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MEMORANDUM

To: Antoinette Gibbs, City of San Diego Transportation & Storm Water Department
From: Jasmine Bakker, Artemis Environmental Services, Inc.
Subject: **Biological Resources Memorandum for the Guy Street Storm Drain Improvements Project (ESA Task Order #40)**
Date: May 22, 2020
CC: Mayra Medel, City of San Diego Transportation & Storm Water Department
Michael Bever, ESA

This memorandum documents the existing biological conditions of the City of San Diego (City) Transportation & Storm Water Department's Guy Street Storm Drain Improvements Project (Project) site. The purpose of this Project is to install a storm drain system along Guy Street where no storm drain infrastructure currently exists.

Project Location

The Project is located in the community of Uptown, northeast of Interstate (I)-5, northwest of West Washington Street, and between Pringle and Keating Streets in San Diego, California (Attachment A: Figure 1). The Project is situated within the City's right-of-way on a paper street (a street shown on plans that has not been built) adjacent to 1769 Guy Street. The Project site is located in Township 16 South, Range 3 West, within the un-sectioned Pueblo Lands of San Diego land grant of the United States Geological Survey (USGS) La Jolla, California 7.5-minute quadrangle map.

Project Purpose and Description

This Project proposes to install a storm drain system along Guy Street to convey water safely downhill and reduce erosion on the street. There is currently no existing storm drain infrastructure at this location which causes the water to flow downhill along the steep unimproved street slope at an uncontrolled velocity.

The Project involves demolition of a wooden guard post street barrier (approximately 25-feet in length), an existing keystone retaining wall and its footings (depth of excavation is approximately 15 feet), and approximately 1,026 square feet of asphalt from the upper northwestern end of the Improvement Area and approximately 130 square feet of asphalt from the lower southeastern end of the Improvement Area. An area of approximately 870 square feet of existing trees, vegetation, hedges, and wooden retaining walls will be removed from the face of the slope.

This work will require the use of a skid-steer, chainsaw, loader, dump truck, excavator, gradall, vactor, sweeper, backhoe, bobcat, cement truck, concrete pump, concrete cutter, asphalt grinder, tamper compactor and hand tools. All construction related materials and debris will be removed from the site prior to demobilization. This includes any temporary construction best management practices (BMPs) that are not biodegradable. Following storm drain installation, exposed soil will be stabilized with jute netting and hydroseeding consisting of a variety of commercially available low-profile native plant species commonly

used for erosion control and known to occur within the nearby open space canyons (Table 1). Hydroseeding will be completed in accordance with Section 4.4 of the City's Landscape Standards (City 2016)¹.

Table 1. Native Hydroseed Mix

Scientific Name	Common Name	Bulk Lbs./Acre	Total for 0.02 Acre
<i>Bromus carinatus</i>	California brome	2.0	0.04
<i>Calystegia macrostegia</i>	wild morning glory	2.0	0.04
<i>Eriophyllum confertiflorum</i>	golden yarrow	2.0	0.04
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy	6.0	0.12
<i>Helianthemum scoparium</i>	common rock rose	2.0	0.04
<i>Lasthenia californica</i>	dwarf goldfields	2.0	0.04
<i>Lupinus bicolor</i>	pygmy-leaved lupine	5.0	0.10
<i>Mirabilis laevis</i>	wishbone bush	2.0	0.04
<i>Stipa (Nassella) pulchra</i>	purple needle grass	5.0	0.10
<i>Plantago erecta</i>	California plantain	5.0	0.10
<i>Trifolium ciliolatum</i>	tree clover	3.0	0.06
<i>Vulpia (Festuca) microstachys</i>	three-week fescue	5.0	0.10
TOTAL		41.0	0.82

Access to the Project Improvement Area at Guy Street will occur between Keating Street and Pringle Street and from the Project Staging Areas located on Pringle Street, Keating Street, and at and the northeastern end of Keating Street. The proposed work will be completed by a City of San Diego crew of 14 people. Work will take place between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and will take approximately 210 days to complete.

Survey Methods

A biological field survey was conducted by Artemis Environmental Services biologist, Jasmine Bakker, on December 5, 2019. The survey was conducted according to methodologies in the *Guidelines for Conducting Biology Surveys* provided as Appendix II to the City's Land Development Code Biology Guidelines (City 2018)². Survey conditions are provided in Table 2, below.

Table 2. 2019 Biological Field Survey

Date	Time	Personnel	Survey Conditions
December 5, 2019	1300-1430	Jasmine Bakker	68° Fahrenheit; calm winds; mostly sunny

¹ City of San Diego (City). 2016. Land Development Code Landscape Standards. Amended April 5.

² City of San Diego (City). 2018. Land Development Code Biology Guidelines (as amended by Resolution No. R-311507). February.

The survey was conducted on foot and included a 25-foot buffer of the proposed Project site. Vegetation communities were mapped following descriptions in the *Draft Vegetation Communities of San Diego County* (Oberbauer 2008)³ and as adopted by the City's Land Development Code Biology Guidelines (City 2018). Plant nomenclature follows Baldwin et al. (2012)⁴ as updated by the Jepson Flora Project (2019)⁵.

Results

Regional Context

The Project is not located within or adjacent to the City's Multiple Species Conservation Program's (MSCP; City 1997)⁶ Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA). The facility is also located outside the Coastal Zone.

General Land Uses

The Project is surrounded by residential development (Multi-Family Residential Zones) and public roads. One of the Project's three staging areas abuts a parcel that has a current development application with the City for the construction of six residential condominium units located at 3835-3849 Keating Street.

Topography and Soils

Elevations within the Project Improvement Area range from approximately 175 feet above median sea level (amsl) to approximately 190 feet amsl. Two soil types are mapped within the Project Study Area based on National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey (U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA] 2019)⁷. Urban land underlies the Project Improvement Area, whereas the Gaviota fine sandy loam, 9 to 30 percent slopes underlies the Project Staging Area. This soil type is described as well drained and is not considered a hydric soil type.

Vegetation Communities/Land Cover Types

Three upland vegetation communities/land covers were mapped within the Project Study Area: non-native grassland, ornamental plantings, and developed land, described below. Table 3 identifies the vegetation community acreages that occur within the Project Study Area and proposed impacts. Appendix A, Figure 2: Vegetation and Improvement/Access/Staging Areas, displays the vegetation mapping conducted within the Project Study Area.

³ Oberbauer, T., M. Kelly, and J. Buegge. 2008. *Draft Vegetation Communities of San Diego County*. Based on "Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California," R. F. Holland, Ph.D., October 1986. March. Revised from 1996 and 2005. July.

⁴ Baldwin, B.G., D.H. Goldman, D.J. Keil, R. Patterson, T.J. Rosatti, and D.H. Wilken, editors. 2012. *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California*, second edition. University of California Press, Berkeley.

⁵ Jepson Flora Project (eds.) 2019. *Jepson eFlora*. Available from: <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora>.

⁶ City. 1997. City of San Diego Subarea Plan, Multiple Species Conservation Program. March.

⁷ U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). 2018. National Resource Conservation Service Web Soil Survey. Available from: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>.

Table 3. Impacts to Vegetation Communities/Land Cover Types

Vegetation Community (Holland/Oberbauer Code) ¹	MSCP Tier²	Impact Area (Acre)
Guy Street Storm Drain Improvement Area		
Ornamental Plantings (11000)	IV	0.02
Developed Land (12000)	N/A	0.02
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>0.04</i>
Guy Street Storm Drain Access/Staging Areas		
Non-native grassland (42200)	IIIB	--
Ornamental Plantings (11000)	IV	0.00 (0.002)
Developed Land (12000)	N/A	0.28
<i>Subtotal</i>		<i>0.28</i>
GRAND TOTAL		0.32

¹ Draft Vegetation Communities of San Diego County, Oberbauer, 2008.

² Land Development Code Biology Guidelines, City of San Diego, 2018

Non-native grassland

Non-native grasslands are common uplands found throughout San Diego County. Non-native grassland is a mixture of annual grasses and broad-leaved, herbaceous species. Non-native grasses typically comprise at least 30 percent of the vegetative cover, although this percentage can be much higher in some years and lower in others, depending on land use and climatic conditions. Within the Project area, non-native grassland occurs adjacent to the proposed Staging Area at the northeastern end of Keating Street and had been previously mowed. The non-native grassland was dominated by brome grasses (*Bromus* spp.) and garland daisy (*Glebionis coronaria*), and included some scattered cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), and fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*). No impacts to this vegetation community are proposed.

Ornamental Plantings

Ornamental Plantings include upland areas of non-native vegetation associated with landscaping and may also be categorized as Developed Land. This category also includes stands of naturalized trees and shrubs (e.g., acacia [*Acacia* sp.], peppertree [*Schinus* sp.]), many of which are also used in landscaping. Ornamental Plantings were mapped on a terraced sloped between the northwestern and southwestern ends of the Project area on Guy Street and included Peruvian peppertree (*Schinus molle*), pygmy date palm (*Phoenix roebelenii*), jade plant (*Crassula ovata*), statice (*Limonium* sp.), agave (*Agave* sp.), as well as citrus trees and a variety of cacti plants.

Developed Land

Urban/developed lands include areas that have been physically altered, often by construction of permanent structures, and no longer support natural land or native vegetation. Urban/developed lands within the Project area include paved roadways, residential homes, and associated maintained landscaping.

Flora and Fauna

Twelve plant species were documented within the Project area and are listed above with their respective vegetation community/land cover. No wildlife species were observed or detected within the Project area during the survey.

Sensitive Vegetation Communities/Habitat Types

The City's Environmentally Sensitive Lands Regulations and Biology Guidelines (City 2018) define sensitive biological resources as: lands included in the MHPA; wetlands; Tier IIIB and higher vegetation types; and habitat for rare, endangered, threatened, or narrow endemic species. No sensitive vegetation communities/habitat types occur within the Project area. No habitat for rare, endangered, threatened, or narrow endemic species occurs within the Project area.

Special-Status Species

Special-status plant and wildlife species have been afforded special status and/or recognition by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and/or the City (e.g., MSCP Covered Species) and may also be included in the CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants. No special-status plant or wildlife species were observed or detected within the Project area during the survey.

A desktop analysis using the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) was conducted to identify any special-status plant and wildlife species previously recorded in the area and to determine their likelihood to occur. The CNDDDB analysis yielded 14 species previously recorded within 0.5 mile of the Project area. Of those 14, 13 species have been designated as Does Not Occur due to the CNDDDB-designation of the record as "possibly extirpated", lack of suitable habitat, and/or the CNDDDB record is more than twenty-five years old. The southern California legless lizard (*Anniella stebbinsi*), a CDFW Species of Special Concern (SSC), had a CNDDDB observation record dated for 2016 within 0.5-mile radius of the Project area. Habitat for the southern California legless lizard is generally broad including areas of drainages, stream terraces, and it can sometimes be found in suburban gardens in southern California (Papenfuss and Parham, 2013)⁸. While the habitat surrounding the Project area is primarily developed and ornamental, it does support vegetation cover such as bushes and trees, loose leaf litter, and a plethora of surface objects (see Attachment B: Photographic Survey) where southern California legless lizard can often be found. Therefore, this species has been designated as Likely to Occur. The SSC category is used by the CDFW for those species which are considered indicators of regional habitat changes or are considered potential future protected species and is intended for use as a management tool to include these species into special consideration when decisions are made concerning the development of natural lands. The Project does not propose any impacts to

⁸ Papenfuss and Parham. 2013. *Southern California Legless Lizard*. Retrieved from <http://www.californiaherps.com>

natural lands; thus, no mitigation is warranted for the potential occurrence of the southern California legless lizard within the Project area.

Nesting Birds

All migratory bird species that are native to the United States or its territories are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA, 16 U.S.C. § 703 *et seq.*), as amended under the Migratory Bird Treaty Reform Act of 2004 (70 FR 12710). Although no wildlife species were detected during the survey, the vegetation within and adjacent to the Project area could provide suitable nesting habitat for bird species. Raptor species that have shown the ability to adapt to suburban environments may use the trees within the survey area for foraging and nesting; however, the potential for raptor nesting is low due to the lack of potential foraging habitat, disturbance from roads, and proximity to human activity. Should work be scheduled during the bird breeding season (January 15 to August 31), a pre-construction nesting bird survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist within suitable habitat and the appropriate measures will be taken should nesting birds be identified within the Project vicinity. Therefore, no impacts to migratory bird species are expected.

Conclusion

Temporary and permanent impacts associated with the Project are proposed to occur within non-sensitive Tier IV land covers: ornamental plantings and developed land. A pre-construction nesting bird survey will be completed should Project construction be scheduled during the breeding season to help ensure no impacts to raptors or migratory bird species occur. Thus, no significant impacts would result from the Project that require mitigation.

Biological Resources Memorandum for the Guy Street Storm Drain Improvements Project
May 22, 2020

Enclosures:

Attachment A: Figures

Figure 1 Project Vicinity

Figure 2 Vegetation Communities

Attachment B: Photographic Survey

ATTACHMENT A

Figures



Figure 2

Vegetation and Improvement/Access/Staging Areas



GUY STREET STORM DRAIN IMPROVEMENTS

ATTACHMENT B

Photographic Survey



Photo 1. View facing southeast towards street barricade at upper portion of paper street; ornamental plantings (date palm and peppertree) at top of terraced landscaping.
(Photo Coordinates: 32.745547, -117.181314)



Photo 2. View facing northwest at Guy Street from street barricade at upper portion of paper street. (Photo Coordinates: 32.745562, -117.181306)



Photo 3. View facing west towards terraced landscaping at lower portion of paper street from corner of adjacent residence at 1772 Guy Street. (Photo Coordinates: 32.745513, -117.181034)



Photo 4. View facing southeast towards Keating Street from lower portion of paper street. (Photo Coordinates: 32.745415, -117.181079)



Photo 5. View facing north at Staging Area proposed at northeastern end of Keating Street; paved area currently used by adjacent residences for parking adjacent to non-native grassland.
(Photo Coordinates: 32.747207, -117.178978)



Photo 6. View facing southwest from Staging Area proposed at northeastern end of Keating Street.
(Photo Coordinates: 32.747177, -117.178993)