



California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region

July 19, 2013

Ms. Ann Fox Project Manager California Department of Transportation District 11 4050 Taylor Street MS 331 San Diego, CA 92110 Certified Mail – Return Receipt Requested Article Number: 7011 0470 0002 8961 8743

In reply/refer to: 791510:mporter

Subject:

Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification No. R9-2013-0035

for State Route 76 South Mission Road to Interstate 15 Highway

Ms. Fox:

Enclosed find Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification No. R9-2013-0035 (Certification) for discharges to waters of the United States and acknowledgment of enrollment under State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2003-017-DWQ for the State Route 76 South Mission Road to Interstate 15 Highway (Project). A description of the Project and Project location can be found in the Project information sheet, location map, and site maps which are included as attachments to this Certification.

Any petition for reconsideration of this Certification must be filed with the State Water Resources Control Board within 30 days of certification action (23 CCR § 3867). If no petition is received, it will be assumed that you have accepted and will comply with all the conditions of this Certification.

Failure to comply with all conditions of this Certification may subject the California Department of Transportation to enforcement actions by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region, including administrative enforcement orders requiring you to cease and desist from violations, or to clean up waste and abate existing or threatened conditions of pollution or nuisance; administrative civil liability in amounts of up to \$10,000 per day per violation; referral to the State Attorney General for injunctive relief; and, referral to the District Attorney for criminal prosecution.

San Diego Association of Governments Certification No. R9-2013-0035

In the subject line of any response, please include reference number 787023:mporter. For questions or comments, please contact Mike Porter by telephone at (858) 467-2726 or by email at mporter@waterboards.ca.gov.

Respectfully

DAVID W. GIBSON
Executive Officer

Enclosure:

Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification No. R9-2013-0035 for the State Route 76 South Mission Road to Interstate 15 Highway project, with four attachments.

DWG:jgs:db:kd:mgp

cc: Refer to Attachment 2 of Certification R9-2013-0035 for the Distribution List.

Tech Staff	Info & Use	
Certification No. Party ID	R9-2013-0035	
File No.	R9-2013-0035	
WDID	9 000002555	
NPDES No.	None	
Regulatory ID	389023	
Place ID	791510	
Person ID	538589	
Inspection ID	None	





California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region

Action on Request
for
Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification
and
Waste Discharge Requirements
for
Discharge of Dredged and/or Fill Materials

PROJECT: State Route

State Route 76 South Mission Road to Interstate 15 Highway

Certification Number R9-2013-0035

WDID: 9000002555

APPLICANT: Caltrans, District 11

4050 Taylor Street San Diego, CA 92110 Reg. Meas: 389023 Person: 538589 Place: 791510

Party: 7222

ACTION:

☐ Order for Low Impact Certification	☐ Order for Denial of Certification
☑ Order for Technically-conditioned Certification	☐ Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements
☑ Enrollment in SWRCB GWDR Order No. 2003-017 DWQ	☐ Enrollment in Isolated Waters Order No. 2004-004 DWQ

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The California Department of Transportation (hereinafter Applicant) submitted an application for Water Quality Certification pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act for the proposed State Route 76 (SR 76) South Mission Road to Interstate 15 Highway (Project) on January 25, 2013. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board) deemed the application complete on May 22, 2013. The Applicant proposes to discharge fill material to waters of the United States and State associated with construction of 5.6 miles of SR 76 widening and realignment. The purpose of the Project is to reduce traffic congestion and traffic delays by widening the existing two-lane highway.

The proposed Project includes the following features that will impact waters of the State and

Widening of the existing two-lane highway to a four-lane conventional highway, which

- Widening of the existing two-lane highway to a four-lane conventional highway, which
 will require the addition of approximately 1,800 linear feet of rock slope protection to
 protect the roadway slopes from potential erosion caused by the San Luis Rey River.
- The replacement of Live Oak Creek Bridge with a wider, longer, and higher bridge that
 would be located south of the existing bridge. The new bridge will accommodate four
 lanes of traffic, minimize flooding over the bridge deck, improve hydrologic flow, and
 provide a wildlife undercrossing.
- The construction of temporary river crossings and haul roads to allow construction equipment to transport fill material from the mitigation sites to the construction sites.
- The modification, addition, and removal of forty six culverts to accommodate drainage of the new highway design.

The Project will add 39.3 acres of additional impervious surfaces to the 34.0 acres of existing impervious surfaces. Post-construction Best Management Practice (BMPs) will consist of 3 biofiltration strips, 10 biofiltration cells, and 132 biofiltration swales. The BMPs employed by the Applicant must treat, at a minimum, 98 percent of the added impervious surface.

State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 2012-0011-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000003, Statewide Storm Water Permit and Waste Discharge Requirements for State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans Statewide Permit) requires treatment of storm water runoff from 100 percent of the added impervious surfaces. This requirement can be waived by the Executive Officer if an acceptable alternative method of compliance is proposed. For this Project, the Applicant has proposed an alternative compliance method that includes treatment of 98 percent of the added impervious surface and 54 percent of the existing impervious surface. Currently, only 4 percent (1.36 acres) of the existing impervious surface of SR-76 is treated; the proposed alternative compliance method will add storm water runoff treatment to an additional 18.36 acres of impervious surface.

The Project application includes a description of the design objective, operation, and degree of treatment expected to be attained from equipment, facilities, or activities (including construction and post-construction BMPs) to treat waste and to reduce runoff or other effluents which may be discharged. Compliance with the Certification conditions will help ensure that construction and post-construction discharges from the Project will not cause onsite or offsite downstream erosion, damage to downstream properties, or otherwise damage stream habitats in violation of water quality standards in the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Region (9) (Basin Plan).

Project construction will permanently impact 5.46 acres (6,708 linear feet) of jurisdictional waters of the United States and State which include 5.34 acres (5,520 linear feet) of wetlands (Southern willow scrub) and 0.12 acres (1,188 linear feet) of non-wetlands waters (streambed). The Applicant reports that the Project purpose cannot be practically accomplished in a manner which would avoid or result in less adverse impacts to aquatic resources considering all potential practicable alternatives, such as the potential for alternate available locations, designs, reductions in size, configuration or density.

Compensatory mitigation for the Project's permanent impacts to jurisdictional waters will be achieved through establishment (66.0 acres, 7,297 linear feet) and rehabilitation (20.24 acres, 7,953 linear feet) of waters of the United States and/or State in the vicinity of the Project. All temporary impacts to waters of the United States and/or State will be restored to pre-project conditions. Mitigation for impacts to wetland and vegetated non-wetland waters of the United States and/or State will be established by the Applicant at the Tabata and Vessels mitigation sites in the San Luis Rey River valley. The mitigation areas will be conserved through a recorded conservation easement.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. STANDARD CONDITIONS	
II. GENERAL CONDITIONS	<u>6</u>
III. CONSTRUCTION BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES	
IV. POST-CONSTRUCTION BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES	8
V. PROJECT IMPACTS AND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION	10
VI. MONITORING REQUIREMENTS	12
VII. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS	15
VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS	17
IX. CEQA FINDINGS	20
X. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF PROJECT APPLICATION	20
XI. SAN DIEGO WATER BOARD CONTACT PERSON	20
XII. WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION	20

Attachments:

- 1. Contacts and Project Information
- 2. Distribution List
- 3. Location Maps
- 4. Project Site Plans
- 5. Mitigation Figures

Road to Interstate 15 Highway Certification No. R9-2013-0035

I. STANDARD CONDITIONS

Pursuant to section 3860 of Title 23 of the California Code of Regulations (23 CCR), the following three standard conditions apply to all water quality certification actions:

- A. This Certification action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to section 13330 of the Water Code and Article 6 (commencing with section 3867 of 23 CCR).
- B. This Certification action is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any discharge from any activity involving a hydroelectric facility and requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC license unless the pertinent Certification application was filed pursuant to 23 CCR subsection 3855(b), and that application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.
- C. This Certification action is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under chapter 28 (commencing with section 3830) of 23 CCR and owed by the applicant.

II. GENERAL CONDITIONS

- A. Water Quality Certification No. R9-2013-0035 (Certification) is only valid if the Project begins no later than 5 (five) years from the date of issuance. If the Project has not begun within 5 years from the date of issuance, then this Certification shall expire 5 years from the date of issuance.
- B. The Applicant must comply with the requirements of State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ, Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material that have Received State Water Quality Certification. These General Waste Discharge Requirements are accessible at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/docs/generalorders/go_ wdr401regulated projects.pdf.
- C. The Applicant must, at all times, fully comply with the engineering plans, specifications and technical reports submitted to the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Diego Region (San Diego Water Board), to support this Certification and all subsequent submittals required as part of this Certification and as described herein. The conditions within this Certification must supersede conflicting provisions within such plans submitted as part of this Certification action. Any modifications thereto, shall require notification to the San Diego Water Board and reevaluation for individual Waste Discharge Requirements and/or Certification amendment.

- D. During Project construction, the Applicant must maintain a copy of this Certification at the Project site. This Certification must be available at all times to site personnel and agencies.
- E. The Applicant must allow the San Diego Water Board or the State Water Resources Control Board, and/or their authorized representative(s), (including an authorized contractor acting as their representative), upon the presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required under law, to:
 - Enter upon the Project premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or in which records are kept under the conditions of this Certification.
 - 2. Have access to and copy, at reasonable times, any records that must be kept under the conditions of this Certification.
 - Inspect and photograph, at reasonable times, any facilities, equipment, (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this Certification.
 - Sample or monitor, at reasonable times, for the purposes of assuring Certification compliance, or as otherwise authorized by the Clean Water Act or California Water Code (Water Code), any substances or parameters at any location.
- F. In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this Certification, the violation or threatened violation must be subject to any remedies, penalties, process or sanctions as provided for under State law. For purposes of section 401(d) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), the applicability of any State law authorizing remedies, penalties, process or sanctions for the violation or threatened violation constitutes a limitation necessary to assure compliance with the water quality standards and other pertinent requirements incorporated into this Certification.
- G. In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this Certification, the San Diego Water Board may, pursuant to Water Code sections 13267 and 13383, require the holder of any permit or license subject to this Certification to investigate, monitor, and report information on the violation. The only restriction is that the burden, including costs of preparing the reports, must bear a reasonable relationship to the need for and the benefits to be obtained from the reports.
- H. In response to any violation of the conditions of this Certification, or if the results of the Project have unintended impacts to water quality, the San Diego Water Board may modify the conditions of this Certification as appropriate to ensure compliance.

Certification No. R9-2013-0035

III. CONSTRUCTION BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- A. Prior to the start of the Project, and annually thereafter, the Applicant must educate all personnel on the requirements in this Certification, pollution prevention measures, spill response measures, and BMPs implementation and maintenance.
- B. The Applicant must, at all times, maintain appropriate types and sufficient quantities of materials on-site to contain any spill or inadvertent release of materials that may cause a condition of pollution or nuisance if the materials reach waters of the United States and/or State.
- C. The Applicant must comply with the requirements of the Caltrans Statewide Permit.
- D. The treatment, storage, and disposal of wastewater discharged to land or surface waters during the life of the Project must be done in accordance with waste discharge requirements established by the San Diego Water Board pursuant to Water Code sections 13260 or 13376.
- E. Discharges of concentrated flow during Project construction or after Project completion must not cause downstream erosion or damage to properties or stream habitat.
- F. Water containing mud, silt, or other pollutants from equipment washing or other activities, must not be discharged to waters of the United States and/or State or placed in locations that may be subjected to storm flows. Pollutants discharged to areas within a temporary stream diversion area must be removed at the end of each work day or sooner if rain is predicted.
- G. All surface waters, including ponded waters, must be diverted away from areas undergoing grading, construction, excavation, vegetation removal, and/or any other activity which may result in a discharge to the receiving water. Temporary diversion activities must not result in the degradation of beneficial uses or exceedance of water quality objectives of the receiving waters. Any temporary dam or other artificial obstruction constructed must only be built from materials such as clean gravel which will cause little or no siltation. Normal flows must be restored to the affected stream immediately upon completion of temporary work at that location.
- H. All areas that have 14 or more days of inactivity must be stabilized with erosion and sediment control BMPs within 14 days of the last activity. The Applicant is responsible for implementing and maintaining BMPs to prevent erosion of the rough graded areas. After completion of grading, all areas must be revegetated with native species appropriate for the area. The revegetation palette must not contain any plants listed on the California Invasive Plant Council Invasive Plant Inventory, which can be found online at http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/inventory/weedlist.php.

- I. Except as authorized by this Certification, substances hazardous to aquatic life including, but not limited to, petroleum products, raw cement/concrete, asphalt, and coating materials, must be prevented from contaminating the soil and/or entering waters of the United States and/or State. BMPs must be implemented to prevent such discharges during each Project activity involving hazardous materials.
- J. Removal of vegetation must occur by hand, mechanically, or using United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) approved herbicides deployed using applicable BMPs to prevent impacts to beneficial uses of waters of the of the United States and/or State. Use of aquatic pesticides must be done in accordance with State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 2004-0009-DWQ, the Statewide General National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit for the Discharge of Aquatic Weed Control in Waters of the United States, and any subsequent reissuance as applicable.
- K. The Applicant shall demarcate all areas of temporary and planned disturbance to waters of the of the United States and/or State prior to implementing activities within those areas such that all personnel working in those areas can clearly identify the limits of disturbance. The Applicant shall designate an on-site qualified biologist to monitor Project construction activities within or next to waters of the United States and/or State to ensure compliance with the Certification requirements. The Resident Engineer, as directed by the biologist, shall be given the authority to stop all work onsite if a violation occurs or has the potential to occur. The Applicant must report violations to the San Diego Water Board consistent with section VII.A. of this Certification. Records and field notes of the biologist's activities shall be kept on-site and made available for review upon request by the San Diego Water Board.
- L. In accordance with the Caltrans General Permit and, as applicable, the State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 2012-0011-DWQ General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activity, the Applicant must submit a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan into the SMART System, prior to soil disturbance.

IV. POST-CONSTRUCTION BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

- A. The Applicant shall not allow post-construction discharges from the Project site shall not cause on-site or off-site downstream erosion or damage to properties or stream habitats.
- B. The Project must be designed to comply with the post-construction BMPs requirements in the Caltrans Statewide Permit and any approved alternative compliance measures.
- C. All post-construction BMPs, including those described in the State Route 76 South Mission Road to Interstate 15 Storm Water Data Report (SWDR), dated May 28, 2013,

State Route 76 South Mission Road to Interstate 15 Highway Certification No. R9-2013-0035

must be implemented, installed, and functional prior to construction completion and maintained in perpetuity.

- D. As required in provision E.d.2.d. of the Caltrans Statewide Permit, this Certification serves as an approval of the Applicant's proposal for alternative compliance included in the SWDR.
- E. Post-construction BMPs, including those described in the SWDR (and any subsequent versions submitted to the San Diego Water Board), must treat, at a minimum, 98 percent of the added impervious surface, 54 percent of the projects existing impervious surface, and must be sized to comply with the following numeric sizing criteria:
 - 1. Volume-based BMPs must be designed to mitigate (infiltrate, filter, or treat) either:
 - a. The volume of runoff produced from a 24-hour 85th percentile storm event, as determined from the local historical rainfall record; or
 - b. The volume of runoff, as determined from the local historical rainfall record, that achieves approximately the same reduction in pollutant loads and flows as achieved by mitigation of the 85th percentile 24-hour runoff event; or
 - 2. Flow-based BMPs must be designed to mitigate (infiltrate, filter, or treat) either:
 - The maximum flow rate of runoff produced from a rainfall intensity of 0.2 inch of rainfall per hour; or
 - b. The maximum flow rate of runoff produced by the 85th percentile hourly rainfall intensity, as determined from the local historical rainfall record, multiplied by a factor of two: or
 - c. The maximum flow rate of runoff, as determined from the local historical rainfall record, that achieves approximately the same reduction in pollutant loads and flows as achieved by mitigation of the 85th percentile hourly rainfall intensity multiplied by a factor of two.
- F. All post-construction BMPs, including those described in the SWDR prepared by Caltrans (and any subsequent versions submitted to the San Diego Water Board), must comply with the requirements of the Caltrans Statewide Permit and any approved alternative compliance measures. The Applicant must, at a minimum:
 - No less than two times per year, assess the performance of the BMPs to ensure protection of the receiving waters and identify any necessary corrective measures;
 - Perform all preventive and corrective maintenance;

- 3. Maintain a log documenting all BMP inspections and maintenance activities.
- G. The post-construction BMPs must be designed, constructed, and maintained in accordance with the most recent California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) ¹ guidance. Maintenance activities shall include, but are not limited to:
 - Semiannual inspection for the beginning and end of the wet season for standing water, slope stability, sediment accumulation, trash and debris, and presence of burrows; and
 - 2. Removal of accumulated trash and debris as needed to ensure proper functioning of the BMP.
- H. Post-construction BMPs must be installed and functional prior to occupancy and/or planned use of developed areas.

V. PROJECT IMPACTS AND COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

A. Unavoidable impacts to the San Luis Rey River, Live Oak Creek, and their unnamed tributaries within the San Luis Rey Watershed must be limited to the impacts listed in the table below. At a minimum, compensatory mitigation for these impacts to waters of the of the United States and/or State must be achieved as follows:

,	Impacts (acres)	Impacts (linear ft.)	Mitigation for Impacts (acres)	Mitigation for Impacts (linear ft.)	Mitigation Ratio (area mitigated :area impacted)
Permanent Impacts					
Streambed	0.12	1188	2.14 Rehabilitation	2158	17.8:1
Wetland	5.34	5520	66.0 Establishment, 18.1 Rehabilitation	7,297 Establishment, 5,795 Rehabilitation	15.7:1
Temporary Impacts ¹			,		
Unvegetated Streambed	0.11	841	0.11 Restoration	841 Restoration	1:1
Wetland	4.89	5655	4.89 Restoration	5655 Restoration	1:1

 Must restore all areas of temporary impacts to pre-project contours and revegetation with native species.

¹ California Storm Water Quality Association (*Califomia Storm Water BMP Handbook, New Development and Redevelopment 2003*), available on-line at: http://www.cabmphandbooks.org/ [Accessed on January 15, 2012]

- B. Compensatory mitigation and the long-term management of the mitigation areas are described in the: (1) Conceptual Mitigation Plan for the Tabata Property, May 2012; and (2) State Route 76 South Mission to Interstate 15 Highway Improvement Project, Vessels Mitigation Site Conceptual Wetland Mitigation Plan, May 2011 (both prepared by California Department of Transportation District 11). Any deviation from the mitigation plans must be approved by the San Diego Water Board. Mitigation, monitoring, maintenance, and the long-term management of the mitigation areas must be implemented as described in these plans. Mitigation shall be considered acceptable once it has met the predetermined success criteria for the mitigation sites identified in the mitigation plans, and must be maintained, in perpetuity, in a manner that consistently meets the success criteria. All mitigation areas shall be protected in perpetuity from land-use and maintenance activities that may threaten water quality or beneficial uses within the mitigation area.
- C. The Applicant must restore all areas of temporary impacts and all other areas of temporary disturbance which could result in a discharge or a threatened discharge to waters of the United States and/or State. Restoration must include grading of disturbed areas to pre-project contours and revegetation with native species. The Applicant must implement all necessary BMPs to control erosion and runoff from restored areas associated with the Project.
- D. The mitigation sites must be designed, constructed, and maintained, in perpetuity, in conformance with the following conditions:
 - Most of the channels through the mitigation sites shall be characterized by equilibrium conditions, with no evidence of severe aggradation or degradation;
 - As viewed along cross-sections, the channel and buffer shall have a variety of slopes, or elevations, that are characterized by different moisture gradients. Each sub-slope shall contain physical patch types or features that contribute to irregularity in height, edges, or surface and to complex topography overall; and
 - 3. The mitigation sites shall have a well-developed plant community characterized by a high degree of horizontal and vertical interspersion among plant zones and layers.
- E. Mitigation sites must be maintained, in perpetuity, free of perennial exotic plant species including, but not limited to, pampas grass, giant reed, tamarisk, sweet fennel, tree tobacco, castor bean, and pepper tree. Annual exotic plant species must not occupy more than 5 percent of the mitigation sites.
- F. Any maintenance activities that do not contribute to the success of the mitigation site and enhancement of beneficial uses and ecological functions and services are prohibited. Maintenance activities must be limited to the removal of trash and debris,

removal of exotic plant species, replacement of dead native plant species, and remedial measures deemed necessary for the success of the restoration program.

- G. If at any time during the implementation and establishment of the mitigation area(s), and prior to verification of meeting success criteria, a catastrophic natural event (e.g., fire, flood) occurs and impacts the mitigation area, the Applicant shall repair and replant of the damaged area(s).
- H. San Diego Water Board acceptance of the final mitigation plan applies only to the Project described in this Certification and must not be construed as approval for other current or future projects that are planning to use additional acreage at the site for mitigation.
- I. For purposes of this Certification, establishment is defined as the creation of vegetated or unvegetated waters of the United States/State where the resource has never previously existed (e.g. conversion of nonnative grassland to a freshwater marsh). Restoration is divided into two activities, re-establishment and rehabilitation. Reestablishment is defined as the return of natural/historic functions to a site where vegetated or unvegetated waters of the United States/State previously existed (e.g., removal of fill material to restore a drainage). Rehabilitation is defined as the improvement of the general suite of functions of degraded vegetated or unvegetated waters of the United States/State (e.g., removal of a heavy infestation or monoculture of exotic plant species from jurisdictional areas and replacing with native species). Enhancement is defined as the improvement to one or two functions of existing vegetated or unvegetated waters of the United States/State (e.g., removal of small patches of exotic plant species from an area containing predominantly natural plant species). Preservation is defined as the acquisition and legal protection from future impacts in perpetuity of existing vegetated or unvegetated waters of the United States/State (e.g., conservation easement).

VI. MONITORING REQUIREMENTS

A. Benthic Macroinvertebrate Community Analysis

Bioassessment monitoring must be performed using the Standard Operating Procedures for Collecting Benthic Macroinvertebrate Samples and Associated Physical and Chemical Data for Ambient Bioassessments in California [1] (or any updated versions of this protocol) to assess effects of the Project impacts on the water quality of receiving waters and the success of the mitigation areas. The Applicant must conduct the full suite of physical habitat measures at all bioassessment stations during all sampling events. The benthic macroinvertebrate community must be identified using

^[1] Copies of the bioassessment procedure can be obtained at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/docs/phab_sopr6.pdf. Additional Information on Stream bioassessment may be obtained at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb9/water_issues/programs/bioassessment/index.shtml

the Southwest Association of Freshwater Invertebrate Taxonomists' Standard Taxonomic Effort Level II method and all identifications must follow the *Standard Operating Procedures for Laboratory Processing and Identification of Benthic Macroinvertebrates in California* (Woodard et al. 2012).

At a minimum, bioassessment monitoring must be performed at the Project site and the mitigation areas in the following rivers and streams: San Luis Rey River, Live Oak Creek, Ostrich Farms Creek, and Bonsall Creek. The monitoring must occur prior to construction of the improved highway, prior to the establishment of the Tabata mitigation site, and during year three and year six following construction completion at the following assessment stations:

Bioassessment Stations to determine Project Impacts:

- Project Assessment Station 1 (P1): P1 is a control station, which must be located no further than 1600 meters upstream of the Project in the San Luis Rey River.
- 2. Project Assessment Station 2 (P2): P2 must be located approximately in the middle of the Project area in the San Luis Rey River.
- 3. Project Assessment Station 3 (P3): P3 must be located in the San Luis Rey River immediately downstream of the Project site which is also upstream and adjacent to the Tabata mitigation site.
- Project Assessment Station 4 (P4): P4 is a control station and must be located no further than 100 meters upstream of the Live Oak Creek bridge in Live Oak Creek.
- 5. Project Assessment Station 5 (P5): P5 must be located downstream of the Live Oak Creek bridge and just upstream of the confluence with the San Luis Rey River in Live Oak Creek.

Bioassessment Stations to determine success of mitigation areas:

- Mitigation Assessment Station 1 (M1): M1 must be located in San Luis Rey River upstream and adjacent to the Tabata mitigation site. This site can be the same site as P3.
- 2. Mitigation Assessment Station 2 (M2): M2 must be located in the San Luis Rey River within the Tabata mitigation site.
- 3. Mitigation Assessment Station 3 (M3): M3 must be located in Ostrich Farms Creek within the Tabata mitigation area.

- Mitigation Assessment Station 4 (M4): M4 is a control station and must be located in Ostrich Farms Creek within 100 meters upstream of the Tabata mitigation area boundary.
- 5. Mitigation Assessment Station 5 (M5): M5 must be located in Bonsall Creek within the Tabata mitigation area.
- 6. Mitigation Assessment Station 6 (M6): M6 is a control station and must be located in Bonsall Creek within 100 meters upstream of the Tabata mitigation area boundary.

As Project areas recover from construction and mitigation areas are established, the Southern California Index of Biologic Integrity (IBI) (Ode et al. 2005) scores should increase as a function of time. At year six the IBI scores must not be lower than preconstruction IBI scores for stations P2, P3, P4, and P5. Mitigation Assessment Stations M2, M3, and M5 must have higher IBI scores than before the mitigation areas were established. If the year six scores are lower in the mitigation areas, the Applicant must determine the cause of the low scores and apply appropriate corrective actions in consultation with the San Diego Water Board.

If additional assessment tools to evaluate the ecosystem health become available in the future, the San Diego Water Board may contact the Applicant and require the use of the new assessment tools in addition to the IBI.

Results of the Benthic Macroinvertebrate Community Analysis must be submitted with the respective Annual Reports described in section VIII of this Certification.

B. California Rapid Assessment Method

The Applicant must conduct a quantitative function-based assessment of the health of wetland and riparian habitats to establish baseline conditions, set success criteria, and assess mitigation site progress at the mitigation sites and Project areas. The California Rapid Assessment Method (CRAM)² must be used at the ten assessment stations described in section VI.A. of this Certification and at the Vessels mitigation site prior to the start of construction, at years three and six years following construction completion, and continuing until success criteria have been met. The results of the CRAM assessment must be submitted with the respective Annual Mitigation Monitoring Reports described in Section VIII of this Certification.

Where procedures are not otherwise specified for the monitoring, sampling, and analysis, the quality assurance/quality control procedures must be conducted in accordance with the State of California's Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program

² Information on CRAM is available at the California Rapid Assessment Method homepage at http://www.cramwetlands.org/

Road to Interstate 15 Highway Certification No. R9-2013-0035

(SWAMP) Quality Assurance Program Plan (QAPP)³, adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board.

C. Progress Monitoring

The Applicant must monitor compliance with this Certification, including BMP implementation, and report the monitoring results to the San Diego Water Board in accordance with the reporting requirements in section VIII of this Certification.

The San Diego Water Board may make revisions to the monitoring program at any time during the six-year monitoring term, and may include a reduction or increase in the number of parameters to be monitored, locations monitored, the frequency of monitoring, or the number and size of samples collected.

VII. NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- A. The Applicant shall report any noncompliance which may endanger health or the environment. Any such information shall be provided orally to the San Diego Water Board within **24 hours** from the time the Applicant becomes aware of the circumstances. A written submission shall also be provided within five days of the time the Applicant becomes aware of the circumstances. The written submission shall contain a description of the noncompliance and its cause; the period of noncompliance, including exact dates and times, and if the noncompliance has not been corrected; the anticipated time it is expected to continue; and steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent recurrence of the noncompliance. The San Diego Water Board, or an authorized representative, may waive the written report on a case-by-case basis if the oral report has been received within 24 hours.
- B. This Certification is not transferable in its entirety or in part to any person or organization except after notice to the San Diego Water Board in accordance with the following terms:
 - 1. Transfer of Property Ownership. The Applicant must notify the San Diego Water Board of any change in ownership of the Project area. Notification of change in ownership must include, but not be limited to, a statement that the Applicant has provided the purchaser with a copy of the Section 401 Water Quality Certification and that the purchaser understands and accepts the certification requirements and the obligation to implement them or be subject to liability for failure to do so; the seller and purchaser must sign and date the notification and provide such notification to the San Diego Water Board within 10 days of the transfer of ownership.

³ The Quality Assurance Program Plan is available on the State Water Board's SWAMP website at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/docs/qapp/qaprp082209.pdf

- 2. Transfer of Mitigation Responsibility. Any notification of transfer of responsibilities to satisfy the mitigation requirements set forth in this Certification must include a signed statement from an authorized representative of the new party (transferee) demonstrating acceptance and understanding of the responsibility to comply with and fully satisfy the mitigation conditions and agreement that failure to comply with the mitigation conditions and associated requirements may subject the transferee to enforcement by the San Diego Water Board under Water Code section 13385, subdivision (a). Notification of transfer of responsibilities meeting the above conditions must be provided to the San Diego Water Board within 10 days of the transfer date.
- 3. Transfer of Post-Construction BMP Maintenance Responsibility. The Applicant assumes responsibility for the inspection and maintenance of all post-construction structural BMPs until such responsibility is legally transferred to another entity. At the time maintenance responsibility for post-construction BMPs is legally transferred the Applicant must submit to the San Diego Water Board a copy of such documentation and must provide the transferee with a copy of a long-term BMP maintenance plan that complies with manufacturer specifications. The Applicant must provide such notification to the San Diego Water Board within 10 days of the transfer of BMP maintenance responsibility.

Upon properly noticed transfers of responsibility, the transferee assumes responsibility for compliance with this Certification and references in this Certification to the Applicant will be interpreted to refer to the transferee as appropriate. Transfer of responsibility does not necessarily relieve the Applicant of this Certification in the event that a transferee fails to comply.

- C. The Applicant must record the conservation easement by December 31, 2013. Within 90 days following recordation of the conservation easement, the Applicant must submit proof of the completed conservation easement protecting all mitigation areas and their buffers in perpetuity. The conservation easement, deed restriction, or other legal limitation on the mitigation property must be adequate to demonstrate that the site will be maintained without future development or encroachment on the site which could otherwise reduce the functions and values of the site for the variety of beneficial uses of waters of the State that it supports. The legal limitation must prohibit all residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, and transportation development, and any other infrastructure development that would not maintain or enhance the wetland and streambed functions and values of the site. The preservation mechanism must clearly prohibit activities that would result in soil disturbance or vegetation removal, other than the removal of non-native vegetation. Other infrastructure development to be prohibited includes, but is not limited to, additional utility lines, maintenance roads, and areas of maintained landscaping for recreation.
- D. The Applicant must notify the San Diego Water Board in writing at least 5 days prior to the actual commencement of dredge, fill, and discharge activities.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- A. Annual Project Reports. The Applicant must submit annual progress reports describing the status of BMP implementation and compliance with all requirements of this Certification to the San Diego Water Board prior to March 1 of each year following the issuance of this Certification until the Project has reached completion. The report must contain a description of each incident of noncompliance and its cause, the period of the noncompliance including exact dates and times, and if the noncompliance has not been corrected, state the anticipated time it is expected to continue; and identify the steps taken or planned to reduce, eliminate, and prevent reoccurrence of the noncompliance.
- B. **Final Project Completion Report.** The Applicant must submit a Final Project Completion Report to the San Diego Water Board within 30 days of completion of the **Project.** The final report must include the following information:
 - Date of construction initiation.
 - 2. Date of construction completion.
 - 3. Status of BMPs for the Project.
 - 4. As-built drawings no bigger than 11"X17."
 - Photo documentation of implemented post-construction BMPs. Photo
 documentation must be conducted in accordance with guidelines posted at
 http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water-issues/programs/401-certification/docs/StreamPhotoDocSOP.pdf. In addition, photo documentation must include
 Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates for each of the photo points
 referenced.
- C. **Mitigation Monitoring Reports.** Mitigation monitoring reports must be submitted annually until mitigation has been deemed successful by the San Diego Water Board. Annual mitigation monitoring reports must be submitted prior to **March 1** of each year. Monitoring reports must include, but not be limited to, the following information:
 - 1. Names, qualifications, and affiliations of the persons contributing to the report;
 - A description of the progress toward establishing a program to provide for maintenance in perpetuity of all mitigation areas, including a timetable for future steps;
 - 3. An evaluation, interpretation and tabulation of the raw quantitative and qualitative data collected in the field including the following information:

- i. Detritus cover;
- ii. General topographic complexity characteristics at each mitigation site;
- iii. General upstream and downstream habitat and hydrologic connectivity; and
- iv. Source of hydrology to the mitigation areas.
- Qualitative and quantitative comparisons of current mitigation conditions with preconstruction conditions and previous mitigation monitoring results;
- An evaluation of upstream and downstream habitat and hydrologic connectivity;
- 6. Stream photo documentation, including all areas of permanent and temporary impact, prior to and after Project construction, and mitigation sites, including all areas of permanent and temporary impact, prior to and after Project construction. Photo documentation must be conducted in accordance with guidelines posted at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego/water_issues/programs/401_certification/docs/StreamPhotoDocSOP.pdf. In addition, photo documentation must include Geographic Positioning System (GPS) coordinates for each of the photo points referenced.
- D. The submittal of information under this Certification is required pursuant to Water Code sections 13267 and 13383. Civil liability may be administratively imposed by the San Diego Water Board for failure to submit information pursuant to Water Code sections 13268 or 13383.
- E. All reports and information submitted to the San Diego Water Board must be submitted in both hardcopy and electronic format. The preferred electronic format for each report submission is one file in PDF format that is also Optical Character Recognition (OCR) capable.
- F. All applications, reports, or information submitted to the San Diego Water Board must be signed and certified as follows:
 - For a corporation, by a responsible corporate officer of at least the level of vice president.
 - For a partnership or sole proprietorship, by a general partner or proprietor, respectively.
 - 3. For a municipality, or a state, federal, or other public agency, by either a principal executive officer or ranking elected official.

- 4. A duly authorized representative may sign applications, reports, or information if:
 - a. The authorization is made in writing by a person described above.
 - b. The authorization specifies either an individual or position having responsibility for the overall operation of the regulated activity.
 - c. The written authorization is submitted to the San Diego Water Board Executive Officer.

If such authorization is no longer accurate because a different individual or position has responsibility for the overall operation of the Project, a new authorization satisfying the above requirements must be submitted to the San Diego Water Board prior to or together with any reports, information, or applications, to be signed by an authorized representative.

G. All applications, reports, or information submitted to the San Diego Water Board must be signed and certified as follows:

"I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and that, based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe that the information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment."

H. The Applicant must submit reports required under this Certification, or other information required by the San Diego Water Board, to:

Executive Officer
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
San Diego Region
Attn: 401 Certification Project No. R9-2013-0035; Place 791510
9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100
San Diego, California 92123

IX. CEQA FINDINGS

- A. The California Department of Transportation is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000, et seq., (CEQA)),and prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) titled State Route 76 South Mission Road to Interstate 15 Highway Improvement Project, San Diego County, California, January 2012 (SCH# 2008091119). The Department of Transportation has determined the Project will have a significant effect on the environment and mitigation measures were made a condition of the Project.
- B. The San Diego Water Board has reviewed the lead agency's EIR and also finds that the Project as proposed will have a significant effect on the environment and has conditioned mitigation measures accordingly and therefore determines that issuance of this Certification is consistent with the EIR.

X. PUBLIC NOTIFICATION OF PROJECT APPLICATION

On February 11, 2013, receipt of the Project application was posted on the San Diego Water Board web site to serve as appropriate notification to the public. No public comments were received.

XI. SAN DIEGO WATER BOARD CONTACT PERSON

Mike Porter, Engineering Geologist California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Diego Region 9174 Sky Park Court, Suite 100 San Diego, CA 92101 Telephone: 858-467-2726

Email: mporter@waterboards.ca.gov

XII. WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the proposed discharge from the **State Route 76 South Mission Road to Interstate 15 Highway** (Certification No. R9-2013-0035) will comply with the applicable provisions of sections 301 ("Effluent Limitations"), 302 ("Water Quality Related Effluent Limitations"), 303 ("Water Quality Standards and Implementation Plans"), 306 ("National Standards of Performance"), and 307 ("Toxic and Pretreatment Effluent Standards") of the Clean Water Act. This discharge is also regulated under State Water Board Order No. 2003-0017-DWQ, "Statewide General Waste Discharge Requirements for Dredged or Fill Discharges that have Received State Water Quality Certification (General WDRs)," which requires compliance with all conditions of this Water Quality Certification. Please note that enrollment under Order No. 2003-017-DWQ is conditional and, should new information come to our attention that indicates a water quality problem, the San Diego Water Board may issue individual waste discharge requirements at that time.

Except insofar as may be modified by any preceding conditions, all Certification actions are contingent on (a) the discharge being limited to, and all proposed mitigation being completed in strict compliance with, the applicants' Project description and/or the description in this Certification and in the attached Project Information Sheet, and (b) on compliance with all applicable requirements of the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Diego Basin Region (9) (Basin Plan).

I, David W. Gibson, Executive Officer, do hereby certify the forgoing is a full, true, and correct copy of Certification No. R9-2013-0035 issued on July 19, 2013.

DAVID W. GIBSON

Executive Officer

San Diego Water Board

7-19-2013

Date

Caltrans District 11

State Route 76 South Mission Road to Interstate 15 Highway Certification No. R9-2013-0035 July 19, 2013

ATTACHMENT 1 CONTACTS AND PROJECT INFORMATION

Applicant:

Ms. Ann Fox

Caltrans District 11 4050 Taylor Street

MS 331

San Diego, CA 92110 Telephone: 619-688-6803 Email: ann.fox@dot.ca.gov

Applicant

Representatives:

Ms. Kim Smith

4050 Taylor Street

MS 242

San Diego, CA 92110
Telephone: 619-688-0220
Facsimile: 619-688-6998
Email: kim.t.smith@dot.ca.gov

Project Location:

The proposed Project site is located in the unincorporated community of Bonsall, north-central San Diego County, on State Route 76, west of and adjacent to Interstate 15. The center of the Project is located approximately at latitude 33° 17' 37.943" north and longitude -117° 13' 23.517"east.

Receiving Waters:

San Luis Rey River, Live Oak Creek, and unnamed tributaries. San Luis Rey hydrologic unit, Lower San Luis hydrologic area, Bonsall hydrologic sub area (903.12).

ATTACHMENT 2 DISTRIBUTION LIST

Ms. Meris Bantilan-Smith
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District Regulatory Division
Carlsbad Field Office
Meris.Bantilan-Smith@usace.army.mil

Ms. Ann Fox Caltrans District 11 ann.fox@dot.ca.gov

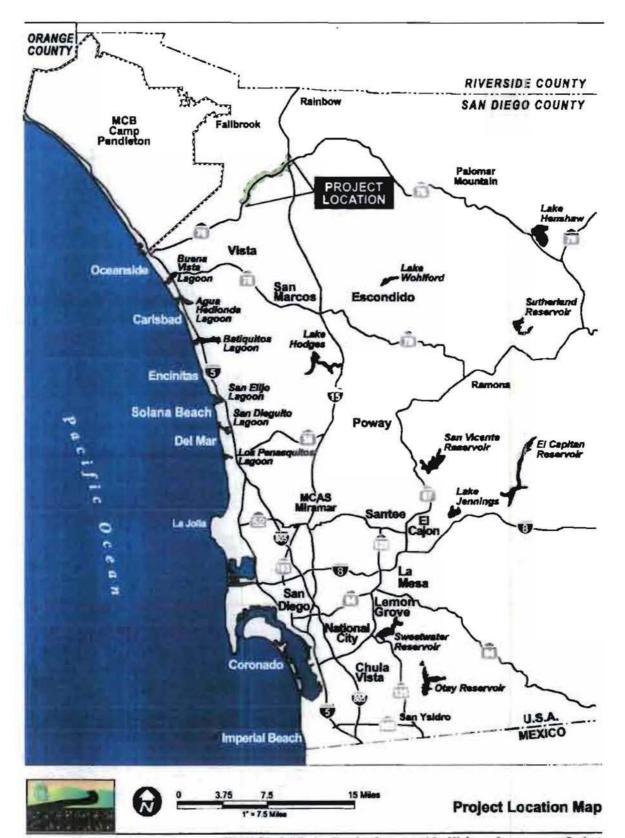
Ms. Kim Smith
Caltrans District 11
kim.t.smith@dot.ca.gov

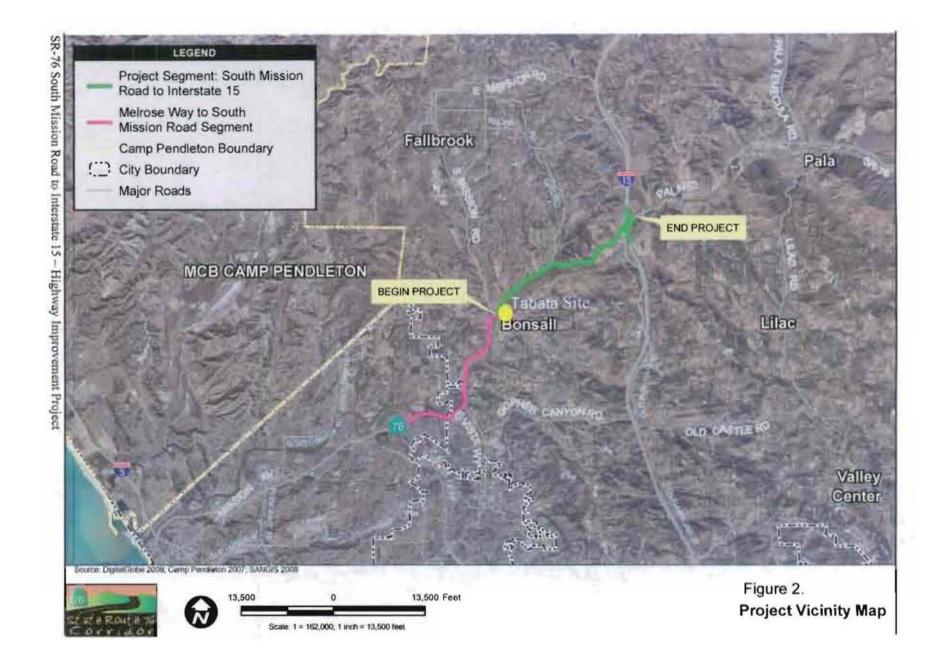
Ms. Michelle Madigan Associate Environmental Planner Caltrans District 11 michelle.madigan@dot.ca.gov

U.S. EPA, OWOW, Region 9 75 Hawthorne St. San Francisco, CA 94105 R9-WTR8-Mailbox@epa.gov

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
401 Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Unit
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100
Stateboard401@waterboards.ca.gov

ATTACHMENT 3 LOCATION MAPS

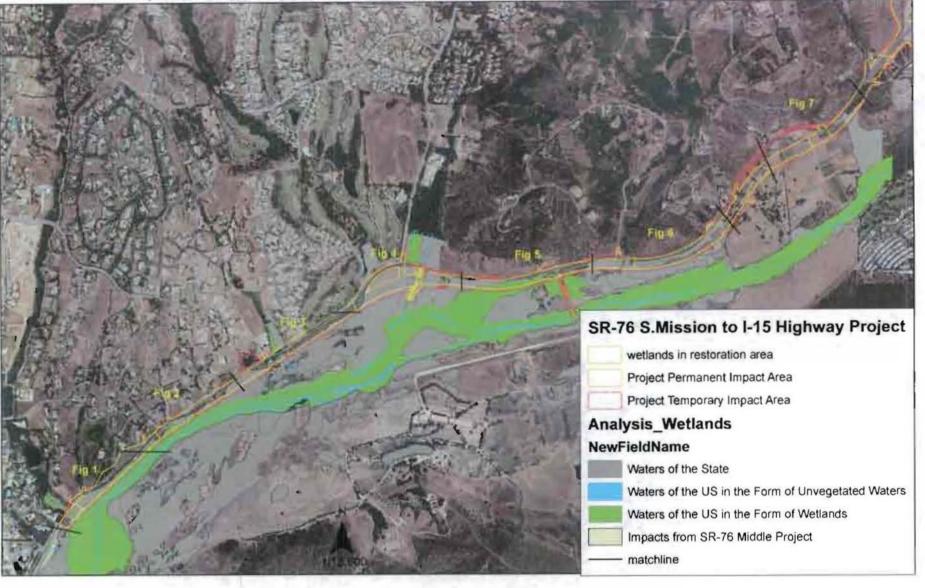




July 19, 2013

ATTACHMENT 4 PROJECT SITE PLANS

Jurisidictional Impacts - Key to Figures

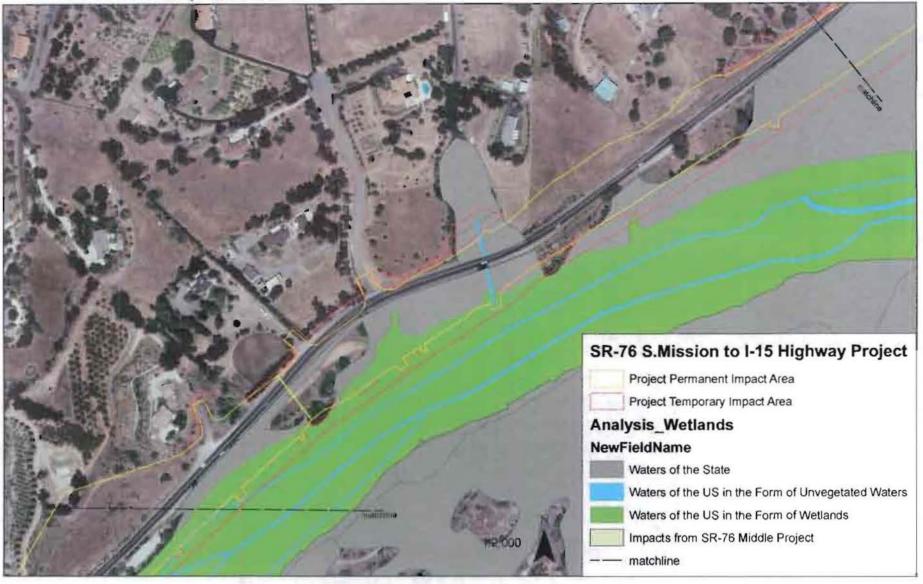


Jurisidictional Impacts Figure 1 SR-76 S.Mission to I-15 Highway Project Project Permanent Impact Area Project Temporary Impact Area Analysis_Wetlands NewFieldName Waters of the State Waters of the US in the Form of Unvegetated Waters Waters of the US in the Form of Wetlands

Impacts from SR-76 Middle Project

matchline

Jurisidictional Impacts Figure 2



Jurisidictional Impacts Figure 3

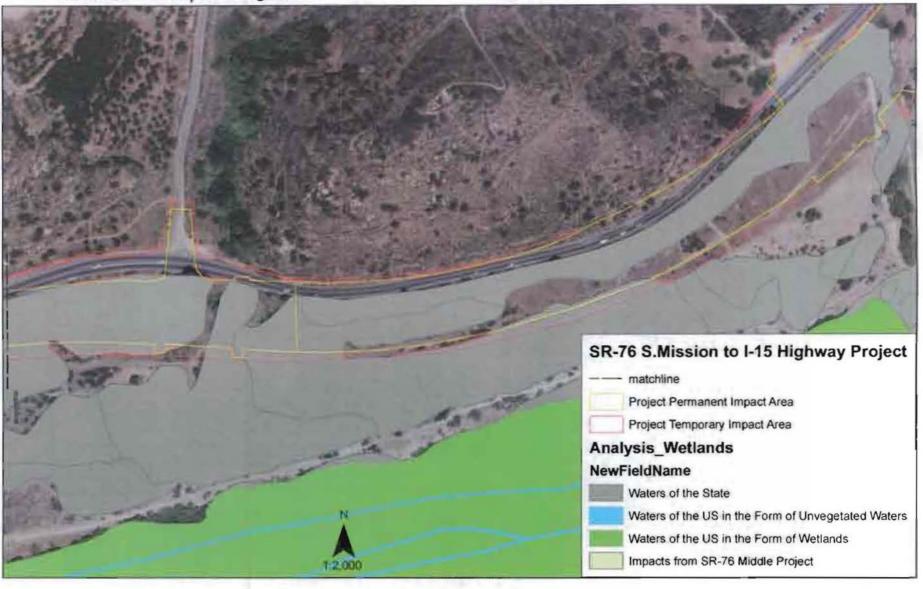


Jurisdictional Impacts Figure 4 SR-76 S.Mission to I-15 Highway Project Project Permanent Impact Area ProjectTemporary Impact Area Impacts from SR-76 Middle Project Analysis_Wetlands Waters_Typ Waters of the State Waters of the US in the Form of Unvegetated Waters Waters of the US in the Form of Wetlands 1:2,000 matchline

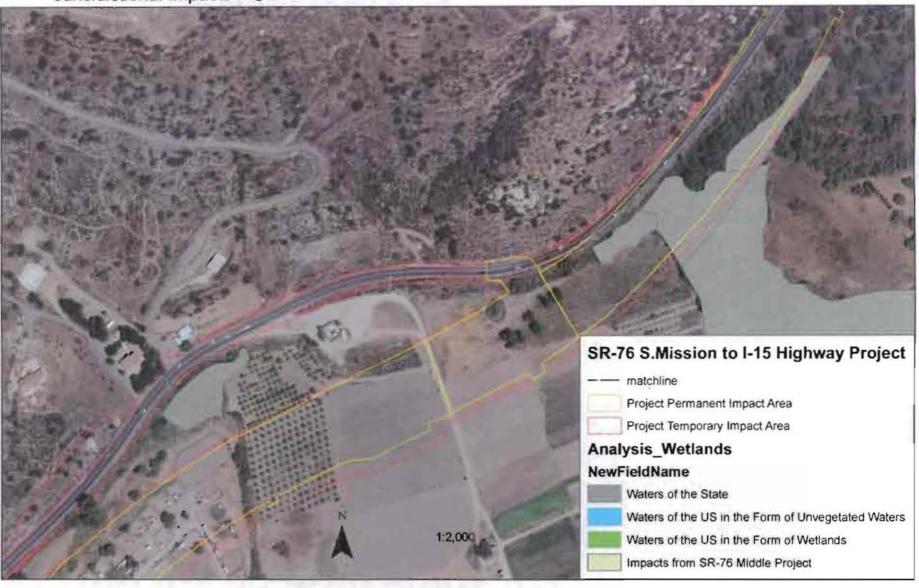
Jurisidictional Impacts Figure 5



Jurisidictional Impacts Figure 6



Jurisidictional Impacts Figure 7





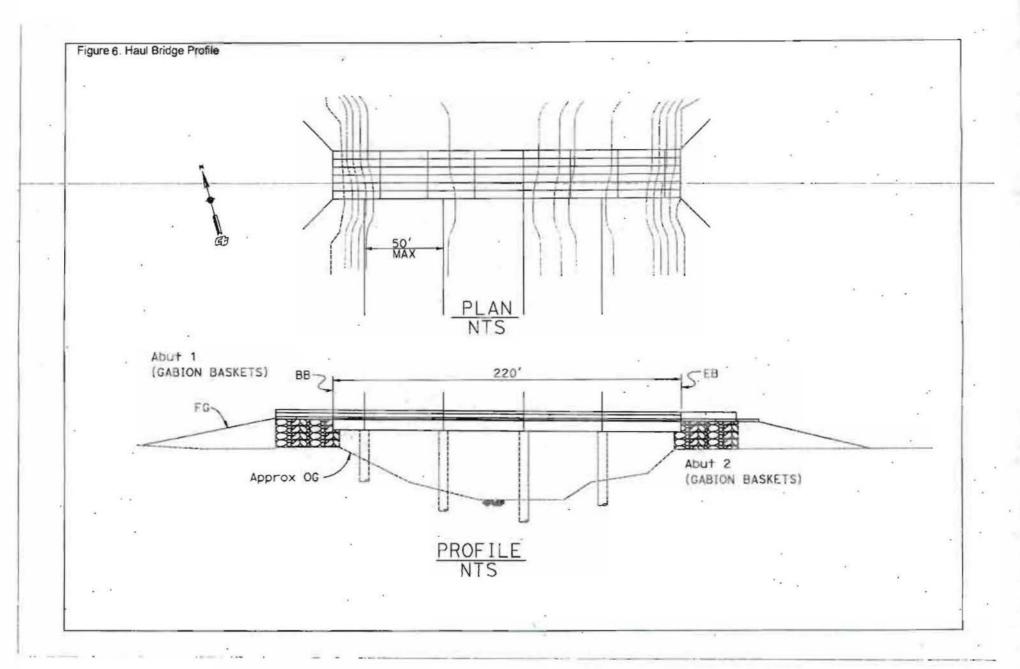
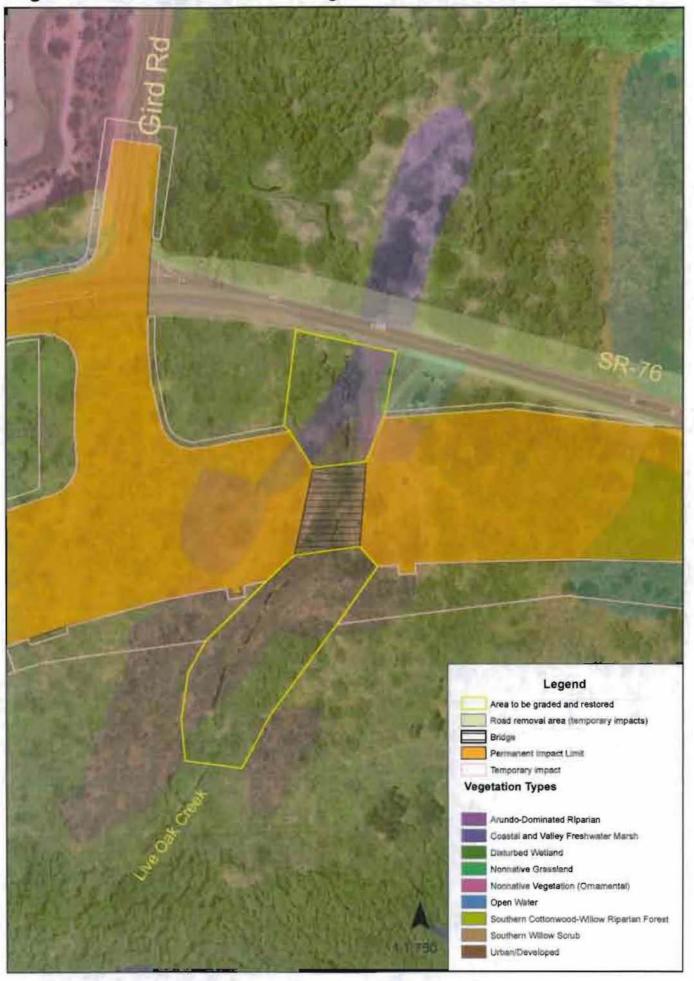
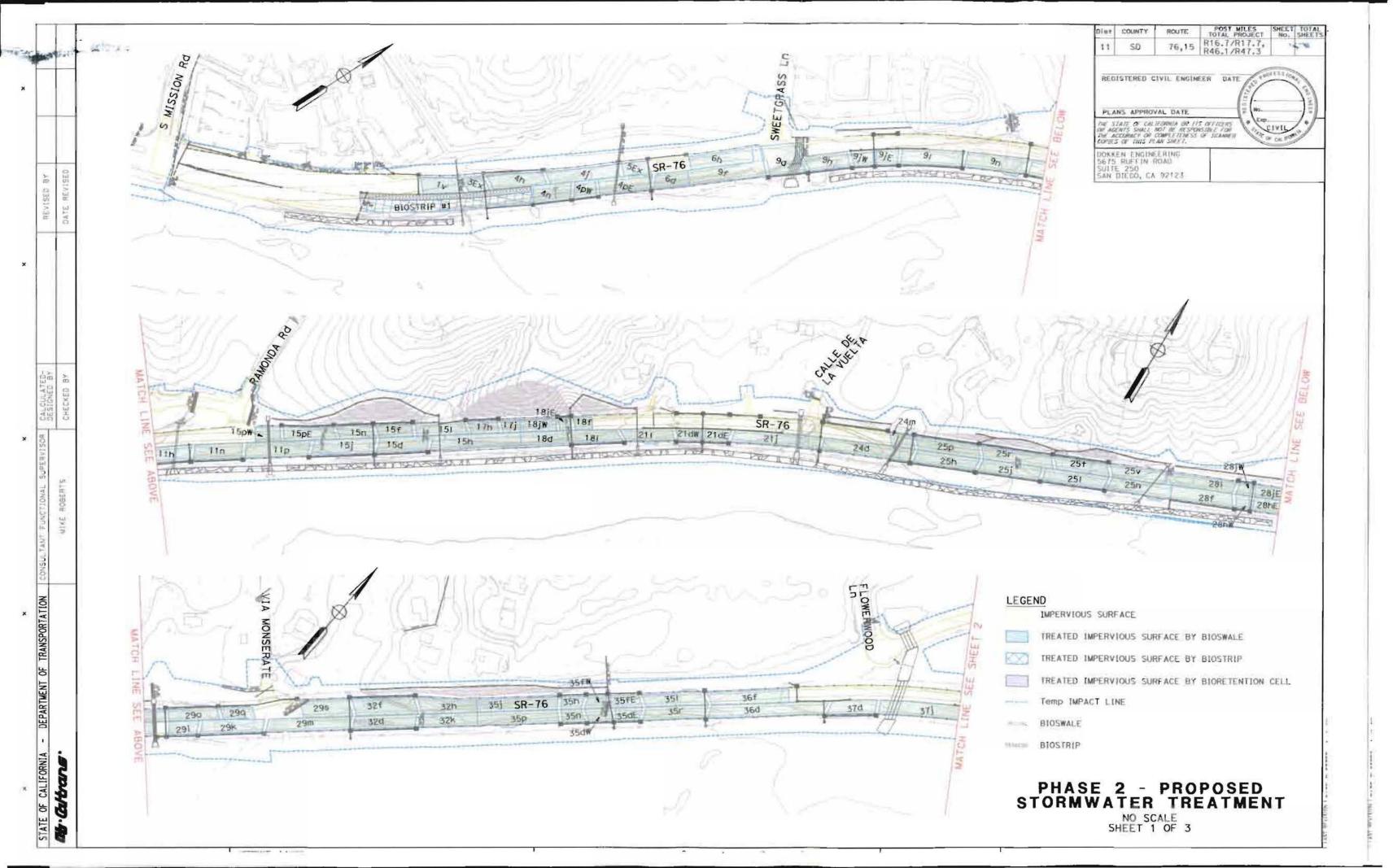
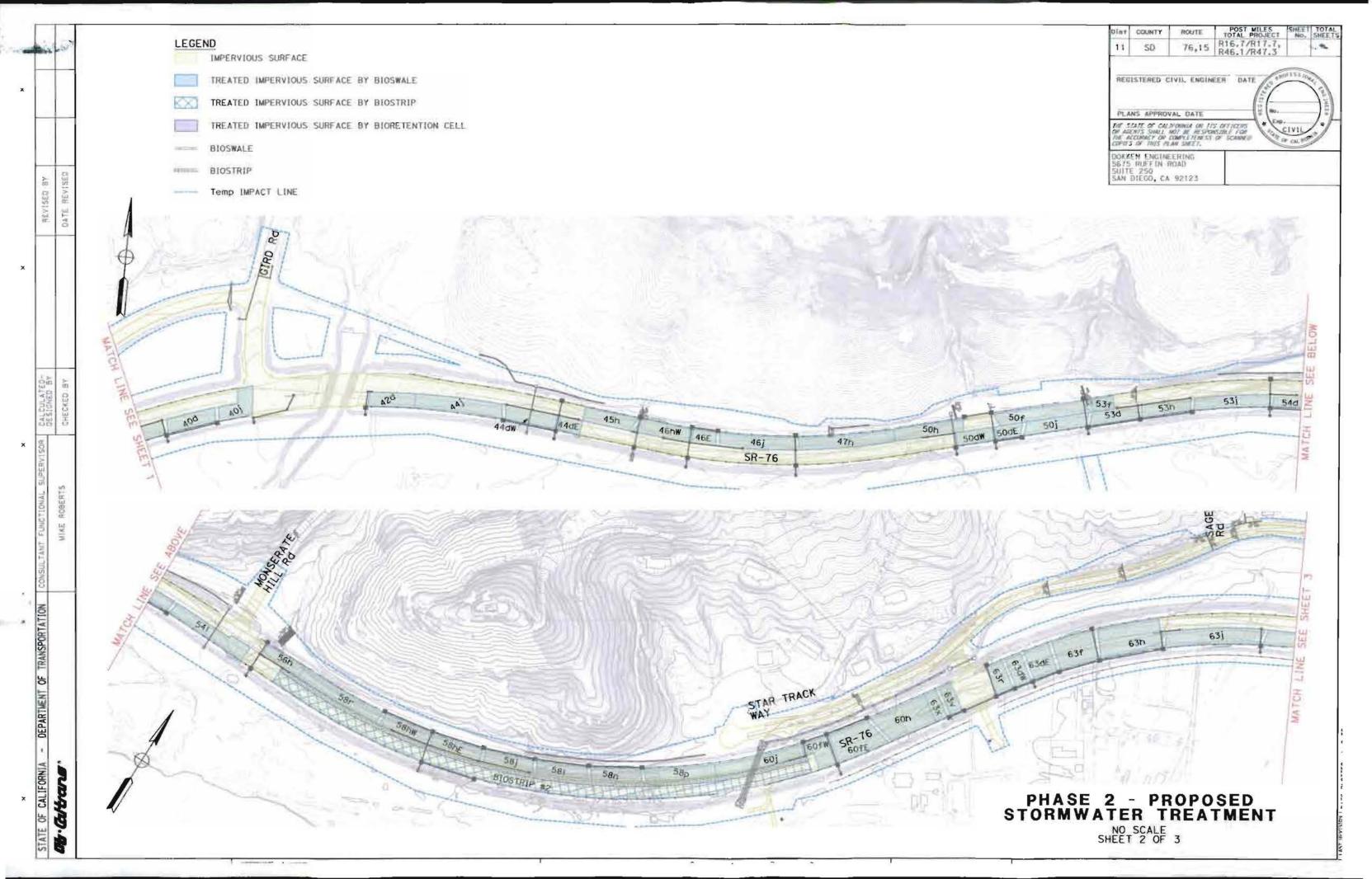
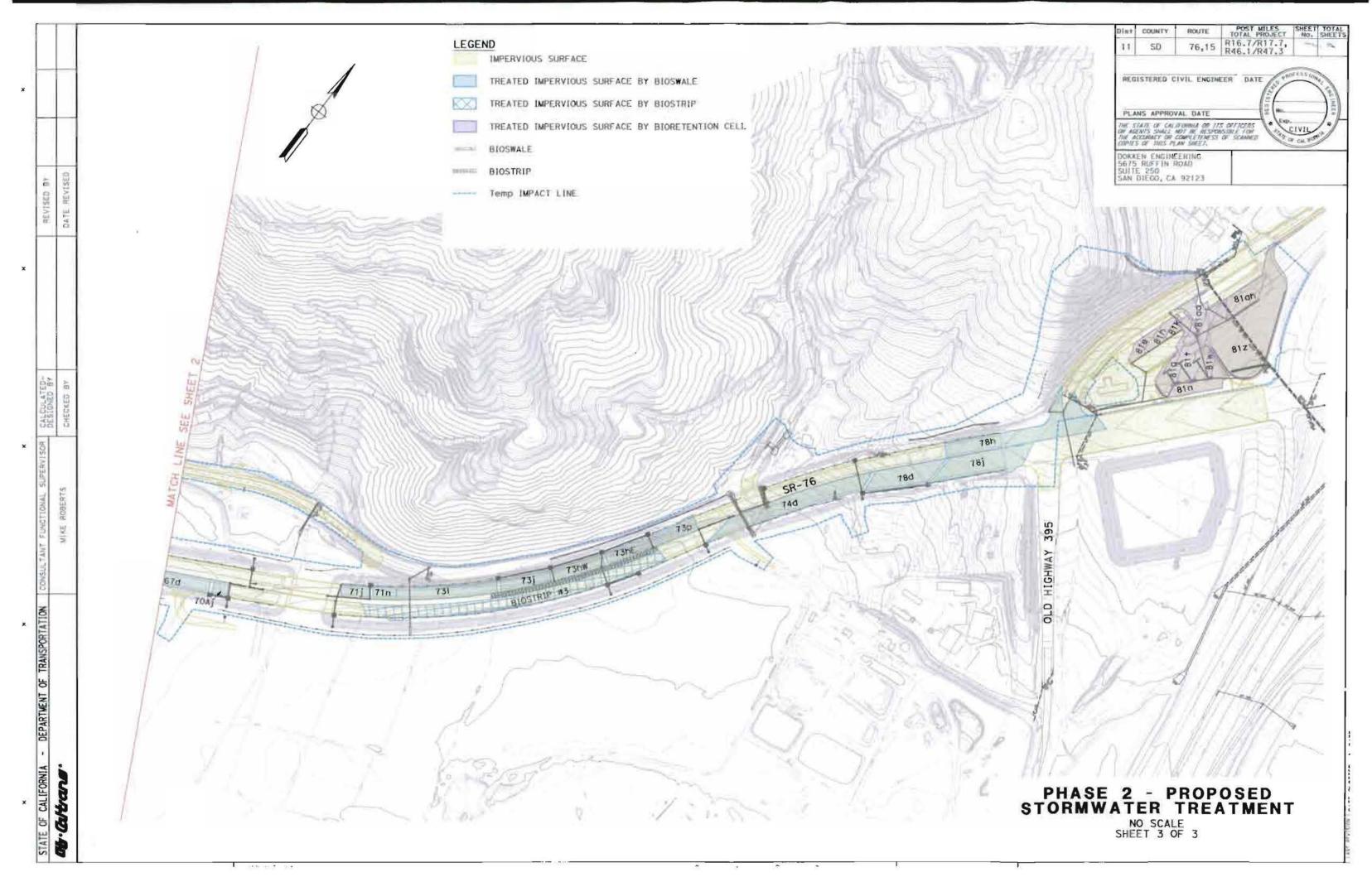


Figure 3. Live Oak Creek Bridge









Caltrans District 11 State Route 76 South Mission Road to Interstate 15 Highway Certification No. R9-2013-0035

> ATTACHMENT 5 MITIGATION FIGURES

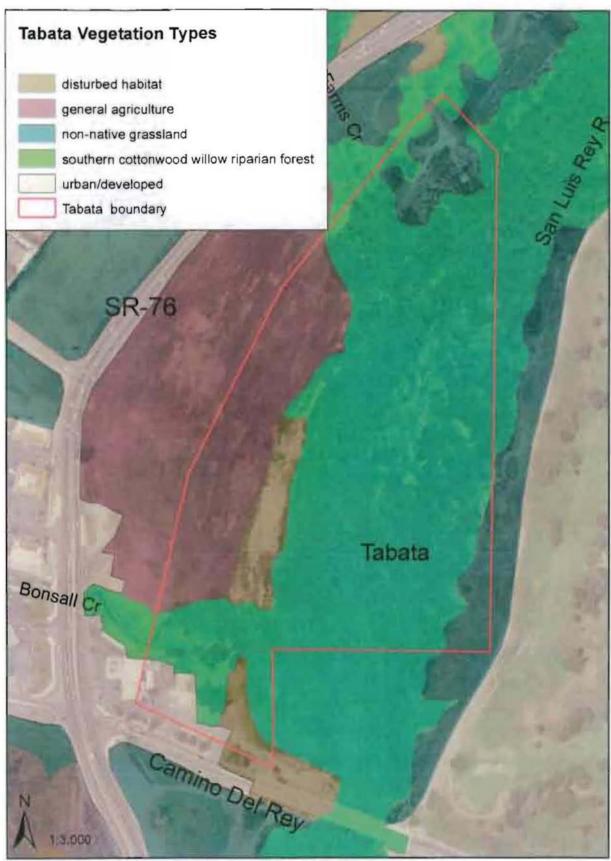
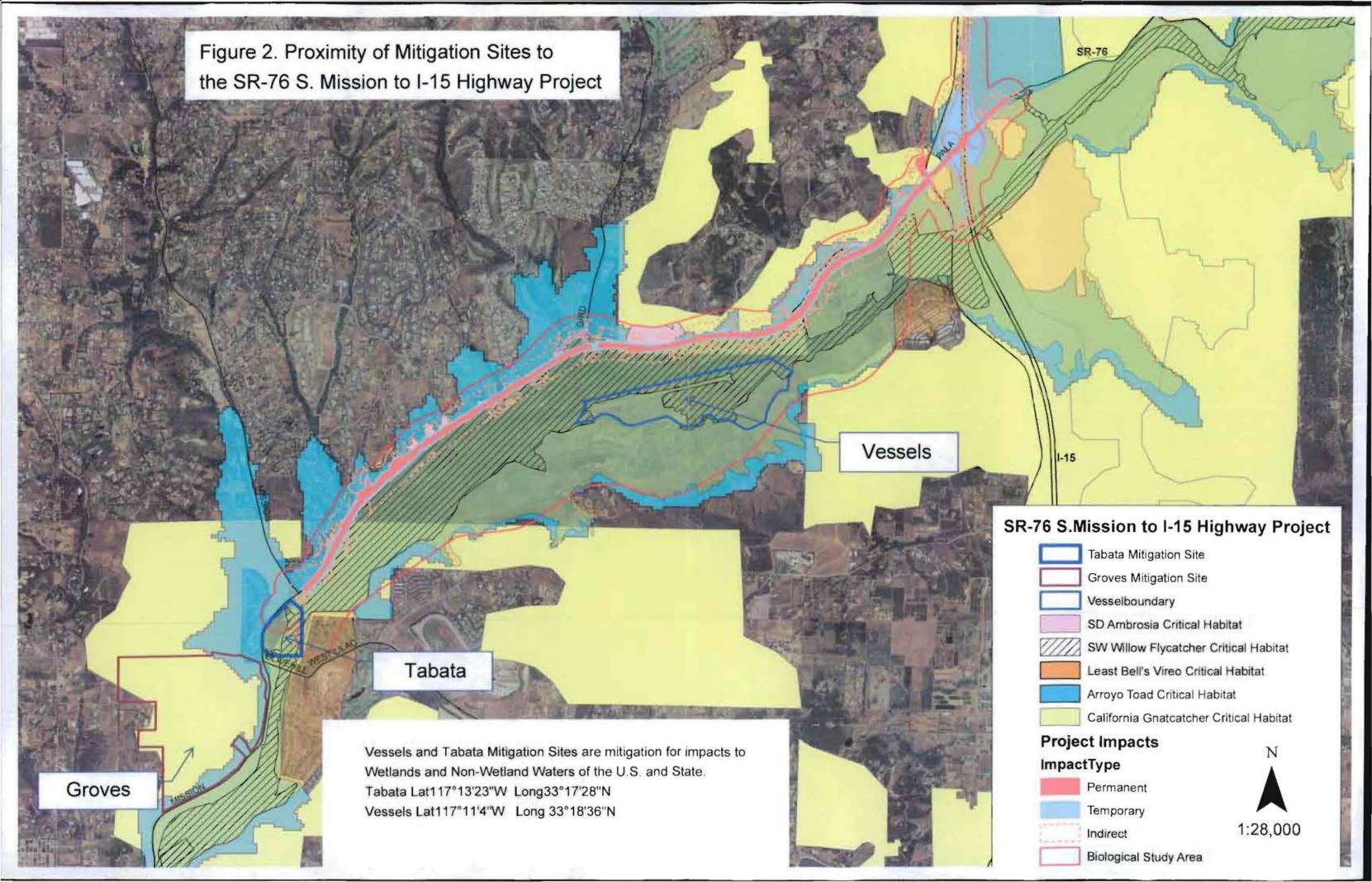
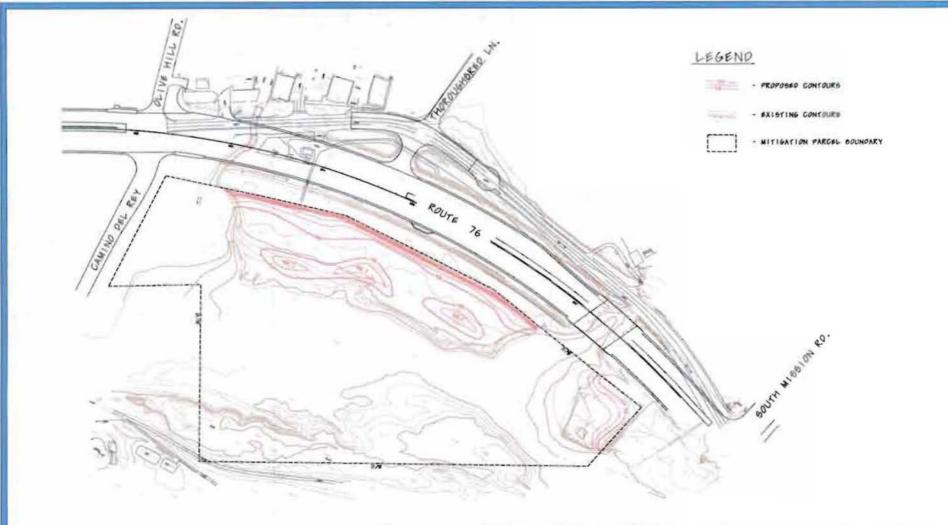


Figure 4. Existing Vegetation



Figure 5. Wetlands, Waters and Hydrology







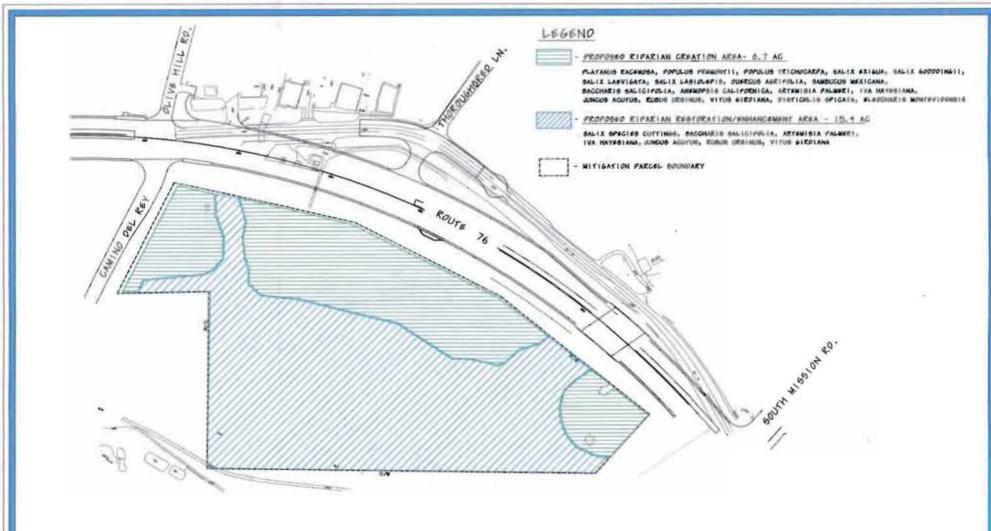


TABATA/ZORA MITIGATION SITE

PROPOSED GRADING PLAN

EA 279261

FIGURE 7







TABATA/ZORA MITIGATION SITE

PROPOSED PLANTING PLAN

EA 279261

FIGURE 8

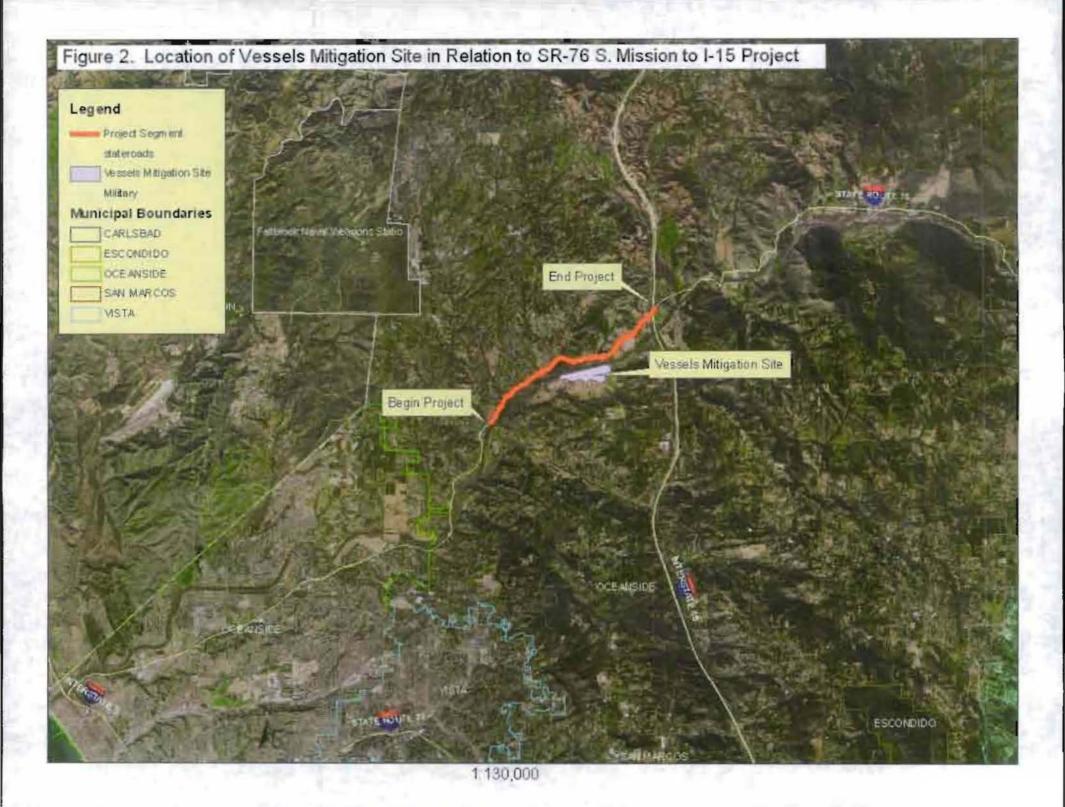
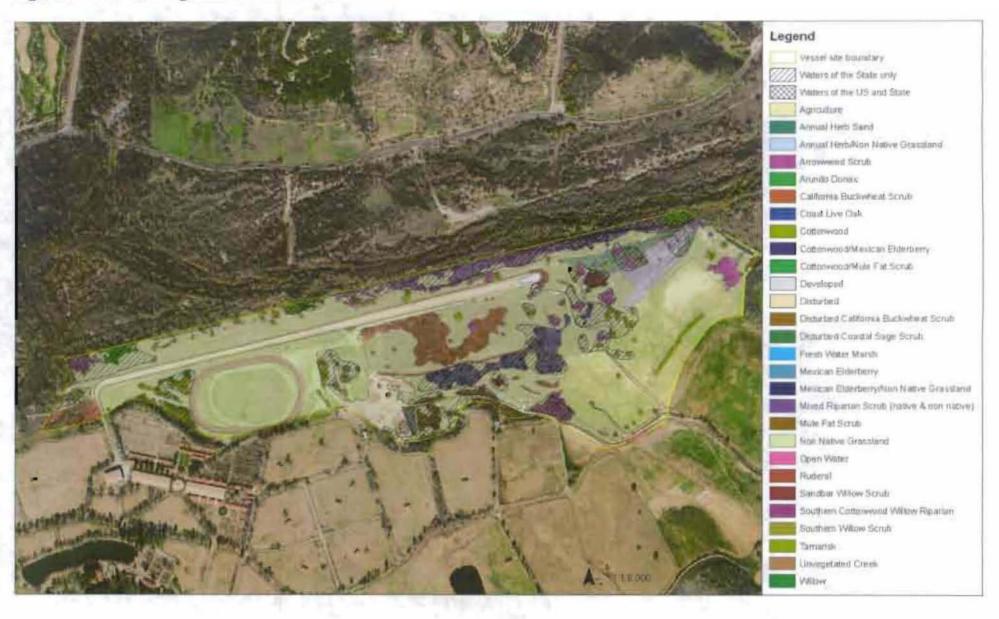


Figure 4. Vessels Vegetation and Wetlands



SYMBOL	JURIS WATERS	VEGETATION	SYMBOL.	JURIS WATERS	VEGETATION
	STATE - Existing	ARROWWEED SCRUB		US - Existing	ARROWWEED
	20.2 Acres	COTTONWOOD MEXICAN ELDERBERRY SCRUB		2.7 Acres	BULRUSH CALIFORNIA SYCAMORE
	STATE - Creation	MULE FAT SCRUB		US - Creation	JUNCUS
	30.4 Acres	SOUTHERN COAST LIVE OAK SOUTHERN WILLOW SCRUB		57.3 Acres	SAN DIEGO WARSH-ELDER SOUTHERN CAT-TAIL
		See The State of Stat			SOUTHERN COTTONWOOD RIPARIAN
	50.6 TOTAL			60.0 TOTAL	SOUTHERN WILLOW RIPARIAN
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		SAN LUIS REY RIVER			
		SAN LUIS REY RIVER			

Figure 5. VESSELS WETLAND MITIGATION