



Date of Notice: July 12, 2017

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A
PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
AND
A SCOPING MEETING
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

PUBLIC NOTICE: The City of San Diego as the Lead Agency has determined that the project described below will require the preparation of a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This Notice of Preparation of a PEIR and Scoping Meeting was publicly noticed and distributed on July 12, 2017. This notice was published in the SAN DIEGO DAILY TRANSCRIPT and placed on the City of San Diego website at:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk/officialdocs/notices/index.shtml>

and on the Planning Department website at:

<https://www.sandiego.gov/planning/programs/ceqa>

SCOPING MEETING: Two public scoping meetings will be held by the City of San Diego's Planning Department on **Tuesday, July 25, 2017** from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM in the Seminar Room at the Scripps Miramar Ranch Branch Library located at 10301 Scripps Lake Drive, San Diego, CA and **Tuesday, August 1, 2017** from 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM in the Meeting Room at the Colonel Irving Salomon San Ysidro Community Activity Center located at 179 Diza Road, San Diego, CA 92173. **Please note that depending on the number of attendees, the meeting could end earlier than 6:30 PM.** The scoping meeting will be conducted in a workshop format where staff will provide a brief PowerPoint presentation to the public about the project scope, environmental issues to be analyzed in the PEIR, and how to comment on the NOP. Written comments regarding the scope of environmental issues and alternatives to be analyzed within the proposed EIR will be accepted at the meeting.

Written, email, or mail-in comments may also be sent to the following address: **Myra Herrmann, Environmental Planner, City of San Diego Planning Department, 1010 Second Avenue, Suite 1200, East Tower, MS 413, San Diego, CA 92101** or e-mail your comments to PlanningCEQA@sandiego.gov with the Project Name in the subject line within 30 days of the date of the Public Notice above (**August 11, 2017**). Responsible agencies are requested to indicate their statutory responsibilities in connection with this project when responding. A PEIR incorporating public input will then be prepared and distributed to the public for review and comment.

PROJECT NAME/PROJECT NUMBER: Waterways Maintenance Plan / Project No. 548593

COMMUNITY PLAN AREAS: Citywide

COUNCIL DISTRICTS: All

PROJECT BACKGROUND: The City of San Diego (City) Transportation & Storm Water (T&SW) Department is responsible for managing the drainage system on City-owned properties, within Public Rights-of-Way and drainage easements dedicated to the City to minimize flood risk and protect water quality as stipulated in Section 26.1 of the San Diego City Charter. Within City jurisdiction, the need for channel operation and maintenance is often related to the accumulation of sediment and vegetation in both engineered and natural channels in areas prone to flooding. This work includes performing on-going maintenance within natural and engineered waterways to remove accumulated sediment, trash, debris and vegetation that compromise the system. To restore the City waterways, maintenance often requires authorization or regulatory permits from various resource agencies to protect environmental resources. The T&SW Department currently conducts maintenance of drainage facilities pursuant to the Master Storm Water System Maintenance Program (MMP).

In 2011, the City developed the MMP to govern channel operation and maintenance activities. The MMP identified a specific planning, impact assessment and mitigation process for channel maintenance activities. The certified Final Recirculated Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the MMP included 113 channel facility segments, covering a linear distance of 32 miles. However, to authorize maintenance under the MMP, an extensive site-specific review by the resource agencies and the public is required prior to each maintenance activity and can take up to 24 months to complete. A lawsuit was filed challenging the MMP (San Diegans for Open Government et al. v. City of San Diego, San Diego Superior Court Case No. 37-2011-00101571), and the City entered into a settlement agreement, which requires, among other things, the City to consider the PEIR for the MMP “null and void” as of September 2018.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed WMP will replace the City’s current MMP. The WMP is being developed as a collaborative effort based on maintenance needs, stakeholder input, lessons learned from maintenance activities conducted under the MMP and on-going studies being prepared by the T&SW Department. The proposed WMP is intended to establish an effective and streamlined program that allows for specific facilities to be maintained as-needed to reduce flood risk, while minimizing impacts and potential adverse effects on the environment from the maintenance activities.

The WMP is being developed to integrate biological, water quality, and regulatory approaches to allow the City to efficiently and effectively obtain approvals for required flood protection and related beneficial drainage activities.

The set of activities that are included in the WMP are composed of the following:

- Maintenance of select earthen and concrete channels
- Maintenance of select storm drain outfalls
- Minor maintenance activities (e.g., concrete repair to as-built condition)
- Habitat-based mitigation (e.g., invasive removal, channel restoration)

The City’s drainage system has been evaluated and only those facilities that have been identified as requiring maintenance to minimize flood risk would be included in the WMP as proposed maintenance projects.

- Approximately 25 miles of concrete-lined and other channels in critical potential flood areas
- 23 storm drain outfall areas with known flood management needs

A project-level evaluation of each of these facilities will be conducted to identify impacts, methods to avoid and minimize adverse effects, and required, feasible mitigation for unavoidable significant impacts. Based on this analysis, permit approvals would allow for subsequent

maintenance to be conducted on an as-needed basis. The T&SW Department plans to submit applications for approval of the maintenance of these facilities to resource agencies for issuance of programmatic permits (e.g., Section 404 Regional General Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). Although not anticipated, certain maintenance activities in areas not analyzed at a project-level in the WMP may be required due to a number of factors such as changes in flood risk, hydrology, water quality or biological conditions. The WMP EIR will provide a mitigation framework for additional facilities to programmatically address these potential related activities.

The City's holistic storm water management approach would also be described in the WMP, with specific areas identified for potential system improvements that could minimize future on-going maintenance activities and operations.

PROJECT LOCATION: Citywide. The City's municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) or storm water system is distributed throughout the 342 square-mile metropolitan area. In general, the MS4 conveys storm water runoff from natural and developed areas to receiving waters. The City's MS4 system is an inter-connected system of constructed drains, pipes, and engineered channels that discharge to natural drainages and receiving waters. As a result, the physical characteristics vary with the individual components of the storm water system. See Figure 1– Facility Locations and Study Area, and Figures 1a.1/1a.2–1h.2 included as attachments to this NOP.

APPLICANT: City of San Diego, Transportation & Storm Water Department

RECOMMENDED FINDING: Pursuant to Section 15060(d) of the CEQA Guidelines, it appears that the proposed project may result in significant environmental impacts in the following areas:

Land Use, Visual Effects and Neighborhood Character, Air Quality/Odor, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Biological Resources, Historical (Archaeology) and Tribal Cultural Resources, Hydrology, Water Quality, Noise, Paleontological Resources, and Solid Waste.

AVAILABILITY IN ALTERNATIVE FORMAT: To request this Notice in alternative format, call the Planning Department at (619) 235-5200 OR (800) 735-2929 (TEXT TELEPHONE).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: For environmental review information, contact Myra Herrmann at (619) 446-5372. For information regarding public meetings/hearings on this project, contact the Project Manager, Helene Deisher, at (619) 446-5223. This notice was published in the SAN DIEGO DAILY TRANSCRIPT and distributed on July 12, 2017.

Alyssa Muto
Deputy Director
Planning Department

DISTRIBUTION: See Attached
ATTACHMENTS: Figure 1– Facility Location and Study Area
Figures 1a.1/1a.2–1h.2

Distribution:

Federal Government

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, SW Division, Environmental Planning (12)
MCAS Miramar (13)
US Environmental Protection Agency (19)
US Border Patrol (22)
US Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District, Shelly Lynch (26)
US Fish and Wildlife Service, Pat Gower (23)

State of California

Caltrans, District 11 (31)
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (32)
Cal EPA (37A)
Toxic Substance Control (39)
California State Parks (40A)
California Natural Resources Agency (43)
Regional Water Quality Control Board: Region 9 (44)
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Eric Becker, San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
California Department of Fish and Wildlife, South Coast Region, Kelly Fisher
California Coastal Commission, San Diego District, Alex Llerandi

County of San Diego

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County Water Authority (73)
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City of San Diego

Mayor's Office (MS 11A/91)
Council President Cole, District 4
Councilmember Bry, District 1
Councilmember Zapf, District 2
Councilmember Ward, District 3
Council President Pro Tem Kersey, District 5
Councilmember Cate, District 6
Councilmember Sherman, District 7
Councilmember Alvarez, District 8

Councilmember Gomez, District 9

City Attorney's Office

Davin Widgerow (MS 59)

Heidi Vonblum (MS 59)

Shannon Thomas (MS 59)

Planning Department

Jeff Murphy, Director

Alyssa Muto, Deputy Director

Myra Herrmann, Senior Planner

Kristy Forburger, Senior Planner

Kelley Stanco, Senior Planner - Historical Resources Board Liaison

Robin Shifflet

Transportation & Storm Water Department (Applicant)

Kris McFadden, Director

Drew Kleis, Deputy Director

Gene Matter

Christine Rothman

Anne Jarque

Development Services Department

Kerry Santoro, Deputy Director

Helene Deisher

Mark Brunette

Jeannette DeAngelis - Wetland Advisory Board Liaison

Communications Department

Anthony Santacroce

Environmental Services Department

Lisa Wood

Park and Recreation Department

Casey Smith, Deputy Director – Open Space Division

Laura Ball

Public Utilities Department

Nicole McGinnis

Keli Balo

Public Works Department

Carrie Purcell

Real Estate Assets Department

Cybele Thompson

Susan Taylor

City Libraries

Library Gov't Documents Department (81 & 81A)

Balboa Branch Library (81B)

Beckwourth Branch Library (81 C)

Benjamin Branch Library (81D)
Carmel Mountain Ranch Branch (81 E)
Carmel Valley Branch Library (81 F)
City Heights/Weingart Branch Library (81G)
Clairemont Branch Library (81 H)
College-Rolando Branch Library (81 I)
Kensington-Normal Heights Branch Library (81K)
La Jolla/Riford branch Library (81 L)
Linda Vista Branch Library (81 M)
Logan Heights Branch Library (81 N)
Malcolm X Library & Performing Arts Center (81O)
Mira Mesa Branch Library (81P)
Mission Hills Branch Library (81 Q)
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North Park Branch Library (81 T)
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Ocean Beach Branch Library (81 V)
Otay Mesa-Nestor Branch Library (81 W)
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San Carlos Branch Library (81DD)
San Ysidro Branch Library (81 EE)
Scripps Miramar Ranch Branch Library (81 FF)
Serra Mesa Branch Library (81 GG)
Skyline Hills Branch Library (81 HH)
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University Community Branch Library (81JJ)
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University Heights Branch Library (81 KK)

Other City Governments

City of Chula Vista (94)
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San Diego County Regional Airport Authority (110)
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School Districts

Poway Unified School District (124)
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San Ysidro School District (127)
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Community Groups, Associations, Boards, and Committees

Community Planning Committee (194)
Balboa Park Committee (226 and 226A)
Black Mountain Ranch-Subarea I (226C)
Otay Mesa-Nestor Planning Committee (228)
Otay Mesa Planning Committee (235)
Clairemont Mesa Planning Committee (248)
Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee (259)
Serra Mesa Planning Committee (263A)
Kearney Mesa Community Planning Group (265)
Linda Vista Community Planning Committee (267)
La Jolla Community Planning Association (275)
City Heights Area Planning Committee (287)
Kensington-Talmadge Planning Committee (290)
Normal Heights Community Planning Committee (291)
Eastern Area Planning Committee (302)
North Bay Community Planning Committee (307)
Mira Mesa Community Planning Committee (310)
Mission Bay Park Committee (320)
Mission Beach Precise Planning Board (325)
Navajo Community Planners, Inc. (336)
Carmel Valley Community Planning Board (350)
Del Mar Mesa Community Planning Board (361)
North Park Planning Committee (363)
Ocean Beach Planning Board (367)
Old Town Community Planning Board (368)
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San Pasqual-Lake Hodges Planning Group (426)
San Ysidro Planning and Development Group (433)
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Skyline Paradise Hills Planning Committee (443)
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Southeastern San Diego Planning Committee (449)
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Town/Community Councils

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Ron Chrisman (215)
Clint Linton (215B)
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Native American Distribution

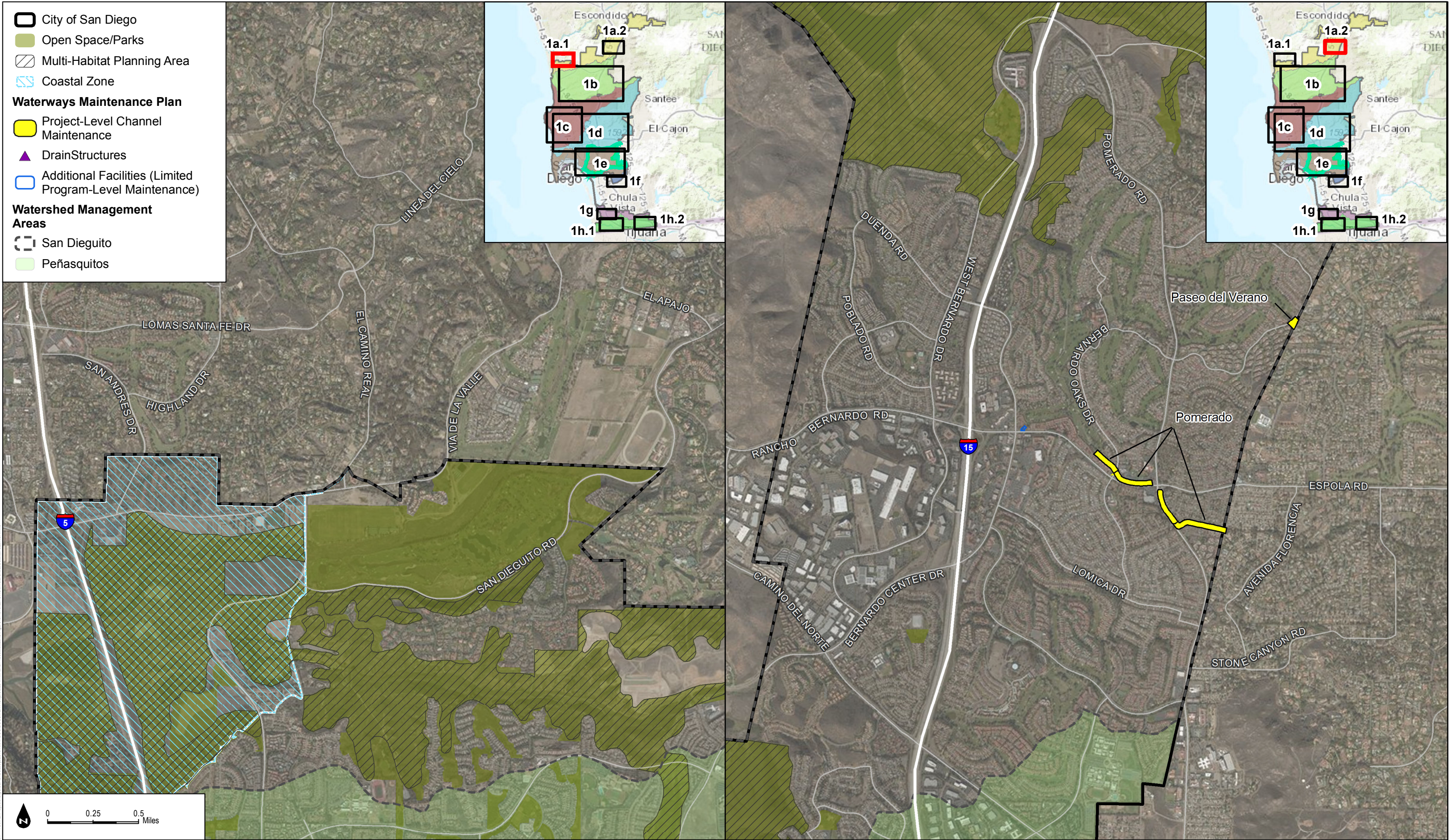
Barona Group of Capitan Grande Band of Mission Indians (225A)
Campo Band of Mission Indians (225B)
Ewiiapaayp Band of Mission Indians (225C)
Inaja Band of Mission Indians (225D)
Jamul Indian Village (225E)
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La Jolla Band of Mission Indians (225M)
Pala Band of Mission Indians (225N)
Pauma Band of Mission Indians (225O)
Pechanga Band of Mission Indians (225P)
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Other Interested Agencies, Organizations, and Individuals

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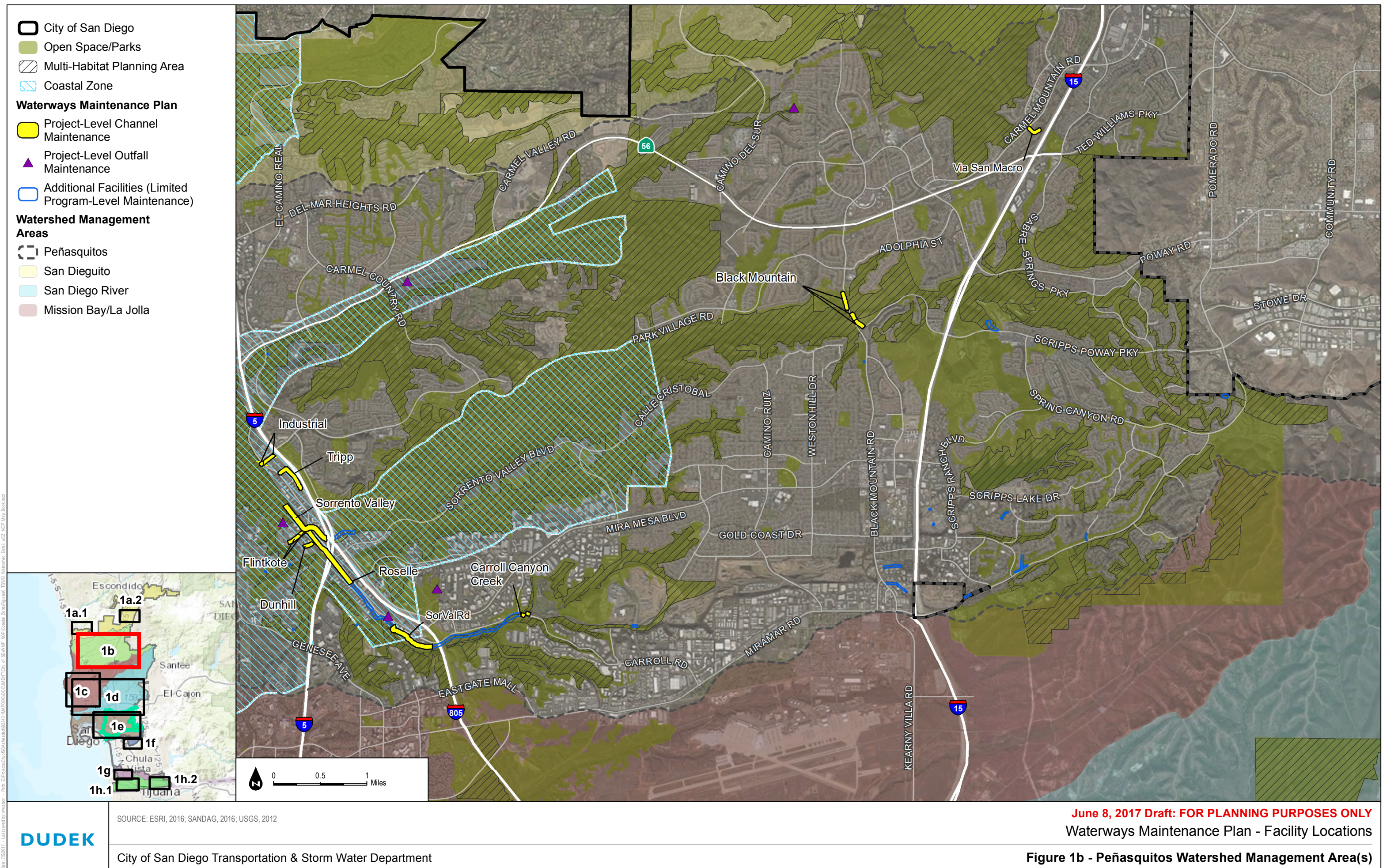
Mary Johnson (263B/328B)
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Banker's Hill Canyon Assn. (502)
Allen Canyon Committee (504)
Cal-Sorrento LTD, Steve Higgins
San Diego State University, Dean Stanely Maloy
Leslie Reynolds, Groundworks
John Galbadon, Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association
Bob Brown, San Diego State Foundation
Eric Elsen, San Diego State Foundation
Terri Ducey
Lee Peterson
George Navia
Willard & Georgia McNeil
Chikae Reed

Gloria Randall
Kathleen Culkin
Francisco Javier Brenes
Randal Densley
Betty Kuske
Jeffrey Freedman
Rosa Carbajal
Leonard Smith
Mary Pfleeger
Dale McKasson
Rodel Reyes
Javier Cortez
Janet Wiggins
William Babcock
Joella Smith
Angel Sabino
William Hadaya
Robert Knarr
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Gene Gardiner
Fr. Henry Rodriguez
Shawn Curtis
Mike Hennessy
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Larry Stirling
Mary Williams
Barbara Washburn
Samuel Wilson
Joan Conliff
Orlando Dona
Jerry Coates
Clarissa Falcon
Paul Draper
Opper & Varco LLP, The Environmental Law Group, S. Wayne Rosembaum
Cooley LLP, Susan Wynn
Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation, Livia Borak
San Diegans for Open Governmen, Corey Briggs
Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP, Carmen J. Borg, Laurel Impett, Deborah Keeth
Vipul Joshi, Dudek
Carey Fernandes, Dudek



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 Waterways Maintenance Plan - Facility Locations

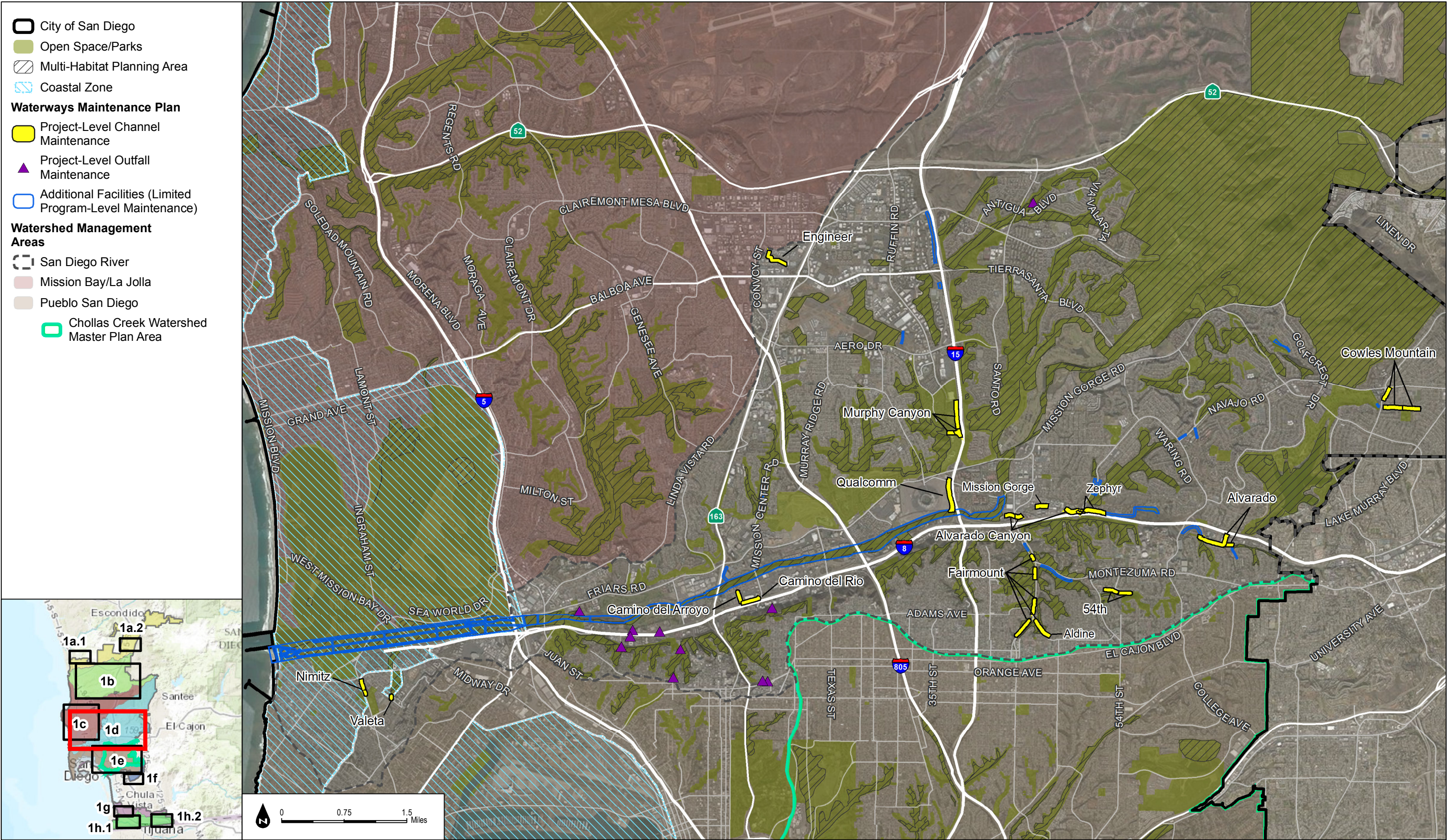
Figure 1a.1/1a.2 - San Dieguito Watershed Management Area(s)





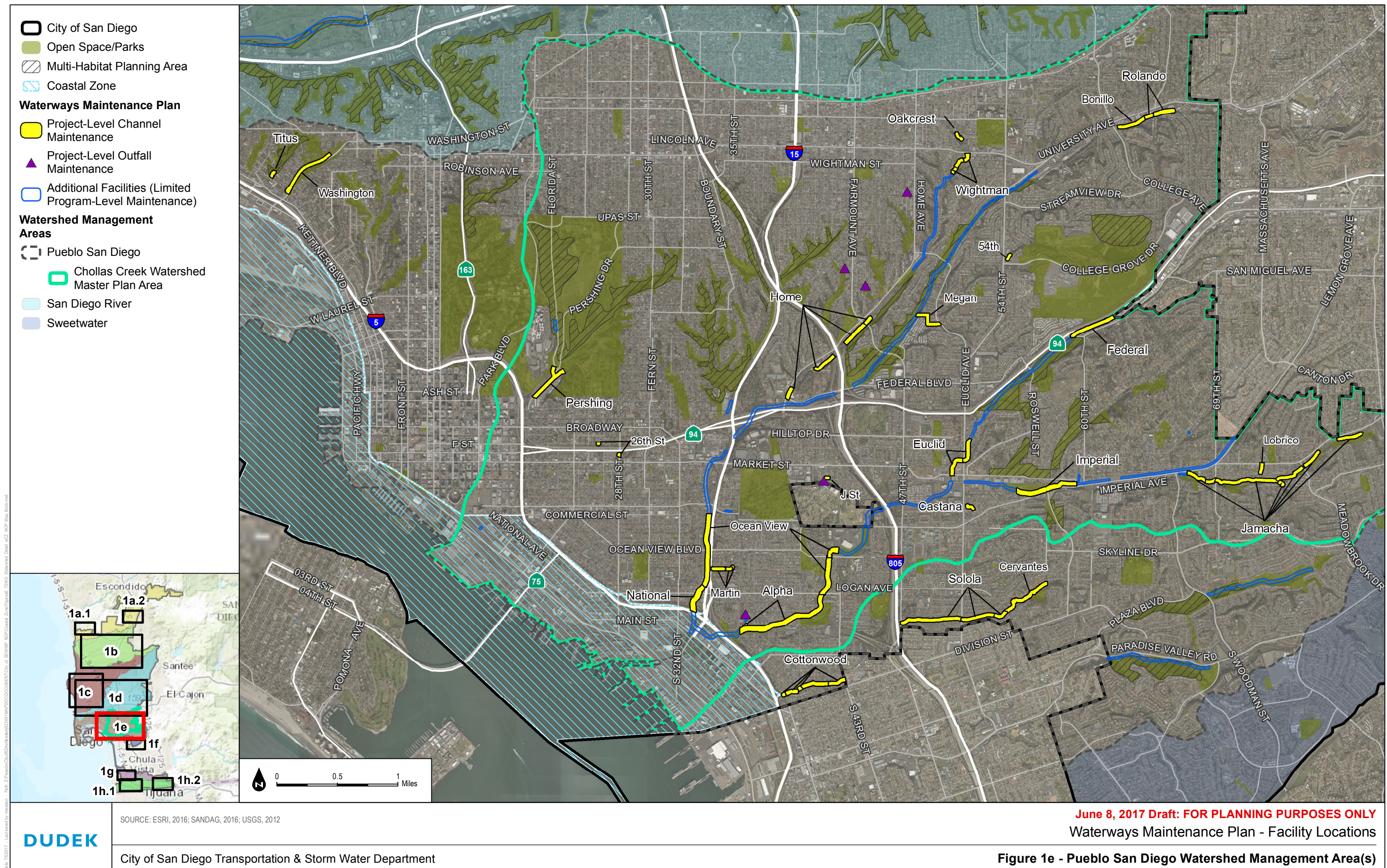
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Waterways Maintenance Plan - Facility Locations

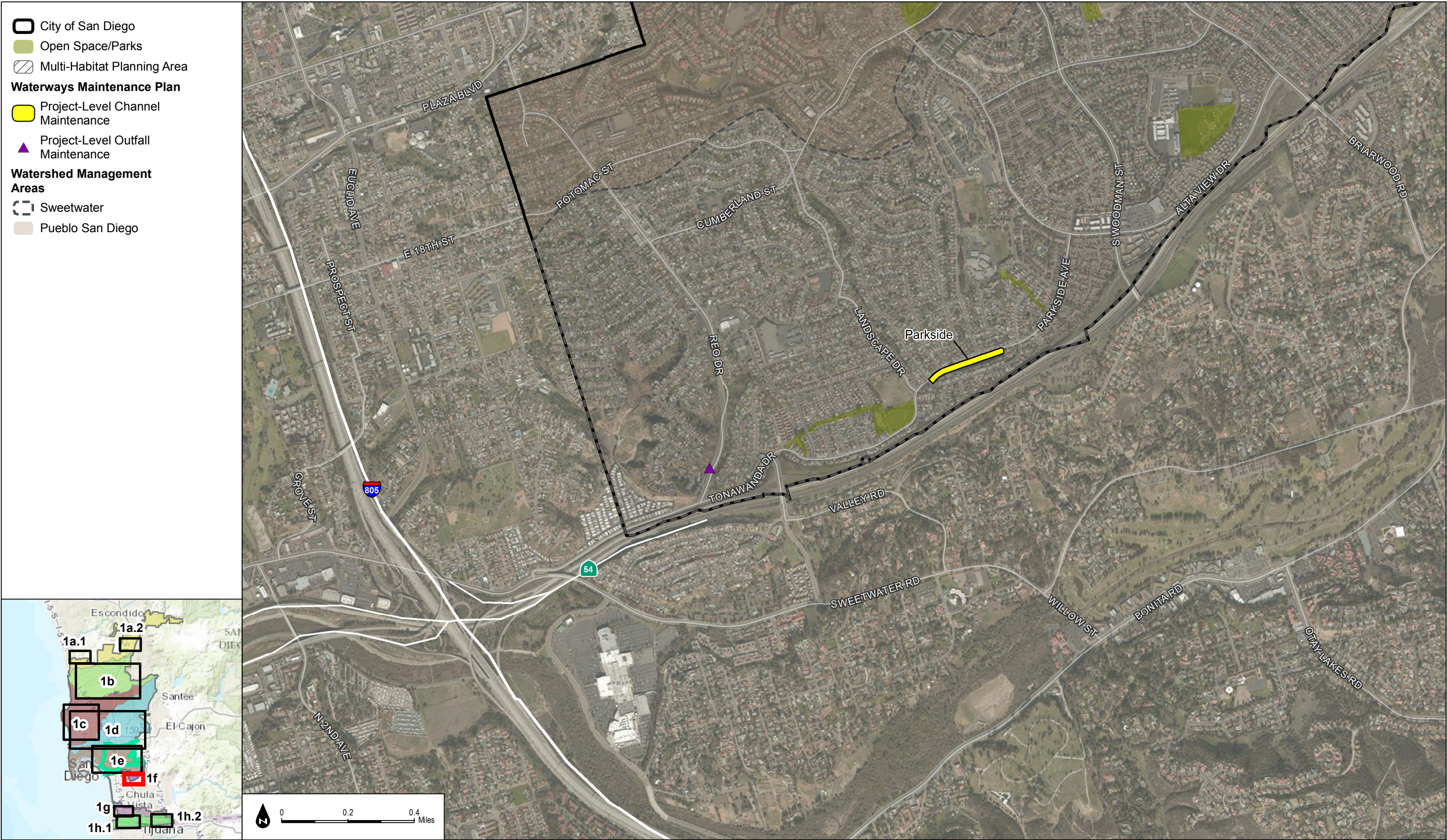
Figure 1c - Mission Bay/La Jolla Watershed Management Area(s)



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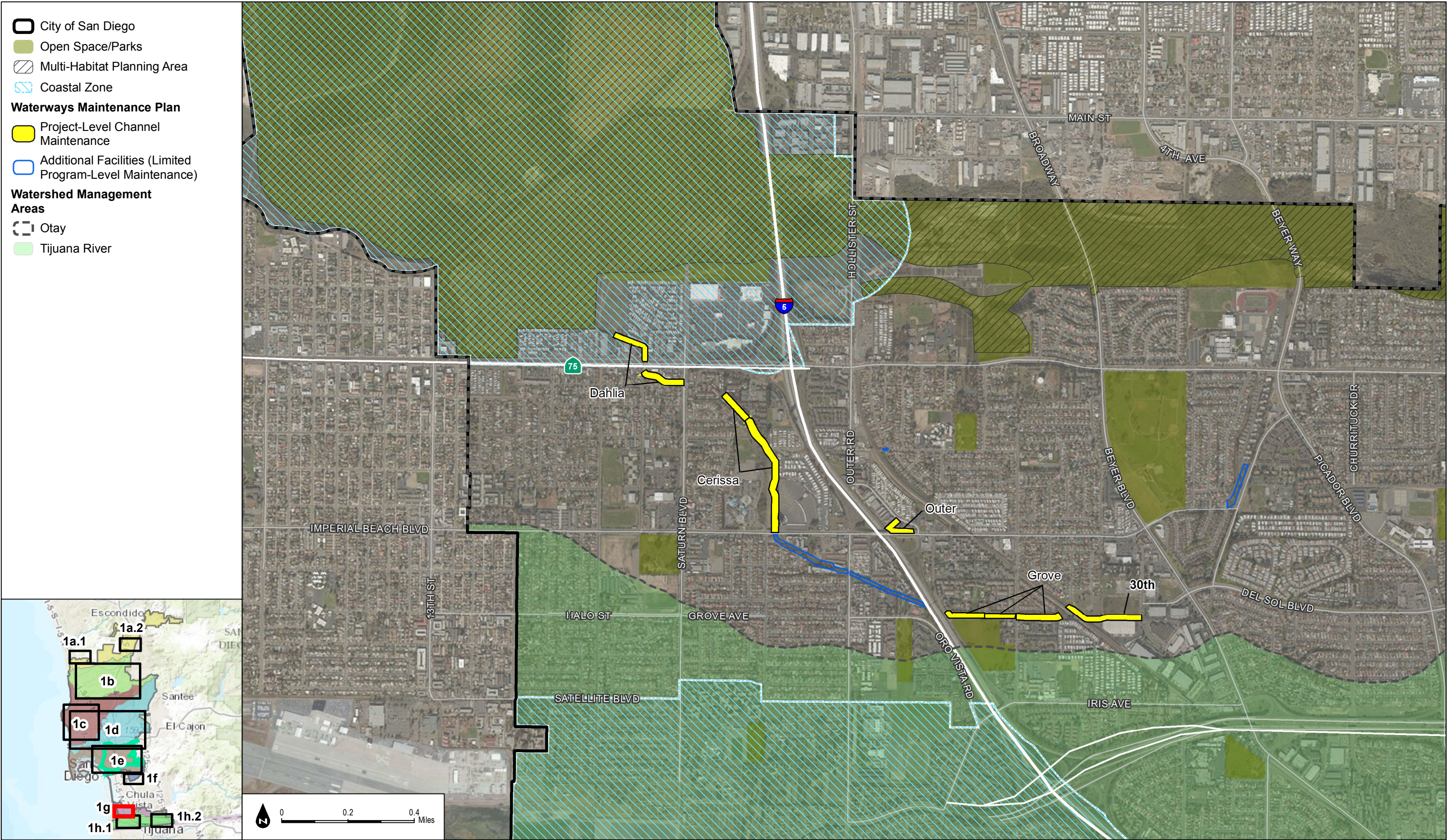
Figure 1d - San Diego River Watershed Management Area(s)

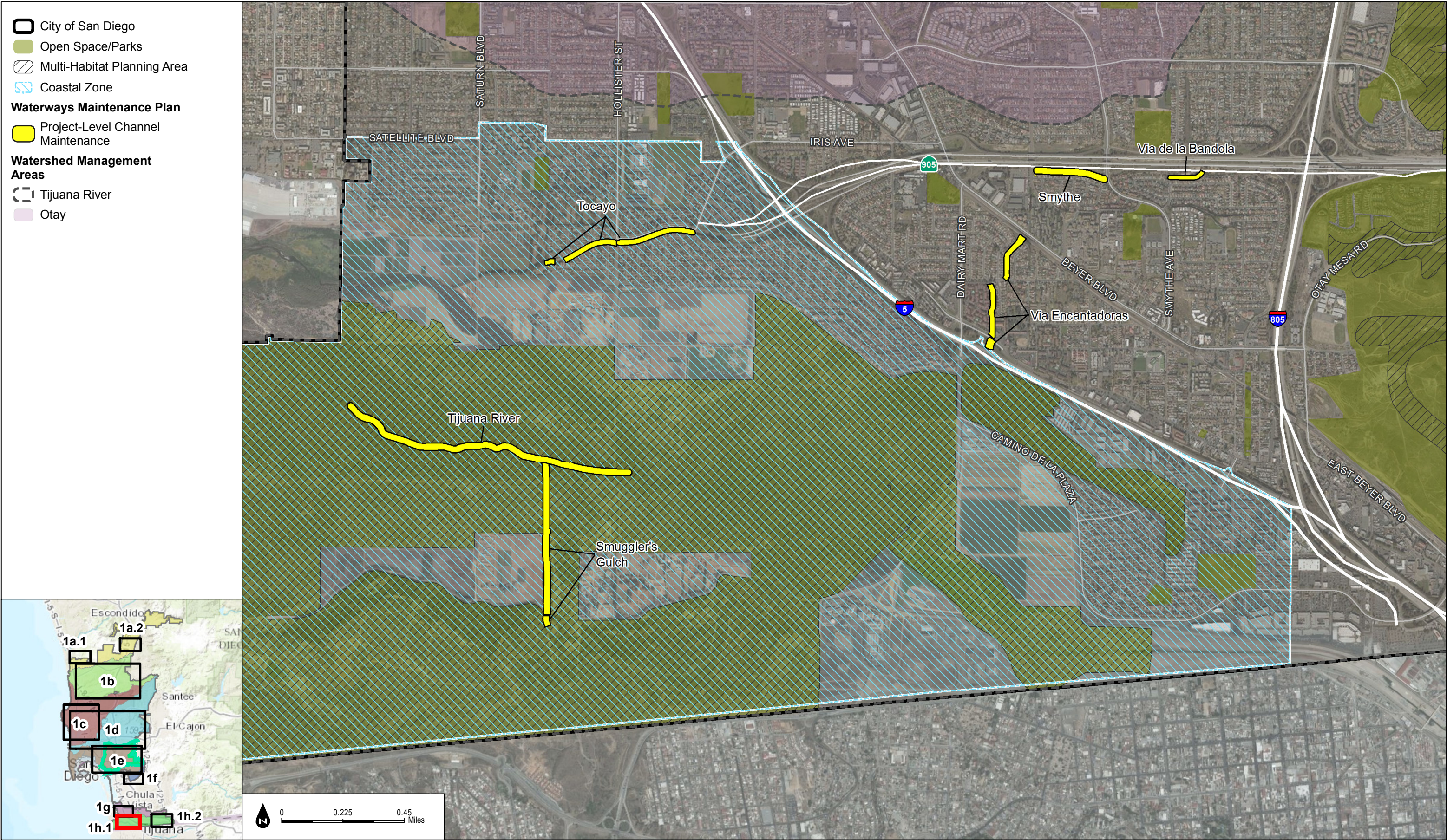




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Waterways Maintenance Plan - Facility Locations

Figure 1f - Sweetwater Watershed Management Area(s)





SOURCE: ESRI, 2016; SANDAG, 2016; USGS, 2012

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Waterways Maintenance Plan - Facility Locations

Figure 1h.1 - Tijuana River Watershed Management Area(s)

