

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** June 15, 2018

**To:** John Arnau, OC Waste & Recycling

**FROM:** Eric Krieg, LSA

**SUBJECT:** Gothard Landfill Mitigation Recommendations, Huntington Beach

This memorandum documents the quality and quantity of coastal sage scrub (CSS) at Gothard Landfill, and provides recommendations for the mitigation for potential impacts.

Gothard Landfill is a closed facility that is owned and maintained by OC Waste & Recycling. The landfill is west of Gothard Street, northeast of Lake Ranc, and adjacent to the Huntington Beach Central Sports Park Complex in Huntington Beach, California (Figure 1; all figures attached). The landfill is 10.3 acres and was revegetated with CSS in the 1980s. The vegetation within the landfill is dominated by native CSS species (California encelia [*Encelia californica*]) with a few nonnative ruderal vegetation and disturbed patches scattered throughout the site (Figure 2). There are 8 acres of suitable gnatcatcher habitat within the survey area.

LSA conducted focused coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*) protocol surveys were conducted in spring 2018; no coastal California gnatcatchers were detected during the surveys. No coastal California gnatcatchers were reported during protocol surveys conducted in 2000 (URS), 2005 (Essex), and 2015 (Bon Terra Psomas).

The vegetation on Gothard Landfill provides moderate quality habitat for wildlife species. But with the small size of the area and isolation from other larger extents of natural vegetation, the habitat is of limited value to native species in the region. The landfill is surrounded mostly by development, with some ornamental plantings. There is some native scrub around Lake Ranc and the vacant lot (an old gun range) to the west, but these are small areas and the quality of the scrub is lower in these areas.

There are almost 8 acres of suitable gnatcatcher habitat on the site. Most of this scrub is dominated by California encelia with lesser amounts of California buckwheat and brittle bush. Overall, the diversity of the scrub is low with only a few other species with minimal cover, which include California sagebrush, coyote brush, mule fat, and black sage. The stature of the scrub is shorter than normal scrub because it is growing on the landfill cap, which is well compacted, normally above 90 percent. Within the 8 acres of scrub there are areas of higher quality habitat and areas of lower quality habitat. Some of these areas have a high percentage of nonnative weeds (mustard and tocalote) or are otherwise disturbed areas with low percent native cover (30-40 percent). A large

portion of the site has a higher percent native shrub cover (90–100 percent) than is normally preferred/suitable habitat for coastal California gnatcatchers. These areas have very little cover provided by California sagebrush, the preferred species of the coastal California gnatcatcher. The table below provides acreages for these different areas and the recommended mitigation ratios, if mitigation is considered necessary. Given the factors described above, the recommended weighted average mitigation ratio for the scrub is approximately 0.61:1. Therefore, 7.98 acres of scrub would require 4.88 acres of mitigation.

#### Mitigation Recommendation for Scrub Impacts on Gothard Landfill

Scrub Percent Native Cover	Acres	Recommended Mitigation Ratio	Recommended Mitigation Acres
30–40	0.24	0.3:1	0.07
40–50	0.60	0.4:1	0.24
60–70	1.64	1:1	1.64
70–80	0.60	0.8:1	0.48
90–100	4.90	0.5:1	2.45
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.98</b>		<b>4.88</b>

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (949) 553-0666 or Eric.Krieg@LSA.net.

Attachment: Figures 1–2

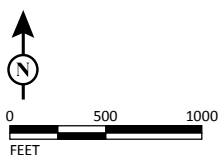




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#### LEGEND

Project Location



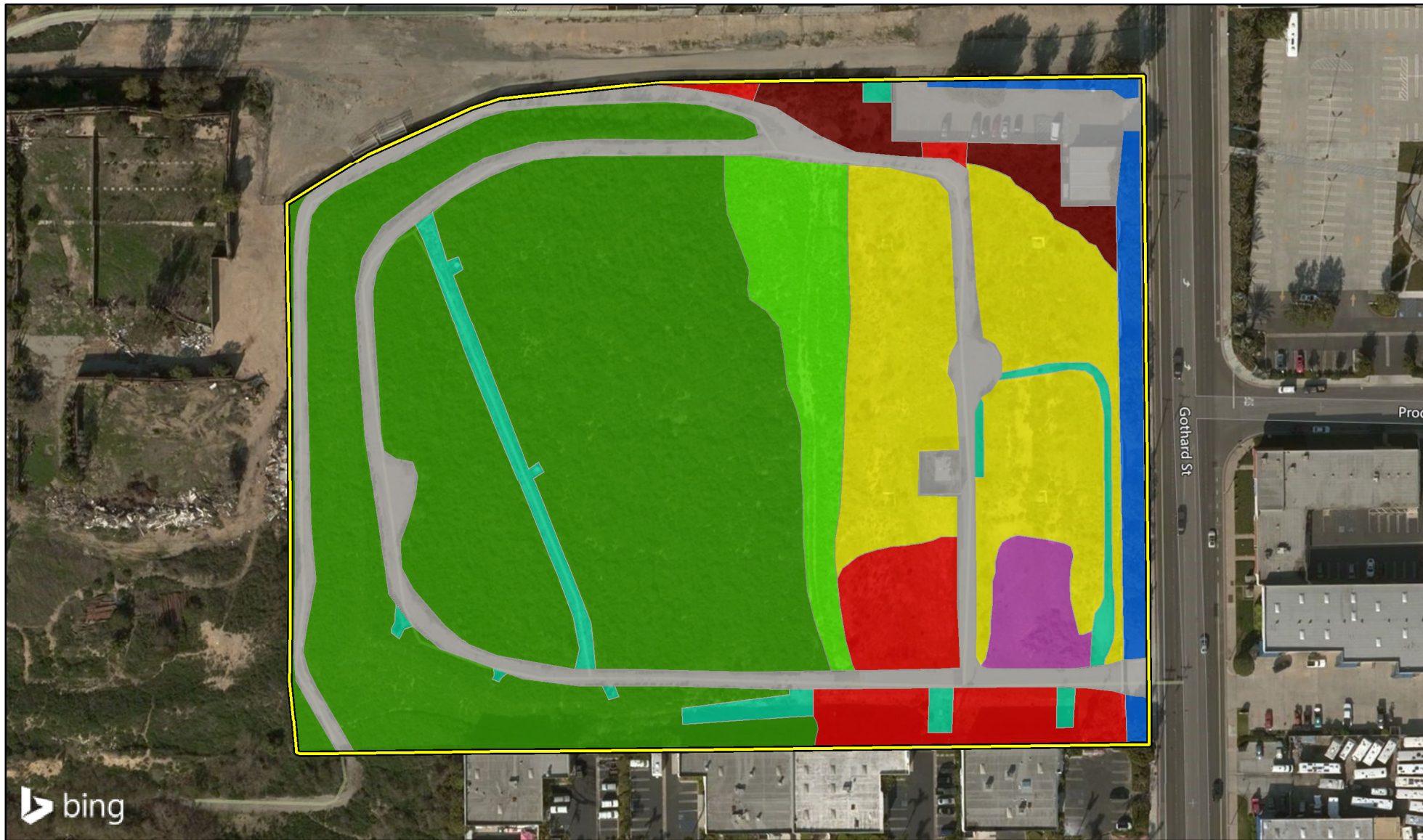
SOURCE: Esri (2017)

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FIGURE 1

*Gothard Landfill*  
Project Location





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#### LEGEND

  Project Location (10.30 Ac)

#### Scrub Coverage

- 30 - 40 % (0.24 Ac)
- 40 - 50 % (0.60 Ac)
- 60 - 70 % (1.64 Ac)
- 70 - 80 % (0.60 Ac)
- 90 - 100 % (4.90 Ac)

#### Vegetation

- Developed (1.50 Ac)
- Disturbed (0.35 Ac)
- Ornamental (0.30 Ac)
- Ruderal (0.20 Ac)



0 75 150  
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SOURCE: Esri (2017)

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FIGURE 2

*Gothard Landfill  
Vegetation*