INDIVIDUAL BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site Name/Facility:	**Via de la Bandola**
Master Program Map No.:	**130a**
Date:	**Pre-Maintenance – 12/9/2014** **Post-Maintenance – 1/20/2016**
Biologist Name/Cell Phone No.:	**Pre-Maintenance – George Aldridge (HELIX) / 520 343-0046** **Post-Maintenance – Scott Gressard (Dudek) / 858-997-6874**

Instructions: This form must be completed for each storm water facility identified in the Annual Maintenance Needs Assessment report and prior to commencing any maintenance activity on the facility. The Existing Conditions information shall be collected prior to preparing of the Individual Maintenance Plan (IMP) to assist in developing the IMP. The remaining sections shall be completed after the IMP has been prepared. Attach additional sheets as needed.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The City of San Diego has developed and implemented the Master Storm Water System Maintenance Program (MMP) to maintain channels in order to provide flood control for the protection of life and property while minimizing environmental impacts to the greatest extent feasible. This Individual Biological Assessment (IBA) has been prepared as a site specific analysis to comply with the MMP. This document identifies any sensitive biological resources onsite, quantifies potential impacts to those resources, and proposes measures to reduce impacts and mitigate any unavoidable impacts.

Project Location

The project is located in a reach of a concrete-lined storm water channel north of Via de la Bandola, in the San Ysidro neighborhood of San Diego (Figure 1). The project site is in the Tijuana watershed east of Interstate 5, west of Interstate 805, and south of State Route (SR) 905 (Figure 2). The channel reach is separated from Via de la Bandola by private residences, and sits at the toe of a manufactured slope associated with the SR 905 embankment. The reach begins at a concrete box culvert outlet under SR 905 and ends approximately 600 feet to the west at a concrete box culvert inlet underneath houses on Via de la Bandola at the intersection of Via de la Melodia.

Survey Methods and Date

The channel was initially surveyed prior to emergency maintenance on December 9, 2014 between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. The pedestrian survey involved walking the length of the channel from access at 4004 Via de la Bandola (with permission from residents). The survey included vegetation mapping, a comprehensive species list, noting the predominant species, and assessing the potential for sensitive species. A post-maintenance survey was conducted on January 20, 2016 to document impacts resulting from emergency maintenance work.

Biological Resources

Stream Type: **Perennial** ☐ **Intermittent** ☐ **Ephemeral** X

This channel contains minimal biological resources at the eastern end, where it is a combination of clean concrete and non-native acacia trees (*Acacia* spp.) for approximately 75 feet downstream of the culvert outlet. The remainder of the channel west to the culvert inlet at Via de la Melodia is entirely filled with dense stands of freshwater marsh (cattail [*Typha latifolia*]), and southern willow scrub (arroyo willow [*Salix lasiolepis*], Goodding's black willow [*S. gooddingii*], and red willow [*S. laevigata*]). Cattails and willows reach heights greater than 10 feet, though recent storm flows had flattened cattails in the center portion of the channel at the time of the survey. No species other than those listed above grow in the channel, except for small, isolated occurrences of Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) in some areas where cattails were disturbed by recent storm

flows, and a few seedlings of Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*) and individuals of ditch beardgrass (*Polypogon interruptus*). No sensitive plant species were observed during the field reconnaissance, and there is low potential for any to occur, given the density of cattail and willows.

The extent of land cover in the channel is as follows (Figure 3): 4094 sq. ft (0.09 acre) of freshwater marsh; 327 sq. ft (0.01 acre) of disturbed freshwater marsh including acacia, ditch beardgrass, and Mexican fan palm growing among dominant cattail; 3738 sq. ft (0.09 acre) of southern willow scrub; 807 square ft (0.02 acre) of non-native vegetation; and 809 sq. ft (0.02 acre) of developed land (clean concrete channel). The total channel occupies 0.22 acre (acreages listed previously may not total due to rounding). All vegetation grows in soil perched on the concrete bottom of the channel.

The channel is surrounded by development, including residential and SR 905. It is unlikely that the channel serves as a wildlife movement corridor, given its short length. Wildlife using the southern slope of the SR 905 embankment might also utilize the channel for water, shelter, and foraging as it moves east-west in the upland habitat on the freeway embankment. Habitats in the channel are appropriate for sensitive riparian species, but the small patch size and isolation from similar habitats makes it unlikely that the channel supports any such species. The only wildlife observed during the field reconnaissance was song sparrow and Anna's hummingbird. Raccoon tracks were visible in mud at the edge of the channel.

Vegetation on the SR 905 embankment is revegetated coastal sage scrub and includes coastal cholla (*Cylindropuntia ramosissima*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), and gum tree (*Eucalyptus* sp.). This habitat is fairly sparse and of overall poor quality.

Jurisdictional Areas

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Wetland Waters of the U.S. (WUS): 0.10 ac freshwater marsh-concrete-lined (incl. disturbed), 0.09 ac southern willow scrub-concrete-lined

Non-wetland WUS: 0.02 ac non-native vegetation (concrete-lined), 0.02 ac developed/concrete-lined channel

California Department of Fish and Wildlife/City of San Diego:

Wetlands: 0.10 ac freshwater marsh-concrete-lined (incl. disturbed), 0.09 ac southern willow scrub-concrete-lined

Streambed/Unvegetated Waters: 0.02 ac non-native vegetation (concrete-lined), 0.02 ac developed/concrete-lined channel

Jurisdictional areas were determined on the basis of 100-percent domination of FAC and FACW species; surface water, soil saturation and evidence of surface flow; and problematic soils (recently deposited soils permanently.

Sensitive* Plant Species Observed:	**Sensitive* Animal Species Observed/Detected:**
Yes ☐ No X If yes, what species were observed and where? If yes, complete a California Native Species Field Survey Form and submit it to the California Natural Diversity Database.	Yes ☐ No X If yes, what species were observed/detected and where? If yes, complete a California Native Species Field Survey Form and submit it to the California Natural Diversity Database.
* Sensitive species shall include those listed by state or federal agencies as well as species that could be considered sensitive under Sections 15380(b) and (c) and 15126(c) of the CEQA Guidelines.	* Sensitive species shall include those listed by state or federal agencies as well as species that could be considered sensitive under Sections 15380(b) and (c) and 15126(c) of the CEQA Guidelines.

Are there current levels of anthropogenic influences on habitat with the project footprint (e.g., homeless encampment, illegal dumping)? Yes X No ☐

If yes, describe the influence:
Minor amounts of trash accumulated from upstream.

Are there any conservation easements which have been previously recorded within the maintenance area?
Yes ☐ No X

If yes, describe them and their purpose:

Is any portion of the maintenance activity within an MHPA? Yes ☐ No X

If yes, describe which portions are within an MHPA: No portion of the work area is within the MHPA, but the southern half is adjacent to the MHPA (Figure 3).

Is there moderate or high potential for listed animal species to occur in or adjacent to the impact area?
Yes ☐ No X

Based on the results of the field survey and the condition of the adjacent land, there is not a moderate or high potential for listed species to occur in or adjacent to the maintenance area. More specifically, listed animal species would not be expected to occur within 750 feet of the maintenance area. Thus, preparation of an Individual Noise Assessment (INA), in accordance with the MMP, is not required.

If yes, which species (check all that apply) and describe any surveys which should be undertaken to determine whether those species could occur within the maintenance area:

☐ Least Bell's vireo
☐ Southwester willow flycatcher
☐ Arroyo toad
☐ Coastal California gnatcatcher
☐ San Diego fairy shrimp
☐ Riverside fairy shrimp
☐ California least tern
☐ Light-footed clapper rail
☐ Western snowy plover
☐ Other: _____

Attach documentation supporting the determination of the presence or absence of listed animal species with a moderate or high potential to occur (e.g. California Natural Diversity Database records searches).

Is there moderate or high potential for a listed plant species to occur in or adjacent to the impact area?
Yes ☐ No X

If yes, identify which species may occur and describe any surveys which should be undertaken to determine whether those species could occur within the maintenance area:

Attach documentation supporting the determination of the presence or absence of listed plant species with a moderate or high potential to occur (e.g. California Natural Diversity Database records searches).

Could maintenance disrupt the integrity of an important habitat (i.e., disruption of a wildlife corridor and/or an extensive riparian woodland: Yes ☐ No X

If yes, discuss which habitat could be impacted and how:

Could work be conducted during the avian breeding season (January 15 – August 31) without the need for pre-construction nesting surveys: Yes ☐ No X

If yes, provide justification:

Is it anticipated that maintenance activities would generate noise in excess of 60 dB(A) L_{eq}?
Yes X No ☐

If yes, what measures should be taken to avoid adverse impacts on avian bird breeding within or adjacent to the maintenance?

Schedule maintenance outside the avian breeding season (January 15 – August 31). Noise attenuation measures are not practical, as the work would be conducted in and around trees.

Biological Resource Conditions Relative to Original Survey Conducted for MASTER PROGRAM Final Program EIR (May 2010) (vegetation communities present, including adjacent uplands; general habitat quality/level of disturbance):

This channel was not included in the Program EIR for the master program. Thus, no comparison can be made.

MAINTENANCE IMPACTS

Maintenance Methods (based on IMP)

Emergency maintenance of the channel included the removal of all existing vegetation and sediment within the channel. Assessments by City crews during the first week of November 2015 determined that overall sediment build up, caused by dense stands of wetland habitat in the channel, was causing severe reduction of channel capacity. This build up exacerbated the risk of clogging the downstream culvert, which is fed directly by the channel, and significantly increased the risk of flooding of adjacent properties. Removing only the downstream portion of this vegetation and sediment would have only broken up the overall vegetative structure in the channel and encouraged sloughing, further increasing the risk of flooding imminent during what is forecasted to be an above-average rainfall year caused by El Nino weather patterns.

On November 25, 2015, emergency work crews began the removal work and the channel was completed and fully cleared on December 6, 2015. A Bobcat was used to push material within the channel to an Excavator staged outside of the channel behind 4004 Via de la Bandola. The Excavator then loaded dump trucks that hauled the material off to the approved disposal site. A vactor truck was used, as necessary, at the downstream end of the work areas to prevent any water from leaving the project site. Sand bags were also used to catch flows and prevent them from entering work areas. Water pumps were used to bypass water out of or around maintenance work areas.

Vegetation communities that were removed as part of this maintenance included 0.09 acre of southern willow scrub and 0.10 acre of disturbed freshwater marsh. There was an additional 0.02 acre of non-native vegetation (i.e. ornamental/disturbed land) on the eastern end of the maintenance area that was cleared. There is also an additional 0.02 acre of developed concrete-lined channel at the east end that is not vegetated (i.e. developed concrete-lined channel) and did not require maintenance.

Vegetation Impacts

Wetland: 0.10 ac freshwater marsh-concrete-lined (incl. disturbed), 0.09 ac southern willow scrub-concrete-lined.

Upland: 0.02 ac non-native vegetation/concrete-lined channel (non-wetland waters of the US).

Jurisdictional Impacts

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Wetland Waters of the U.S. (WUS): 0.10-ac freshwater marsh/concrete lined (including disturbed); 0.09-ac southern willow scrub/concrete lined.
Non-wetland WUS: 0.02-ac non-native vegetation/concrete-lined channel.

California Department of Fish and Game/City of San Diego
Wetlands: 0.10-ac freshwater marsh/concrete lined (including disturbed); 0.09-ac southern willow scrub/concrete lined.
Streambed/Unvegetated Waters: 0.02-ac non-native vegetation/concrete-lined channel.

Is there a moderate or high potential for maintenance to impact an MHPA? Yes ☐ No X

If yes, discuss the potential impacts that could occur from the portion within or adjacent to that MHPA.

Is there moderate or high potential for listed animal species to be impacted? Yes ☐ No X

If yes, which species (check all that apply):

☐ Least Bell's vireo
☐ Southwester willow flycatcher
☐ Arroyo toad
☐ Coastal California gnatcatcher
☐ San Diego fairy shrimp
☐ Riverside fairy shrimp
☐ California least tern
☐ Light-footed clapper rail
☐ Western snowy plover
☐ Other: _____

MITIGATION

Applicable Maintenance Protocols (list the applicable maintenance protocols based on the biological resources occurring or likely to occur on site --include any special protocols required):

All vegetation will be removed from the channel. Adjacent resources include revegetated areas of fairly sparse and overall low quality coastal sage scrub on the SR 905 embankment. This habitat is outside the channel and outside the access path. No impacts to this adjacent habitat are proposed except noise. This habitat is already subject to high levels of ambient noise from the freeway, runoff from irrigation lines, and is considered to have low potential for coastal California gnatcatcher.

No biological protocols need to be included in the IMP.

Applicable PEIR mitigation measures:

None.

Other mitigation measures:

Work will be conducted outside the avian breeding season.

Environmental Mitigation Requirements (including wetland enhancement, restoration, creation, and/or purchase of wetland credits in a mitigation bank; off-site upland habitat acquisition/payment into the City's habitat acquisition fund):

USACE Jurisdictional Areas:

The USACE authorized the proposed maintenance on November 23, 2015 through issuance of a Regional General Permit 63 Authorization (SPL-2015-00850-RAG). The remove of sediment and vegetation from concrete-lined channels is not regulated, but the USACE specifically authorized the placement of "fill, consisting of a

sand bag berm approximately 2.5 feet wide, 3 feet high and 6 feet long into the concrete-lined Via de la Bandola channel during maintenance activities. The total amount of fill results in approximately 45 square feet (0.001 acre) of temporary impacts." Given the very limited nature of the USACE regulated activity, no loss of aquatic resource functions, services, or area is expected and no compensatory mitigation is proposed. This report will be provided to the USACE as a post-maintenance report, pursuant to RGP 63. The USACE will ultimately determine if compensatory mitigation is required

RWQCB Jurisdictional Areas:

The San Diego RWQCB acknowledged the RGP 63 authorization, which has been certified by the State Water Resources Control Board in an email from Lisa Honma dated November 23, 2015. The email states: "Consistent with the San Diego Water Board's approach in certifying routine channel maintenance projects and in accordance with section VI of Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Reauthorization of Regional General Permit 63 for Repair and Protection Activities in Emergency Situations, SB13006IN (RGP-63 Certification), the City of San Diego will be required to provide compensatory mitigation for permanent impacts that result in a loss of functions in the amount of 2:1 (area mitigated: area impacted) in wetland enhancement for the removal of southern willow scrub and freshwater marsh. No compensatory mitigation will be required for the removal of non-native vegetation." As such, a subsequent mitigation plan or purchase of approved mitigation credits totaling 0.38 ac are required to be submitted to the San Diego RWQCB for impacts to 0.10 ac of freshwater marsh-concrete-lined and 0.09 ac of southern willow scrub-concrete-lined

CDFW Jurisdictional Areas:

While CDFW requires notification of activities within concrete-lined channels, it typically does not require compensatory mitigation for these activities. This report will be provided to the CDFW as a post-maintenance report, pursuant to emergency Streambed Alteration Agreement requirements. The CDFW will ultimately determine if compensatory mitigation is required.

City Wetlands:

Mitigation is required for impacts to 0.10 ac of freshwater marsh-concrete-lined and 0.09 ac of southern willow scrub-concrete lined. This channel is in the process of being added to the MMP and as an emergency, would be subject to the mitigation ratios that are part of the MMP. The City regulates wetlands on concrete-lined channels and requires compensatory mitigation for wetland impacts pursuant to the mitigation ratios specified in Site Development Permit (SDP) 1134892 for the MMP. The SDP incorporates mitigation language from the Coastal Development Permit (CDP) 714392. Special Condition 9 of the CDP states that wetlands mitigation shall "result in a no-net-loss of function and values and be in-kind habitat to the fullest extent possible...All wetland mitigation shall occur within nine months of impact and either be located on-site or within the same watershed...All wetland impacts shall be mitigated at a ratio of 1:1 for temporary impacts, 2:1 for Natural flood channels, 3:1 for impacts to Riparian habitat, and 4:1 for impacts to Freshwater Marsh and Disturbed wetland (removal of giant reed (Arundo) and other exotic, invasive and nonnative vegetation is not considered an impact to wetlands requiring mitigation)."

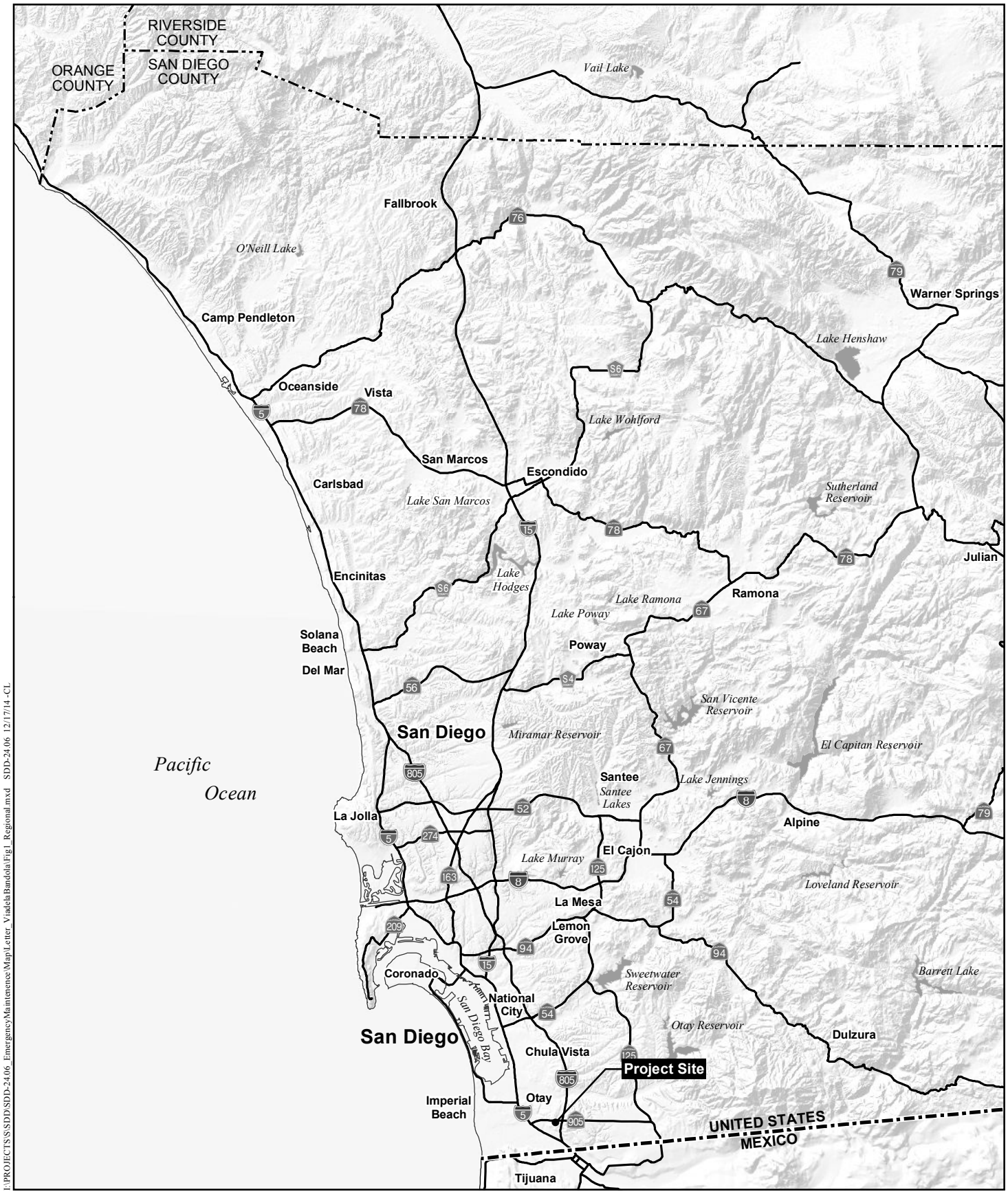
Given that the emergency maintenance conducted is a one-time authorization, impacts are considered temporary and mitigation is required at a 1:1 ratio for the loss of 0.10 ac of freshwater marsh-concrete-lined and 0.09 ac of southern willow scrub-concrete-lined. Alternately, the City may choose to mitigate for the permanent loss of freshwater marsh-concrete-lined at a 4:1 ratio and southern willow scrub-concrete-lined at a 3:1 ratio (i.e., a total mitigation requirement of 0.67 ac), such that when routine, ongoing maintenance is authorized, one-time mitigation will have been provided.

Mitigation Description/Location:

Mitigation will be provided at the Tijuana River Advanced-Permittee Responsible Mitigation Project site. T&SWD is working towards implementing the project to reserve 0.19 acre of wetlands creation/restoration, 0.48 acre of wetland enhancement for a total of 0.67 acre of wetlands mitigation for this project.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

Figures 1, 2, and 3 are attached. A post-maintenance photo log is also provided as Attachment A.



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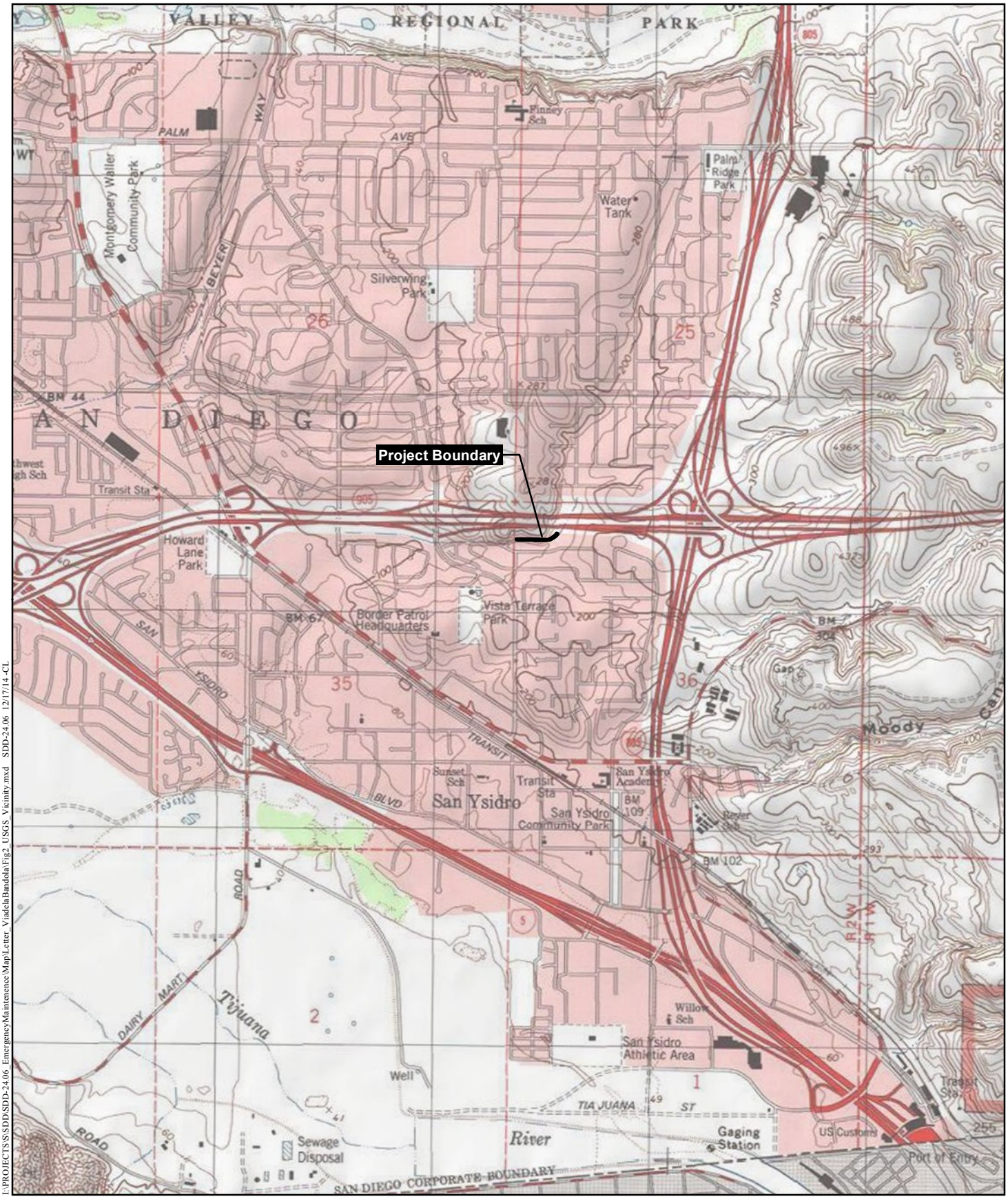
Regional Location Map

VIA DE LA BANDOLA CHANNEL

HELIX Environmental Planning

N 0 8 Miles

Figure 1



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Project Vicinity Map

VIA DE LA BANDOLA CHANNEL

HELIX Environmental Planning

N 0 2,000 Feet

Figure 2

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Vegetation and Sensitive Biological Resources

VIA DE LA BANDOLA CHANNEL

HELIX Environmental Planning

N 0 50 Feet

Figure 3

ATTACHMENT A

Via De La Bandola Channel Emergency Channel Maintenance, MMP Map 130a

Photograph Log

Photograph 1: Channel looking west from 4004 Via de la Bandola prior to maintenance.  (November 25, 2015)	**Photograph 2:** Looking east into the channelafter trackhoe began removing sediment and vegetation.  (November 25, 2015)

Photograph 3: Looking east into channel at crews building asandbag berm within channel to keep water out of maintenance area to the west, channel is looking east.  (November 28, 2015)	**Photograph 4:** Looking west from near the center of the channel at the bobcat removing sediment.  (November 30, 2015)

Photograph 5: Crew member using a chainsaw to clear large willows in the channel, channel is looking west.  (December 1, 2015)	**Photograph 6: Looking east from the north side of the channel at** crew member using the bobcat to clear sediment and debris.  (December 2, 2015)

Photograph 7: Looking east from south side of channel at crew member using the bobcat to remove the sandbags from the water pumping area north of 4004 Via de la Bandola.

(December 3, 2015)

Photograph 8: Looking northeast from south side of channel at crew member using bobcat to clear debris and sediment in the east end of the channel.

(December 4, 2015)

Photograph 9: Looking west from the south side of the channel following completion of maintenance activities.  (December 6, 2015)	**Photograph 10:** Looking east from the south side of the channel following completion of maintenance activities.  (December 6, 2015)