ADDENDUM TO THE
REGIONAL GENERAL PERMIT 53 PROJECT

INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

(SCH NO. 1998061097)

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AB	Assembly Bill
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
California OHP	Office of Historic Preservation
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDC	California Department of Conservation
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFGC	California Fish and Game Code
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
County	County of San Diego
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
CY	cubic yards
dBA	A-weighted decibels
DHS	Department of Health Services
DPR	Department of Parks and Recreation
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
FE	Federal Endangered
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
FT	Federal Threatened
GHG	greenhouse gas
HELIX	HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc.
I-5	Interstate 5
IBWC	International Boundary and Water Commission
IS/MND	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
JRMP	Jurisdictional Runoff Management Plan
L_{EQ}	dBA hourly equivalent
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
mgd	million gallon per day
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration

MSCP	Multiple Species Conservation Program
NOA	Needs and Opportunities Assessment
NOD	Notice of Determination
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Properties
PRC	Public Resources Code
RAQS	Regional Air Quality Strategy
RCEM	Roadway Construction Emissions Model
RCNM	Roadway Construction Noise Model
RGP	Regional General Permit
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SANDAG	San Diego Association of Governments
SB	Senate Bill
SCH	State Clearinghouse
SCIC	South Coastal Information Center
SDAPCD	San Diego Air Pollution Control District
SE	State Endangered
SEP	Site Evacuation Plan
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SMAQMD	Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
SR	State Route
SSC	State Species of Special Concern
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TRVRP	Tijuana River Valley Regional Park
U.S.	United States
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VHFHSZ	Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone
WL	Watch List

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Tijuana River, which crosses from Mexico into the United States (U.S.) approximately five miles upstream of its outlet to the Pacific Ocean. has historically transported significant amounts of sewage, trash, and sediment to the Tijuana River Valley in the U.S. Most recently, transboundary flows increased due to population growth in Mexico. Some improvements have been made over the years to address impacts caused by transboundary flows. One such improvement includes ongoing dredging within culverts, such as Smuggler's Gulch. The County of San Diego (County) currently dredges Smuggler's Gulch on an approximately annual basis to remove accumulated trash and debris that cause flooding and other issues in the area.

Despite the efforts made to date, the Tijuana River remains the most polluted river in the San Diego region. While dry-weather flows from the Tijuana River are intended to be diverted and treated, the amount of flow that occurs during rain events generally exceeds the capacity of the existing diversion and treatment system. This limited diversion capacity combined with high volume of flows results in frequent transboundary flows of sewage, trash, and sediment, which cause public health, environmental, and safety issues. As a response, management strategies have been implemented on the U.S. side of the border and new approaches are being explored to the long-standing problem of transboundary flows and associated water quality issues. One of those new approaches includes the installation of trash and debris interception and flood control structures in Smuggler's Gulch that comprise the project evaluated in this Addendum to the Regional General Permit (RGP) 53 (Blanket Permit/Log No. UF2367) Project (approved project) Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND), (State Clearinghouse No. 1998061097), adopted on May 28, 1998, by the County Board of Supervisors.

The IS/MND for the approved project was prepared to authorize the County to conduct a variety of maintenance activities at culverts, natural bottom drainage channels, and natural bottom flood channels at various locations throughout the unincorporated area. Since the adoption of the IS/MND, specific information has become available regarding activities to be performed under the RGP. The activities addressed in this document are proposed to achieve the ultimate objective of addressing flows of sewage, trash, and sediment into the Tijuana River Valley and are consistent with the types of activities envisioned in the IS/MND. Additionally, there are not substantial changes in regard to circumstances or new information of substantial importance such that the specific activities now proposed would result in new significant impacts or impacts of substantially increased severity. This Addendum was prepared per Section 15162 and 15164 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines to analyze whether the changes to the approved project would result in new or substantially more severe significant environmental impacts, as compared to what was analyzed and proposed in the IS/MND. The Addendum supports the conclusion that only minor technical changes or additions are necessary and that none of the conditions described in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent or supplemental environmental document has occurred.

The individual analysis of each CEQA impact is discussed in Section 3.0, *Environmental Analysis*, of this Addendum. This analysis concludes that the revised project as discussed below in Section 2.0, *Project Description*, would not alter the conclusions reached in the impact analysis in the 1998 IS/MND. In

summary, the project, with the proposed changes, would result in the following impacts, which are the same as those that would occur under the approved project analyzed in the IS/MND:

- No significant impacts[1] on aesthetics, agricultural and forestry resources, air quality, cultural resources (including tribal cultural resources), geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, utilities and service systems, and wildfire; and

- Less-than-significant impacts, with mitigation incorporated, on biological resources.

While impacts related to energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were not analyzed in the IS/MND, impacts of the revised project would be less than significant. The revised project would not result in any significant and unavoidable impacts under CEQA.

1.2 BACKGROUND

The County of San Diego Department of Public Works prepared an IS/MND for the Regional General Permit 53 (Blanket Permit) (State Clearinghouse [SCH] 1998061097) (referred throughout this Addendum as the "approved project"), which was circulated for a 30-day public review period pursuant to the requirements of Section 15105 of CEQA. The review period gave agencies, organizations, and members of the public the opportunity to review the Draft IS/MND and provide comments on the document and the environmental analysis presented therein. The County considered all relevant comments in preparation of the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).

The Final MND for the approved project was prepared in accordance with the requirements of CEQA (California Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21000, et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Administrative Code, Title 14, Section 15000, et seq.). The purpose of the Final MND was to provide the decision-making body (County Board of Supervisors), responsible agencies, and the public with information regarding the environmental impacts of the project. The Board of Supervisors certified the Final MND on May 28, 1998 and a Notice of Determination (NOD) was filed with the County Clerk's Office and the State Clearinghouse on June 22, 1998.

Since adoption of the 1998 Final MND, additional detailed information is available regarding implementation of the project in Smuggler's Gulch, including a sedimentation basin and trash booms as well as a culvert underneath Monument Road.

This Addendum analyzes the proposed installation of infrastructure in accordance with the objectives set forth in the RGP 53, which is fully detailed in Section 2.0, *Project Description*.

1.3 PURPOSE OF ADDENDUM TO THE IS/MND

When a proposed project is changed or there are changes in the environmental setting, a determination must be made by the Lead Agency as to whether and Addendum or Subsequent/Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or MND is needed. CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 and 15164 set forth criteria to assess which environmental document is sufficient and appropriate. The criteria for

[1] This category corresponds to a "Not Applicable" answer in the IS/MND, which indicated "that the proposed project clearly has no adverse effect on the environmental resource."

determining whether an Addendum or Subsequent/Supplemental MND should be prepared are outlined in this section. If the following statements are true, then preparation of an Addendum is appropriate:

- There are no substantial changes proposed in the project that will require major revisions of the previous environmental document due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;

- Substantial changes have not occurred with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken that will require major revisions of the previous environmental document due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or

- There is no new information of substantial importance that was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous environmental document was certified as complete or was adopted, that shows any of the following:

    - The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous environmental document;

    - Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous environmental document;

    - Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measures or alternatives; or

    - Mitigation measures or alternatives that are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous environmental document would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

- An addendum to an adopted MND may be prepared if only minor technical changes or additions are necessary or none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for preparation of a subsequent environmental document have occurred.

Based upon the analysis in Section 3.0, *Environmental Analysis*, of this document, the changes to the project analyzed in the IS/MND would not result in new significant impacts or substantially increase the severity of significant impacts previously identified in the IS/MND. Additionally, the mitigation measures set forth in the IS/MND are still applicable, and no new mitigation measures are required to mitigate the changes to the previously approved project. Therefore, the Lead Agency has determined that an Addendum to the IS/MND is sufficient and appropriate, and this environmental document has been prepared to analyze the environmental effects of the revised projects. Public review of this Addendum is not required per CEQA.

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2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT SETTING AND LOCATION

The proposed project is part of a series of projects and strategies focused on the U.S. side of the U.S./Mexico border to address transboundary flows of sewage, trash, and sediment into the Tijuana River Valley (see Figure 1, *Regional Location*). The Tijuana River crosses from Mexico into the U.S. approximately five miles upstream of its outlet to the Pacific Ocean. While dry weather flows from the Tijuana River are intended to be diverted to a treatment system in Tijuana, Mexico before reaching the U.S. or to a treatment system operated by the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), the amount of flow that occurs during rain events generally exceeds the capacity of the existing diversion and treatment systems. This limited diversion and treatment capacity results in frequent transboundary flows of sewage, trash, and sediment, which cause public health, environmental, and safety issues. Transboundary flows can also occur at any time of the year when the diversion system is not functioning as designed.

Regionally, the project site is part of the Tijuana River Watershed, a large, binational watershed. The Tijuana River Watershed is a large (1,750 square miles), binational watershed that straddles the border of San Diego County, California, and northern Baja California in Mexico. Approximately three quarters of the watershed lies in Mexico and includes the cities of Tijuana and Tecate. On the U.S. side, the watershed extends into the jurisdictions of the City of San Diego, the City of Imperial Beach, and the County of San Diego. The Tijuana River flows from Mexico into the U.S. and ultimately discharges into the Pacific Ocean through the Tijuana River Estuary.

Smuggler's Gulch is a tributary to the Tijuana River. The drainage area that enters the United States from Mexico includes a steep walled canyon. Locally, the project site is approximately one-half mile north of the international border in the jurisdiction of City of San Diego, 1.5 miles east of Interstate 5 (I-5) and approximately two miles inland of the Pacific Ocean along the Tijuana River. More specifically, the project is within the boundaries of the County's 1,683-acre Tijuana River Valley Regional Park (TRVRP), in particular the south central-area abutting Monument Road (see Figure 2, *Project Site Location*). Smuggler's Gulch is an earthen bottom channel that is tributary to the South Channel of the Tijuana River, and flows in a northerly direction from the U.S./Mexico border past Monument Road until its confluence with the Tijuana River pilot channel. Smuggler's Gulch channel is almost entirely unvegetated, supporting only a sparse mix of weedy herbaceous plants. Within the project area, Smuggler's Gulch is routinely dredged (approximately annually) as part of activities approved under the RGP 53 to remove trash and sediment resulting from transboundary flows following large rain events. Currently there is a diversion structure located in Smuggler's Gulch located under a 145-foot high earthen berm topped with a road and border fence. The diversion structure has an average design capacity of 4.67 million gallon per day (mgd) (14.0 mgd peak). The capacity of Smuggler's Gulch is undersized and is not sufficient to hold trash and sediment that cross into the United States from Mexico. Although the County conducts dredging of Smuggler's Gulch on an approximately annual basis, flows in this area are so voluminous that the area can fill back up with sediment and trash after one large storm event.

Monument Road, which is part of the project, crosses over Smuggler's Gulch. At the project location, Monument Road is a two-lane paved County road with a dirt shoulder. Overhead power lines generally traverse the roadway alignment. There is an existing culvert under Monument Road that conveys flows

in Smuggler's Gulch from the south side of Monument Road to the north side of Monument Road. Flows entering the U.S. from Mexico at Smuggler's Gulch frequently exceed the capacity of the existing culvert under Monument Road. During these conditions, Monument Road floods and becomes unpassable, which cuts off access to the homes and properties located along Monument Road and to the west of Smuggler's Gulch.

Immediate surrounding land uses include the TRVRP and scattered rural residential uses, a horse farm, agricultural land uses, and undeveloped land.

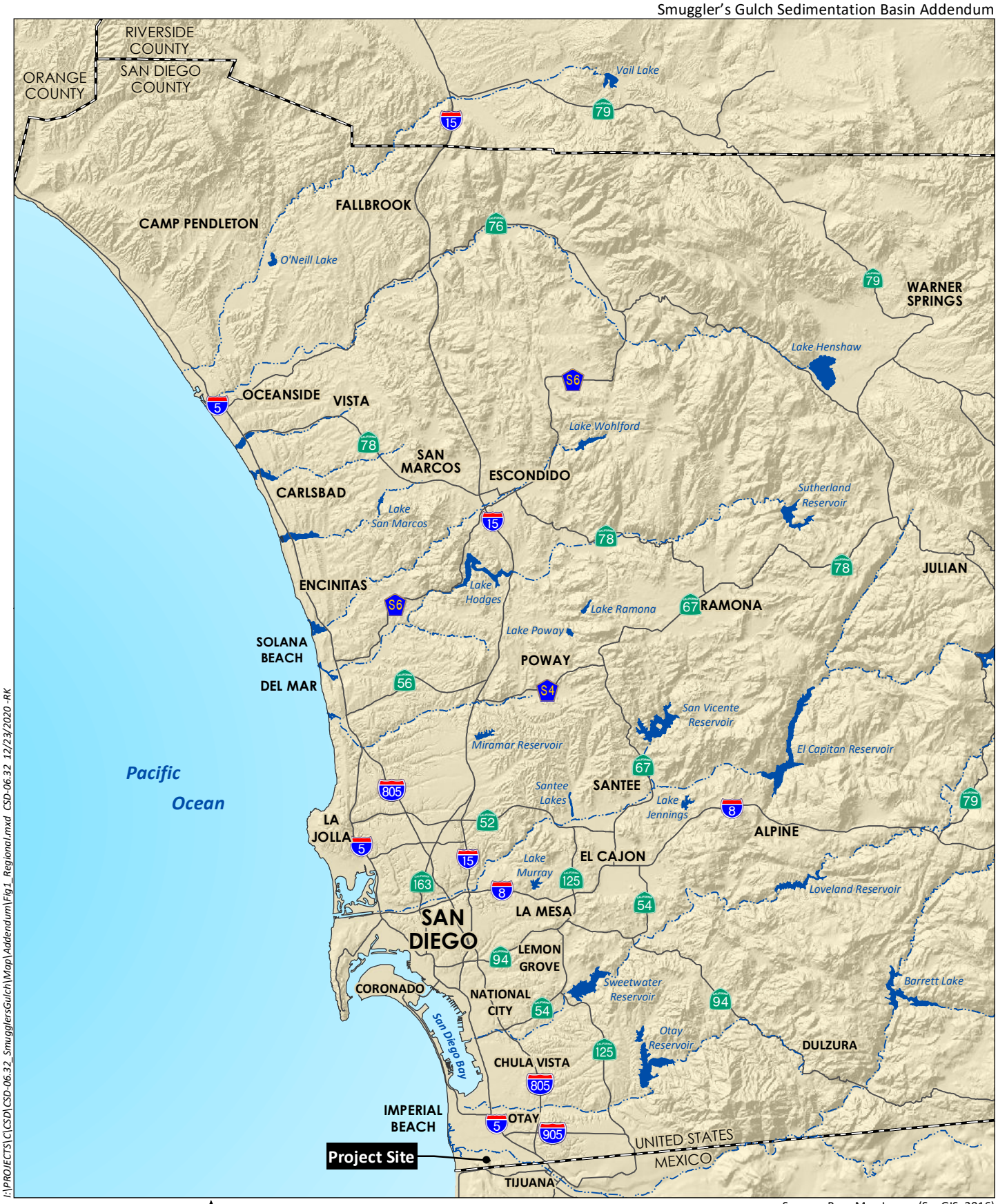
2.2 PROJECT COMPONENTS

The installation of infrastructure at Smuggler's Gulch as evaluated in this Addendum includes components of two alternatives that were presented as Project 10 and 11a and Project 10 and 11b in the Tijuana River Valley Needs and Opportunities Assessment (NOA) prepared in March 2020. Together, these two alternative projects (options) include the installation of a combination of weirs and subsequent creation of sedimentation basins, placement of permanent trash booms, and improvements to Monument Road that would collectively to serve the dual purposes of trash and sediment diversion and flooding reduction that would ultimately result in increased water quality downstream of the proposed project site (see Figure 3a, *Project 10 and 11a Alternative*, and Figure 3b, *Project 10 and 11b Alternative*).

The proposed project includes two options for the sedimentation basin: an in-line sedimentation basin or an off-line sedimentation basin. One or a combination of both of these basins would be selected through the design process. Once a basin configuration is selected, design plans would be prepared for the basin(s), the permanent trash booms, and improvements to Monument Road. A description of each primary project element (sedimentation basin, trash booms, and improvements to Monument Road) is provided below:

- Sedimentation Basin: either an in-line or off-line sedimentation basin (or a combination of the two) would be constructed by installation of an in-line weir to form a basin (similar to a check dam). The weir would allow for water to flow freely over the crest of the weir prior to cascading down to the basin that would capture flows and allow sediment to settle. The off-line sedimentation basin approach would require a side weir southeast of Monument Road at Smuggler's Gulch. It would essentially function the same as an in-line weir. The sedimentation basin would be similar to existing infrastructure at Goat Canyon which was installed in 2005 and has proven effective in efficiently capturing trash and sediment and reducing local flooding.

- Trash Booms: There are existing temporary trash booms installed within Smuggler's Gulch south of Monument Road. While this infrastructure has proven effective at capturing trash, it was not designed to be permanent, so there is a need to install permanent infrastructure that would provide this function. The design process for this project would ultimately help inform the location and size of the trash booms, which could be either upstream or downstream of the proposed sedimentation basin location. Another option would be to include two sets of trash booms: one set of trash booms upstream of the sedimentation basin to capture larger material like tires or mattresses and another set of trash booms downstream of the sedimentation basin, but before Monument Road, to capture finer materials such as water bottles and other debris.



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Source: Base Map Layers (SanGIS, 2016)

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Regional Location

Figure 1

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0 200 Feet

Source: Aerial (SanGIS and Nearmap 2020)

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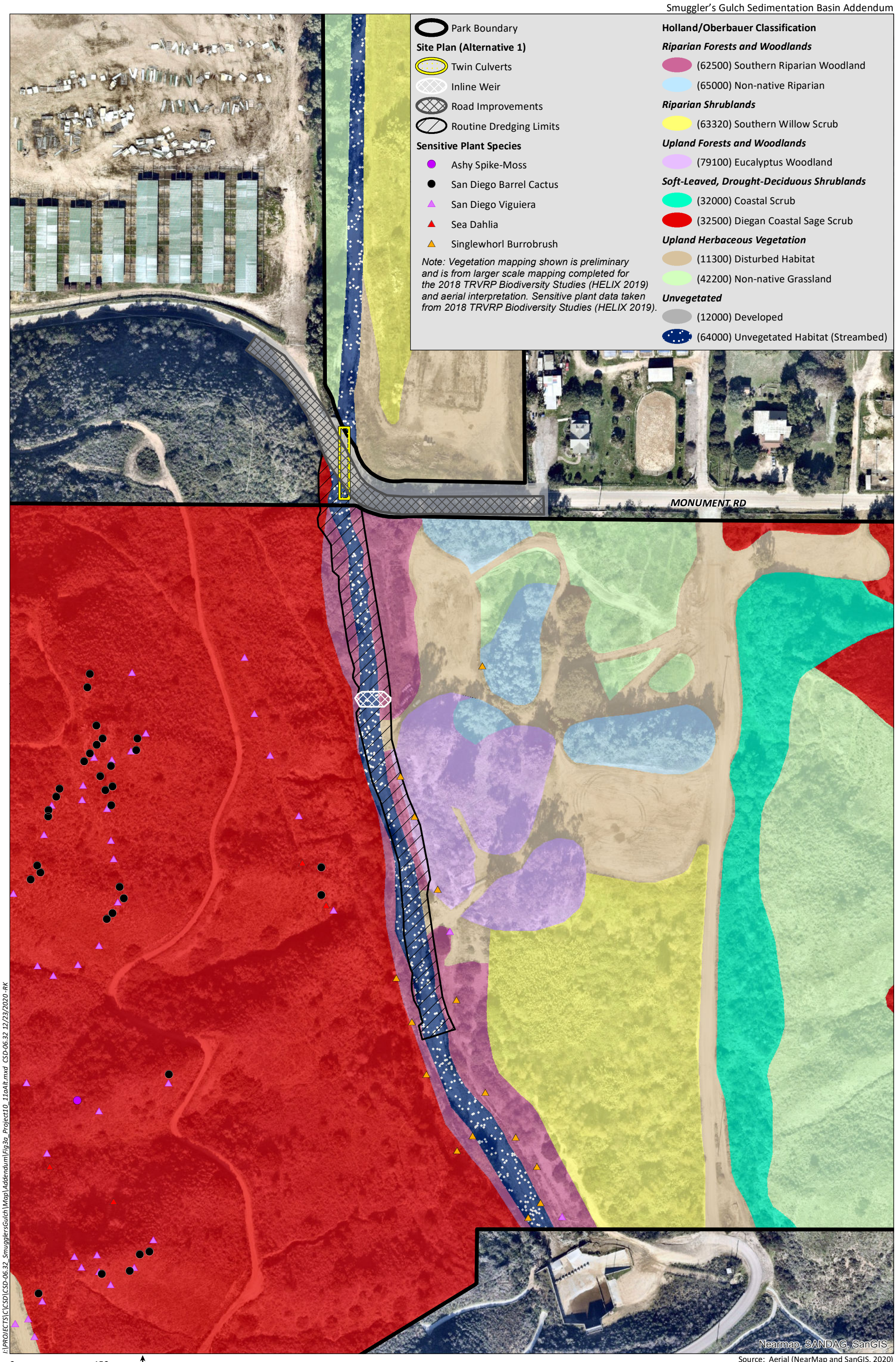
Project Site Location

Figure 2



Source: Aerial (NearMap and SanGIS, 2020)

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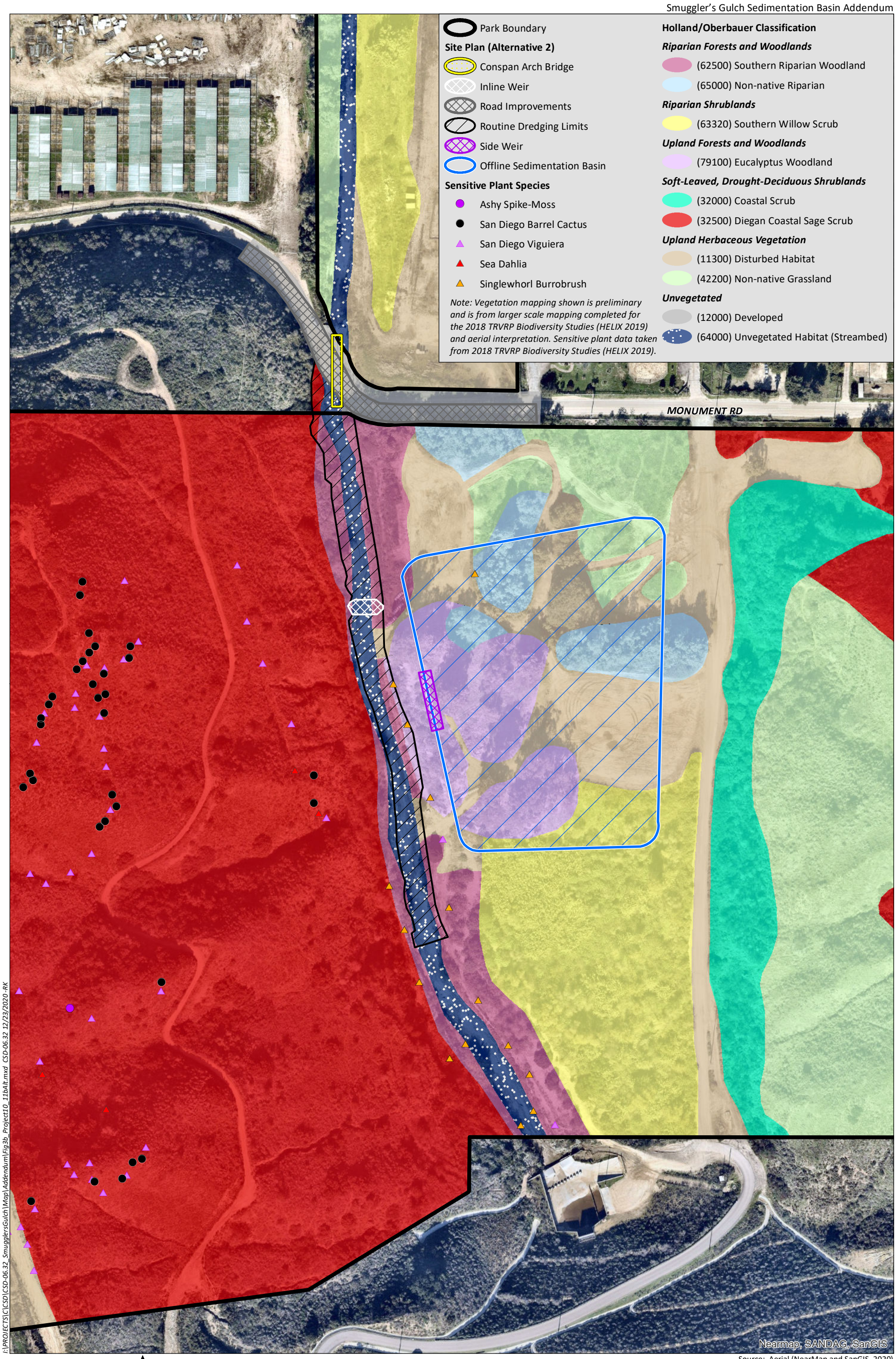
HELIX Environmental Planning

Project 10 and 11a Alternative

Figure 3a



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0 150 Feet

Source: Aerial (NearMap and SanGIS, 2020)

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Project 10 and 11b Alternative

Figure 3b

- Improvements to Monument Road: While there is an existing culvert under Monument Road in Smuggler's Gulch, the capacity of that structure is no longer sufficient to keep up with the amount of flow coming in from Mexico. The current concept plan estimates that the proposed project would increase the capacity of the road culvert and elevate Monument Road to a five-year flood level. Further, due to the physical constraints that surround Monument Road around Smuggler's Gulch, a pre-engineered, precast arch bridge over Monument Road would be constructed to accommodate the larger culvert proposed.

Each option would require that routine maintenance be performed for the operation of the trash booms, similar to the existing ongoing maintenance for the temporary trash booms installed in 2019. Similarly, for maximum sediment and trash removal, the sedimentation basins would need to be dredged to allow for capture of sediment in the successive storm event. Thus, the project would require removed sediment to be reused or hauled offsite. Currently, when dredging activities occur, the dredged materials are sorted to determine if they can be reused for purposes such as for construction materials. Materials that cannot be reused are disposed of at local landfills. Depending on the final basin design, the project is intended to remove approximately 15,600 to 16,100 tons of trash and sediment for a five-year storm event.

Currently, the portion of the project site within the river channel surrounding the existing culvert in Monument Road are within the approved dredging limits of the approved project. The project area also potentially includes an additional 4.7 acres immediately east of the channel for a potential side weir and offline sedimentation basin.

The project also would incorporate the following design features:

Project Design Feature 1: Habitat Mapping. A qualified biologist will conduct a site visit to update vegetation mapping within the project area prior to quantifying final habitat impacts and mitigation acreages. The habitat mapping will help inform final project design so that impacts to sensitive habitats are minimized to the extent feasible.

Project Design Feature 2: Nesting Birds. To avoid impacts to nesting birds, removal of vegetation from March 15 to September 15 will be avoided to the extent feasible. If vegetation removal must occur during this time, a qualified biologist will conduct a survey for nesting birds no more than three days prior to the start of vegetation removal. If active nests are found, temporary avoidance buffers will be established around the nest, with appropriate buffer widths determined by the biologist and consistent with Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) guidelines. No habitat removal or other work shall occur within the nest buffer until the young have fledged or the nest is no longer active. If surveys are negative, clearing can proceed. The qualified biologist would have the authority to allow clearing to continue if full-time nest monitoring is occurring and/or the biologist deems the nest safe.

Project Design Feature 3: Biological Monitoring. A qualified biologist will be retained to conduct biological monitoring during project construction. After the surveyor has flagged the limits of disturbance (but prior to brushing, clearing, or other ground-disturbing activities or other construction activities or staging) the biological monitor will conduct a review of the limits of disturbance, to ensure that the project does not cause errant impacts on surrounding sensitive vegetation communities and to inspect the project area for sensitive species. The biological monitor will be on site during all vegetation, brushing, clearing, or initial grading that could disturb topsoil. The biological monitor will conduct weekly monitoring visits after initial grading to ensure that perimeter controls are in place and that

errant biological impacts do not occur. The biological monitor will also monitor any avian nest avoidance buffers established during nesting bird surveys (see Project Design Feature 2: Nesting Birds) during the breeding season. Monitors will work with construction personnel to minimize and avoid disruption to breeding birds potentially present within or adjacent to construction areas.

Project Design Feature 4: Archaeological and Native American Monitoring. The County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will retain a qualified project archaeologist and a Native American representative to monitor all initial ground-disturbing activities related to the installation of weir(s), associated basin(s), trash booms, and improvements to Monument Road in order to minimize impacts to unknown subsurface archaeological deposits. The monitoring program shall include attendance by the archaeologist and Native American monitor at a preconstruction meeting with the construction contractor to discuss monitoring scheduling and coordination. Both archaeological and Native American monitors shall have the authority to temporarily halt or redirect grading and other ground-disturbing activity in the event that cultural resources are encountered. Isolates and non-significant deposits shall be minimally documented in the field. If potentially significant cultural material is encountered, such cultural features, artifact concentrations, or cultural deposits, the significance of the find and appropriate treatment, such as documentation and collection, avoidance, additional data recovery, etc., will shall be determined and implemented prior to the re-initiation of construction activities in the vicinity of the discovery. Additionally, no soil shall be exported off site until a determination can be made regarding the significance of the resource, especially if Native American resources are encountered. Recovered items shall be treated in accordance with current professional standards by being properly provenienced, cleaned, analyzed, researched, reported, and curated in a collection facility meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, as promulgated in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 79, such as the San Diego Archaeological Center.

2.3 PROJECT MODIFICATIONS SINCE IS/MND ADOPTION

The approved project is to allow the County of San Diego to conduct maintenance activities at culverts, natural bottom drainage channels, and natural bottom flood control channels at various locations in the unincorporated area. The work may involve removal of vegetation, debris, and sediment (silt, sand, and gravel) to prevent flooding and erosion of adjacent roadways or properties. Vegetation at some locations may be cut and/or trimmed to increase water flow rates while minimizing the short-term temporary impacts to the habitat. A blanket permit was requested from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers because these activities could affect natural and/or modified stream courses under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps.

The project evaluated in this Addendum is the installation of a combination of the elements identified in Section 2.2, *Project Components*, of this Addendum. As noted, the approved project was the adoption of the RGP and since the adoption of the IS/MND, specific information has become available regarding activities to be performed under the RGP. The activities addressed in this document are proposed to achieve the ultimate objective of addressing flows of sewage, trash, and sediment into the Tijuana River Valley and are consistent with the types of activities envisioned in the IS/MND. The environmental impacts associated with this change from the previously approved project are discussed in Section 3.0, *Environmental Impact Analysis*.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

As described in Section 2.0, *Project Description*, a change to the previously approved project has been proposed since preparation of the IS/MND. As such, the following comparative analysis has been undertaken pursuant to the provisions of CEQA Sections 15162 and 15164 to provide the factual basis for determining whether changes in the project, change in circumstances, or new information since adoption of the IS/MND would require additional environmental review or preparation of a Subsequent IS/MND. This analysis focuses on whether the impact significance conclusions identified in the IS/MND would change under the revised project. The environmental analysis provided in the IS/MND remains current and applicable to the approved project in areas unaffected by the revised project for the environmental topics detailed in this section. An overview of the approved project impacts in relation to the previously adopted MND is provided in Table 1, *Impact Assessment Summary*.

Table 1
IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Environmental Issues	Approved MND	Revised Project	New Mitigation?	Project Resultant Impact
3.1 Aesthetics	Not Applicable[1]	No new impacts[2]	No	Less than significant
3.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources	Not Applicable	No new impacts	No	No Impact
3.3 Air Quality	Not Applicable	No new impacts	No	Less than significant
3.4 Biological Resources	Less than significant with mitigation	No new impacts	No	Less than significant with mitigation
3.5 Cultural Resources	Not applicable	No new impacts	No	Less than significant
3.6 Energy	Not analyzed	No new impacts	No	No Impact
3.7 Geology & Soils	Not Applicable	No new impacts	No	Less than significant
3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Not analyzed	No new impacts	No	Less than significant
3.9 Hazards & Hazardous Materials	Not Applicable	No new impacts	No	Less than significant
3.10 Hydrology & Water Quality	Not Applicable	No new impacts	No	Less than significant
3.11 Land Use & Planning	Not Applicable	No new impacts	No	No Impact
3.12 Mineral Resources	Not Applicable	No new impacts	No	No Impact
3.13 Noise	Not Applicable	No new impacts	No	Less than significant
3.14 Population & Housing	Not Applicable	No new impacts	No	No Impact
3.15 Public Services	Not Applicable	No new impacts	No	No Impact
3.16 Recreation	Not Applicable	No new impacts	No	No Impact
3.17 Transportation	Not Applicable	No new impacts	No	No Impact
3.18 Tribal Cultural Resources	Not Applicable	No new impacts	No	Less than significant
3.19 Utilities & Service Systems	Not Applicable	No new impacts	No	Less than significant
3.20 Wildfire	Not Applicable	No new impacts	No	Less than significant

[1] This category in the IS/MND indicated "that the proposed project clearly has no adverse effect on the environmental resource."

[2] This response indicates that there would be no new significant impacts or no substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant impacts.

3.1 AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on a state scenic highway?

c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?

IS/MND Conclusions

The IS/MND for the approved project determined that it would not result in aesthetic impacts because it involves the maintenance of existing drainage structures.

Revised Project Conclusion

The project involves the installation of structures that would support the continuation of the ongoing maintenance activities in relation to the influx of sewage, trash, and debris entering the United States from Mexico. Post-project there would be no perceptible difference to the surrounding environment, with the exception that during storm events, localized flooding would be reduced, and a greater amount of sewage, trash, and sedimentation would be captured prior to entering the Pacific Ocean.

Specifically, the proposed change involves a combination of the components discussed in Section 2.2, each of which would include installation of features such as weirs and trash booms, creation of sedimentation basins, and improvements to Monument Road. An in-line weir and sedimentation basin would occur within the existing limits of allowable dredging under the approved project. An off-line weir would require the construction of the associated off-line sedimentation basin on 4.7 acres of primarily of disturbed habitat and non-native vegetation in an area that has been graded and is traversed by gravel roadways. The trash booms would replace the existing trash booms that were installed in 2019. Improvements to Monument Road would consist of replacing the existing culvert with a larger culvert to accommodate a greater amount of flow. Due to physical constraints, this would require an arch bridge, so a similar structure, over of this portion of Monument Road (see Figure 3b).

During the short-term, construction equipment would operate within the channel and potentially the 4.7 acres adjacent. This type of activity would be similar to the existing activities that occur during routine dredging and maintenance of the booms.

Storm event flows in the channel have increased beyond the capacity of the existing culvert in Monument Road, creating a bottle neck effect that results in an accumulation of trash and sedimentation until dredging can occur. Additionally, flood waters flow across Monument Road, resulting in trash and sedimentation being deposited in unintended areas. When flood waters recede, the trash and sedimentation remain. Consequently, unsightly buildup occurs creating a visual nuisance. Thus, the project would allow for flows to continue underneath Monument Road and be carried to their ultimate destination avoiding the collection of trash and sediment at this location, thereby improving public views in this area, which is a beneficial visual impact.

The project would not obstruct a scenic vista and would not substantially alter the existing visual environment since it is a refinement of the existing activities that presently occur under the approved

project. There are no officially designated scenic highways within the vicinity of the project site. I-5, which is approximately 1.5 miles to the east, is listed as eligible, but the project site is not visible from I-5 due to relatively flat topography and intervening vegetation and structures.

The project would result in a continuation of similar ongoing debris interception and water quality activities occurring at the site and be within the parameters of the types of project envisioned to occur in compliance with the approved project.

The IS/MND for the approved project identified that there would be no impacts to aesthetics. Likewise, the revised project would not change any of the IS/MND's findings with respect to visual impacts. There is no new information, such as new regulations, a change of circumstances, or changes to the project that would give rise to new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. This analysis does not result in different conclusions related to aesthetics than those reached in the IS/MND, either on a project-related or cumulative basis. No new mitigation measures are required for the proposed change.

3.2 AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?

c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

IS/MND Conclusions

The IS/MND for the approved project determined that it would not result in impacts to agricultural and forestry resources because it involves the maintenance of existing drainage structures.

Revised Project Conclusion

The project is the installation of structures that would support the continuation of the ongoing maintenance activities in relation to the influx of sewage, trash, and debris entering the United States from Mexico. Overall, the project is the installation of weir(s), associated basin(s), trash booms, and improvements to Monument Road. Post-project there would be no perceptible difference to the surrounding environment, with the exception that during storm events, localized flooding would be reduced, and a greater amount of sewage, trash, and sedimentation would be captured prior to entering the Pacific Ocean.

The California Department of Conservation (CDC) Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) classifies the project site as Other Land. Other Land is land not included in any other mapping category. Common examples include low density rural developments; brush, timber, wetland, and riparian areas not suitable for livestock grazing; confined livestock, strip mines, borrow pits; and water bodies smaller than 40 acres.

The Williamson Act is only applicable to parcels within an established agricultural preserve consisting of at least 20 acres of Prime Farmland, or at least 40 acres of land not designated as Prime Farmland. The Williamson Act is designed to prevent the premature and unnecessary conversion of open space lands and agricultural areas to urban uses. As stated above, the project site is located in an area classified by the CDC as Other Land where neither farmland nor agricultural resources are present. The project site is not within an established agricultural preserve consisting of at least 20 acres of Prime Farmland or at least 40 acres of land not designated as Prime Farmland.

Public Resources Code Section 12220(g) defines “forest land” as land that can support 10 percent native cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits. Vegetation, including mature trees, are located along the river channel but are not dispersed outward beyond the river channel itself, which is routinely dredged. The area adjacent to the channel is composed primarily of disturbed habitat and non-native vegetation communities (eucalyptus woodland, tamarisk-dominated riparian, and small areas of non-native grassland), with small stands of riparian woodland/scrub along portions of the channel and southern willow scrub in the southernmost part of the basin. Based on this definition, no forest land occurs within or adjacent to the project site. Moreover, there is no land zoned as forest land or timberland that exists within the project site or within its vicinity.

Therefore, the site does not meet the definition of an agricultural resource and no potentially significant project or cumulative level conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance to a non-agricultural use would occur because of the project. The site is not under a Williamson Act contract, and there would be no conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or Williamson Act contract.

The project would result in a continuation of similar ongoing debris interception and water quality activities occurring at the site and be within the parameters of the types of project envisioned to occur in compliance with the approved project.

The IS/MND for the approved project identified that there would be no impacts to agricultural resource or forestry resources. As such, the revised project would not change any of the IS/MND's findings with respect to agricultural and forestry impacts. There is no new information, such as new regulations, a change of circumstances, or changes to the project that would give rise to new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. This analysis does not result in different conclusions related to agricultural and forestry resources than those reached in the IS/MND, either on a project-related or cumulative basis. No new mitigation measures are required for the proposed change.

3.3 AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

IS/MND Conclusions

The IS/MND determined that the approved project would have no impact to air quality because it involves the maintenance of existing drainage structures.

Revised Project Conclusion

The project is the installation of structures that would support the continuation of the ongoing maintenance activities in relation to the influx of sewage, trash, and debris entering the United States from Mexico. Post-project there would be no perceptible difference to the surrounding environment, with the exception that during storm events, localized flooding would be reduced, and a greater amount of sewage, trash, and sedimentation would be captured prior to entering the Pacific Ocean.

Construction vehicles would be operating on site and conducting earth-moving activities during the short-term construction period. This type of activity would be similar to the existing activities that occur during routine dredging and maintenance of the booms.

Post construction, the project would not include activities that generate air emissions except for ongoing and periodic routine maintenance, including the hauling of sediment and trash from the basins offsite. Post-construction activities would be similar to existing activities and within the scope of

activities covered in the approved project. The approved project allowed for up to 35,000 CY of excavation annually, which equates to approximately 34,000 tons of trash and/or sediment. While the actual annual excavation varies based on a variety of factors including rainfall and funding, it is expected that the project will remain within the limits of the approved project. Based on the conservative estimate of 16,100 tons of trash and sediment collected in a five-year event and the average 40-ton capacity of a haul truck, operation of the project could generate approximately 806 annual daily haul trips (403 round trips) on years requiring hauling.[2] To date, this amount of hauling has not been required but is consistent with the approved project and, if necessary in the future, would not result in an increase in emissions. The project would not result in a substantial increase in emissions associated with either project construction or operation.

In San Diego County, the San Diego Air Pollution Control District (SDAPCD) is the agency responsible for protecting the public health and welfare through the administration of federal and state air quality laws and policies. Included in the SDAPCD's tasks are the monitoring of air pollution, the preparation and implementation of the San Diego County portion of the State Implementation Plan (SIP), and the promulgation of Rules and Regulations. The SIP includes strategies and tactics to be used to attain and maintain acceptable air quality in the County; this list of strategies is called the Regional Air Quality Strategy (RAQS) and is the applicable air quality plan for the Project area. The SDAPCD Rules and Regulations include procedures and requirements to control the emission of pollutants and prevent significant adverse impacts. Consistency with the RAQS is determined by two standards. The first standard is whether a project would exceed assumptions contained in the RAQS. The second standard is whether a project would increase the frequency or severity of violations of existing air quality standards, contribute to new violations, or delay the timely attainment of air quality standards or interim reductions as specified in the RAQS.

The RAQS relies on information from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), including mobile and area source emissions, as well as information regarding projected growth in the County. This information is used to project future emissions and then determine the strategies necessary for the reduction of emissions through regulatory controls. The CARB mobile source emissions projections and the SANDAG growth projections are based on population and vehicle use trends and land use plans developed by the cities and the County as part of the development of the County's and cities' general plans. As such, projects that propose development consistent with the growth anticipated by a general plan would be consistent with the RAQS. In addition, the RAQS assumes specific emissions from the operation of certain land uses, including residential, retail, office, institutional, and industrial uses. The project is the installation of weir(s), associated basin(s), trash booms, and improvements to Monument Road and would not directly or indirectly induce growth.

Therefore, because the project would not affect population growth, the project would not exceed the assumptions contained in the RAQS. Additionally, the project does not include stationary operational sources of air pollutants. Therefore, it would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the RAQS.

[2]At the time of the approved project, the General Permit allowed for up to 35,000 cubic yards (CY) of excavation annually. The actual amount of fill excavated annually is based upon several factors including the amount of rainfall and funding. In 2020, approximately 5,500 CY of fill was excavated and the maximum amount of fill excavated in a year to date is 12,000 CY. It is noted that on a yearly basis, usually less than 10,000 CY of fill is excavated, and since operation of the Smuggler's Gulch trash boom, excavation has not required 403 round trip haul trips. As noted, the analysis is conservative.

The project would result in improvements to the capture of trash, sewage, and sediment. Currently, trash is accumulating at Monument Road as well as being collected in existing temporary trash booms. The proposed project would relocate this buildup to either the sedimentation basin or permanent trash booms. Therefore, although the project could produce objectionable odors as a result of trash buildup, this would not result in a change from the approved project. Given the location of the project, impacts related to odors are not expected to affect a substantial number of people due to the distance to the closest sensitive receptor (a residence approximately 300 feet north) and the lack of other sensitive receptors in the area.

The IS/MND for the approved project identified that there would be no impacts to air quality. Likewise, the revised project would not change the IS/MND's findings with respect to air quality impacts. There is no new information, such as new regulations, a change of circumstances, or changes to the project that would give rise to new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. This analysis does not result in different conclusions related to air quality than those reached in the IS/MND, either on a project-related or cumulative basis. No new mitigation measures are required for the proposed change.

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

IS/MND Conclusions

The approved IS/MND identified potential adverse impacts to three species on the Federal and State endangered species lists (least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, and arroyo toad), as well as potential adverse impacts to wetland habitats. The approved IS/MND determined that there were no

potentially adverse impacts to wildlife dispersal or migration corridors (issue identified as not applicable in the IS/MND). Mitigation measures were incorporated to reduce potential adverse impacts to less than significant levels, and special conditions were incorporated to further minimize impacts.

All biological resources-related mitigation measures and special conditions from the approved IS/MND that could potentially apply to the project are presented below. It may be determined that some of the measures listed below do not apply, depending on the results of updated biological resources surveys combined with final design of the project and agency feedback.

Mitigation measures 2.F(3), 2.F(4), and 2.F(5) include clearing restrictions, survey requirements, and habitat mitigation requirements for least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, and coastal California gnatcatcher to reduce potential impacts to a level below significance. Special Condition 2.G.(2) includes clearing and nest avoidance restrictions for nesting birds to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code (CFGC). The approved IS/MND also includes additional mitigation measures that are not applicable to this project and therefore not reiterated herein. These include mitigation measures 2.F(1), 2.F(2), and 2.F(6) for impacts to unarmored three-spined stickleback, arroyo toad, and Stephens' kangaroo rat, respectively.

Mitigation measures 2.F(3), 2.F(4) and 2.F(5), and 2.A(1) and (2) through 2.E include habitat mitigation for wetland/riparian habitats and coastal sage scrub to reduce potential impacts to a level below significance. Special Condition 2.G(2) and Special Condition 2.G(19) provide direction on minimizing impacts to native riparian habitat and removal of exotic plant species.

Mitigation Measure 2.F(3): Least Bell's Vireo. Maintenance activities on the 14 sites containing designated critical habitat will be avoided during this species breeding season (i.e., March 15 through August 30). Maintenance activities on the other 49 sites that support potential habitat that has not been designated as critical habitat will also be avoided during the breeding season unless protocol-level surveys by a qualified biologist have determined that this species is not present on a given site. Direct impacts (removal of habitat vegetation) to designated critical habitat and any other sites that support this species will be mitigated, on a one-time basis, at a replacement ratio of 2:1 by either creation of habitat and/or exotic species removal. Avoidance of activities during the breeding season will eliminate potential indirect impacts from maintenance equipment.

Mitigation Measure 2.F(4): Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Direct impacts (removal of habitat) to designated critical habitat will be mitigated, on a one-time basis and in conjunction with the least Bell's vireo, at a replacement ratio of 2:1 (these sites are the same as those designated as critical habitat for the least Bell's vireo), and mitigation ratios will not be "double-counted". Maintenance activities on the 12 sites containing designated critical habitat will be avoided during this species breeding season (i.e., May 1 to September 15) unless protocol-level surveys by a qualified biologist have determined that this species is not present on a given site. Maintenance activities on the other 15 sites that support potential habitat that has not been designated as critical habitat will also be avoided during the breeding season unless protocol-level surveys by a qualified biologist have determined that this species is not present on a given site. Direct impacts to designated critical habitat and any other sites that support this species will be mitigated at a replacement ratio of 2:1 by either creation of habitat and/or exotic species removal. Avoidance of activities during the breeding season will eliminate potential indirect impacts from maintenance equipment.

Mitigation Measure 2.F(5): Coastal California Gnatcatcher. Direct impacts to coastal California gnatcatcher and its habitat will be mitigated by restoration of disturbed areas or placement of existing high-quality habitat into permanent open space at a ratio of 2:1. The total mitigation requirement may be up to 2,750 square feet. Indirect impacts to the gnatcatcher from noise generated by project equipment exceeding the 60 dBA standard would be mitigated by the avoidance of these activities during the gnatcatcher breeding season from February 15 to September 30, unless protocol level surveys by a qualified biologist have determined that the species is not present on a given site.

Mitigation Measure 2: Wetland Habitat Impacts.

A. To ensure that all mitigation is commensurate with expected impacts. the County will mitigate based upon quality of existing habitat and frequency of proposed disturbance.

    1) Areas with more than minimal wetland/riparian habitat. Maintenance activities which occur in areas with more than minimal wetland vegetation will require mitigation based on the frequency of the proposed maintenance activities.

        a) High Frequency Maintenance Activities. Maintenance activities that occur more frequently than once every 3 years and that are in areas with more than minimal wetland vegetation will require mitigation through creation. restoration and/or enhancement at a maximum ratio of 3:1 and a minimum ratio of 1:1 as directed by the agencies. The ratio will depend on several factors including: future avoidance conditions agreed to for the long-term maintenance: the amount of vegetation that is allowed to become reestablished (e.g., the reestablishment of freshwater marsh habitat annually for the spring nesting season). Onsite avoidance and enhancement measures, the proximity of mitigation sites to the location of the original resource, timing, and the quality of habitat. All required wetland mitigation would be on a one-time basis, to mitigate for an unlimited number of recurring maintenance activities. In those areas where the habitat is appropriate, onsite recovery of the vegetation will constitute mitigation (e.g., Typha freshwater marsh which will recover in 6 to 12 months).

        b) Low Frequency Maintenance Activities. Maintenance activities that occur less frequently, once every 3 years or longer, will be mitigated by a program of giant reed and/or other exotic species removal. The amount of exotic species removal required will be commensurate with the quantity and quality of the habitat being impacted and will range from 1:1 to 4:1.

    2) Areas with minimal or no wetland/riparian habitat. No mitigation will be required for maintenance activities that occur in areas where there is currently little or no wetland vegetation and no significant increases in wetland vegetation would be expected to occur in the absence of maintenance activities.

    To determine whether an area falls into category 1 or 2 above, each site will be evaluated by a qualified biologist based on specific parameters such as: percent cover, diversity of species, width of existing stream, and percent of exotic species present. These guidelines would be incorporated into conditions of the permit and would be incorporated into the final mitigation plan.

B. As a possible alternative to off-site wetland mitigation, the County may mitigate onsite by widening existing channels to create or enhance adjacent existing riparian and wetland habitats. In areas where there is presently no wetland habitat adjacent to the low-flow channel, this measure could allow for the creation of such habitat. By widening existing channels, the need for periodic maintenance could also be reduced, i.e., the time interval between maintenance events would lengthen. Although these channels may still need some maintenance, it is anticipated that some vegetation would always be allowed to remain in them. The portion of the channel that is widened would be considered a mitigation site and impacts to these areas would not be covered under Regional General Permit 53.

C. The County will submit a draft Mitigation Plan for review by the resource agencies. The plan will identify the specific habitat restoration and/or enhancement areas ranging at a replacement ratio of 1:1 to 3:1. The plan will also include: a plant palette, planting design, temporary irrigation (if needed), monitoring and maintenance plans, and methods for exotic plant species removal and monitoring. If natural revegetation is allowed to occur within some of the channels as an option to reduce the mitigation ratio, the Mitigation Plans will include success criteria to be used to evaluate the quality and diversity of the vegetation within existing channels. Revegetation will be done only with native species.

D. All plantings shall have a minimum of 80 percent survival the first year and 100 percent survival thereafter and/or shall attain 75 percent cover after 3 years and 90 percent cover after 5 years for the life of the project, or as otherwise directed by agency approvals. If the survival and cover requirements have not been met, the County is responsible for replacement planting to achieve these requirements. Replacement plants shall be monitored with the same survival and growth requirements for 5 years after planting. To the extent feasible, all planting shall be completed between October 1 and April 30 to take advantage of the winter rainy season.

E. An annual report shall be submitted to the resource agencies by January 1 of each year for 5 years after planting. This report shall include the survival, percent cover, and height of both tree and shrub species. The number by species of plants replaced, an overview of the revegetation effort, and the method used to assess these parameters shall also be included. Photos from designated photo stations shall be included.

Special Condition 2.G(2): Minimize Impacts to Native Vegetation and Nesting Birds. Clearing of vegetation around culverts and bridge structures may impact no more than the area specified for the site in the project permits. In all areas, trees with a DBH of 2" or greater will be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. To avoid impacts to nesting birds from March 15 to August 15, the County will minimize removal of native vegetation within drainages following a survey of the site indicating no nesting birds are present. However, non-native plants such as castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), giant reed (*Arundo donax*), salt cedar (*Tamarix* spp.), eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* spp.), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), pepper tree (*Schinus* spp.), palm, and pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*) can be removed at any time of the year provided no nesting birds occur or could possibly be impacted. If the non-native vegetation is to be removed between March 15 and August 15, the County will have a qualified biologist survey the area for nesting birds and flag nest locations so they can be avoided, minimizing impacts to nesting birds.

Special Condition 2.G(19): Remove Exotic Plant Species. As appropriate, noxious, invasive exotic plant species will be removed from areas immediately upstream, downstream, and adjacent to the area of

project impacts. Species to be removed may include but are not limited to giant reed (*Arundo donax*), salt cedar (*Tamarix* spp.). Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*). artichoke thistle (*Cynara carduncuJus*). thistle (*Cirsium* spp.). pampas grass (C*ortaderia selJoana*), fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum*) and cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*). Removal of these plants will minimize the recruitment of exotic species within the maintenance activity area. Removal of exotic plants may be considered as mitigation for certain maintenance activities. Any exotic species removed will be disposed of at an approved disposal site.

Revised Project Conclusion

It is acknowledged that overall final project design would include a combination of the installation of weir(s), associated basin(s), trash booms, and improvements to Monument Road. However, for purposes of examining biological impacts, the discussion below is tailored to reflect the two alternatives that were presented as Project 10 and 11a and Project 10 and 11b (see Section 2.2, *Project Components*) of the NOA.

The project also would incorporate the design features to minimize impacts to biological resources, also as detailed in Section 2.2.

Biological Resources Conclusions

<u>Sensitive Species</u>

Based on the results of the TRVRP biodiversity surveys conducted in 2018 (HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. [HELIX] 2019) and searches of sensitive species databases (i.e., California Natural Diversity Database [CNDDB] and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) species occurrence database), federal and/or state listed plant species have not been observed in the project area of either alternative. Four non-listed sensitive plant species have been documented in the project vicinity (Figures 3a and 3b; HELIX 2019): singlewhorl burrobrush (*Ambrosia monogyra*; California Rare Plant Rank [CRPR] 2B.2), San Diego County viguiera (*Bahiopsis laciniata*; CRPR 4.3), San Diego barrel cactus (*Ferocactus viridescens*; CRPR 2B.1, MSCP Covered), and sea dahlia (*Leptosyne maritima*; CRPR 2B.2). Scattered individuals of singlewhorl burrobrush and San Diego County viguiera border the upland areas above the east and west banks of the channel. Additional individuals of San Diego County viguiera, as well as San Diego barrel cactus and sea dahlia, occur further to the west on the slopes of Spooner's Mesa. San Diego County viguiera and San Diego barrel cactus also occur further to the east on the slopes of Monument Mesa. No proposed or designated USFWS critical habitat for plant species occurs on or adjacent to the project site.

Sensitive animal species were not observed in the vicinity of Smuggler's Gulch during the 2018 TRVRP biodiversity surveys. However, searches of sensitive species databases (i.e., USFWS species occurrence database and CNDDB), have records of two federal and/or state-listed species in the project vicinity: least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*; Federal Endangered [FE], State Endangered [SE], MSCP Covered) and coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*; Federal Threatened [FT], State Species of Special Concern [SSC], MSCP Covered). least Bell's vireo has been documented immediately east of the channel as well as further south of the routine dredging area, in addition to detections in the southeast portion of the offline sedimentation basin proposed under Project 11B. Coastal California gnatcatcher has been detected in coastal scrub habitats on Spooner's Mesa to the west and Monument Mesa to the east, and small areas of potentially suitable habitat are present within the project area (sage scrub west of channel near Monument Road and riparian scrub that could be used for foraging and

dispersal). Although not observed during the 2018 TRVRP surveys, Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*; California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW] Watch List [WL], MSCP Covered) is considered to have high potential to roost and/or nest in eucalyptus trees within or adjacent to the offline sedimentation basin area. Other sensitive animal species with moderate potential to use habitat within the project area include yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*; SSC) and loggerhead shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*; SSC). Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*; FE, SE, MSCP Covered) is not expected to occur as very little suitable habitat is present in the project vicinity and no breeding pairs of this species have been detected within the TRVRP, only migrating individuals (HELIX 2019), and there are no CNDDB or USFWS records of this species at this location. The site does not support suitable habitat for the unarmored threespine stickleback (*Gasterosteus aculeatus williamsoni*; FE/SE), a small freshwater fish, or for arroyo toad (*Anaxyrus californicus*; FE, SSC, MSCP Covered). The site is outside the known range of the Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*; FT, State Threatened), which is restricted to north San Diego County and northward. No proposed or designated USFWS critical habitat for animal species occurs on or adjacent to the project site.

Project 10 and 11a

This alternative has potential to impact six individuals of singlewhorl burrobush (two within the conceptual work area and four adjacent to the work area) and one San Diego County viguiera individual. Potential impacts to these species would be less than significant given the low numbers of individuals potentially impacted, their relatively low sensitivity status, and preservation of other known occurrences of this species in other portions of the TRVRP. No mitigation is required.

This alternative could result in adverse impacts to least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, yellow-breasted chat, coastal California gnatcatcher, Cooper's hawk, and loggerhead shrike from habitat removal, if these species are present within the work area. Noise associated with construction/maintenance activities also could adversely impact least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, and coastal California gnatcatcher, if these species are present within 500 feet of the work area. Mitigation Measures 2.F(3), 2.F(4), and 2.F(5) would reduce these potential impacts to a level below significance, and Project Design Feature 2 would ensure compliance with the MBTA and CFGC with regard to nesting birds.

Project 10 and 11b

This alternative has potential to impact seven individuals of singlewhorl burrobush (three within the conceptual work area and four adjacent to the work area) and one San Diego County viguiera individual. Potential impacts to these species would be less than significant given the low numbers of individuals potentially impacted, their relatively low sensitivity status, and preservation of other known occurrences of this species in other portions of the TRVRP. No mitigation is required.

Similar to the other alternative, this alternative also would impact habitat that could support least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, yellow-breasted chat, coastal California gnatcatcher, Cooper's hawk, and loggerhead shrike, and would have potential temporary noise impacts on gnatcatcher and vireo. Project 11b would remove a larger area of potential habitat (eucalyptus woodland) for Cooper's hawk than Project 11a due to the added side weir and offline sedimentation basin.

Mitigation Measures 2.F(3), 2.F(4), and 2.F(5) would reduce these potential impacts to a level below significance, and Project Design Feature 2 would ensure compliance with the MBTA and CFGC with regard to nesting birds.

Sensitive Natural Communities

Smuggler's Gulch is an earthen bottom improved channel that is tributary to the South Channel of the Tijuana River, and flows in a northerly direction from the U.S./Mexico border past Monument Road until its confluence with the Tijuana River pilot channel. Smuggler's Gulch channel is almost entirely unvegetated, supporting only a sparse mix of weedy herbaceous plants. Within the project area, Smuggler's Gulch is routinely dredged (at least annually) to remove trash and sediment resulting from transboundary flows following large rain events.

The project area for Projects 10, 11a, and 11b includes the Smuggler's Gulch channel within the routine dredging limits and the Monument Road improvement area. Based on larger scale vegetation mapping conducted as part of the 2018 baseline biodiversity surveys for the TRVRP (HELIX 2019), the channel is mostly unvegetated, with areas of riparian habitat occurring along the upper slopes/bank edges, coastal sage scrub occurring west of the channel, and a mix of mostly disturbed and non-native habitats east of the channel (Figure 3a). The project area for Project 11b incorporates an additional 4.7 acres immediately east of the channel for the proposed side weir and offline sedimentation basin. Based on baseline biodiversity surveys conducted in 2018 for the TRVRP (HELIX 2019) and a review of recent aerial imagery, this area is composed primarily of disturbed habitat and non-native vegetation communities (eucalyptus woodland, tamarisk-dominated riparian, and small areas of non-native grassland), with small stands of riparian woodland/scrub along portions of the channel and southern willow scrub in the southernmost part of the basin (Figure 3b).

<u>Project 10 and 11a</u>

This alternative has potential to impact sensitive vegetation communities from placement of trash booms, construction of the inline weir, culvert/road improvements, and routine dredging. Affected habitat could include small areas of coastal sage scrub, native riparian woodland/scrub (e.g., willow [Salix spp.] and mule fat [Baccharis salicifolia]), and non-native riparian (e.g., tamarisk [Tamarix spp.] and giant reed [Arundo donax]). Mitigation Measures 2.F(3), 2.F(4), 2.F(5), and 2.A would reduce these potential impacts to a level below significance. Special Conditions 2.G(2) and 2.G(19) would further minimize impacts to biological resources.

<u>Project 10 and 11b</u>

As with the other alternative, this alternative could impact small areas of coastal sage scrub, native riparian woodland/scrub, and non-native riparian habitats from placement of trash booms, construction of the inline weir, precast bridge construction/road improvements, and routine dredging. Project 11b also could impact native and non-native riparian habitats and non-native grassland for construction of the side weir and offline sedimentation basin. Impacts to coastal sage scrub and riparian habitats are potentially significant. Impacts to non-native grassland are not considered significant as the impacted habitat consists of a small area surrounded by disturbed habitat and non-native habitats and the functions of the impacted grassland would be replaced by herbaceous habitat within the offline sedimentation basin. Mitigation Measures 2.F(3), 2.F(5), and 2.A would reduce these potential impacts to a level below significance. Special Conditions 2.G(2) and 2.G(19) would further minimize impacts to biological resources.

Federal Wetlands

The project area is not known to contain federal wetlands. As the Smuggler's Gulch channel is unvegetated and supports surface flows only after significant rain events, it is not expected to meet the three-parameter federal definition of a wetland, which requires hydrophytic vegetation, wetland hydrology, and hydric soils. In addition, adjacent areas of riparian habitat on the channel slopes (Projects 10, 11a, and 11b) or on the terrace where the offline sedimentation basin (Project 11b) is proposed are unlikely to have sufficient hydrology to support hydric soils. Nevertheless, Smuggler's Gulch channel may be considered waters of the U.S. by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Impacts to waters of the U.S. may be considered significant. The project would implement Mitigation Measure 2.A to reduce this potential impact to a level below significance. Furthermore, the project would obtain any required permits from the USACE, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and CDFW prior to start of construction.

Wildlife Movement and Dispersal

Neither project alternative would inhibit wildlife movement or dispersal. Smuggler's Gulch does not provide habitat for fish, as water is present in the channel only following large rain events. The proposed project would not substantially interfere with habitat connectivity between blocks of habitat as it would not construct new features that inhibit wildlife movement. Monument Road is an existing road with an undersized culvert. Implementing Projects 10 and 11a, which would elevate the road to construct larger twin culverts, would not substantially interfere with wildlife movement as both the road and a culvert already exist in this location. Construction of a precast bridge span, as proposed under Project 11b, would result in a net benefit to wildlife movement, as wildlife could easily cross beneath the road. Construction of the inline weir, side weir, and offline sedimentation basin would not substantially inhibit wildlife movement as lands around these features are unconstrained. Therefore, project impacts would be less than significant and do not require mitigation.

Habitat Conservation Plans, Local Policies and Ordinances Protecting Biological Resources

Neither project alternative would conflict with the County's South County MSCP Subarea Plan or the City of San Diego's MSCP Subarea Plan. The proposed project would be consistent with the MSCP by mitigating for significant impacts to native habitat at applicable ratios, and incorporating mitigation measures, special conditions, and design features to avoid and minimize impacts to sensitive habitats and sensitive species. In addition, the project would have a net benefit on water quality, which is a goal listed for the area in the TRVRP Programmatic Restoration Guidelines (TAIC 2005) and a primary concern identified in the TRVRP Area Specific Management Directives (County 2007). The proposed project would not conflict with local policies or ordinances, or other approved local, regional, or State Habitat Conservation Plans. Therefore, project impacts would be less than significant and do not require mitigation.

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

IS/MND Conclusions

The IS/MND concluded that the approved project would not result in impacts to cultural resources because it involves the maintenance of existing drainage structures.

Revised Project Conclusion

A records search for the project area was obtained from the South Coastal Information Center (SCIC) on December 1, 2020. The records search results revealed that 13 reports or cultural resources studies have covered the project area, including several surveys, archaeological testing investigations, and significance evaluation programs.

The SCIC has a record of three previously recorded cultural resources within the project area: one prehistoric resource and two historic resources.

The prehistoric resource, P-37-008605 (CA-SDI-8605), is described as a quarry site and lithic scatter first recorded in 1970 and consisting of two loci, Locus A and Locus B (Foglia 2018). The northernmost locus, Locus A, lies within the central portion of the project area, while Locus B lies outside the southernmost boundary of the project (Coleman 1992a). In 1998, Geo-Marine failed to reidentify Locus A due to the heavy erosional and man-made disturbances that had occurred in the area. Geo-Marine supported a 1987 WESTEC recommendation that the resource was ineligible for listing the National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP) (Buysse et al. 1998). The site has been determined as not eligible for listing on the NRHP (California Office of Historic Preservation [California OHP] 2012); due to the lack of potential to yield information important in prehistory or history, it is also not eligible to the CRHR and would not be considered a historical resource under CEQA.

The two historic-period recorded within the project area are P-37-011096, described as a single-story shotgun style house with associated outbuildings located within the northeastern corner portion of the project area, and P-37-011948, recorded as a series of terrace walls constructed of stacked river cobbles, located in the southwest corner of the project area (Ritz and Davis 1990; Van Wormer 1989). Mariah Associates, Inc. revisited P-37-011096 in 1992, noting the resource to be in a similar condition as previously recorded. However, by 1994, the resource is noted as having been destroyed by flooding or completely removed (Coleman 1994). P-37-011948 was originally documented in 1990; an update in 1992 notes the cobble terraces as visible still despite heavy vegetation cover (Coleman 1992b). The cobble walls are situated on a terrace located to the west of Smuggler's Gulch, adjacent to the routine dredge limits, and would not be impacted by the installation of infrastructure at Smuggler's Gulch as evaluated in this Addendum.

Various additional archival sources were also reviewed, including aerial photographs ranging from 1953 to 2016 (NETR Online 2020). Structures presumably reflecting resource P-37-011096 are visible on the 1953, 1964, and 1966 aerial photographs. It appears that the buildings are bordered on the east by a small orchard, and what appear to be crops are visible to the west on the 1964 and 1966 aerials (NETR Online 2020). A small pond is visible in the southern portion of the project area on the 1953 aerial; in the 1964 aerial, the pond had nearly doubled in size, likely due to flooding. Additionally, terraces are seen

west of the pond, first in the 1953 aerial – these are likely associated with the terraces recorded as P-37-011948. By the time the 1980 aerial was taken, however, these terraces appear to have been submerged or destroyed by the flooding of Smuggler's Gulch. Between 1980 and the 2000s, the project area generally appears to be neglected, with the crops and orchards seen in the earlier aerial photographs slowly disappearing, and various episodes of flooding of the Smugglers Gulch and grading (or clearing) within the project area have taken place.

Based on the results of the records search and archival research, the installation of infrastructure at Smuggler's Gulch as evaluated in this Addendum would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

As described in Section 2.2, cultural resources monitoring during construction would be conducted as part of the project to avoid inadvertent impacts to unknown cultural resources. In the event of a cultural resource discovery, the archaeological and Native American monitors shall have the authority to temporarily halt or redirect grading and other ground-disturbing activity. If the discovery is an isolated find or non-significant deposit, it shall be minimally documented in the field. If cultural features, artifact concentrations, or potentially significant cultural deposits are encountered, the significance of the find and appropriate treatment, such as documentation and collection, avoidance, additional data recovery, etc., will be determined prior to the re-initiation of construction activities in the vicinity of the discovery. Construction activities can continue in other areas of the project site, monitored by an archaeologist and a tribal cultural monitor, while decisions are made, and treatment options are implemented in the area of the discovery.

The IS/MND for the approved project did not identify significant impacts to cultural resources. The revised project would not change the IS/MND's findings with respect to cultural resources impacts. There is no new information, such as new regulations, a change of circumstances, or changes to the project that would give rise to new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. This analysis does not result in different conclusions related to cultural resources than those reached in the IS/MND, either on a project-related or cumulative basis. No new mitigation measures are required for the proposed change.

3.6 ENERGY

Would the project:

a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

IS/MND Conclusions

In December 2018, the California Natural Resources Agency adopted a comprehensive update to the state's CEQA Guidelines that incorporates a new category, energy impacts, into the Initial Study Checklist. As energy was not a topic for analysis at the time the IS/MND was prepared, no associated analysis was performed.

Revised Project Conclusion

The project is the installation of structures that would support the continuation of the ongoing maintenance activities in relation to the influx of sewage, trash, and debris entering the United States from Mexico. Overall, the project is the installation of weir(s), associated basin(s), trash booms, and improvements to Monument Road. Post-project there would be no perceptible difference to the surrounding environment, with the exception that during storm events, localized flooding would be reduced, and a greater amount of sewage, trash, and sedimentation would be captured prior to entering the Pacific Ocean.

As is typical of any construction, the project would temporarily consume energy for the operation of construction equipment and vehicles. During construction, standard methods of earthmoving and other associated construction activities are planned. Construction activities would not include methods of construction that would result in inefficient or unnecessary use of energy resources. Post construction, no energy resources are needed to continuously operate the Project. Periodic maintenance energy resources would be negligible and would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources.

The installation of the improvements would ultimately decrease maintenance as the County would not need to respond to flooding and ponding events that have occurred along Monument Road.

Therefore, this project does not conflict with state or local plans for renewable energy efficiency. The project would employ standard methods of construction and does not propose to create a project condition post construction whereby increased energy demand would be created.

The project would result in a continuation of the similar ongoing debris interception and water quality activities occurring at the site and be within the parameters of the types of project envisioned to occur in compliance with the approved project.

The IS/MND did not include a separate analysis of energy resources as this was not part of CEQA Appendix G at the time of project approval. However, there is no new information, such as new regulations, a change of circumstances, or changes to the project that would give rise to new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. No new mitigation measures are required for the proposed change.

3.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

    i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.
    ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?
    iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?
    iv. Landslides?

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?

d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

IS/MND Conclusions

The IS/MND concluded that the approved project would not result in a significant impact related to geology and soils because the project is to provide maintenance to the existing drainage structures.

Revised Project Conclusion

The project is the installation of structures that would support the continuation of the ongoing maintenance activities in relation to the influx of sewage, trash, and debris entering the United States from Mexico. Overall, the project is the installation of weir(s), associated basin(s), trash booms, and improvements to Monument Road. Post-project there would be no perceptible difference to the surrounding environment, with the exception that during storm events, localized flooding would be reduced, and a greater amount of sewage, trash, and sedimentation would be captured prior to entering the Pacific Ocean.

Under the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, the California State Geologist identifies areas in the State that are at risk from surface fault rupture. The Alquist-Priolo Act's main purpose is to prevent the construction of buildings used for human occupancy on the surface trace of active faults; that requires the State Geologist to establish regulatory zones, known as Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones, around the surface traces of active faults and to issue appropriate maps that identify these zones. The Project is not located within a designated Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone and does not include the construction of habitable structures.

Like most of southern California, the Project site is susceptible to strong seismic shaking during an earthquake. The project includes installation of infrastructure and improvements to Monument Road to further reduce the amount of trash that accumulates in the Tijuana River channel and the flooding that occurs in and around Monument Road. The project does not include project features that would involve placing people or structures at risk in the event of an earthquake. Likewise, regarding other earthquake-induced geological risks such as liquefaction, landslides, subsidence, and/or expansive soils, the project does not include habitable structures and would not introduce new persons to the project area therefore, the project would not substantially increase the risk of loss, injury, or death. Conversely, currently the properties west of Monument Road are severed from roadway access during large storm events, and project-related improvements would serve to improve access through increasing culvert

capacity and/or the addition of an arch bridge over Monument Road that would accommodate 5-year and 2-year storm events respectively.

The project does not include the installation or connection to alternative wastewater systems or septic tanks.

This proposed change would not result in a substantial increase in ground disturbance that could result in new or more significant impacts on geology and soils, as compared to the approved project.

The project area is located within the Otay Formation, a high paleontological resource sensitivity geologic unit. The Otay Formation is a fluvial sedimentary rock unit and according to the County of San Diego General Plan numerous fossil localities have been discovered in the upper portion of the formation. Well-preserved remains of a diverse assemblage of terrestrial vertebrates were found here. Based on recent discoveries, the Otay Formation is now considered to be the richest source of late Oligocene terrestrial vertebrates in California. This formation is exposed throughout, from approximately the latitude of State Route 94 (SR 94) south to the International Border.

The County of San Diego Paleontological Guidelines indicate that projects within High Paleontological Resources potential that propose to excavate equal to or greater than 2,500 CY are required to have a project Paleontologist/Monitor present during construction. The project change proposes to excavate greater than 2,500 CY as part of project construction activities. Therefore, the proposed change would require a paleontological monitor during construction as a project design feature, which would ensure that impacts to paleontological resources would not be significant. Materials removed during maintenance activities would have been recently deposited and therefore not have the potential to contain important paleontological resources.

The revised project would not change the IS/MND's findings with respect to geology and soils or paleontological impacts. There is no new information, such as new regulations, a change of circumstances, or changes to the project, that would give rise to new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. This analysis does not result in any different conclusions than those reached in the IS/MND related to geology and soils or paleontological resources, either on a project-related or cumulative basis. No new mitigation measures are required for the proposed change.

3.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

IS/MND Conclusion

The generation of GHG emissions was not discussed for the approved project because such analysis was not required at the time of the preparation of the IS/MND. Currently the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G

requires a discussion in relation to whether a project would, either directly or indirectly, generate GHG emissions and/or or conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions GHG.

Revised Project Conclusion

The project is the installation of structures that would support the continuation of the ongoing maintenance activities in relation to the influx of sewage, trash, and debris entering the United States from Mexico. Overall, the project is the installation of weir(s), associated basin(s), trash booms, and improvements to Monument Road. Post-project there would be no perceptible difference to the surrounding environment, with the exception that during storm events, localized flooding would be reduced, and a greater amount of sewage, trash, and sedimentation would be captured prior to entering the Pacific Ocean.

As is typical of construction, the project would temporarily release GHG emissions from the operation of construction equipment and vehicles. During construction, standard methods of earthmoving and other associated activities are planned. Construction activities would not include methods of construction which would result in excessive emissions. Additionally, for a project of this size, construction-related GHG emissions are generally negligible due to the recommended amortization of construction emissions over the typical 20-year project lifespan in accordance with County guidance.

HELIX conducted GHG emission modeling assuming typical construction methods (see Appendix A). As such, it is forecasted that the project would generate 334 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MT CO_2e) of GHG emissions during the entire construction period. When construction emissions are amortized over 20 years, the project would generate 17 MT CO_2e GHG emissions per year. Additionally, based on the conservative estimate of 16,100 tons of trash and sediment collected in a five-year event and the average 40-ton capacity of a haul truck, operation of the project would generate approximately 806 annual daily haul trips (403 round trips). This would equate to 40 MT CO_2e per year. A screening level based on the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association's (CAPCOA) report *CEQA & Climate Change* has typically been used to determine whether further analysis would be needed to examine the GHG impacts of a proposed project (CAPCOA 2008). CAPCOA developed a screening threshold of 900 MT CO_2e. Thus, the project would not meet the screening threshold. Further, both construction and post construction project-related activities would be similar to existing activities and would not result in additional significant impacts related to GHG emissions beyond existing project operations.

In relation to applicable plans, policies, or regulations, the State passed the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, commonly referred to as Assembly Bill (AB) 32, which set the GHG emissions reduction goal for the State of California into law. The law requires that by 2020, state emissions must be reduced to 1990 levels by reducing GHG emissions from significant sources via regulation, market mechanisms, and other actions. The State subsequently passed Senate Bill (SB) 32, which set an additional GHG emissions reduction goal for the State of California into law. The law requires that by 2030, state emissions must be reduced to 40 percent below 1990 levels by reducing GHG emissions from significant sources via regulation, market mechanisms, and other actions.

To implement State mandates to address climate change in local land use planning, local land use jurisdictions are generally preparing GHG emission inventories and reduction plans and incorporating climate change policies into local general plans to ensure development is guided by a land use plan that

reduces GHG emissions. The County's General Plan Conservation and Open Space (COS) and Land Use (LU) Elements incorporate various climate change goals and policies. These policies provide direction for individual development projects to reduce GHG emissions. Specific to this project, Policy COS 14.10 requires County contractors to use low-emission construction vehicles and equipment to improve air quality and reduce GHG emissions.

It is noted that the County prepared a Climate Action Plan (CAP) in 2018. The County's CAP was subsequently litigated and on June 12, 2020 the Superior Court of California issued a judgment vacating the County's adoption of the CAP and related CEQA documents. Consequently, the County is currently preparing an update to the 2018 CAP and related environmental documentation. Therefore, this Addendum does not address the project's consistency with the CAP.

However, the project does not conflict with approved state or local plans (such as AB 32 and the County General Plan) for the reduction of GHG emissions. The project would employ standard methods of construction and does not propose to create a project condition post construction whereby GHG emissions would substantially increase.

Therefore, there is no new information, such as new regulations, a change of circumstances, or changes to the project, that would give rise to new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects., either on a project-related or cumulative basis. No new mitigation measures are required for the proposed change.

3.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?

IS/MND Conclusions

The approved project was determined to have no impacts in relation to hazards and hazardous materials because the project is to provide maintenance of the existing drainage structures.

Revised Project Conclusion

The project is the installation of structures that would support the continuation of the ongoing maintenance activities in relation to the influx of sewage, trash, and debris entering the United States from Mexico. Overall, the project is the installation of weir(s), associated basin(s), trash booms, and improvements to Monument Road. Post-project there would be no perceptible difference to the surrounding environment, with the exception that during storm events, localized flooding would be reduced, and a greater amount of sewage, trash, and sedimentation would be captured prior to entering the Pacific Ocean.

Project-related activities would result in the operation of equipment in the short term, which would involve the transportation and use of limited quantities of fuel, oil, sealants, and other hazardous materials related to construction. The transportation and use of hazardous materials and substances during construction would be subject to federal, state, and local health and safety requirements. Once operational, the improvements themselves would not involve routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, although routine maintenance may require equipment that would require fuel for operation. This would be limited and subject to regulation. In relation to operation, the project would not alter the content of the waste stream and it is likely that at times there are wastes (e.g., household hazardous wastes such as batteries, mercury thermometers, needles, paints, solvents, fertilizers) that are considered hazardous that comprise a portion of the waste stream that enter the system. The project further serves to capture debris and trash prior to entering the Pacific Ocean. This would be a beneficial impact in relation to the potential for hazardous wastes to travel beyond the Smuggler's Gulch trash interception structures as trash and sedimentation from the project features would be screened to identify contents and reused or hauled off site for proper disposal as applicable.

As discussed, during project construction, the use of construction equipment would require fuels, oil, sealants, and other hazardous materials related to construction. As with most construction, there is the possibility of accidental release of a hazardous substance during typical construction activities. However, the project would be required to obtain and adhere to the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit, that requires the preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP would be prepared and implemented, in compliance with the requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Further, the SWPPP would include best management practices (BMPs) that are primarily intended to protect water quality and have mechanisms that protect against hazardous materials or wastes incidents (further discussion provided below in Section 3.10, *Hydrology and Water Quality*).

A review of environmental databases was conducted in compliance with Government Code 65962.5, which stipulates that the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the Department of Health Services (DHS), the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), and any local enforcement agency, as designated by Section 18051, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), identify and update annually a list of sites that have been reported to have certain types of contamination. Specifically, the DTSC EnviroStor database and the SWRCB GeoTracker databases were consulted to identify if the project site or surrounding nearby properties were of concern in relation to Government Code 65962.5.

A review of the EnviroStor and GeoTracker databases did not identify the project site or nearby properties on any such environmental database.

The project site is not located within one-quarter mile of any school or within two miles of an airport.

In relation to emergency response, the project would be beneficial in that the proposed increase in the culvert capacity at Monument Road and installation of the arch bridge would improve access along Monument Road during storm events. Presently, Monument Road may be impassable during large storm events, which cuts off access to the homes and properties located along Monument Road and to the west of Smuggler's Gulch. One of the objectives of the project is to provide access to the residences west of Monument Road that may experience impassable road conditions during storms.

The project would result in a continuation of similar ongoing debris interception and water quality activities occurring at the site and be within the parameters of the types of project envisioned to occur in compliance with the approved project.

Therefore, this change would not result in additional impacts on hazards and hazardous materials beyond those identified in the IS/MND. The revised project would not change the IS/MND's findings with respect to hazards and hazardous materials impacts. There is no new information, such as new regulations, a change of circumstances, or changes to the project, that would give rise to new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. This analysis does not result in different conclusions than those reached in the IS/MND related to hazards and hazardous materials, either on a project-related or cumulative basis. No new mitigation measures are required for the proposed change.

3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?

b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

    i. result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite;

    ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;

    iii. create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or

    iv. impede or redirect flood flows?

d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

IS/MND Conclusions

The approved project was determined to have no impacts in relation to hydrology and water quality because the project is to provide maintenance of the existing drainage structures.

Revised Project Conclusion

The project is the installation of structures that would support the continuation of the ongoing maintenance activities in relation to the influx of sewage, trash, and debris entering the United States from Mexico. Overall, the project is the installation of weir(s), associated basin(s), trash booms, and improvements to Monument Road. Post-project there would be no perceptible difference to the surrounding environment, with the exception that during storm events, localized flooding would be reduced, and a greater amount of sewage, trash, and sedimentation would be captured prior to entering the Pacific Ocean.

The project would disturb over one acre of land and would be required to obtain a NPDES General Construction Permit. Compliance with the General Construction Permit would require the preparation of a SWPPP for the project site and would identify potential pollutants and outline the BMPs that would be implemented during construction activities to prevent those pollutants from entering nearby water bodies. The project would be covered under the County existing Regional Waste Discharge Requirement Permit. The stormwater runoff would be consistent with the County of San Diego Jurisdictional Runoff Management Plan (JRMP) and the BMP Design Manual. The project's conformance to the waste discharge requirements ensures the project would not create cumulatively considerable water quality impacts related to waste discharge because, through the permit, the project would conform to countywide watershed standards in the JRMP and BMP Design Manual.

One of the project objectives is to reduce impacts in relation to flooding that occur around Monument Road. Due to increase in growth primarily on the Mexican side of the transnational border, the existing culvert is no longer adequately sized to handle the amount of storm water that flows through the channel. Trash and debris often become bottlenecked at Monument Road, creating large collections. The project would result in upsizing the culvert to accommodate storm flows and reduce flooding impacts. This is considered a beneficial hydrological impact. Additionally, the other proposed project components are designed to improve water quality through decreasing the rate of storm flows and providing basins that allow sedimentation to settle rather than travel further downstream. This is a beneficial water quality impact.

The project would result in a continuation of similar ongoing debris interception and water quality activities occurring at the site and be within the parameters of the types of project envisioned to occur in compliance with the approved project.

Therefore, this change would not result in additional impacts on hydrology and water quality beyond those identified in the IS/MND. The revised project would not change the IS/MND's findings with respect to hydrology and water quality impacts. There is no new information, such as new regulations, a change of circumstances, or changes to the project, that would give rise to new significant

environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. This analysis does not result in different conclusions than those reached in the IS/MND related to hazards and hazardous materials, either on a project-related or cumulative basis. No new mitigation measures are required for the proposed change.

3.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

a) Physically divide an established community?

b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

IS/MND Conclusions

The approved project was determined to have no impacts in relation to land use and planning because the project is to provide maintenance of the existing drainage structures.

Revised Project Conclusion

The project is the installation of structures that would support the continuation of the ongoing maintenance activities in relation to the influx of sewage, trash, and debris entering the United States from Mexico. Overall, the project is the installation of weir(s), associated basin(s), trash booms, and improvements to Monument Road. Post-project there would be no perceptible difference to the surrounding environment, with the exception that during storm events, localized flooding would be reduced, and a greater amount of sewage, trash, and sedimentation would be captured prior to entering the Pacific Ocean.

The physical division of an established community typically refers to the construction of a linear feature, such as an interstate highway or railroad tracks, or removal of a means of access, such as a local road or bridge that would impact mobility within an existing community or between a community and outlying area. As discussed throughout this document, one of the objectives of the project is to provide improved access for residents west of Monument Road who currently may experience an impassable roadway during storm events. Similarly, limiting flooding would improve access to recreational facilities for residents east of Monument Road as well. This flooding has created a physical division so the proposed project would remedy a periodic division and be a beneficial land use and planning impact.

The project is located within the TRVRP, which is a regional park open to the public for hiking, biking, horseback riding, birdwatching, and other passive recreational activities. The project would result in a continuation of similar ongoing debris interception and water quality activities occurring at the site and be within the parameters of the types of project envisioned to occur in compliance with the approved project. Therefore, similar to the approved project, the proposed project would not conflict with goals and policies of applicable plans.

Thus, this revised project would not change the IS/MND's findings with respect to land use and planning impacts. There is no new information, such as new regulations, a change of circumstances, or changes to the project, that would give rise to new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. This analysis does not result in different conclusions

than those reached in the IS/MND related to land use and planning, either on a project-related or cumulative basis. No new mitigation measures are required for the proposed change.

3.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?

IS/MND Conclusions

The approved project was determined to have no impacts to mineral resources because it involves the maintenance of existing drainage structures.

Revised Project Conclusion

The project is the installation of structures that would support the continuation of the ongoing maintenance activities in relation to the influx of sewage, trash, and debris entering the United States from Mexico. Overall, the project is the installation of weir(s), associated basin(s), trash booms, and improvements to Monument Road. Post-project there would be no perceptible difference to the surrounding environment, with the exception that during storm events, localized flooding would be reduced, and a greater amount of sewage, trash, and sedimentation would be captured prior to entering the Pacific Ocean.

The project would result in a continuation of similar ongoing debris interception and water quality activities occurring at the site and be within the parameters of the types of project envisioned to occur in compliance with the approved project.

The project would occur within the dredging limits of the approved project and potentially in the 4.7 acres immediately adjacent to the approved project (see Figures 3a and 3b). The project site is not currently being utilized for mineral extraction and is not planned or zoned for extractive uses. There is no new information, such as new regulations, a change of circumstances, or changes to the project, that would give rise to new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. This analysis does not result in conclusions that would trigger additional evaluation beyond this Addendum, either on a project-related or cumulative basis. No new mitigation measures are required for the proposed change.

3.13 NOISE

Would the project result in:

a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

IS/MND Conclusions

The IS/MND for the approved project determined that the project would have no impact in relation to noise because it involves the maintenance of existing drainage structures.

Revised Project Conclusion

The project is the installation of structures that would support the continuation of the ongoing maintenance activities in relation to the influx of sewage, trash, and debris entering the United States from Mexico. Post-project there would be no perceptible difference to the surrounding environment, with the exception that during storm events, localized flooding would be reduced, and a greater amount of sewage, trash, and sedimentation would be captured prior to entering the Pacific Ocean.

Construction vehicles would operate on site and conduct earth-moving activities during the short-term construction period. This type of activity would be similar to the existing activities that occur during routine dredging and maintenance of the booms. Construction of the revised project would require the use of heavy equipment, smaller power tools, generators, and other sources of noise for construction of the proposed facilities, as well as noise from construction-related vehicular traffic. Each construction activity would create elevated short-term construction noise. Construction activities would result in temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels, albeit similar to existing project activities. General construction noise would comply with the construction noise limits of the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance (Section 36.409), defined as an excess of 75 A-weighted decibels (dBA) for more than 8 hours during a 24-hour period between 7am and 7pm.

The loudest piece of equipment to be used during construction would be a hydra break ram for the removal of the existing culvert. The nearest noise-sensitive land use is a residence approximately 300 feet northeast of the culvert. According to the Roadway Construction Noise Model [RCNM] (U.S. Department of Transportation [USDOT] 2008) at this distance the noise level would be 64.3 A-weighted decibels (dBA) hourly equivalent (L_{EQ}). Other improvements along Monument Road would use construction equipment, notably an excavator, that would not be as loud but would be in closer proximity to residences (approximately 100 feet). According to the RCNM, at 100 feet an excavator would generate a noise level of 70.7 dBA L_{EQ}. Construction of the majority of the project would occur over several hundred feet from the nearest residences and would have lower noise levels due to distance attenuation. The proposed project construction would be consistent with and adhere to the noise standards identified in the County of San Diego Noise Ordinance.

Post-construction, the project would not generate noise, with the exception of ongoing and periodic routine maintenance, including the hauling of sediment from the basins off site. The noise associated with routine maintenance would be similar to existing activities and would not be greater than what was anticipated for the approved project. The project would therefore not result in a substantial increase in noise impacts related to project construction or operation.

The IS/MND for the approved project did not identify significant impacts related to noise. Likewise, the revised project would not change the IS/MND's findings with respect to noise impacts. There is no new information, such as new regulations, a change of circumstances, or changes to the project that would give rise to new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. This analysis does not result in different conclusions related to noise impacts than those reached in the IS/MND, either on a project-related or cumulative basis. No new mitigation measures are required for the proposed change.

3.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

IS/MND Conclusions

The approved project was determined to have no impacts in relation to land use and planning because the project is to provide maintenance to the existing drainage structures.

Revised Project Conclusion

The project is the installation of structures that would support the continuation of the ongoing maintenance activities in relation to the influx of sewage, trash, and debris entering the United States from Mexico. Overall, the project is the installation of weir(s), associated basin(s), trash booms, and improvements to Monument Road. Post-project there would be no perceptible difference to the surrounding environment, with the exception that during storm events, localized flooding would be reduced, and a greater amount of sewage, trash, and sedimentation would be captured prior to entering the Pacific Ocean.

The project is within the TRVRP, which is not designated or zoned for housing, and does not currently support housing. The project is the installation of structures to continue ongoing maintenance activities to reduce the amount sewage, trash, and debris entering the Tijuana River channel and eventually traveling to the Pacific Ocean on the U.S. side of the international border. Thus, the project would not induce population growth and would not displace housing.

The project would result in a continuation of similar ongoing debris interception and water quality activities occurring at the site and be within the parameters of the types of project envisioned to occur in compliance with the approved project.

The proposed change would not result in additional impacts on population and housing beyond those identified in the IS/MND. The revised project would not change the IS/MND's findings with respect to population and housing impacts. There is no new information, such as new regulations, a change of circumstances, or changes to the project, that would give rise to new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified effects. This analysis does not result in

different conclusions than those reached in the IS/MND related to population and housing, either on a project-related or cumulative basis. No new mitigation measures are required for the proposed change.

3.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:

a) result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:

    i. Fire protection?

    ii. Police protection?

    iii. Schools?

    iv. Parks?

    v. Other public services?

IS/MND Conclusions

The approved project was determined to have no impacts in relation to public services because the project is to provide maintenance to the existing drainage structures.

Revised Project Conclusion

The project is the installation of structures that would support the continuation of the ongoing maintenance activities in relation to the influx of sewage, trash, and debris entering the United States from Mexico. Post-project there would be no perceptible difference to the surrounding environment, with the exception that during storm events, localized flooding would be reduced, and a greater amount of sewage, trash, and sedimentation would be captured prior to entering the Pacific Ocean.

The project does not include features that would require additional public services and it would not introduce new population to the area, generating an additional demand. Conversely, by improving access to Monument Road the project would have a beneficial impact regarding fire and police response times during storm events.

The project would result in a continuation of similar ongoing debris interception and water quality activities occurring at the site and be within the parameters of the types of project envisioned to occur in compliance with the approved project.

This project would not result in additional impacts on public services beyond those identified in the IS/MND. The revised project would not change the IS/MND's findings with respect to public services impacts. There is no new information, such as new regulations, a change of circumstances, or changes to the project, that would give rise to new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the

severity of previously identified significant effects. This analysis does not result in different conclusions than those reached in the IS/MND related to public services, either on a project-related or cumulative basis. No new mitigation measures are required for the proposed change.

3.16 RECREATION

Would the project:

a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

IS/MND Conclusions

The approved project was determined to have no impacts in relation to public services (including parks) because the project is to provide maintenance to the existing drainage structures.

Revised Project Conclusion

The project is the installation of structures that would support the continuation of the ongoing maintenance activities in relation to the influx of sewage, trash, and debris entering the United States from Mexico. Overall, the project is the installation of weir(s), associated basin(s), trash booms, and improvements to Monument Road. Post-project there would be no perceptible difference to the surrounding environment, with the exception that during storm events, localized flooding would be reduced, and a greater amount of sewage, trash, and sedimentation would be captured prior to entering the Pacific Ocean.

The project would not impact or increase the use of a recreational facility, nor would it result in an increased demand for recreational facilities. Rather, the project would provide more direct access to existing recreational facilities during and after rain events. Thus, the Project would have no impact in relation to this issue.

The project would result in a continuation of similar ongoing debris interception and water quality activities occurring at the site and be within the parameters of the types of project envisioned to occur in compliance with the approved project.

This project would not result in additional impacts on recreation beyond those identified in the IS/MND. The revised project would not change the IS/MND's findings with respect to recreation impacts. There is no new information, such as new regulations, a change of circumstances, or changes to the project, that would give rise to new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. This analysis does not result in different conclusions than those reached in the IS/MND related to recreation, either on a project-related or cumulative basis. No new mitigation measures are required for the proposed change.

3.17 TRANSPORTATION

Would the project:

a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersection) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

IS/MND Conclusions

The approved project was determined to have no impacts in relation to transportation because the project is to provide maintenance to the existing drainage structures.

Revised Project Conclusion

The project is the installation of weir(s), associated basin(s), trash booms, and improvements to Monument Road. The project is the installation of structures that would support the continuation of the ongoing maintenance activities in relation to the influx of sewage, trash, and debris entering the United States from Mexico. Post-project there would be no perceptible difference to the surrounding environment, with the exception that during storm events, localized flooding would be reduced, and a greater amount of sewage, trash, and sedimentation would be captured prior to entering the Pacific Ocean.

The project would generate traffic in the short-term during construction and for routine maintenance during project operation. Currently there is routine maintenance of the trash booms and periodic dredging of the channel. With the project, the routine maintenance of the trash booms would continue, and the project would require regular haul trips to remove settled sedimentation of the basin(s). While the number of trips would be increased, they would remain minimal in relation to the capacity of the circulation system and would not result in adverse impacts. The improvements to Monument Road would result in improved access during storm events, which is considered a beneficial impact.

Therefore, as with the approved project, the revised project would result in no permanent changes that would affect transportation, and no new temporary construction related impacts would occur as compared to the approved project. Therefore, the proposed change would not result in additional impacts on transportation beyond those identified in the IS/MND. The revised project would not change the IS/MND's findings with respect to transportation impacts. There is no new information, such as new regulations, a change of circumstances, or changes to the project, that would give rise to new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. This analysis does not result in different conclusions than those reached in the IS/MND related to transportation, either on a project-related or cumulative basis. No new mitigation measures are required for the proposed change.

3.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

    i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or

    ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

IS/MND Conclusions

Subsequent to preparation of the IS/MND, the passage of AB 52 (Chapter 532, Statutes 2014) on September 27, 2016, required an update to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines to include questions related to impacts to tribal cultural resources. A tribal cultural resource may be considered significant if it is included in a local or state register of historic resources; is determined by the lead agency to be significant pursuant to the criteria set forth in PRC Section 5024.1; is geographically designated landscape that meets one or more of the criteria in PRC Section 21084.1; is a unique archaeological resource described in PRC Section 21083.2; or is a non-unique archaeological resource if it conforms to the above criteria. The IS/MND concluded that the approved project would not result in impacts to cultural resources because it involves the maintenance of existing drainage structures.

Revised Project Conclusion

The project is the installation of weir(s), associated basin(s), trash booms, and improvements to Monument Road. The project is the installation of structures that would support the continuation of the ongoing maintenance activities in relation to the influx of sewage, trash, and debris entering the United States from Mexico. Post-project there would be no perceptible difference to the surrounding environment, with the exception that during storm events, localized flooding would be reduced, and a greater amount of sewage, trash, and sedimentation would be captured prior to entering the Pacific Ocean.

The project would result in a continuation of similar ongoing debris interception and water quality activities occurring at the site and be within the parameters of the types of project envisioned to occur in compliance with the approved project.

As discussed in Section 3.5, Cultural Resources, based on the results of the records search and archival research, the installation of infrastructure at Smuggler's Gulch as evaluated in this Addendum would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Additionally, cultural resources monitoring during construction as described in Section 2.2 would be conducted as part of the project to avoid inadvertent impacts to unknown cultural resources.

The IS/MND did not include a separate analysis of tribal cultural resources as this was not part of CEQA Appendix G at the time of its preparation; however, the IS/MND did determine that there would be no significant impacts to cultural resources. There is no new information, such as new regulations, a change of circumstances, or changes to the project that would give rise to new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. No new mitigation measures are required for the proposed change.

3.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

IS/MND Conclusions

The approved project was determined to have no impacts in relation to utilities because the project is to provide maintenance to the existing drainage structures.

Revised Project Conclusion

The project is the installation of structures that would support the continuation of the ongoing maintenance activities in relation to the influx of sewage, trash, and debris entering the United States from Mexico. Overall, the project is the installation of weir(s), associated basin(s), trash booms, and improvements to Monument Road. Post-project there would be no perceptible difference to the surrounding environment, with the exception that during storm events, localized flooding would be reduced, and a greater amount of sewage, trash, and sedimentation would be captured prior to entering the Pacific Ocean.

Water may be used for construction activities, and to implement BMPs such as watering to control dust and sedimentation and washing construction equipment and tires to reduce pollutants. This temporary

water demand could be accommodated by existing water supplies and would not impact the availability of water purveyors to meet their existing or future needs.

The project involves activities to support ongoing stormwater quality efforts as envisioned under the approved project. There would be no wastewater or solid waste generated because of the project, conversely, the project would allow for increased collection and diversion of wastewater and solid waste to be performed in a more efficient and complete manner.

Thus, this proposed change would not generate impacts related to demand for increased utilities and service systems and would not result in additional impacts on utilities and service systems beyond those identified in the IS/MND. The revised project would not change the IS/MND's findings with respect to utilities and service systems impacts. There is no new information, such as new regulations, a change of circumstances, or changes to the project, that would give rise to new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. This analysis does not result in different conclusions than those reached in the IS/MND related to utilities and service systems, either on a project-related or cumulative basis. No new mitigation measures are required for the proposed change.

3.20 WILDFIRE

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

IS/MND Conclusions

In December 2018, the California Natural Resources Agency adopted a comprehensive update to the state's CEQA Guidelines that incorporated a new category, wildfire impacts, into the Initial Study Checklist. Therefore, the prior IS/MND for the approved project did not contain a discussion of wildfire related issues in its own topical category, but did address fire hazard within its Hazards section. The analysis in the IS/MND concluded that the project would not increase the fire hazard characteristics of any project site because the project is to provide maintenance of an existing drainage.

Revised Project Conclusion

The project is the installation of structures that would support the continuation of the ongoing maintenance activities in relation to the influx of sewage, trash, and debris entering the United States

from Mexico. Overall, the project is the installation of weir(s), associated basin(s), trash booms, and improvements to Monument Road. Post-project there would be no perceptible difference to the surrounding environment, with the exception that during storm events, localized flooding would be reduced, and a greater amount of sewage, trash, and sedimentation would be captured prior to entering the Pacific Ocean.

The project site is in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) as mapped by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). In part, areas are designated as VHFSZs due to a combination of steep slopes, difficult terrain, inadequate access, and unmaintained vegetation. The purpose of the maps is to classify lands in accordance with whether a very high fire hazard is present so that public officials can identify measures that will retard the rate of fire spread and reduce the intensity of uncontrolled fire to minimize loss of life, resources, and property. Accordingly, the CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps evaluate hazards not risk; according to CAL FIRE a hazard is based on the physical conditions that create a likelihood that an area will burn over a 30- to 50-year period without considering modifications such as fuel reduction efforts.

The proposed change involves the installation of structures to support the ongoing water quality protection efforts regarding storm water flow entering the United States from Mexico and would not impair or interfere with the Operational Area Emergency Plan or the Site Evacuation Plan (SEP) because it would not prohibit subsequent plans from being established or prevent the goals and objectives of the existing plan from being carried out. The proposed improvements to Monument Road would improve current conditions that render it impassable during certain storm events, thus improving emergency access during these events.

The routine maintenance of the weir(s) and basin(s) would require the continuation of the ongoing dredging and some vegetation removal would occur to maintain the efficiency of the basins and access. Thus, the project would not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, due to runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

Additionally, the proposed project would not involve habitable buildings and the operation of the proposed infrastructure would not expose people or structures to risk or loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires.

The IS/MND did not include a separate analysis of wildfire impacts as this was not part of CEQA Appendix G at the time of the approve project. However, the revised project would not change the IS/MND's findings with respect to wildfire impacts as described in the Hazards section. There is no new information, such as new regulations, a change of circumstances, or changes to the project that would give rise to new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects. No new mitigation measures are required for the proposed change.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

The purpose of this Addendum was to address and analyze the environmental effects associated with changes to the approved project that occurred since the adoption of the IS/MND. Based on the foregoing analysis, it is concluded that the analysis conducted, and the conclusions reached in the IS/MND adopted May 28, 1998, remain valid. The proposed change to the project would not cause new significant impacts not identified in the IS/MND, and no new mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce said environmental impacts.

Therefore, no further environmental documentation or review beyond this Addendum is required.

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5.0 REFERENCES USED IN THE COMPLETION OF THE ADDENDUM

5.1 Aesthetics

No additional references were consulted for this section.

5.2 Agricultural and Forestry Resources

California Department of Conservation. California Important Farmland Finder. Accessed December 14, 2020. https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/ciff/.

5.3 Air Quality

County of San Diego (County). 2007. Guidelines for Determining Significance, Air Quality, Department of Planning and Land Use. March 19. Available at: https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/pds/ProjectPlanning/docs/AQ-Guidelines.pdf.

County of San Diego Air Pollution Control District's Rules and Regulations, updated December 2020. Available at: www.co.san-diego.ca.us.

Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD). 2018. Roadway Construction Emissions Model (RCEM) Version 9.0.0.

5.4 Biological Resources

County of San Diego. 2007. Tijuana River Valley Regional Park Area Specific Management Directives. June 22.

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX). 2019. Baseline Biodiversity Survey Report for the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park. August.

TAIC. 2005. Programmatic Restoration Guidelines for the Tijuana River Valley Regional Park. November.

5.5 Cultural Resources

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California Office of Historic Preservation (California OHP). 2012. Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility for San Diego County, California. Updated as of December 18, 2012.

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Foglia, A.B. 2018. Update site form for P-33-008605. Form on file at the South Coastal Information Center, San Diego State University, California.

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5.6 Energy

County of San Diego (County). 2011. San Diego County General Plan, A Plan for Growth, Conservation and Sustainability. August 3. Available at: https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/generalplan.html.

5.7 Geology & Soils

County of San Diego (County). 2011. San Diego County General Plan, A Plan for Growth, Conservation and Sustainability. August 3. Available at: https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/generalplan.html.

2009. Guidelines for Determining Significance Paleontological Resources. January 15.

5.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

County of San Diego (County). 2011. San Diego County General Plan, A Plan for Growth, Conservation and Sustainability. August 3. Available at: https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/generalplan.html.

5.9 Hazards & Hazardous Materials

Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). 2020. EnviroStor Database.

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). 2020. GeoTracker Database.

5.10 Hydrology & Water Quality

No additional references were consulted for this section.

5.11 Land Use and Planning

County of San Diego (County). 2011. San Diego County General Plan, A Plan for Growth, Conservation and Sustainability. August 3. Available at: https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/pds/generalplan.html.

5.12 Mineral Resources

No additional references were consulted for this section.

5.13 Noise

County of San Diego Code of Regulatory Ordinances, Title 3, Div 6, Chapter 4, Noise Abatement and Control, effective February 4, 1982. https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/dplu/docs/NO.pdf.

U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT). 2008. Roadway Construction Noise Model.

5.14 Population and Housing

No additional references were consulted for this section.

5.15 Public Services

No additional references were consulted for this section.

5.16 Recreation

No additional references were consulted for this section.

5.17 Transportation

No additional references were consulted for this section.

5.18 Utilities & Service Systems

No additional references were consulted for this section.

5.19 Wildfire

San Diego, County of. Online Wildfire Hazard Map. Accessed December 14. 2020. https://www.sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/fire/pdf/maps/grid20.pdf.

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