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## Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

Certified Mail: 7020 1810 0002 0761 1428

January 25, 2024

Andrea Jones, Director of Conservation  
Audubon California  
41-550 Eclectic Street  
Palm Desert, CA 92211  
[Andrea.Jones@audubon.org](mailto:Andrea.Jones@audubon.org)

Dear Ms. Jones:

**NOTICE OF APPLICABILITY: STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
GENERAL ORDER FOR CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY  
CERTIFICATION ACTION ORDER NO. WQ-2021-0048-DWQ, SB21031GN, FOR THE  
BOMBAY BEACH WETLAND PROJECT GEOTECHNICAL INVESTIGATION (NWP  
6), IMPERIAL COUNTY, WDID NO. 7A133181001**

This letter is to certify activities required to conduct exploratory geotechnical investigations and other geophysical surveys for the Bombay Beach Wetland Project Geotechnical Investigation (Project) in Imperial County under the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) General Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Action Order No. WQ 2021-0048-DWQ, (Certification No. SB21031GN).

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Audubon California (Audubon) will collect up to 16 soil boring samples and 2 bulk soil samples for geotechnical investigation within the 273.85-acre Bombay Beach Wetland (BBW) Project Area of Investigation (AOI) (Figures 1 and 2).

The Project is located approximately 1.5 miles east of the community of Bombay Beach, 1 mile south of State Highway 111, and 1.9 miles west of the Niland Marina along the north shore of the Salton Sea, in Imperial County, CA (Figure 1).

The boring locations will be accessed via established access routes from Niland Marina Road across land owned by Imperial Irrigation District. Pickup trucks and trailers will be unloaded at the Niland Marina parking area or may be driven as far as the east side of the dry wash located on Assessor's Parcel Number 002-650-003. The remaining

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EDWARD MUZIK, CHAIR | PAULA RASMUSSEN, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

distance to sample locations within iodine bush scrub habitat will be traversed by all terrain utility vehicles (UTVs) or small four-wheel drive pickup trucks if conditions are suitable. Existing two-track routes will be utilized where available.

Samples will be collected using a compact, all-terrain, track mounted drill rig suitable for use in soft soil conditions. The rig will be powered with a gasoline or diesel engine and a hydraulic drive system. These borings will be drilled with 6-inch-diameter hollow stem or continuous flight augers to a depth of approximately 10 feet below ground level. The work area around each boring will measure approximately 10 feet by 30 feet or smaller. The area will be occupied by the drilling rig, up to two UTVs or four-wheel drive pickup trucks used to transport staff and equipment, and a small staging area for materials, equipment, and sample logging. No ground disturbance is proposed within this work area outside of the proposed boring sample. Each work area will be occupied for about one to two hours for sample collection and processing. Disturbed areas will be restored to their pre-survey condition. Sample holes will be backfilled with native soil cuttings to match the surrounding grade. Excess soil cuttings will be spread on the ground surface and any new access tracks will be lightly raked. The geotechnical survey work would include a combination of geophysical surveys, cone penetrometer testing (CPT), and traditional test boring.

Sample collection is scheduled for early February 2024 over an approximately 4-day period and will be completed prior to February 15th to avoid the reproductive seasons for Yuma Ridgway's Rail (*Rallus obsoletus yumanensis*) and desert pupfish. The geotechnical survey work will result in 0.0004 acres of temporary impacts to aquatic resources (Figure 4). All impacts associated with geotechnical work are temporary and the area impacted would be restored to pre-Project conditions upon completion of the work. Mitigation measures include avoiding and minimizing impacts to wetlands and waters through the selection of survey locations, best management practices (BMPs), and restoration of temporary impacts.

## **FINDINGS OF APPLICABILITY**

This letter serves as formal notice that Certification No. SB21031GN is applicable to this project. The Project waste discharge identification (WDID) number is 7A133181001.

## **REPORTING**

A Notice of Completion (NOC) shall be submitted by the applicant no later than 30 days after the work has been completed. The NOC shall demonstrate that the work has been carried out in accordance with the description provided in the applicant's Notice of Intent (NOI).

Failure to comply with the terms and conditions of Certification No. SB21031GN may expose Audubon California to enforcement action pursuant to the Clean Water Act and California Water Code.

If you require further assistance, please contact Logan Raub by phone at (760) 776-8966 or via email at [Logan.Raub@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Logan.Raub@waterboards.ca.gov)

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Paula Rasmussen  
Executive Officer  
Colorado River Basin  
Regional Water Quality Control Board

Attachments:

- Figure 1: Project Location and Vicinity Map
- Figure 2: Geotechnical Investigation Overview Map
- Figure 3: Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Types Map
- Figure 4: Aquatic Resources Delineation Overview Map

Enclosure: SWRCB General Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Action Order No. WQ 2021-0048-DWQ (Certification No. SB21031GN)

File: WDID: 7A133181001, RM: 455528, Place ID: 892077, Bombay Beach Wetland Project Geotechnical Investigation Project

cc: [via email only] (w/ enclosure):

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**Project Maps**

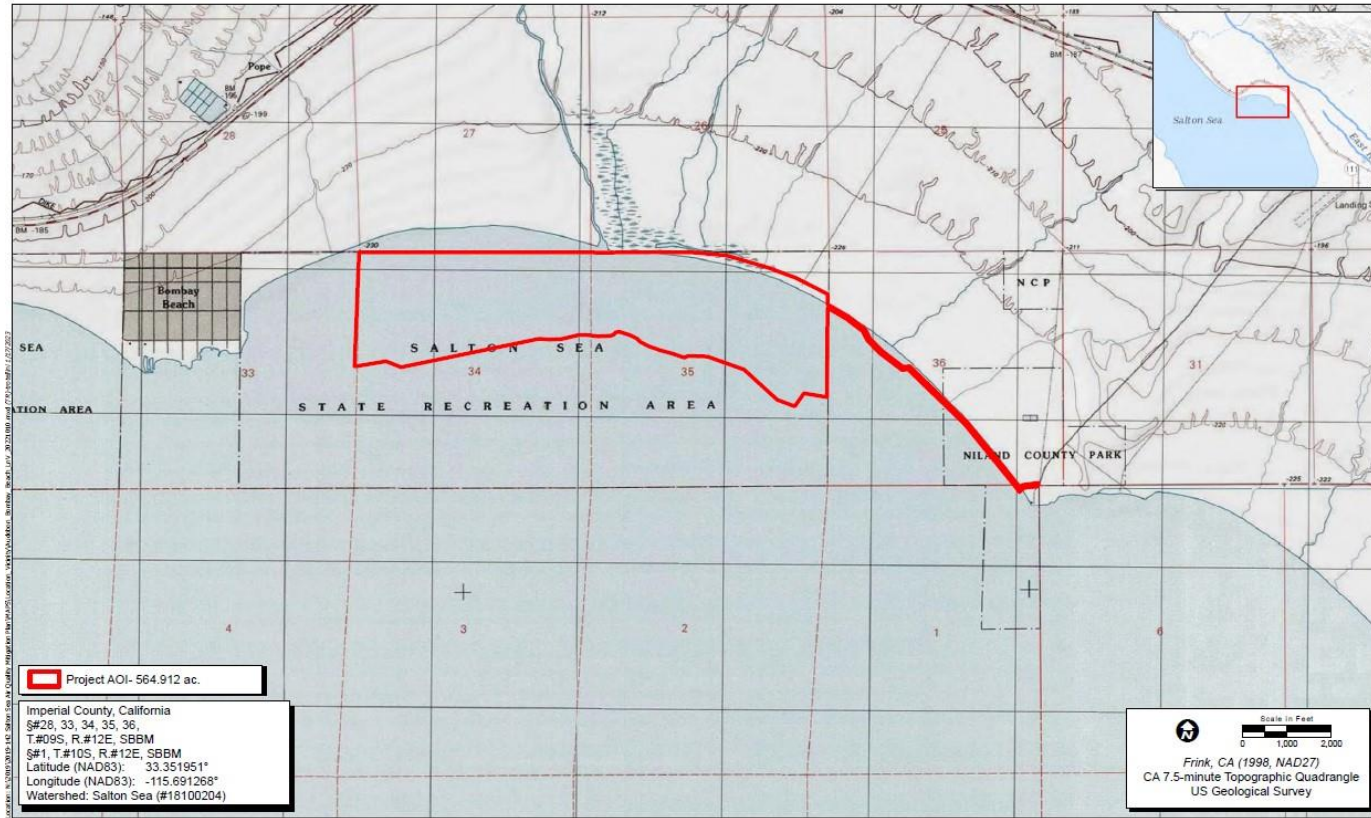
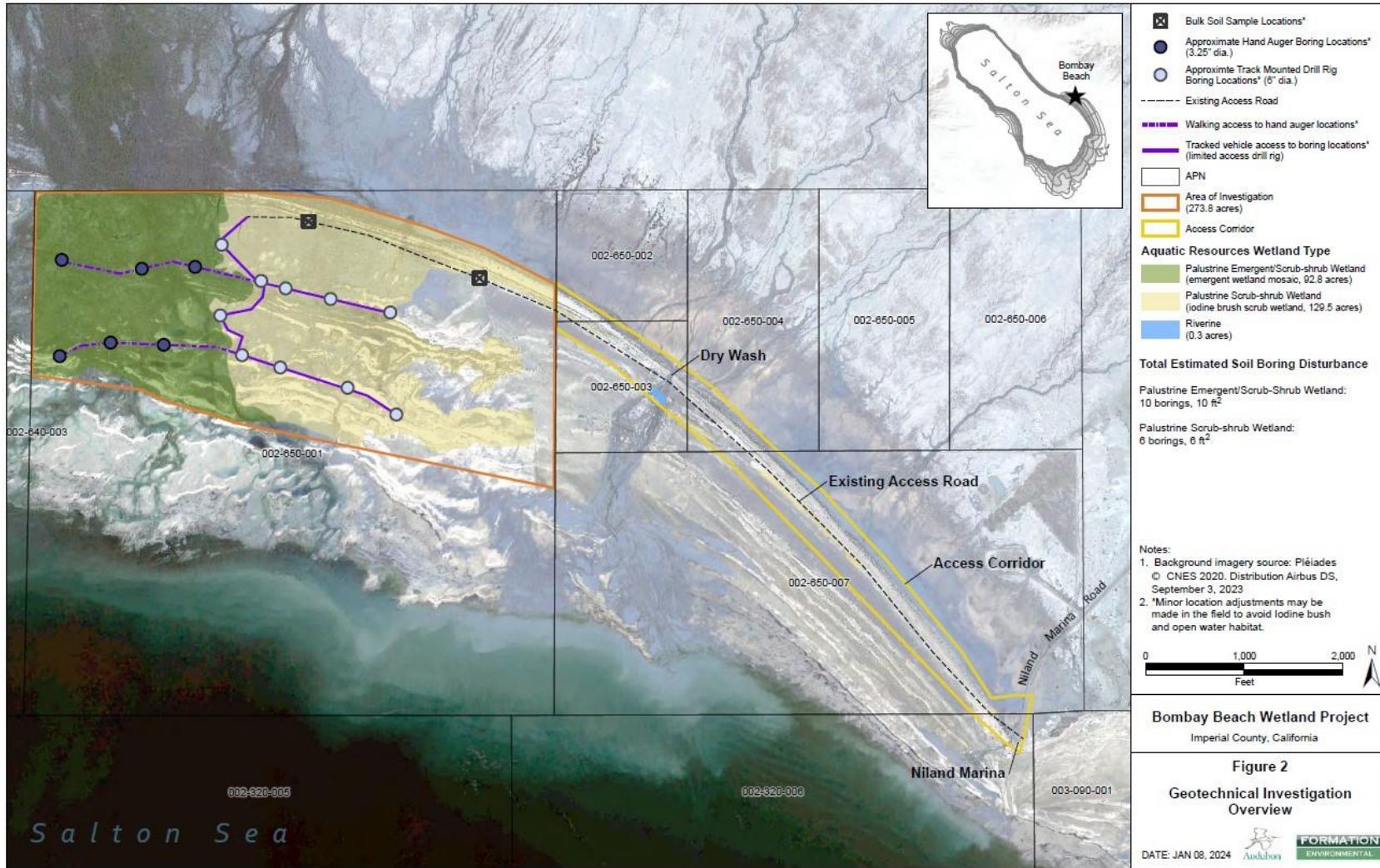


Figure 1. Project Location and Vicinity

2021-091 Bombay Beach Wetland Enhancement Project



<sup>1</sup>Audubon California, January 2024. Map figures taken from the Notice of Intent (NOI) submitted for Bombay Beach Wetland Project Geotechnical Investigation.





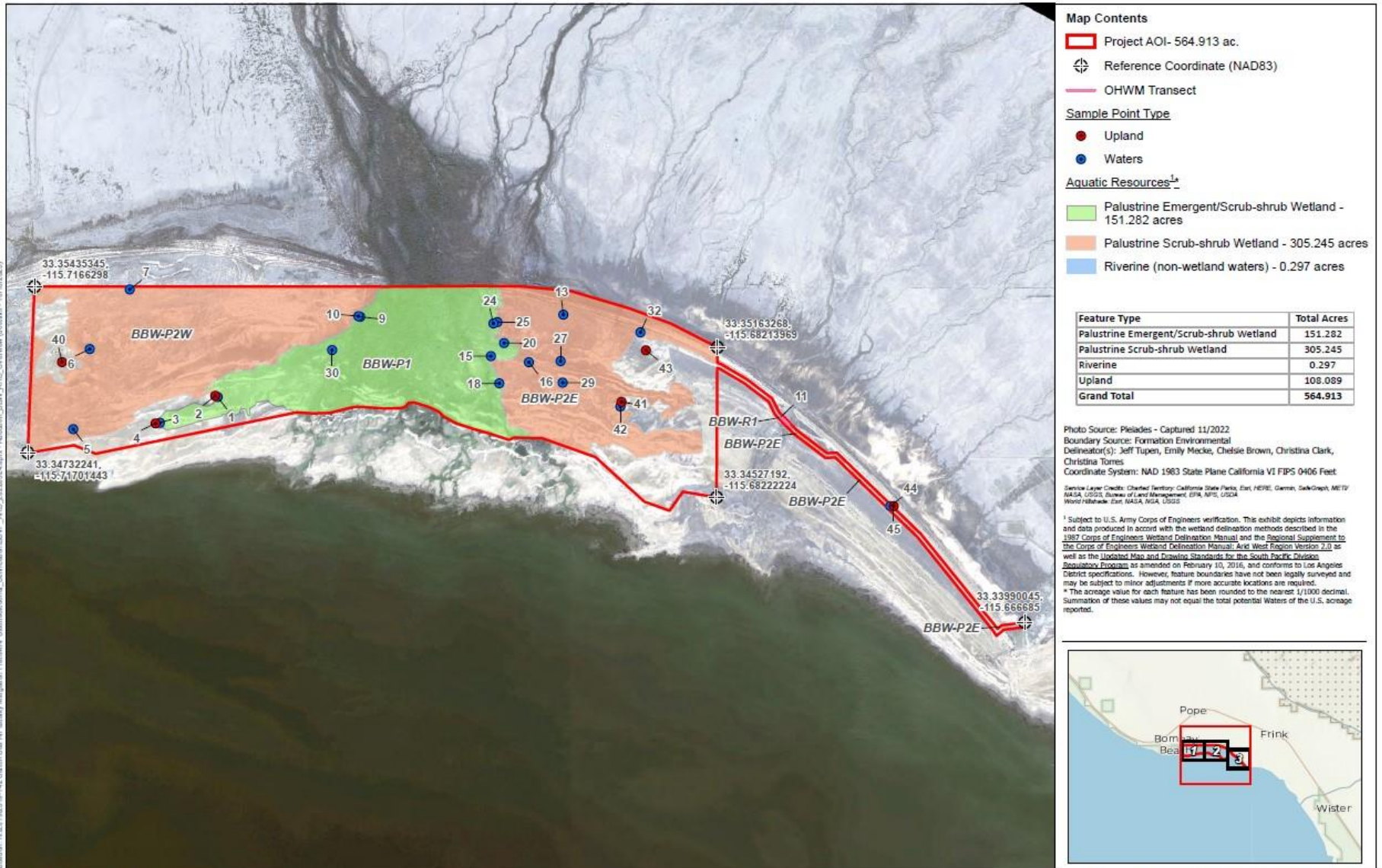


Figure 4. Aquatic Resources Delineation Overview  
2021-091 Bombay Beach Wetland Project



**SWRCB General Order for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality  
Certification Action Order No. WQ 2021-0048-DWQ (Certification No. SB21031GN)**

A copy of Certification No. SB21031GN can be found at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.html)