

INDIVIDUAL BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

Site Name/Facility: Chollas Creek Channel Sections 02 and 03 of 03

MSWSMP Map No.: 91 and 93

Date: 12 October 2010

Biologist Name/Cell

Phone No.: W. Larry Sward/619.992.4170

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

Survey Methods and Date:

Visually inspected entire facility bridges at Ocean View Blvd. and National Avenue, from west side of channel at corner of Logan Avenue and S. Gregory Street, and cul-de-sacs at west ends of Durant Street and Webster Avenue. Access along most of west side of channel was private property. Access along eastern side was partly private property and most Interstate 15. Vegetation was mapped with the aid of recent aerial photographs (scale 1"= 200' for Map 91 and 1"=100' for Map 93) and dominant species were noted. Representative photos were taken. The potential for sensitive species was assessed. Dates of surveys: 5 and 12 October 2010.

Biological Resources: **Stream Type:** Perennial Intermittent Ephemeral

The channel covered by Map 91 is concrete lined and trapezoidal in cross section, with 1:1 slopes for the sides of the channel. The channel covered by Map 93 is mostly earthen. The banks in this section vary from vertical (from erosion) to approximately 2:1.

Map 91. The sides of the concrete lined channel are essentially unvegetated except for a few isolated African fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) plants growing in seams in the channel and upland plants that are rooted outside the channel and spill over the top edge into the channel.

The bottom of the channel over most of Map 91 contains sediment and this supports 0.048 acre of SWS and 0.70 acres of disturbed riparian scrub (RSD). The RSD supports shrubby willows (*Salix* sp.), mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*), cattails, and giant reed (*Arundo donax*). This vegetation is from 3-to-12 feet tall. One interesting aspect of this vegetation is relatively high cover of dead shrubs. Developed portions of the study area for this map comprise 2.48 acres. Non-wetland habitats present in the study include 0.13 acre of non-grassland (NNG), 0.21 acre of disturbed habitat (DH), as well as 2.65 acres that have been previously developed.

Map 93. Vegetation in this part of the study area consists of 0.12 acre of brackish salt marsh (BSM), 0.09 acre of southern willow scrub (SWS), 0.05 acre of mule fat scrub (MFS), 0.30 acres of freshwater marsh (FWM), < 0.01 acre of herbaceous wetland (HW), 0.11 acre of non-native grassland (NNG), and 0.17 acre of disturbed habitat (DH). Also present in the study area for this map are 0.08 acre of previously developed areas. This consists of sections of concrete lined channel banks.

Willows (*Salix gooddingii*, *S. lasiolepis*) dominant the SWS. Also present in the shrub and tree canopy in this habitat are western cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*), and giant reed. The herbaceous component of the SWS consists of cocklebur, common threesquare (*Schoenoplectus pungens*), western ragweed (*Ambrosia psilostachya*), and Mexican tea (*Dysphania*

ambrosioides). MFS is composed primarily of mule fat. BSM consists mostly of Parish's pickleweed (*Arthrocnemum subterminale*) and salty Susan (*Jaumea carnosa*), but also includes California bulrush (*Schoenoplectus californicus*) and prairie bulrush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus* ssp. *paludosus*). Cattail (*Typha* sp.) is the dominant plant species within the FWM. HW consisted of a small homogeneous patch of western ragweed. Composition of the NNG varied with the location. In some places Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*) formed a thick cover. In other places, annual species such as riggut grass (*Bromus diandrus*) and wild oat (*Avena* sp.) dominated the cover. The area with the annual grasses also had a wide variety of non-native forbs (e.g., white sweetclover [*Melilotus albus*], horseweed [*Conyza canadensis*], and fennel [*Foeniculum vulgare*]). The DH is characterized by a variety of non-native forbs; including castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), horseweed, and telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*). Non-wetland waters of the U.S. (WUS) total of 1.09 acres for Map 93.

The combined totals for the observed habitats covered by Maps 91 and 93 are 0.12 acre of BSM, 0.69 acre of SWS, 0.70 acre of RSD, 0.05 acre of MFS, 0.3 acre of FWM, 0.48 acre of natural-bottomed channel, and 2.65 acres of the concrete lined channel. The natural bottom channel is also considered streambed.

Nearby upland and non-wetland portions of the study area consist of NNG, DH and previously developed areas.

The sections of Chollas Creek covered by Map 93 that supports SWS is considered marginal least Bell's vireo (*Vireo pusillus bellii*) habitat. This conclusion is based on the suitable composition and structure of this habitat balanced against the relatively small extent of this vegetation and very high edge effects, such as noise, lighting, and likely subsidized predators, from the adjacent freeway, commercial and residential land uses.

Maps 91 and 93 have very limited wildlife value due to the extensive boundaries with developed lands and the associated edge effects, and limited connectivity to other important wildlife areas.

Jurisdictional Areas:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Wetland Waters of the U.S. (WUS): A total of 1.86 acres comprised of 0.12 acre of BSM, 0.69 acre of SWS, 0.05 acre of MFS, 0.30 acres of FWM, and 0.70 acre of RSD.

Non-wetland WUS: 3.74 acres comprised of 2.65 acres of concrete lined channel and 1.09 acres of natural-bottomed channel (includes Streambed, DH and NNG).

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

Wetlands: 1.86 acres of wetland comprised of 0.12 acre of BSM, 0.69 acre of SWS, 0.05 acre of MFS, 0.30 acre of FWM, and 0.70 acres RSD.

Streambed/Unvegetated Waters: 0.48 acre.

Sensitive Plant Species Observed:

Yes No

Sensitive Animal Species Observed/Detected:

Yes No

If yes, what species were observed/detected and where?

Is there moderate or high potential for listed animal species to occur in or adjacent to the impact area?

Yes No

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Least Bell's vireo | <input type="checkbox"/> Riverside fairy shrimp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Southwestern willow flycatcher | <input type="checkbox"/> California least tern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arroyo toad | <input type="checkbox"/> Light-footed clapper rail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal California gnatcatcher | <input type="checkbox"/> Western snowy plover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Diego fairy shrimp | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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

Pre-construction nesting surveys are necessary to ensure no impacts to avian species occur pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. If no nesting birds are present, construction may occur in the breeding season.

If yes, provide justification:

Is it anticipated that maintenance activities would generate noise in excess of 60 dB(A) L_{eq} :

Yes No

Biological Resource Conditions Relative to Original Survey Conducted for MSWSMP Final Program EIR (May 2010) (vegetation communities present, including adjacent uplands; general habitat quality/level of disturbance): The biological resources associated with this storm water facility are essentially the same as recorded in the original surveys conducted for the Program EIR.

The biological resources associated with Map 91 differ from what was recorded in the original surveys conducted for the Program EIR. At that time, this facility was characterized as an unvegetated concrete channel. Since then significant amounts of wetland vegetation has developed on accumulated sediment. The biological resources associated with Map 93 also vary from what was recorded in the original surveys conducted for the Program EIR. This section of Map 93 was shown as FWM and streambed along the channel bottom and DH on the channel banks. At this time, SWS, MFS, and BSM exist in the channel with DH and NNG mostly on the channel banks.

MAINTENANCE IMPACTS

Maintenance Methodology (based on IMP)

1. Install temporary dam upstream of maintenance area; 2. Temporarily route surface water around maintenance area using 2, 6-inch portable pumps and a pipeline located on the bank of the facility; 3. Build temporary access ramps at 1 location using imported fill materials; access also taken at existing access ramp; 4. Dozer pushes the accumulated materials to a location near the access ramps; 5. Loader enters drain facility from temporary access ramp. 6. Loader scoops accumulated material from central site and loads into dump truck. 7. Loaded dump truck leaves drain facility and transports material to an approved offsite disposal location; and 8. Remove temporary access ramp after channel maintenance.

Vegetation Impacts:

Wetland

A total of 1.29 acres comprised of 0.03 acre of BSM, 0.48 acre of SWS, 0.05 acre of MFS, 0.53 acres RSD, and 0.20 acres of FWM.

Upland

0.3 NNG, and 0.05 DH

Jurisdictional Impacts:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Wetland Waters of the U.S. (WUS): A total of 1.29 acres comprised of 0.03 acre of BSM, 0.48 acre of SWS, 0.05 acre of MFS, 0.20 acres of FWM, and 0.53 acre of RSD.

Non-wetland WUS: 2.9 acres comprised of 2.60 acres of concrete lined channel and 0.30 acre of natural-bottomed channel.

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

Wetlands: 1.29 acres of wetland comprised of 0.03 acre of BSM, 0.48 acre of SWS, 0.05 acre of MFS, 0.20 acre of FWM, and 0.53 acre RSD.

Streambed/Unvegetated Waters: 0.23 acre (includes NNG and DH).

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

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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Least Bell's vireo | <input type="checkbox"/> Riverside fairy shrimp |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Southwester willow flycatcher | <input type="checkbox"/> California least tern |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arroyo toad | <input type="checkbox"/> Light-footed clapper rail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal California gnatcatcher | <input type="checkbox"/> Western snowy plover |
| <input type="checkbox"/> San Diego fairy shrimp | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

MITIGATION

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

BIO-27: Restrict vehicles to approved access ramp(s) as shown on the maintenance plan. BIO-28: The size and number of equipment used for maintenance shall be selected to minimize disturbance associated with maintenance. BIO-29: Flag all sensitive biological resource areas in the field prior to commencing maintenance activities where necessary. A qualified biologist shall be present to monitor the work to ensure impacts to the resource are avoided. BIO-30: Avoid introduction of seed from invasive species in erosion control measures (e.g., fiber mulch, rice straw, etc.) BIO-31: As necessary, conduct preconstruction surveys to determine the presence of any sensitive animal species and implement appropriate protection measures (e.g., fencing, flagging, noise barriers, and signage) during maintenance. The biological monitor shall be present throughout the first full day of maintenance and shall visit the site weekly through the duration of the maintenance activities to confirm that measures required to protect sensitive resources continue to be effective. BIO-32: Maintenance activities that involve removal of *Arundo donax* (Arundo) shall occur through one or a combination of the following methods: (1) Foliar spray (spraying herbicide on leaves and stems without cutting first) when Arundo occurs in monotypic stands. Or (2) cut and paint (cutting stems close to the ground and spraying or painting herbicide on cut stem surface) when Arundo is intermixed with native plants. When sediment supporting Arundo must be removed, the sediment shall be excavated to a depth sufficient to remove the rhizomes, wherever feasible. Following removal of sediment containing rhizomes, loose rhizome material shall be removed from the channel and disposed of offsite, after initial treatment, the area of removal shall be inspected on a quarterly basis for up to two years or until no resprouting is observed during an inspection. If resprouting is observed, the cut and paint method shall be applied to all resprouts. BIO-33: Identify active raptor nests prior to commencing maintenance activities and maintain a 300 foot setback from active nests.

Applicable PEIR mitigation measures:

The following mitigation measures are identified by the City as part of the proposed Master Program. However, the appropriate compensatory mitigation for the proposed maintenance of Maps 91 & 93 will be determined by the resource agencies.

MM 4.3.5 (requires compensation for BSM, SWS, MFS, and FWM); MM 4.3.8 (requires City approval of monitoring biologist); MM 4.3.14 (requires a pre-maintenance meeting with contractor and biologist); MM 4.3.15 and 18 (requires a pre-maintenance surveys for sensitive birds); MM 4.3.20 (requires removal of invasive plants prior to beginning maintenance); and MM 4.3.32 (requires avoidance of nesting birds not covered by MSCP).

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):

Corps Jurisdictional Areas:

Loss of WUS will be mitigated as follows: The mitigation ratio for BSM will be 4:1, SWS, MFS, and RSD will be 2:1, and FWM and non-wetland WUS will be 1:1. Applying these ratios, would result in restoration or creation of 0.12 acre of BSM, 0.96 acre of SWS, 0.10 acre of MFS, 1.06 acre for RSD, 0.20 acre of FWM and 0.30 acre of streambed (now-wetland WUS). Creation will comprise an area equivalent to what was impacted. For those habitats that will be mitigated at greater than 1:1, any mitigation obligation above 1:1 will consist of restoration (weed or trash removal) of extant wetland habitat.

CDFG Jurisdictional Areas:

This IBA is 1 of 4 initial submissions under the City's Storm Water Management Program. Thus there is little precedence for what is necessary or appropriate mitigation for impacts to wetland vegetation in an unnatural landscape position (i.e., on sediment accumulated within a concrete lined drainage structure). For these reasons, the mitigation for these impacts will be determined in consultation with CDFG.

City Wetlands:

Pursuant to the thresholds in the City's Environmentally Sensitive Lands Ordinance, impacts of 0.01 acre and greater requires mitigation. 0.03 acre of BSM, 0.48 acre of SWS, 0.05 acre of MFS, 0.53 acre of RSD, and 0.20 acres of FWM. Using the ratio 4:1 for BSM, 2:1 for SWS and MFS, and 1:1 for FWM defined in the Master PEIR, the maintenance would require enhancement, restoration or creation of 0.12 acre of BSM, 0.96 acre of SWS, 0.10 acre of MFS, 10.6 acre for RSD, 0.20 acre of FWM. However, for the 2 reasons stated for the mitigation requirements for CDFG, mitigation for these impacts will be determined in consultation with the City.

Mitigation Description/Location:

To be determined. If mitigation is deemed necessary and appropriate, the BSM, SWS, MFS, RSD, and FWM, and non-wetland jurisdictional areas impacts associated with this maintenance activity will be located within the Pueblo San Diego hydrologic unit.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR RECOMMENDATIONS

None

SITE PHOTOS Map 91_101310 LS



PHOTO NOTES:

Concrete lined, trapezoidal channel with disturbed Riparian Scrub in foreground and southern willow scrub in background. Photo is looking south from Ocean View Blvd. Interstate 15 is to the right (east).



PHOTO NOTES:

Concrete lined, trapezoidal channel with disturbed Riparian Scrub in foreground and background, and southern willow scrub in between. Photo is looking north from Ocean View Blvd. Interstate 15 is to the left (east).

SITE PHOTO Map 93_101310 LS



PHOTO NOTES:

Concrete lined, trapezoidal channel lacking vegetation and with disturbed riparian scrub growing on accumulated sediment. Photo is looking south along channel maintenance access point at Durant Street.

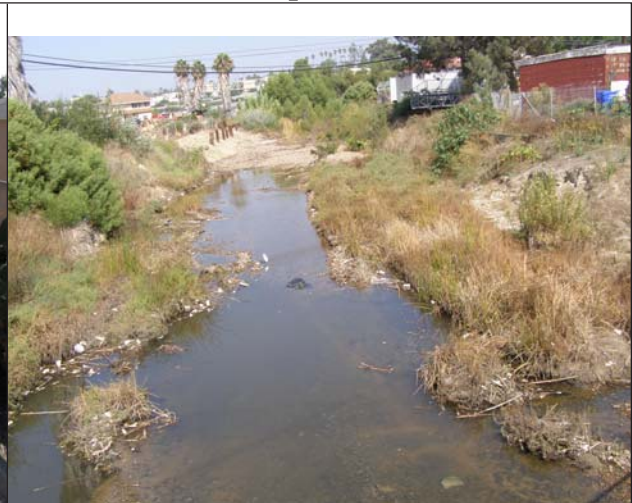


PHOTO NOTES:

Unlined channel with open water and streambed in center of channel, brackish salt marsh on lower terrace, and disturbed habitat, non-native grassland, mule fat scrub and southern willow scrub growing on channel banks. Photo is looking north from National Avenue.