addition, restoration activities involving ground-disturbance within an 'high cultural resources sensitivity' area surrounding

prehistoric archaeological resources shall be monitored by a Native American monitor.

- Both archaeological and Native American monitors shall have the authority to temporarily halt or redirect grading and other ground-disturbing activity in the event that cultural resources are encountered. Isolates and non-significant deposits shall be minimally documented in the field and recorded on appropriate DPR site forms. If significant or potentially cultural material is encountered, appropriate actions shall be implemented according to the protocols outlined in the monitoring plan.

- If the archaeological monitor, in conjunction with the cultural resource specialist and Native American monitor, determines that monitoring of ground-disturbing activities related to the implementation of the HRP is no longer warranted within the 'high cultural resources sensitivity' due to the disturbances resulting from natural alluvial erosion and human impacts within the TRVRP, the DPR should be informed as such and will make the final determination on the necessity for additional monitoring.

With the implementation of mitigation measures **MM-CUL-1 through MM-CUL-3,** potential impacts to historic resources would be reduced to a less than significant level and would not contribute to a potentially cumulative impact on archaeological resources.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to 15064.5?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☐	Less than Significant Impact
☒	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated: A Cultural Resources Inventory and Assessment was prepared for the Proposed Project (HELIX ~~2023c~~ 2024c Appendix D). As previously discussed, the records search with the SCIC identified 58 previously recorded cultural resources within the TRVRP, 57 of which occur within the Proposed Project area. Of the 58 resources identified, 47 are prehistoric resources consisting of lithic and shell scatters, quarry sites, and isolated artifacts. There are also two multi-component sites recorded within TRVRP consisting of building remains and historic trash scatters with shell/lithic scatters also present.

The pedestrian surveys and review of additional archival sources resulted in discovery of two newly identified isolated finds within the Proposed Project area: Isolate P-37-040176, consisting of a single metavolcanic flake with edge modification possibly indicating its use as a tool, and P-37-040177, consisting of a single metavolcanic secondary flake. However, these resources were identified along an established trail and not in areas targeted for invasive non-native plant removal and restoration. As discussed above in

item V a), resources located outside of the approximately 587.93 acres of phase areas would not experience significant adverse impacts resulting from the Proposed Project.

Of the resources previously discussed, a total of 27 cultural resources, all previously recorded, are located within the areas identified as disturbed habitats or containing invasive non-native plant species that would be targeted for removal and restoration. These resources would have a greater risk of experiencing significant adverse impacts resulting from the Proposed Project. Of these 27 resources, 2 are multi-component (P-37-0008595, P-37-010488) and 20 are prehistoric (P-37-008598, P-37-008599, P-37-008600, P-37-008602, P-37-008603, P-37-008604, P-37-008605, P-37-010487, P-37-010669, P-37-010967, P-37-011097, P-37-011099, P-37-011945, P-37-011946, P-37-013486, P-37-025919, P-37-033839, P-37-033840, P-37-033841, and P-37-033843).

Of the 22 known prehistoric cultural resources occurring within the Proposed Project area, one resource (lithic artifact scatter, P-37-011946) has been previously evaluated as eligible for the NRHP. Eleven resources (P-37-0008595, P-37-008598, P-37-008599, P-37-008600, P-37-008603, P-37-008604, P-37-008605, P-37-010967, P-37-011097, P-37-011945, P-37-013486) have been previously evaluated as not eligible for NRHP or CRHR. Six resources (P-37-008602, P-37-010487, P-37-010488, P-37-010669, P-37-011099, P-37-025919) have not been evaluated. Four resources (P-37-033839, P-37-033840, P-37-033841, P-37-033843) do not meet the criteria for inclusion in the CRHR or the NRHP. If the Proposed Project were to cause adverse impacts to the resource previously evaluated as eligible for the NRHP or the six resources that have not yet been evaluated, the Proposed Project would result in significant impacts to archaeological cultural resources. However, as discussed above, due to natural alluvial erosion and human impacts that have occurred within the TRVRP, implementation of the Proposed Project involving invasive non-native plant treatments limited to herbicide treatment, hand removal, mowing, and solarization techniques would not be expected to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource. In addition, shallow planting activities would also not be expected to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or archaeological resource. Mechanized discing /clearing and topographic modification restoration techniques (i.e., those involving bulldozers and excavators) occurring during the implement of the HRP could result in soil disturbances that may cause an adverse impact to significant cultural resources. These potential impacts would be mitigated through the implementation of **MM-CUL-1 through MM-CUL-3** listed under item V a) above, and impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level and would not contribute to a potentially cumulative impact on archaeological resources.

c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☐	Less than Significant Impact
☒	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated: As previously discussed, a file search and field survey were conducted for the Proposed Project to determine the presence or potential presence of cultural resources, including human remains, within the Proposed Project site. The Cultural Resources Inventory and Assessment did not identify previously recorded sites with human remains within the Proposed Project site (HELIX ~~2023c~~2024c; Appendix D). However, due to the number of archaeological resources recorded in the region, there is a potential for unidentified human remains to be present within the Proposed Project site. If present, the human remains could be damaged by ground-disturbing activities associated with the Proposed Project. Mitigation measure **MM-CUL-4** would reduce impacts to a level less than significant.

MM-CUL-4: Should human remains be identified during ground-disturbing activities related to the implementation of the Proposed Project, whether during construction, maintenance, or any other activity, State Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, CEQA Section 15064.5 and Health & Safety Code Section 7050.5 and County-mandated procedures will be followed for the treatment and disposition of those remains, as follows.

- A County (DPR) official is contacted.
- Upon identification of human remains, there will be no further excavation or disturbance in the area of the find or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin. If the human remains are to be taken offsite for evaluation, they shall be accompanied by the Kumeyaay Native American monitor.
- If the remains are determined to be of Native American origin, the coroner will contact the NAHC within 24 hours. The NAHC will identify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD), the person or persons it believes to be most likely descended from the deceased Native American.
- The immediate vicinity where the Native American human remains are located is not to be damaged or disturbed by further development activity until consultation with the MLD regarding their recommendations as required by Public Resources Code Section 5097.98 has been conducted.
- The MLD, as identified by the NAHC, shall be contacted by DPR or their representative in order to determine proper treatment and disposition of the remains. The MLD may make recommendations to the landowner (DPR), or the person responsible for the excavation work, for the treatment of human remains and any associated grave goods as provided in Public Resources Code Section 5097.98.

Implementation of mitigation measure **MM-CUL-4** would protect potential human remains that could be encountered at the Proposed Project site. Therefore, the Proposed Project

would not result in significant impacts or cumulatively considerable impacts on human remains.

VI. ENERGY

Would the project:

a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☒	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

San Diego County is served by San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E), which provides energy service to over 3.4 million customers (with 1.4 million accounts) in the County and portions of southern Orange County. The utility has a diverse power production portfolio, composed of a variety of renewable and non-renewable sources. Energy production typically varies by season and by year. Regional electricity loads also tend to be higher in the summer because the higher summer temperatures drive increased demand for air conditioning. In contrast, natural gas loads are higher in the winter because the colder temperatures drive increased demand for natural gas heating.

Less Than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project would provide habitat restoration within an existing regional park. The Proposed Project would include activities such as removal of invasive non-native plant species, weed removal, trash/debris removal, seeding, watering, and erosion control. During construction activities, energy consumption would be in the form of fuel consumed for construction equipment and motor vehicles used to access the site. Ongoing operation of the Proposed Project would not generate additional energy usage over existing conditions as the Proposed Project does not propose permanent structures, lighting, or other features requiring energy use. The Proposed Project would not expand capacity of TRVRP, so energy usage at the park would not increase with implementation of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would generate a small demand on local and regional fuel supplies during construction activities that would be easily accommodated. Moreover, this demand for fuel would have no noticeable effect on peak or baseline demands for energy. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in a wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary usage of direct or indirect energy.

b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

No Impact: The applicable renewable energy plan for the Proposed Project area would be the State Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS), which requires utility agencies to ensure a certain percentage of the electricity they sell is from a renewable source. Senate Bill (SB) 350 requires retail sellers and publicly owned utilities to procure 50 percent of their electricity from eligible renewable energy resources by 2030. Moreover, the County has installed renewable energy at many of its facilities. The County itself produces almost 19,620,591 kWh each year, which provides clean and renewable energy for 22.56 percent of the County's annual energy usage. (County Department of General Services 2019).

Construction activities related to implementation of the Proposed Project would consume energy in the form of fuel for construction equipment and motor vehicles to access the site. However, operation of the Proposed Project would not require energy in excess of the existing usage. As previously described in item VI a), energy usage associated with construction would be minimal. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not obstruct the implementation of the RPS, nor would it result in energy consumption that would require the County to install more production. The continuation of the use of the Proposed Project as a recreational site would not result in cumulatively considerable impacts on applicable State renewable energy plans.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

   i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

No Impact: The Proposed Project is not located within or adjacent to a fault rupture hazard zone identified by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, Special

Publication 42, Revised 1997, Fault-Rupture Hazards Zones in California, or located within a County Special Study Zone (County of San Diego 2007). The nearest Alquist-Priolo earthquake fault zone is the Newport-Inglewood-Rose Canyon fault zone, approximately 7.5 miles north of the Proposed Project. Additionally, the Proposed Project would not introduce new inhabitants to the site. Therefore, there would be no direct or indirect impact from a known fault-rupture hazard zone as a result of this Proposed Project.

ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The County is located within a seismically active region, and the entire County could be subject to seismic ground shaking. While the Proposed Project site could be exposed to strong seismic ground shaking during a seismic event, this would not differ from existing conditions with implementation of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project involves habitat rehabilitation at an existing regional park. The Proposed Project would not construct new structures at the site or add new residents to the region. The Proposed Project would not increase risks associated with strong seismic ground shaking. Impacts would be less than significant.

iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: According to the County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Geologic Hazards (2007), the Proposed Project region is located within a “Potential Liquefaction Area”. However, the Proposed Project would not increase potential risks related to ground failure, including liquefaction. The Proposed Project does not propose structures for human occupancy that would be affected by liquefaction. Although the Proposed Project does include ground-disturbing activities (i.e., soil salvage, mechanical mowing of invasive non-native plants, soil decompaction/recontouring, minor topographic modifications to enhance stream and flood flows), such activities would not result in ground failure. Rather, the Proposed Project is anticipated to improve the existing integrity of the Proposed Project site. The Proposed Project would not include features that would exacerbate the liquefaction potential at the Proposed Project site and, thus, would not result in a cumulatively considerable impact.

iv. Landslides?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☒ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: According to the County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Geologic Hazards (2007), portions of the Proposed Project site may be located within a "Landslide Susceptibility Area," or areas where slopes are greater than 25 percent. Landslide Susceptibility Areas were developed based on landslide risk profiles included in the *Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, San Diego, CA* (URS 2004). Landslide risk areas from this plan were based on data including steep slopes (greater than 25 percent); soil series data (SANDAG based on United State Geological Survey 1970s series); soil-slip susceptibility from United State Geological Survey; and Landslide Hazard Zone Maps (limited to western portion of the County) developed by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology. However, the Proposed Project would not increase landslide hazards at the site. The Proposed Project involves habitat rehabilitation in an existing regional park and would include multiple ground-disturbing activities (i.e., soil salvage, mechanical mowing of invasive non-native plants, soil decompaction/recontouring, minor topographic modifications to enhance stream and flood flows). The Proposed Project would not add new slopes at a high risk for landslide susceptibility. Furthermore, the Proposed Project does not include the construction of structures that could experience landslide hazards. Therefore, there would be no potentially significant impact, or cumulatively considerable impact, from the exposure of people or structures to adverse effects of landslides.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☒ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project would include topsoil salvage and storage in some regions when appropriate and feasible to preserve the existing seed bank. Topsoil would be carefully removed by an experienced operator using a dragline, excavator, scraper, or dozer and would be stockpiled in uncompacted piles less than four feet tall. Stockpiled soils would be placed within temporary disturbance areas. Topsoil stockpiles would be stabilized by spraying with a tackifier (soil stabilizer) or covered with a permeable natural material, such as jute or coconut fiber blankets. Additionally, no equipment would be allowed to travel over or park on the salvaged soil stockpiles. If soils were to be stockpiled, it would occur outside of the rainfall season and for a short duration, not more than six months. In areas where topsoil had been salvaged, the finished grade

would be scarified to a minimum depth of six inches, and the salvaged soil spread over the restoration area to the maximum depth based on the availability of soil. The loose topsoil would then be tamped into the scarified surface by track walking the area with a dozer, sheep-foot roller, or similar equipment. Such precautions would minimize potential soil erosion or loss of topsoil during topsoil salvage and storage activities.

The Proposed Project would also include soil decompaction and soil recontouring activities. When necessary, soils within the work areas would be decompacted by ripping and cross-ripping to a depth of up to 6 to 12 inches with ripper teeth mounted to the back of a bulldozer or skip loader. If a work area was found to be dominated by native plants prior to construction activities, soils would be lightly ripped or scarified to retain their abundance and contribute to the restoration. Soil recontouring would involve a small earth-moving activity to correct, improve, or expand stream and flood flows within a phase of the Proposed Project.

In all areas where soil has been disturbed, erosion control devices would be considered. Erosion control devices would be installed to reduce erosion and sedimentation, bank stabilization, runoff management, and may also function to facilitate revegetation efforts. As discussed in the HRP, the Execution Plan would contain details for recommended erosion control devices and their locations and/or erosion control devices would be detailed in the SWPPP, if applicable (Appendix A; HELIX ~~2023a~~2024a). Erosion control devices would typically include hydroseeding with a mulch and tackifying agent, fiber rolls, gravel bags, jute netting, or another device. All erosion control devices would be installed per manufacturer's recommendations for the application type. Given the dynamic present in an active floodplain, the prescription for erosion control would attempt to balance the need for site stabilization with the reality of natural sediment transport within a dynamic river system. Such methods would minimize potential soil erosion or loss of topsoil. Impacts would be less than significant.

c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in an on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☒	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: Refer to the discussion in item VII a), above. Although the Proposed Project involves ground disturbance, the Proposed Project would not create unstable soil conditions that may result in landslides, lateral spreading, liquefaction, or collapse. Additionally, subsidence is most commonly caused by the removal of water, oil, natural gas, or mineral resources out of the ground by pumping, fracking, or mining activities, none of which are proposed by the Proposed Project. Following construction, the restored habitat conditions would not exacerbate existing landslide, lateral spreading,

subsidence, or liquefaction susceptibility conditions on the Proposed Project site. Impacts would be less than significant.

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

No Impact: According to the County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Geologic Hazards (2007), the Proposed Project site is not located in a "Potential Expansive Soil Area". Additionally, the Proposed Project does not propose to construct structures on the site or introduce new inhabitants to the area. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not create direct or indirect substantial risks to life or property related to expansive soil, nor would the Proposed Project result in impacts that would be cumulatively considerable.

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

No Impact: The Proposed Project does not include the installation of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact
☒ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

San Diego County has a variety of geologic environments and geologic processes that generally occur in other parts of the state, country, and the world. However, some features stand out as being unique in one way or another within the boundaries of the County. High paleontological resource sensitivity is assigned to geologic formations known to contain paleontological localities with rare, well preserved, critical fossil materials for

stratigraphic or paleoenvironmental interpretation, and fossils providing important information about the paleoclimatic, paleobiological and/or evolutionary history of animal and plant groups.

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated: The Proposed Project would include ground disturbance during habitat rehabilitation activities. As discussed in the TRVRP ASMD, there are three paleontologically sensitive geologic units within the TRVRP: marine sedimentary rocks of the late Pliocene (1.5 to 3 million years old) San Diego Formation, the early Pleistocene (500,000 to 1.5 million years old) Lindavista Formation, and the late Pleistocene (220,000 years old) Bay Point Formation (County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation 2007). Ground-disturbing activities included in the Proposed Project would have the potential to adversely impact a paleontological resource. However, with implementation of mitigation measures **MM-PAL-1a through MM-PAL-1g**, impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level.

MM-PAL-1a. A qualified paleontologist shall be at the pre-construction meeting(s) to consult with the grading and excavation contractors concerning excavation schedules, paleontological field techniques and safety issues. A qualified paleontologist is defined as an individual having an M.S. or Ph.D. degree in paleontology or geology who is familiar with paleontological procedures and techniques, is knowledgeable in the geology and paleontology of San Diego County, and who has worked as a paleontological mitigation project supervisor in the County for at least one year.

MM-PAL-1b. A qualified paleontological monitor shall be on site on a full-time basis during the original cutting of previously undisturbed deposits of the San Diego Formation, Lindavista Formation, and Bay Point Formation to inspect exposures for contained fossils. A qualified paleontological monitor is defined as an individual having experience in the collection and salvage of fossil materials. The paleontological monitor shall work under the direction of a qualified paleontologist. If the qualified paleontologist or paleontological monitor ascertains that observed exposures of the San Diego Formation, Lindavista Formation, and Bay Point Formation are not fossil-bearing, the qualified paleontologist shall have the authority to terminate the monitoring program.

MM-PAL-1c. If fossils are discovered during monitoring of the San Diego Formation, Lindavista Formation, and Bay Point Formation, they shall be recovered by the qualified paleontologist or paleontological monitor. In most cases, fossil salvage can be completed in a short period of time, although some fossil specimens (such as a complete large mammal skeleton) may require an extended salvage period. In these instances, the paleontologist (or paleontological monitor) shall be allowed to temporarily direct, divert, or halt grading to allow recovery of fossil remains in a timely manner. Because of the potential for recovering small fossil remains, such as isolated mammal teeth, it may be necessary to set up a screen-washing operation on the recovery site.

If a fossil of greater than 12 inches in any dimension, including circumference, is encountered during excavation or grading of the San Diego Formation, Lindavista Formation, and Bay Point Formation, all excavation operations in the area where the fossil

was found shall be suspended immediately, the County Planning and Development Services (PDS) Permit Compliance Coordinator shall be notified, the Proposed Project Paleontologist shall assess the significance of the find and, if the fossil is significant, the Proposed Project Paleontologist shall oversee the salvage program, including salvaging, cleaning, and curating the fossil(s), and documenting the find (as outlined below).

MM-PAL-1d. If any sub-surface bones or other potential fossils are found anywhere within the Proposed Project impact footprint by construction personnel in the absence of a qualified paleontologist or paleontological monitor, the qualified paleontologist shall be notified immediately to assess their significance and make further recommendations.

MM-PAL-1e. Fossil remains collected during monitoring and salvage shall be cleaned, repaired, sorted, and cataloged as part of the mitigation program.

MM-PAL-1f. Prepared fossils, along with copies of all pertinent field notes, photos, and maps, shall be deposited (as a donation) in a scientific institution with permanent paleontological collections such as the San Diego Natural History Museum. Donation of the fossils shall be accompanied by financial support from the applicant for initial specimen storage.

MM-PAL-1g: A final summary report outlining the results of the mitigation program shall be prepared by a qualified paleontologist and submitted to the County of San Diego for concurrence. This report shall include discussions of the methods used, stratigraphic section(s) exposed, fossils collected, and significance of recovered fossils.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact	☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The State of California has developed guidelines to address the significance of climate change impacts based on Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines, which contains two significance criteria for evaluating greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions of a project. CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.4 states that the “determination of the significance of greenhouse gas emissions calls for a careful judgment by the lead agency consistent with the provisions in Section 15064. A lead agency should make a good-faith effort, based to the extent possible on scientific and factual data, to describe, calculate or estimate the amount of greenhouse gas emissions resulting from a project.”

Section 15064.4(b) further states that a lead agency should consider the following nonexclusive list of factors when assessing the significance of GHG emissions:

1. The extent to which the project may increase or reduce GHG emissions as compared to the existing environmental setting;

2. The extent to which project emissions exceed a threshold of significance that the lead agency determines applies to the project; and

3. The extent to which the project complies with regulations or requirements adopted to implement statewide, regional, or local plans for the reduction or mitigation for GHG emissions.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064(h)(1) states that "the lead agency shall consider whether the cumulative impact is significant and whether the effects of the Proposed Project are cumulatively considerable." A cumulative impact may be significant when the Proposed Project's incremental effect, though individually limited, is cumulatively considerable.

GHGs include carbon dioxide, methane, hydrofluorocarbons, and nitrous oxide, among others. Human-induced GHG emissions are a result of energy production and consumption, and personal vehicle use, among other sources.

Less than Significant Impact: GHG emissions associated with the Proposed Project would result from construction activities. Because the Proposed Project involves habitat restoration in a regional park, it would not increase long-term air pollutant or GHG emissions in the Proposed Project area.

A set of project-specific implementing thresholds are included in the County's Guidelines for Determining Significance and are used to ensure project consistency with the County's General Plan.

The County of San Diego adopted the 2018 County of San Diego Climate Action Plan (CAP) on February 14, 2018. The CAP outlined strategies and measures to reduce the County's contribution to GHG emissions and to meet the state's 2020 and 2030 emissions targets, as well as ensure progress towards the 2050 reduction goal. The CAP identifies 11 strategies and 26 measures plus numerous supporting efforts to reduce GHG emissions in the largely rural, unincorporated county as well as within County government operations (County of San Diego 2023). These strategies and measures would focus on energy efficiency, developing renewable sources of energy, improving waste recycling, and improving access to sustainable transportation. Measures relevant to the Proposed Project include:

- Measure T-3.4: Reduce the County's Fleet Emissions
- Measure W-1.2: Reduce Outdoor Water Use

On September 30, 2020, the County of San Diego Board of Supervisors voted to set aside the approval of the CAP because a court found a portion of the Supplemental

Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was out of compliance with CEQA. The County has prepared a Draft CAP Update to revise the 2018 CAP and associated EIR in response to the court's direction. The Draft CAP update and Supplemental EIR process included a 71-day public review period extending through January 5, 2024. In accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines, consistency with the CAP cannot be relied upon for determination of project-related GHG emissions impact significant until the CAP Update is approved in compliance with CEQA.

Therefore, a screening level based on the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association's (CAPCOA) report *CEQA & Climate Change* is being used to determine whether further analysis would be needed to examine the GHG impacts of a proposed project (CAPCOA 2008). CAPCOA developed a screening threshold of 900 metric tons (MT) of carbon dioxide equivalents (CO_2e). Direct and cumulative impacts would be potentially significant and require further analysis if the Proposed Project results in emissions that exceed this threshold beyond current baseline emissions. Because the Proposed Project would be completed ~~during or~~ after 2020, the 900 MT CO_2e screening threshold would no longer be applicable. Senate Bill (SB) 32 sets a GHG emission reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, or 540 MT CO_2e.

The Proposed Project's Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Technical Analysis prepared by HELIX (Appendix B; HELIX ~~2022~~2024) analyzed construction of the 12 phases of the Proposed Project. The analysis assumes that each of the 12 phases of the Proposed Project would last approximately 10 weeks. Proposed Project construction would generate GHG emissions associated with construction equipment exhaust and from construction worker vehicle trips to and from the Proposed Project site. The primary GHG emissions would be CO_2 from gasoline and diesel combustion, with more limited vehicle tailpipe emissions of N_2O and CH_4. Additionally, GHG would be amortized over 30 years in accordance with County guidance. Total GHG emissions during Proposed Project construction are presented in Table 8, *Construction Greenhouse Gas Emissions*.

TABLE 8: CONSTRUCTION GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Construction Phase	Emissions (MT CO_2e)[2]
Phase 1	~~6~~79
Phases 2-4 Total	~~128~~346
Phases 5-12 Total	1,169
TOTAL	**~~1,303~~1,593**
Amortized Construction Emissions[1]	~~43~~53

Source: HELIX ~~2022~~2024
[1] Construction emissions are amortized over 30 years in accordance with County guidance.
[2] Numbers may not total due to rounding
MT = metric tons; CO_2e = carbon dioxide equivalents

The Proposed Project would result in GHG emissions from construction of 1,~~303~~ 593 MT CO_2e. Averaged over 30 years, the proposed construction activities would contribute approximately ~~43~~ 53 MT CO_2e emissions per year. This would be well below the 2030 screening threshold of 540 MT CO_2e. Additionally, once restoration activity is completed,

the Proposed Project would not result in a permanent change to the existing use that would result in an ongoing increase in emissions. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not hinder the County in their efforts to achieve the statewide emissions reduction targets and GHG impacts from the Proposed Project would be less than significant.

b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact	☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The State passed the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, commonly referred to as Assembly Bill (AB) 32, which set the GHG emissions reduction goal for the State of California into law. The law requires that by 2020, State emissions must be reduced to 1990 levels by reducing GHG emissions from significant sources via regulation, market mechanisms, and other actions. The State subsequently passed SB 32, which set an additional GHG emissions reduction goal for the State of California into law. The law requires that by 2030, State emissions must be reduced to 40 percent below 1990 levels by reducing GHG emissions from significant sources via regulation, market mechanisms, and other actions.

To implement State mandates to address climate change in local land use planning, local land use jurisdictions are generally preparing GHG emission inventories and reduction plans and incorporating climate change policies into local general plans to ensure development is guided by a land use plan that reduces GHG emissions. The County's General Plan incorporates various climate change goals and policies. These policies provide direction for individual development projects to reduce GHG emissions.

As noted above in item VIII a), the Proposed Project would generate ~~1,303~~1,593 MT CO_2e from construction, or approximately ~~43~~ 53 MT CO_2e emissions per year when averaged over 30 years. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not exceed the 2030 screening threshold of 540 MT CO_2e as set by SB 32. The Proposed Project involves habitat restoration in a regional park, and therefore would not result in significant operational GHG emissions.

The Proposed Project's incremental contribution to cumulative GHG emissions is determined to not be cumulatively considerable because GHG emissions would be approximately ~~43~~ 53 MT CO_2e emissions per year, an amount far below any relevant numerical thresholds. The Proposed Project's GHG emissions are, therefore, determined to be consistent with the County's General Plan which together are the most applicable plans, policies, or regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, storage, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or wastes or through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project proposes habitat rehabilitation within an existing regional park. The use of hazardous materials (e.g., fuels, lubricants, solvents) would be required during ~~construction~~ implementation of the Proposed Project. However, the Proposed Project would not result in a significant hazard to the public or environment because all storage, handling, transport, emission, and disposal of hazardous substances during pre-construction and construction activities, including trash and debris removal, would be in full compliance with applicable regulations such as the Federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), Department of Transportation (DOT) Hazardous Materials Regulations, and the local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) regulations. These regulations provide tracking methods, standards and procedures for the management of hazardous materials, as well as spill response measures. Because compliance with these regulations is mandatory, pre-construction and construction activities are not anticipated to create a significant hazard to the public through use, transport, or disposal of hazardous materials.

The Proposed Project also includes the use of herbicides to control invasive non-native plants. The proper method of chemical application varies based on species and with the degree of infestation, time of year, temperature, and environmental conditions. Herbicides would be used to control invasive non-native plants by a qualified applicator licensed by the State of California Department of Pesticide Regulation, and only where directed by biologists experienced in habitat restoration. Only herbicides approved by the California Department of Pesticide Regulations (CADPR) and the local agricultural commissions office would be used within or next to the Proposed Project area. The environmental risks of using herbicides would be minimized by using marker dyes to make the herbicide visible in areas where it has been applied. Higher visibility is desirable because it allows personnel to protect themselves more effectively against contamination, prevents unintended multiple application to a particular area or plant, ensures complete coverage of the target area and plants, and informs personnel of overspray and wind drift issues, which protects non-target plants. In addition, herbicides would be used in accordance with the guidelines and regulations in the HRP (Appendix A). Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in significant impacts related to the use of herbicides.

Following implementation of the HRP, the Proposed Project would continue to operate as a regional park and would not involve an increase of the routine use and storage of hazardous materials over existing conditions. Therefore, due to the limited use of hazardous materials during construction, the Proposed Project would not result in potentially significant, or cumulatively considerable, impacts related to the routine transport, use, and disposal of hazardous substances or related to the accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances.

b) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project is not located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The nearest school is Sunset Elementary School, located approximately 0.29 mile northeast of the Proposed Project. Additionally, as stated in item IX a) above, the use of hazardous materials required during Proposed Project implementation would comply with applicable regulations. The Proposed Project would not involve the routine use, storage, disposal, and/or transport of hazardous materials. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in any potentially significant, or cumulatively considerable impacts on an existing or proposed school.

c) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, or is otherwise known to have been subject to a release of hazardous substances and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: A regulatory database search was conducted for the Proposed Project's study area using the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Envirostor Database, compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, and the State Water Resources Control Board's Geotracker database. One site was found in the DTSC Envirostor database as located within the Proposed Project site. The listing is categorized as a "Military Evaluation" but has been listed as inactive and in need of evaluation since 2005. Additionally, the listing does not include an address and is generally listed as "Mexican Border". The Geotracker database identified two sites within the Proposed Project Area, both of which consist of a leaking underground storage tank

(LUST) cleanup site. One site is located at 2468 Saturn Street, and has been designated as completed with the case closed since 1992. The second site is located at 2308 Hollister Street, and has been designated as completed with the case closed since 1994. The Proposed Project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment related to sites listed on hazardous materials databases. Therefore, impacts to the public or environment or result in cumulatively considerable impacts related hazardous materials sites would be less than significant.

d) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the Project Area?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☒	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project site is located as close as approximately 0.26 mile from the Naval Outlying Landing Field Imperial Beach (NOLF IB). As shown in the NOLF IB Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP), the Proposed Project is located within NOLF IB's Overflight Area Boundary. Additionally, portions of the Proposed Project are located within the 60-65 decibel (dB) Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) and 65 to 70 dB CNEL noise exposure contours for the flight operations (San Diego County Regional Airport Authority 2015). However, the Proposed Project does not propose construction of habitable or above-ground structures that extend above the surrounding grade. The Proposed Project would include habitat restoration to the existing regional park and would continue operating as a regional park following completion of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would not constitute a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the vicinity of the Proposed Project and would not result in a cumulatively considerable impact related to such a safety hazard.

e) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☒	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

The following sections summarize the Proposed Project's consistency with applicable emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans.

i. Operational Area Emergency Plan and Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Less Than Significant Impact: The County-wide Operational Area Emergency Plan is a comprehensive emergency plan that defines responsibilities, establishes an emergency organization, defines lines of communications, and is designed to be part of the Statewide Standardized Emergency Management System. The Operational Area Emergency Plan provides guidance for emergency planning and requires subsequent plans to be established by each jurisdiction that has responsibilities in a disaster situation. The Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan includes an overview of the risk assessment process, identifies hazards present in the jurisdiction, hazard profiles, and vulnerability assessments. The plan also identifies goals, objectives, and actions for each jurisdiction in San Diego County, including all cities and the County unincorporated areas. The Proposed Project would not interfere with these plans because it would not prohibit subsequent plans from being established or prevent the goals and objectives of existing plans from being carried out. Impacts to the Operational Area Emergency Plan and Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan would be less than significant.

ii. San Diego County Nuclear Power Station Emergency Response Plan

No Impact: The nearest operating or formerly operating nuclear power station is the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, approximately 62 miles northwest of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would not interfere with the San Diego County Nuclear Power Station Emergency Response Plan due to its location and the specific requirements of the plan. The emergency plan for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station includes an emergency planning zone within a 10-mile radius. The Proposed Project is not within 10 miles of the plant and as such would not interfere with any response or evacuation.

iii. Oil Spill Contingency Element

No Impact: The Oil Spill Contingency Element relates to oil spills along the coastal zone or coastline. The Proposed Project would not interfere with the Oil Spill Contingency Element because the Proposed Project is not located along the coastline. Additionally, the Proposed Project would require the usage of minimal amounts of oil during temporary construction activities.

iv. Emergency Water Contingencies Annex and Energy Shortage Response Plan

No Impact: The Proposed Project would not interfere with the Emergency Water Contingencies Annex and Energy Shortage Response Plan because the Proposed Project does not propose altering major water or energy supply infrastructure, such as the California Aqueduct or the connection between Loveland Reservoir and Sweetwater Reservoir, both of which are potable water reservoirs.

v. Dam Evacuation Plan

Less Than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project would be located along the Tijuana River, which is downstream from the Rodriguez and El Carrizo Dams, both of which are located in Tijuana, Mexico, controlling portions of the flow of the Tijuana River. Dam evacuation plans are maintained by the County Office of Emergency Services. These plans contain information concerning the physical situation, affected jurisdictions, evacuation routes, unique institutions, and event responses. The Proposed Project does not propose the construction of unique institutions such as hospitals, schools, retirement facilities, or childcare facilities. Following completion of the Proposed Project, the Proposed Project area would continue to operate similar to existing conditions. As such, the Proposed Project would not require the evacuation of large concentrations of people.

Due to the Proposed Project's consistency with all applicable emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans, the Proposed Project would not have the potential to result in cumulatively considerable impacts related to emergency planning.

f) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☒	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The majority of the Proposed Project site is within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone as designated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) in the "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in LRA" (CAL FIRE 2009). However, the Proposed Project would not exacerbate existing conditions on or surrounding the Proposed Project site. The Proposed Project involves habitat restoration to an existing regional park. Such activities would include removal of invasive non-native plant species, weed removal, trash/debris removal, seeding, watering, and erosion control. The Proposed Project would not introduce new structures or people to the area that may be exposed to wildland fires. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not increase wildland fire risk or expose people or structures to hazards related to wildland fires. Impacts would be less than significant.

g) Propose a use, or place residents adjacent to an existing or reasonably foreseeable use that would substantially increase current or future resident's exposure to vectors, including mosquitoes, rats or flies, which are capable of transmitting significant public health diseases or nuisances?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☒	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project would occur within TRVRP, which consists primarily of vegetated open space and may support vectors such as mosquitoes, rats, or flies. Additionally, water sources, including the Tijuana River, are included in the Proposed Project site. Standing water is a potential breeding ground for mosquitoes. The County Vector Control program (VCP), managed by DEH, implements vector management activities to protect public health from the impacts of vector-borne diseases. DEH regularly inspects and treats as necessary, mosquito-breeding sources. Treatment of County water sources, if needed, may include biological control, such as fish, or chemical control.

The Proposed Project would not increase the presence of vectors in the region. The Proposed Project would involve habitat rehabilitation through activities such as removal of invasive non-native plant species, weed removal, trash/debris removal, seeding, watering, and erosion control. The Proposed Project would not construct uses that allow water to stand for a period of 72 hours (3 days) or more. Additionally, as discussed in the HRP, the accumulation of the existing trash becomes embedded in sediments and facilitates a vector breeding environment. The Proposed Project would remove the existing trash and debris, and therefore would minimize vector breeding environments at the site. Furthermore, the Proposed Project does not propose construction of structures and would not introduce inhabitants to the site that may be impacted by vectors. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not substantially increase exposure to vectors, including mosquitoes, rats, or flies or create a cumulatively considerable impact because no uses on site would produce significant sources of vectors.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☒	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project involves habitat rehabilitation in an existing regional park and would include multiple ground-disturbing activities (i.e., soil salvage, mechanical mowing of invasive non-native plants, soil decompaction/ recontouring, minor topographic modifications to enhance stream and flood flows). In all areas where soil has been disturbed, erosion control devices would be considered. Erosion control devices would be installed to reduce erosion and sedimentation, bank

stabilization, runoff management, and may also function to facilitate revegetation efforts. As discussed in the HRP (Appendix A), the Execution Plan would contain details for recommended erosion control devices and their locations and/or erosion control devices would be detailed in the SWPPP, if applicable. Erosion control devices would typically include hydroseeding with a mulch and tackifying agent, fiber rolls, gravel bags, jute netting, or another device. All erosion control devices would be installed per manufacturer's recommendations for the application type. Following completion of the Proposed Project, the Proposed Project would continue to operate as a regional park. As discussed in the HRP, restoration is expected to have secondary benefits resulting from improved ecological and hydrological functions, such as reduced concentrations of pollutants and sediments, improved water quality, and enhanced flood control. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not violate waste discharge requirements or substantially degrade surface or ground water quality. In addition, the Proposed Project would not create cumulatively considerable water quality impacts related to waste discharge because the Proposed Project would conform to Countywide watershed standards in the BMP Design Manual, derived from State regulation to address water quality concerns. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact on water quality from waste discharges.

b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact	☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

No Impact: The Proposed Project involves habitat restoration within an existing regional park. The Proposed Project would require the use of minimal water during construction activities and post-construction activities. Water usage during implementation would primarily occur from watering in conjunction with planting activities, and supplemental watering during maintenance activities. However, the Proposed Project would not interfere with groundwater supplies. According to the HRP (Appendix A), irrigation may be used on sites where container plants or cuttings are installed (if container planting occurs). Irrigation and supplemental watering would be considered in conjunction with other restoration treatments on a site-by-site basis. Germination at seeded areas would rely on natural precipitation. Where irrigation is needed, accessible sites would have either overhead, drip- or bubbler-type irrigation systems installed that would be fed by either on-site water connection, tanks, or a water truck connection. Hand watering may also occur in small sites or sites with difficult access. Specific schedules and quantities of irrigation would depend on weather patterns and site conditions consistent with the HRP. Additionally, the Proposed Project would not introduce impervious surfaces that would interfere substantially with groundwater recharge. The Proposed Project would not

require water usage that would significantly deplete groundwater supplies. Therefore, no impact on groundwater resources is anticipated.

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

i. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project involves habitat rehabilitation in an existing regional park and would include topographic modifications consisting of small surface recontouring activities that would enhance Tijuana River stream and flood flows and/or remove impediments within the TRVRP floodplain. No large-scale topographic modifications would be proposed under this Proposed Project, but small topographic modifications (potentially up to 0.25-acre per occurrence) may be proposed to enhance hydrologic functions over larger swaths of vegetation communities. Details of any topographic modification activity would be described in an Execution Plan and would also include expected post modification topographic conditions and overall benefits of the Proposed Project. A topographic modification may be performed by a small skip-loader, skid-steer, or small bulldozer. Any impacts created from this activity would be temporary and disturbed areas would be revegetated upon completion.

Examples of topographic modification activities within wetland and riparian areas may include the removal of an impediment to a low flow channel that has been caused by an accumulation of debris or rhizomatous root masses which are altering the natural topography of the floodplain. Topographic modification within upland areas may include the redirection of concentrated surface flows to reduce point source erosion and the creation of water bars along dirt roads/trails (i.e., Customs and Border Protection dirt roads/trails on Spooners Mesa and Monument Mesa). However, the Proposed Project would incorporate erosion control measures. Erosion control devices would typically include hydroseeding with a mulch and tackifying agent, fiber rolls, gravel bags, jute netting, or another device. All erosion control devices would be installed per manufacturer's recommendations for the application type. In all areas where soil has been disturbed, erosion control devices would be considered. Erosion control devices would be installed to reduce erosion and sedimentation, bank stabilization, runoff management, and may also function to facilitate revegetation efforts. As discussed in the HRP, the Execution Plan would contain details for recommended erosion control devices and their locations and/or erosion control devices would be detailed in the SWPPP, if applicable. Erosion control devices would typically include hydroseeding with a mulch and tackifying agent, fiber rolls, gravel bags, jute netting, or another device. All erosion control devices

would be installed per manufacturer's recommendations for the application type. Furthermore, the Proposed Project upon completion would not introduce impervious surfaces that would redirect water flows. Due to these factors, the Proposed Project would not result in significantly increased erosion or sedimentation potential and would not significantly alter any drainage patterns of the site or area on- or off site. In addition, because erosion and sedimentation would be controlled within the Proposed Project area, the Proposed Project would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact.

ii. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project involves habitat rehabilitation in an existing regional park and would include multiple ground-disturbing activities (i.e., soil salvage, mechanical mowing of invasive non-native plants, soil decompaction/ recontouring, minor topographic modifications to enhance stream and flood flows). Such activities may alter runoff patterns at the site. However, the Proposed Project would not increase runoff or result in flooding. Rather, the Proposed Project would include topographic modifications consisting of small surface recontouring activities that would enhance Tijuana River stream and flood flows and/or remove impediments within the TRVRP floodplain. As discussed above in item X c i), implementation pf the Proposed Project would improve flood flows at the site. Restoration is expected to have secondary benefits resulting from improved ecological and hydrological functions, such as reduced concentrations of pollutants and sediments, improved water quality, and enhanced flood control. Additionally, the Proposed Project would not substantially increase impervious surfaces that would contribute to runoff or increased flooding. Moreover, the Proposed Project would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable increase in the rate or amount of runoff because the Proposed Project would not substantially increase water surface elevation or runoff exiting the site.

iii. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project would not create or contribute significant runoff water which would exceed the capacity of stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. There are no planned stormwater drainage systems proposed by the Proposed Project, nor does the Proposed Project require such systems. The Proposed Project would involve habitat rehabilitation in an existing regional park. the Proposed Project would include topographic modifications consisting of small surface recontouring activities that would enhance Tijuana River stream and flood flows and/or remove impediments within the TRVRP floodplain. As discussed above in item X c i), implementation of the Proposed Project would improve flood flows at the site. Restoration is expected to have secondary benefits resulting from improved ecological and hydrological functions, such as reduced concentrations of pollutants and sediments, improved water quality, and enhanced flood control. The Proposed Project would not create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in significant impacts related to stormwater drainage systems and would not have the potential for cumulatively considerable impacts.

iv. Impede or redirect flood flows?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: Refer to the discussion under item X (c) (i). The Proposed Project would not impede or redirect flood flows. The Proposed Project would involve topographic modifications consisting of small surface recontouring activities that would enhance Tijuana River stream and flood flows and/or remove impediments within the TRVRP floodplain. However, such activities would improve flood flows. There are no existing or planned stormwater drainage systems proposed by the Proposed Project, nor does the Proposed Project require such systems. Additionally, the Proposed Project would not add impervious surfaces that would contribute towards flood flows. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not include features that would result in a significant impact, or potentially cumulatively considerable impact, on flood flows.

d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

i. Flood Hazard

Less Than Significant Impact: Refer to the discussion under items X (c) (i) and X (c) (iv). The Proposed Project would involve topographic modifications consisting of small surface recontouring activities that would enhance Tijuana River stream and flood flows and/or remove impediments within the TRVRP floodplain. Such activities would improve flood flows. As discussed in the HRP (Appendix A), restoration is expected to have secondary benefits resulting from improved ecological and hydrological functions, such as reduced concentrations of pollutants and sediments, improved water quality, and enhanced flood control. Impacts would be less than significant.

ii. Tsunami

Less Than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project site is located approximately 1.1 miles east of the Pacific Ocean and would therefore be unlikely to experience severe impacts related to tsunamis. In the event the Proposed Project site did experience impacts related to tsunamis, implementation of the proposed project would not exacerbate potential hazards. The Proposed Project involves habitat restoration within an existing regional park, and would continue to operate as a regional park following completion of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would not introduce new structures or inhabitants to the region that may be subject to tsunami hazards. Impacts would be less than significant.

iii. Seiche

No Impact: The Proposed Project site is located in the vicinity of Tijuana River and Dairy Mart Pond. The Proposed Project does not propose large-scale construction activity that would lead to a disturbance or oscillation in the water level of Tijuana River, Dairy Mart Pond, or other nearby water bodies that could produce a seiche.

e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☒	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: As discussed under item X (a), the Proposed Project would include multiple ground-disturbing activities (i.e., soil salvage, mechanical mowing of invasive non-native plants, soil decompaction/ recontouring, minor topographic modifications to enhance stream and flood flows). In all areas where soil has been disturbed, erosion control devices would be considered. As discussed in the HRP, the Execution Plan would contain details for recommended erosion control devices and their

locations and/or erosion control devices would be detailed in the SWPPP, if applicable. As discussed in the HRP, restoration is expected to have secondary benefits resulting from improved ecological and hydrological functions, such as reduced concentrations of pollutants and sediments, improved water quality, and enhanced flood control. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not be in conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable water quality management plans for the region. In addition, such measures would ensure the Proposed Project would not have the potential for cumulatively considerable impacts to potentially conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable plans.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

No Impact: The Proposed Project does not propose the introduction of new infrastructure such as major roadways or other features that would interfere with, or physically divide, nearby residences. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not divide the established community. Similarly, the Proposed Project would not result in cumulatively considerable impacts on an established community. Rather, the Proposed Project involves removal of invasive non-native plants and native plant restoration entirely within the boundaries of the existing TRVRP. Impacts related to dividing an established community would not occur.

b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☐ Less than Significant Impact
- ☒ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated: The Proposed Project site is zoned as Open Space – Floodplain (OF-1-1) and Agricultural – Residential (AR-1-1, AR-1-2). The Proposed Project site has a land use designation of Multi-Species Conservation Open Space and Other Community Open Space/Agriculture in the TRV Community Plan, and Open Space in the San Ysidro Community Plan. The Proposed

Project would be in compliance with those land uses. Additionally, the Proposed Project would not change the existing uses at the site. Following Proposed Project completion, the Proposed Project site would continue to operate as a regional park. As discussed in item IV (e), the Proposed Project activities have the potential to conflict with the MBTA; however, mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2** would reduce impacts to less than significant. Additionally, the Proposed Project would comply with the requirements of the BMO, CFGC, and MSCP. Thus, with the implementation of **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2** land-use related impacts would be less than significant in relation to this issue.

The Proposed Project would not result in a potential cumulative impact related to an environmental effect due to a conflict with an applicable plan because the Proposed Project would not conflict with existing land use plans. Refer to XXI, Mandatory Findings of Significance, for further discussion.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project area been classified by the California Department of Conservation – Division of Mines and Geology as MRZ-2 and MRZ-3 (California Department of Conservation 1996). The MRZ-2 designation is applied to lands where mineral deposits are present or where it is judged that a high likelihood for their presence exists. The MRZ-3 designation is applied to lands where the presence and significance of mineral deposits cannot be determined from the available data. No mining operations are presently occurring in the Proposed Project area. The Proposed Project would not change existing land uses or prevent the area from being used for mining operations in the future. Therefore, no potentially significant loss of availability of a known mineral resource of value to the region and the residents of the State would result from implementation of the Proposed Project.

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project would include activities such as removal of invasive non-native plant species, weed removal, trash/debris removal, seeding, watering, and erosion control. The Proposed Project would not result in the permanent loss of availability of locally important mineral resource(s), and there would be no potentially significant loss of availability of a known mineral resource of locally important mineral resource recovery (extraction) site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan would result from implementation of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would not result in a loss of a known mineral resource; thus, it would not contribute to the cumulative loss of a mineral resource. Impacts would be less than significant.

XIII. NOISE

Would the project result in:

a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☐	Less than Significant Impact
☒	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated: The Proposed Project involves habitat rehabilitation within an existing regional park. The Proposed Project does not propose permanent noise-generating features and noise at the site would be similar to existing conditions. Under existing conditions, noise within the Proposed Project area is primarily from trail usage. Several of the trails that run throughout the Proposed Project area are frequently used by horseback riders, for recreational purposes, and may be used as access points by vehicles and CBP agents. The Proposed Project would not incorporate additional trails or pathways, which currently provide the greatest source of operational noise on the Proposed Project site due to trail users. Operation of the Proposed Project would therefore not generate direct noise impacts on existing or planned noise-sensitive land uses.

Temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels associated with the Proposed Project would be limited to noise from construction activity. General construction noise would comply with the construction noise limits of the County Noise Ordinance (Section 36.409), defined as an excess of 75 A-weighted decibels (dBA) for more than 8 hours during a 24-hour period.

Temporary construction noise increases may exceed 60 dBA L_{EQ} (one hour) during a single hour. As discussed in the BRTR (Appendix C) prepared for the Proposed Project,

noise generated by construction of the Proposed Project would have the potential to disturb the nesting success of County Group 1 birds and raptors (osprey, Cooper's hawk, red-shouldered hawk, northern harrier, white-tailed kite, yellow-breasted chat, and yellow warbler), all of which have the potential to nest on and/or within 500 feet of impact areas. Noise-related impacts would be considered significant if these sensitive avian species were displaced from their nests and failed to breed. Additionally, construction noise has the potential to impact nesting birds and tree-nesting raptors, which have the potential to nest on and/or within 500 feet of construction impact areas. Noise-related impacts would be considered significant if sensitive species (such as least Bell's vireo, coastal California gnatcatchers, and raptors) were displaced from their nests and failed to breed. Raptors or other sensitive bird species nesting within any area impacted by noise exceeding 60 dB or ambient could be significantly impacted.

Construction may occur during the general avian breeding season (February 1 to September 15), least Bell's vireo breeding season (March 15 to September 15), coastal California gnatcatcher breeding season (March 1 to August 15), or raptor breeding season (January 15 to July 15). If construction occurs during these periods, noise from noise-generating equipment such as excavators, dozers, or backhoes would potentially exceed 60 dBA L_{EQ} (one hour), and impacts would be potentially significant. However, implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2** would require pre-construction surveys for active nests within the potential impact areas and the potential use of noise-attenuation materials or avoidance measures to reduce noise impacts to a less than significant level. Upon implementation of mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2**, impacts to nesting bird species due to construction noise would be less than significant. Refer to XXI, Mandatory Findings of Significance, for a discussion of cumulative impacts.

b) Generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☒	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: Construction of the Proposed Project would not involve equipment or activities that would generate elevated vibration levels or ground borne noise levels such as a vibratory roller or pile driving, and the public's use of the Proposed Project site would not result in excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels. Following completion of the Proposed Project, the Proposed Project site would continue to operate as a regional park, which would not generate excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels.

Additionally, the Proposed Project does not propose major, new, or expanded infrastructure such as mass transit, highways or major roadways, or intensive extractive

industry that could generate excessive operational ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels on site or in the surrounding area.

Therefore, the Proposed Project would not generate excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels on a project or cumulative level.

c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the Project Area to excessive noise levels?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project site is located as close as approximately 0.26 mile from the NOLF IB. According to the NOLF IB ALUCP, portions of the Proposed Project are located within the 60-65 dB CNEL and 65-70 dB CNEL noise exposure contours for the flight operations (San Diego County Regional Airport Authority 2015). Therefore, the Proposed Project site may experience noise associated with operation of the NOLF IB. However, the Proposed Project involves habitat restoration within an existing regional park. The Proposed Project would not include the construction of permanent structures that would introduce new inhabitants to the site that may be exposed to noise associated with the NOLF IB. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not expose people residing or working in the Proposed Project area to excessive airport related noise levels. Impacts would be less than significant.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☐ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

No Impact: The Proposed Project would not induce substantial population growth because it does not propose a physical or regulatory change that would remove a restriction to or encourage population growth in an area including, but limited to, the

following: new or extended infrastructure or public facilities that would serve additional development; new commercial or industrial facilities; large-scale residential development; accelerated conversion of homes to commercial or multi-family use; or regulatory changes such as General Plan amendments, specific plan amendments, zone reclassifications, sewer or water annexations, or Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) annexation actions. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth in the Proposed Project area, nor would it result in cumulative impacts related to unplanned population growth when considered in combination with the cumulative projects in the area.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

No Impact: No existing housing occurs within the Proposed Project site and the Proposed Project would not displace any existing people or housing. Therefore, no impact to existing people or housing would occur.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

i. Fire protection?
ii. Police protection?
iii. Schools?
iv. Parks?
v. Other public facilities?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

No Impact: The Proposed Project involves habitat restoration activities within an existing regional park. The Proposed Project would include activities such as removal of invasive non-native plant species, weed removal, trash/debris removal, seeding, watering, and erosion control. Following completion of the Proposed Project, long-term maintenance and management of the restoration site would be executed by DPR. Specifically, the site would be part of the DPR Preserve, and as such, would be patrolled regularly by DPR rangers. The Proposed Project would not cause a direct or indirect increase in population that would require public services. Implementation of the Proposed Project would not require the new of physically altered fire protection facilities, police protection facilities, schools, parks, or other public facilities. No impacts would occur.

XVI. RECREATION

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

No Impact: Although the Proposed Project would occur within a regional park, the Proposed Project would not expand or create new recreational facilities. The Proposed Project involves habitat restoration which would include activities such as removal of invasive non-native plant species, weed removal, trash/debris removal, seeding, watering, and erosion control (HELIX ~~2023a~~2024a). Implementation of the Proposed Project would not increase the use of existing parks and would not cause physical deterioration of a recreational facility to be accelerated. Impacts would not occur.

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

No Impact: Refer to item XVI a), above. Although the Proposed Project would occur within a regional park, the Proposed Project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Impacts would not occur.

XVII. TRANSPORTATION

Would the project:

a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the performance of the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☒ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The County Guidelines for Determining Significance for Traffic and Transportation (Guidelines) establish measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. These Guidelines incorporate standards from the County of San Diego Public Road Standards and Mobility Element, the County of San Diego Transportation Impact Fee Program, and the Congestion Management Program.

The Proposed Project would not conflict with a program plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the performance of the circulation system. The Proposed Project involves habitat rehabilitation within an existing regional park, and would include activities such as removal of invasive non-native plant species, weed removal, trash/debris removal, seeding, watering, and erosion control. The Proposed Project would not close roads or access points for the Proposed Project site during temporary rehabilitation activities. Additionally, the Proposed Project would not construct any structures or introduce inhabitants to the region that would result in a permanent increase in usage of roadways or bicycle/pedestrian pathways. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the performance of the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. Impacts would be less than significant.

b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, Subdivision(b)?

- ☐ Potentially Significant Impact
- ☒ Less than Significant Impact
- ☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
- ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less than Significant Impact: CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, Subdivision(b) describes specific considerations for evaluating a project's transportation impacts. This section provides specific criteria for determining significance of transportation impacts, including guidelines for evaluating land use projects and transportation projects, for performing a qualitative analysis, and for choosing an appropriate methodology. The

Proposed Project involves habitat rehabilitation activities within an existing regional park. The Proposed Project would result in a minimal increase in vehicle trips on local roadways during implementation of the Proposed Project due to worker commutes. Following completion of the Proposed Project, the Proposed Project site would continue to operate as a regional park. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not result in transportation impacts, it would not conflict with the guidelines provided in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, Subdivision(b). Impacts would be less than significant.

c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project involves habitat rehabilitation within an existing regional park. The Proposed Project would include activities such as removal of invasive non-native plant species, weed removal, trash/debris removal, seeding, watering, and erosion control. The Proposed Project would not introduce permanent structures or new uses that may cause hazards. Following completion of the Proposed Project, the Proposed Project site would continue to operate as a regional park. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible use. Impacts would be less than significant.

d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project involves habitat restoration in an existing regional park. The Proposed Project would not close roads or access points for the Proposed Project site during temporary rehabilitation activities. Once the Proposed Project is complete, the Proposed Project area would continue to operate as a regional park. The Proposed Project would not include residences or institutions that would attract large numbers of people to the area. Additionally, the Proposed Project would not interfere with the Operational Area Emergency Plan, Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, or Dam Evacuation Plan. No impact to emergency access would occur.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, as defined in Public Resources Code §21074 as either a site, feature, place, or cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of Historical Resources as defined in Public Resources Code §5020.1(k), or

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☒ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated. Tribal Cultural Resources are sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR or included in a local register of historical resources, as defined in subdivision (k) of Public Resources Code Section 5020.1.

As discussed in Section V of this IS/MND, the Cultural Resources Inventory and Assessment prepared for the Proposed Project (Appendix D) identified 58 previously recorded cultural resources within the TRVRP, 57 of which occur within the Proposed Project area. Of the 58 resources identified, 47 are prehistoric cultural resources and 2 are multi-component sites. However, impacts to resources located outside of the 587.93 acres of phase areas would not occur. A total of 22 prehistoric cultural resources, all previously recorded, are located within the areas identified as disturbed habitats or containing invasive non-native plant species that would be targeted for removal and restoration. These resources would have a greater risk of experiencing significant adverse impacts resulting from the Proposed Project. One of the resources has been previously evaluated as eligible for the NRHP, and six resources have not been evaluated. Therefore, if the Proposed Project were to adversely impact these seven resources, impacts would be significant.

HELIX contacted the NAHC on March 11, 2021, for a Sacred Lands File search for the Proposed Project area. The NAHC indicated in a response dated April 5, 2021, that the results of the search were positive, and that the Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Mission Indians should be contacted for further information. HELIX contacted Ms. Carmen Lucas of the Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Mission Indians on March 7, 2023 regarding the positive Sacred Lands File search results. Ms. Lucas indicated that there is no specific Traditional

Cultural Properties (TCP) or tribal cultural resource within the TRVRP but that the entire Tijuana River Valley is extremely sensitive for cultural resources and for human remains. As such, she recommended that a knowledgeable Native American monitoring firm or tribal monitor be present during ground disturbance within the TRVRP. This conversation with Ms. Lucas was considered, and the cultural resources recommendations included in the IS/MND and Cultural Report (Appendix D) reflect this conversation.

The County initiated Assembly Bill (AB) 52 consultation with registered tribes on February 4, 2022 and the consultation request period ended on March 12, 2022.

On February 4, 2022, via certified mail and email, County staff provided project notification pursuant to AB 52 to seven tribes who have requested that the County provide, in writing, notification to the tribe of projects in the tribe's area of traditional and cultural affiliation. Notified tribes include the Barona Group of the Capitan Grande, Campo Band of Mission Indians, Jamul Indian Village (Jamul), Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Mission Indians, Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Nation, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, and Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians (Viejas).

On April 19, 2022, Jamul responded via email requesting consultation. County staff responded via email sent to Lisa Cumper on September 29, 2022, and again on December 14, 2022, requesting meeting availability for consultation. County staff met with Jamul on January 20, 2023, March 3, 2023, and April 7, 2023. Consultation meetings resulted in Jamul requesting for a monitor during extensive grading and in known culturally high-sensitivity areas (reflected in **MM-CUL-3**). Ms. Cumper expressed the importance of the Tijuana River Valley to the Jamul Tribe and their history, in terms of cultural resources but also environmental, ethnographical, geographical, and biological resources. The Jamul Tribe considers the entire valley as an important tribal cultural resource. Consultation closure was confirmed via email following the meeting on April 7, 2023.

Viejas responded via email on February 4, 2022, requesting that a cultural Native American monitor be present during ground disturbance (reflected in **MM-CUL-3**); that a copy of this cultural report would be provided to Viejas; and that Viejas is aware that there are TCRs in the Tijuana River Valley, but do not know specifically where they are located. County staff met with Viejas on September 21, 2022, and it was requested for the cultural resources report to be sent for review when ready. County staff sent the cultural resources report to Viejas via email on December 14, 2022, and requested for a follow up phone call. County staff sent an additional email to Viejas on January 18, 2023 requesting a phone call. Viejas responded on January 18 asking if there would be any ground disturbing activities as part of the Proposed Project and if Jamul had been provided the same information. County staff responded via email that there may be ground disturbance and that Jamul had received the same information as Viejas. Viejas responded via email on January 18, 2023 that they defer to Jamul if they wish to monitor or coordinate on cultural issues. Consultation was closed via email on January 18, 2023. No responses or requests for consultation were received from the remaining tribes.

Due to the number of cultural resources located in the Proposed Project area, positive Sacred Lands File search, and cultural importance of the region to the Native American community, the Proposed Project may result in significant impacts to tribal cultural resources.

However, due to natural alluvial erosion and human impacts that have occurred within the TRVRP, implementation of the Proposed Project involving invasive non-native plant treatments limited to herbicide treatment, hand removal, mowing, and solarization techniques would not be expected to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource. In addition, shallow planting activities would also not be expected to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource. However, mechanized discing /clearing and topographic modification restoration techniques (i.e., those involving bulldozers and excavators) occurring during the implement of the HRP could result in soil disturbances that may cause an adverse impact to significant tribal cultural resources. Mitigation measures **MM-CUL-1** through **MM-CUL-4** would be implemented, reducing potential impacts to a less than significant level. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not impact a tribal cultural resource as defined in subdivision (k) of Public Resources Code Section 5020.1

ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code §5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code §5024.1, the Lead Agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☐	Less than Significant Impact
☒	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated. AB-52 consultation with appropriate tribes was initiated between the County and each tribal contact, which occurred between February 4, 2022 and March 12, 2022.

On February 4, 2022, via certified mail and email, County staff provided project notification pursuant to AB 52 to seven tribes who have requested that the County provide, in writing, notification to the tribe of projects in the tribe's area of traditional and cultural affiliation. Notified tribes include the Barona Group of the Capitan Grande, Campo Band of Mission Indians, Jamul Indian Village (Jamul), Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Mission Indians, Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay Nation, San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians, Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, and Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians (Viejas).

On April 19, 2022, Jamul responded via email requesting consultation. County staff responded via email sent to Lisa Cumper on September 29, 2022 and again on December 14, 2022, requesting meeting availability for consultation. County staff met with Jamul on January 20, 2023, March 3, 2023, and April 7, 2023. Consultation meetings resulted in Jamul requesting for a monitor during extensive grading and in known culturally high-sensitivity areas (reflected in **MM-CUL-3**). Ms. Cumper expressed the importance of the Tijuana River Valley to the Jamul Tribe and their history, in terms of cultural resources, environmental, ethnographical, geographical, and biological resources, and communicated that the Jamul Tribe considers the entire valley as an important tribal cultural resource. Consultation closure was confirmed via email following the meeting on April 7, 2023.

Viejas responded via email on February 4, 2022, requesting that a cultural Native American monitor be present during ground disturbance (reflected in **MM CUL-3**); that a copy of this cultural report would be provided to Viejas; and that Viejas is aware that there are TCRs in the Tijuana River Valley, but do not know specifically where they are located. County staff met with Viejas on September 21, 2022, and it was requested for the cultural resources report to be sent for review when ready. County staff sent the cultural resources report to Viejas via email on December 14, 2022, and requested for a follow up phone call. County staff sent an additional email to Viejas on January 18, 2023 requesting a phone call. Viejas responded on January 18 asking if there would be any ground disturbing activities as part of the Proposed Project and if Jamul had been provided the same information. County staff responded via email that there may be ground disturbance and that Jamul had received the same information as Viejas. Viejas responded via email on January 18, 2023 that they defer to Jamul if they wish to monitor or coordinate on cultural issues. Consultation was closed via email on January 18, 2023. No responses or requests for consultation were received from the remaining tribes.

Due to the number of cultural resources located in the Proposed Project area, positive Sacred Lands File search, and cultural importance of the region to the Native American community, the Proposed Project may result in significant impacts to tribal cultural resources. However, mitigation measures **MM-CUL-1** through **MM-CUL-4** would be implemented, reducing potential impacts to a less than significant level.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

a) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact	☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less than Significant Impact. The Proposed Project includes habitat restoration of a regional park. The Proposed Project would require the use of minimal water during construction activities and post-construction activities. Water usage during Proposed Project implementation would primarily occur from watering in conjunction with planting activities, and supplemental watering during maintenance activities. According to the HRP, irrigation may be used on sites where container plants or cuttings are installed (if container planting occurs). Irrigation and supplemental watering would be considered in conjunction with other restoration treatments on a site-by-site basis. Germination at seeded areas would rely on natural precipitation. Where irrigation is needed, accessible sites would have either overhead, drip- or bubbler-type irrigation systems installed that would be fed by either on-site water connection, tanks, or a water truck connection. Hand watering may also occur in small sites or sites with difficult access. Specific schedules and quantities of irrigation would depend on weather patterns and site conditions (Appendix A). The Proposed Project would not require water usage that would significantly deplete water supplies. Impacts would be less than significant.

b) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☐	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☒	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

No Impact: The Proposed Project does not propose permanent restroom facilities. Portable restroom facilities would be provided for workers during implementation of the Proposed Project. Wastewater generated at the portable restroom facilities would be minimal and not be disposed of at the Proposed Project site, but would be hauled away, and disposed of at an appropriate facility in accordance with applicable regulations. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not interfere with a wastewater treatment provider's service capacity.

c) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☒	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: Implementation of the Proposed Project would include the removal of existing trash and debris within the TRVRP during pre-construction, construction, and post-construction. All trash and debris removed during pre-construction activities would be hauled off-site and disposed of in an approved landfill.

Records would be kept detailing the tonnage, type, and dates of trash removed from the site and would be included in project reporting documents.

The Proposed Project would generate minimal solid waste, and solid waste generated would primarily consist of organic waste from invasive non-native plant removal and soil decompaction/recontouring. Organic materials, including wood debris, plant material, straw, and sand, may be incorporated into the site soils prior to soil decompaction. However, this would be evaluated case-by-case to ensure that the fundamental characteristics of the underlying soil are not altered to favor non-native over native plant species. Waste generated by the Proposed Project would be minimal and would not exceed applicable standards.

Proposed Project implementation would not generate significant solid waste during operation. The Proposed Project involves habitat restoration; following completion of the Proposed Project, long-term maintenance and management of the restoration site would be executed by DPR. Specifically, the site would be part of the DPR Preserve, and as such, would be patrolled regularly by DPR rangers. Park rangers may hand pull any invasive non-native plants in the early stages of growth that are observed during patrols. Such activities would not generate significant amounts of solid waste. Additionally, all solid waste facilities, including landfills, require solid waste facility permits to operate. In San Diego County, the County Department of Environmental Health, Local Enforcement Agency issues solid waste facility permits with concurrence from the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) under the authority of the Public Resources Code (Sections 44001-44018) and California Code of Regulations Title 27, Division 2, Subdivision 1, Chapter 4 (Section 21440 et seq.). Therefore, there is sufficient existing permitted solid waste capacity to accommodate the Proposed Project's solid waste disposal needs.

d) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact	☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less than Significant Impact: Implementation of the Proposed Project would generate minimal solid waste during implementation of the Proposed Project. Disposal of waste materials related to the Proposed Project would be legally disposed of at regulated

disposal sites. No refuse bins would be provided, and operational waste would be carried out for legal disposal, similar to existing conditions.

XX. WILDFIRE

If located in or near State responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: As discussed in item IX e), the Proposed Project would not conflict with the Operational Area Emergency Plan, the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, the San Diego County Nuclear Power Station Emergency Response Plan, the Oil Spill Contingency Element, the Emergency Water Contingencies Annex and Energy Shortage Response Plan, or the Dam Evacuation Plan for the County. The Proposed Project would not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The Proposed Project would not contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact because future projects are required to comply with the County Codes and emergency evacuation plans. Potential impacts related to conflict with an adopted emergency response or emergency evacuation plan would be less than significant.

b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact ☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated ☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The majority of the Proposed Project area is located within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone as designated by CAL FIRE in their *Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in LRA, San Diego* (CAL FIRE 2009). The climate and vegetation make the area suitable for potential wildland fires. However, the Proposed Project would not exacerbate wildfire risk at the Proposed Project site. The activities included in the Proposed Project include the removal of invasive non-native plant species, weed removal, trash/debris removal, seeding, watering, and erosion control. The

Proposed Project would not introduce significant slopes or unstable slope conditions that would increase wildfire risk. Additionally, the Proposed Project does not include the construction of structures that would introduce occupants to the site that would be exposed to wildfire hazards. Impacts would be less than significant.

c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☒ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

No Impact: The Proposed Project includes habitat restoration within an existing regional park. The Proposed Project does not include the installation of infrastructure such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not include activities related to infrastructure that would result in direct or cumulatively considerable impacts on the environment.

d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☒ Less than Significant Impact
☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact: The Proposed Project site is located in a climate and topography that is prone to wildfires and has natural habitats of vegetation that could be a fuel source for wildfires, especially during droughts or dry periods. Wildfire risk tends to be high in locations where dense vegetation occurs on a steep slope. Post-wildfire risks associated with slopes, including mudflow or landslides, could occur when the vegetation that anchors soils to the hillside has burned, increasing the potential for mudflow or landslide in the event of heavy rains (CAL FIRE 2018). The Proposed Project site is at risk for this situation to occur; however, the Proposed Project does not include features that would alter or exacerbate these existing conditions on the Proposed Project site. As discussed under item VII a), the Proposed Project does include ground-disturbing activities (i.e., soil salvage, mechanical mowing of invasive non-native plants, soil decompaction/recontouring, minor topographic modifications to enhance stream and flood flows), but such activities would not result in instable ground conditions. Rather, the

Proposed Project would improve flood flows through soil recontouring to correct, improve, or expand stream and flood flows within the Proposed Project area. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not expose more people to the risk of post-wildfire hazards, including mudflow, landslide, or other forms of slope instability from existing conditions.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

☐ Potentially Significant Impact
☐ Less than Significant Impact
☒ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated
☐ No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated. Per the instructions for evaluating environmental impacts in this Initial Study, the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory were considered in the response to each question in sections IV, V, and XVIII of this form. In addition to impacts specific to the Proposed Project, this evaluation considered the Proposed Project's potential for significant cumulative effects. Resources that have been evaluated as significant would be potentially impacted by the Proposed Project, particularly biological resources, cultural resources, and tribal cultural resources. However, mitigation has been included that clearly reduces these effects to a level below significance. Compliance with the MMRP would occur with DPR review and approval of each Execution Plan required to be prepared for each phase of the Proposed Project. This mitigation includes mitigation measures **MM-BIO-1 through MM-BIO-9** to reduce potential impacts to biological resources; **MM-CUL-1 through MM-CUL-3** to avoid potential impacts on historic or buried cultural resources; **MM-CUL-4** to protect human remains; and **MM-PAL-1a through MM-PAL-1g** to avoid potential impacts to paleontological resources. As a result of this evaluation, there is no substantial evidence that, after mitigation, significant effects associated with this Proposed Project would result. Therefore, this Proposed Project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☒	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Past, present, and future projects were compiled to assess impacts by the Proposed Project in conjunction with cumulative projects in the vicinity. However, no cumulative projects that would have adverse effects on the environment were found within one mile of the Proposed Project.

Less Than Significant Impact. Per the instructions for evaluating environmental impacts in this Initial Study, the potential for adverse cumulative effects were considered in the response to each question in sections I through XX of this form. In addition to Proposed Project specific impacts, this evaluation considered the Proposed Project's potential for incremental effects that are cumulatively considerable. As a result of this evaluation, there is no substantial evidence that there are cumulative effects associated with this Proposed Project. Therefore, this Proposed Project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.

c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

☐	Potentially Significant Impact	☒	Less than Significant Impact
☐	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	☐	No Impact

Discussion/Explanation:

Less Than Significant Impact. In the evaluation of environmental impacts in this Initial Study, the potential for adverse direct or indirect impacts on human beings were considered in the response to certain questions in sections I. Aesthetics; III. Air Quality; VII. Geology and Soils; VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions; IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials; X. Hydrology and Water Quality; XIII. Noise; XIV. Population and Housing; XVII. Transportation; and XX. Wildfire. As a result of this evaluation, there is no substantial evidence of adverse effects to human beings associated with this Proposed Project. Therefore, this Proposed Project has been determined not to meet this Mandatory Finding of Significance.

XXII. REFERENCES USED IN THE COMPLETION OF THE INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

All references to Federal, State, and local regulations are available on the Internet. For Federal regulations, refer to https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text. For State regulations, refer to http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/. For County regulations, refer to https://www.amlegal.com/. All other references are available upon request.

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CULTURAL RESOURCES

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California Public Resources Code §5024.1, Register of Historical Resources. (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/)

California Public Resources Code. §5097-5097.6, Archaeological, Paleontological, and Historic Sites. (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/)

California Public Resources Code. §5097.9-5097.991, Native American Heritage. (https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/)

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc., Cultural Resources Inventory and Assessment, Tijuana River Valley Invasive Species Removal and Restoration Project, ~~November 2023~~January 2024c.

U.S. Code including: American Antiquities Act (16 USC §431-433) 1906. Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act (16 USC §461-467), 1935. Reservoir Salvage Act (16 USC §469-469c) 1960. National Historic Preservation Act (16 USC §470 et seq.) 1966. National Environmental Policy Act (42 USC §4321) 1969. Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act (16 USC §469-469c) 1974. Federal Land Policy and Management Act (43 USC §35) 1976. American Indian Religious Freedom Act (42 USC §1996 and 1996a) 1978. Archaeological Resources Protection Act (16 USC §470aa-mm) 1979. Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 USC §3001-3013) 1990. Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (23 USC §101, 109) 1991. American Battlefield Protection Act (16 USC 469k) 1996. (www4.law.cornell.edu)

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XXIII. LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A Habitat Restoration Plan
Appendix B Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Technical Analysis
Appendix C Biological Resources Technical Report
Appendix D Cultural Resources Inventory and Assessment