

INDIVIDUAL NOISE ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site Name/Facility: Nestor Creek Channel

Master Program Map No.: 131

Date: November 1, 2017

Acoustician Name: Charles Terry

Instructions: *This form must be completed in its entirety for each target facility identified in the Annual Maintenance Needs Assessment report when the potential exists for sensitive wildlife to occur within 750 feet of a proposed maintenance activity. If no sensitive species are expected within 750 feet of maintenance, only the first two rows under the Existing Conditions section must be completed. Attach additional sheets as needed.*

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The City of San Diego (City) has developed the Master Storm Water System Maintenance Program (Master Maintenance Program, MMP; City 2011a) to govern channel operation and maintenance activities in an efficient, economic, environmentally, and aesthetically acceptable manner to provide flood control for the protection of life and property. This document provides a summary of the Individual Noise Assessment (INA) for proposed annual maintenance activities within portions of the Nestor Creek Channel (Map 131) to comply with the MMP's Programmatic Environmental Impact Report ([PEIR]; City 2011b). Map numbers correspond to those contained in the MMP.

Project Location and Description

The Nestor Creek channel is located in the Otay Mesa-Nestor Community Plan Area in the City of San Diego parallel to and bisecting Interstate 5, north of State Route 905 (Figure 1). To facilitate the Individual Hydrology and Hydraulic Assessment (IHHA; Rick Engineering [Rick] 2017a) prepared for the maintenance, the Nestor Creek channel was subdivided into twelve separate "reaches". This INA evaluates portions of two reaches (Reaches 11 and 12), where maintenance is currently proposed by the City of San Diego. Both reaches are included in Map 131 and are located east of the San Diego and Imperial Valley railroad tracks.

Reach 11 of Nestor Creek (Map 131) extends west from Reach 12 and is located east of Interstate 5 and the San Diego and Imperial Valley railroad tracks in the Otay Mesa West community. The channel runs west between Reach 12 and the railroad (north of the Trolley Industrial Center), and turns north parallel to the railroad tracks southeast to the end of the maintenance area. This section is channelized, trapezoidal, and primarily concrete-lined on the bottom and both banks, with similar dimensions to that of Reach 12. The western 302 feet of Reach 11 is earthen bottom instead of concrete-lined. Reach 11 receives storm flow from Reach 12 and adjacent areas. The maintenance portion of Reach 11 discharges to the west via a concrete pipe spanning below the railroad tracks. Dense marsh grasses and reeds covered the ground within and around the channel; other vegetation included willows (*Salix* spp.) and castor-bean (*Ricinus communis*). The portion of Reach 11 crossing the railroad tracks is not proposed for maintenance. In total, the length of Reaches 11 and 12 is approximately 910 feet, with lengths of 710 feet and 200 feet respectively.

Reach 12 of Nestor Creek (Map 131) runs between an undeveloped lot to the north and Trolley Industrial Center at 1330 30th Street to the south. It is channelized, trapezoidal, and concrete-lined on the bottom and both banks. Reach 12 has dimensions of 6-10 feet wide at the bottom, 18-31 feet wide at the top, and 6-8 feet deep. Dense marsh grasses and reeds cover the ground within and around the channel; other vegetation includes willows and castor-bean. Reach 12 receives storm flow from a culvert beneath 30th Street and adjacent areas, and flows into Reach 11.

Proposed Maintenance

An Individual Maintenance Plan (IMP; Rick Engineering 2017b and 2017c) was prepared for the proposed maintenance in accordance with the MMP. The IMP identifies the limits of maintenance and describes the methodology to be used within each channel.

Maintenance in Map 131 is expected to remove up to 1,290 cubic yards of material over a 14-day period in order to restore the original capacity of the channel to convey storm water. The maintenance area includes 1,000 linear feet of concrete bottom and 150 linear feet of earthen bottom channel. Equipment involved in the maintenance will include a front-end loader, track steer, excavator, and dump truck. Diversion pumps will be placed at the upstream and downstream ends of the maintenance area. Water will be pumped around the maintenance area in a pipe and discharged downstream of the maintenance area.

The front-end loader and track steer will be lowered into the channel by the excavator from a vacant lot located approximately mid-point on the north side of the drainage. This access and staging area would be accessed from 30th Street. The front-end loader and track steer will push material to the excavator operating in the central access point and staging area. The excavator will transfer the material to a dump trucks for disposal at an authorized disposal site.

Street sweepers will sweep adjacent public rights-of-way and immediate truck loading sites nightly. Upon completion of the maintenance, any sandbags placed will be removed and the equipment will be transported back to the City yard.

Survey Methods and Date:

According to the Individual Biological Assessment (IBA; HELIX 2017) Report for the Nestor Creek Channel, no sensitive bird species were observed or detected within 750 feet of the maintenance activity during a survey of the reaches of the channel. HELIX conducted seven surveys for least Bell's vireo (LBV) for all areas of suitable habitat within the Nestor Creek Channel between June 3 and July 29, 2016. Survey results were negative.

Based on the fact that 750 feet is established as a criterion to determine when a noise assessment should be conducted (see below), no noise assessment was performed.

Are there sensitive wildlife species within 750 feet of proposed maintenance?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If not, no further assessment of noise impacts from maintenance is required.

If yes, the rest of this form must be completed.

As discussed above, no sensitive wildlife are expected to occur within 750 feet of the maintenance. Protocol presence/absence surveys conducted in 2016 for LBV were negative and concluded that southern willow scrub in and near maintenance areas is marginally suitable for the species (HELIX 2016). Thus, LBV is not expected to be present.

MAINTENANCE IMPACTS

N/A

MITIGATION

N/A

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

N/A

REFERENCES:

City of San Diego (City). 2011a. Master Storm Water Maintenance Program. San Diego, California. October.

2011b. Final Recirculated Master Storm Water System Maintenance Program PEIR. San Diego, California. October 4.

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX). 2016. 2016 Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) Survey Report for the City of San Diego Nestor Creek Channel Maintenance Project. September 9.

2017. Individual Biological Assessment: Nestor Creek Channel. October 12.

Rick Engineering. 2017a. Individual Hydrologic & Hydraulic Assessment (IHHA) Report for Nestor Creek Channel. April 21.

2017b. Individual Maintenance Plans (IMP) for Nestor Creek Channel MMP#131 & 133. July 25.

2017c. Individual Maintenance Plan (IMP) for Nestor Creek Channel MMP#131. October XX.