



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: July 30, 2014
TO: Gregory Cross, Associate Engineer, Public Utilities Department
FROM: Summer Adleberg, Environmental Biologist, Public Utilities Department
SUBJECT: BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT (Existing Conditions) – Bonita Pump Station

Background

The Public Utilities Department, Long Range Planning and Water Resources Division is proposing to build a new pump station along Bonita Road at Willow Street in Bonita, California (Figure #1). A site visit was performed on 29 July 2014 in order to evaluate the existing conditions within the general area of the proposed project. This memo describes the biological resources observed during the site visit.

Photographs were taken of the area, species detected were noted, and vegetation mapping was completed with the help of aerial imagery. No focused plant or animal species surveys were conducted, and no formal wetland delineation was performed.

Existing Conditions

The Bonita Pump Station proposed project area is located in Bonita, California. It parallels Bonita Road south from Glen Abby Drive east to Willow Street. The proposed project area consists of a previously disturbed low flat area with clay loam soils adjacent to Bonita Road and transitions into a terrace escarpment on the south edge; this area is within the Sweetwater watershed. The surrounding land uses are made up of urban and developed areas including Bonita Road to the north, residential properties to the south, a parking lot to the west, and The Hill Road (un-paved road) to the east.

The Proposed Project area is situated within City of Bonita owned land, a Privately Owned parcel, and the road Right-of-Way along Bonita Road. This area is not within the Multiple Species Conservation Program Multiple Habitat Planning Area. The proposed project area is within the Metro-Lakeside-Jamul Segment of the County Subarea Plan.

Vegetation Communities

The proposed project area primarily consists of non-native species and habitats including eucalyptus woodland and a small area that is dominated by non-native grassland.

Eucalyptus Woodland (Tier IV)

Eucalyptus Woodland habitat is characterized by Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus spp.*) trees with a non-native grassland understory (Photo #1). Intermittent non-native species were present including; palo verde (*Parkinsonia aculeate*), tamarisk (*Tamarix sp.*), Indian fig (*Opuntia ficus-indica*), common geranium (*Pelargonium hortorum*) and a small patch of arundo (*Arundo donax*).

The arundo is growing adjacent to an abandoned manhole on a small hill, the parking lot to the west drains directly into the area where this species was observed and no jurisdictional hydrology is present (Photo #2). Additionally, there is a small area of understory adjacent to the parking lot located west of the proposed project area that is dominated by lemonadeberry (*Rhus integrifolia*).

Non-native Grassland (Tier IIIB)

Non-native grassland habitat (Photo #3) is characterized by a dense cover of detritus and non-native annual grasses including; wild oat (*Avena barbata*) and brome (*Bromus* sp.), with sparse patches of tocalote (*Centaurea cyanus*) and pickleweed (*Mesembryanthemum nodiflorum*).

Sensitive species

No sensitive plant or animal species, or suitable habitat for sensitive species was observed during the site visit. No focused plant or animal surveys were conducted to identify potential sensitive species as none are expected to be impacted by the proposed project due to the highly disturbed nature of the urban area.

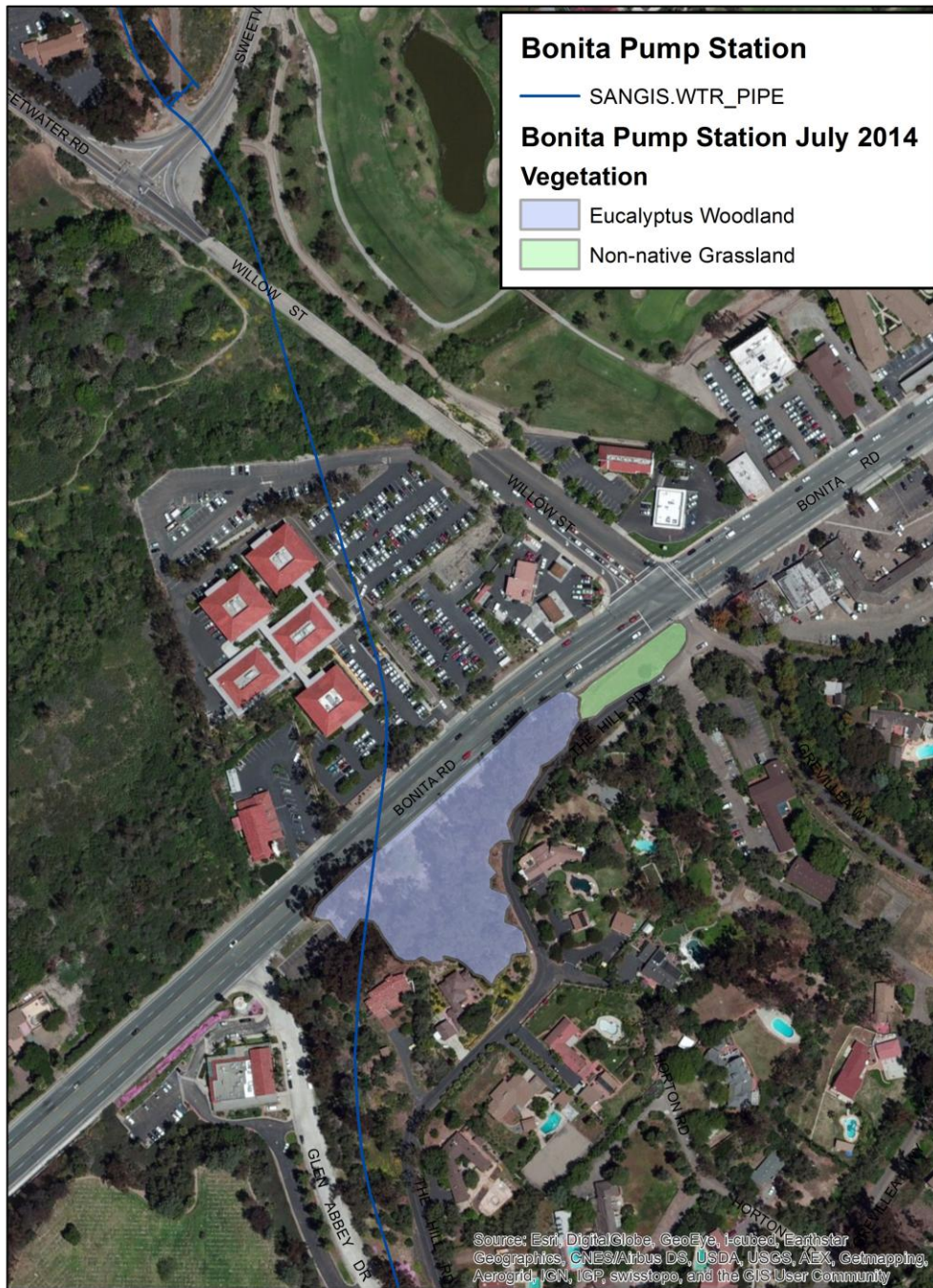


Figure #1: Bonita Pump Station General Project Area and Existing Conditions



Photo #1: Eucalyptus Woodland West

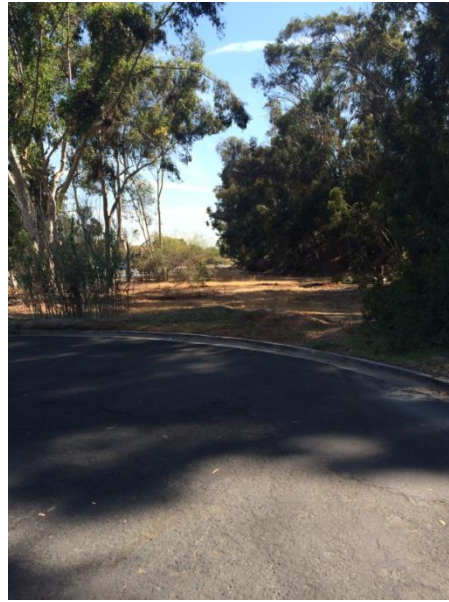


Photo #2: Arundo Stand East



Photo #3: Non-native Grassland West



Photo #4: Proposed Project Area North

Conclusion

If there are any question regarding this memo please contact me at (858) 614-5789 or sadleberg@sandiego.gov.

Summer Adleberg
Environmental Biologist