



March 23, 2020

Brandon Roth
Stratham Homes
2201 Dupont Drive, Suite 300
Irvine, CA 92612

Subject: Arborist Heritage Tree Report for the Westbury Project in Rancho Cucamonga, California

Dear Mr. Roth:

This Arborist Heritage Tree Report documents the findings of the on-site heritage tree assessment conducted by LSA for reassessing all heritage trees within the survey limits of the proposed Westbury Project (project).

INTRODUCTION

This Arborist Heritage Tree Report is an updated assessment of the heritage trees identified on the proposed project site during the heritage tree inventory and assessment conducted in November 2017. This updated Arborist Heritage Tree Report is consistent with the City of Rancho Cucamonga (City) ordinances and tree policies. The results of the updated heritage tree assessment will assist with the planning and design of the proposed project.

The approximately 11.45-acre (ac) project site is located on the west side of East Avenue and north of Foothill Boulevard in Rancho Cucamonga in San Bernardino County. The majority of the subject trees are located in the eastern and southern portions of the parcel (Assessor's Parcel Number [APN] 1100-191-04).

There are 23 qualifying trees representing two species within the project site. The two species of trees located within the project site include Tasmanian bluegum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) and silver dollar gum (*Eucalyptus polyanthemos*).

Table A (attached) identifies each qualifying heritage tree by scientific name, identification number, diameter at breast height (DBH), height, spread, condition, historic windrow, and remarks. In addition to Table A, relevant information regarding the trees within the project site is discussed below.

The project location and vicinity map is shown on Figure 1 (all figures are provided in Attachment A). Figure 2 shows the project boundary and tree locations on an aerial photograph base map at a scale of 1 inch = 100 feet (ft). Figure 3 includes representative photographs of the assessed trees.

STUDY AREA

The approximately 11.45 ac project site is located on the west side of East Avenue and north of Foothill Boulevard in Rancho Cucamonga, San Bernardino County. The highly disturbed undeveloped site mostly consists of compacted bare ground, soil spoil piles, and sparse ruderal vegetation. Adjacent land uses include a Cucamonga Valley Water District Pumping Facility on the proposed project's

southern boundary, residential development to the north and west, Foothill Boulevard to the south, and East Avenue to the east.

METHODS

LSA Associate Biologist Leo Simone (International Society of Arboriculture [ISA] Certified Arborist/ Certified Tree Risk Assessor WE-8491A) conducted the on-site heritage tree assessment on March 18, 2020. The purpose of the heritage tree assessment was to update the current condition of the heritage trees inventoried and surveyed in November 2017. The November 2017 arborist report identified 33 heritage trees, which included all eucalyptus trees growing on the site in the area of the historic windrows, including those eucalyptus trees sprouted after the original windrows were planted. This Arborist Heritage Tree Report only includes those 23 eucalyptus trees that were planted as part of the original windrows or meet the size criteria of being both in excess of 30 ft tall with a single-trunk diameter at breast height (DBH) of 20 inches or more, or having a combined multitrunk DBH of 30 inches or more. The entire assessment was conducted on foot, and all heritage trees within the project boundary were evaluated for their current condition and health.

DISCUSSION

Each of the 23 assessed heritage trees was from one of two species: Tasmanian bluegum and silver dollar gum. Fourteen of the Tasmanian bluegum trees located within the project site are parallel to East Avenue, and six are located near the project site's southwestern boundary. Of the 20 Tasmanian bluegum trees evaluated, 2 are in good condition, 10 are in fair condition, and 8 are in poor condition. The DBH of the Tasmanian bluegum trees ranged from 20 to 69 inches, with the multitrunk trees tending to have the wider girths.

There are three silver dollar gum trees located along the northeastern boundary of the site parallel to East Avenue. Of the three silver dollar gum trees evaluated, one is in good condition and two are in poor condition. The DBH of the silver dollar gum trees ranged from 20.5 to 49 inches, with the multitrunk trees tending to have the wider girths.

CALIFORNIA INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL ASSESSMENT OF THE TASMANIAN BLUEGUM

The Tasmanian bluegum is included on the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) list of invasive species in California, and its invasiveness potential is considered moderate. The Tasmanian bluegum is unusual among naturalized nonnative plant species in California due to its rich cultural history. While most plants listed by Cal-IPC have spread into wildlands on their own, the bluegum was actively planted in natural areas. It was most typically planted in grasslands for timber, windbreaks, and aesthetics. The stands existing today are those that were planted long before the Tasmanian bluegum was recognized as an invasive species. The Tasmanian bluegum is susceptible to beetle borers, thrips, phytophthora, and root rot.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Section 17.16.080 of the City's Municipal Code requires that a tree removal permit be obtained for the removal of any tree considered a heritage tree. A heritage tree is defined as any tree that meets at least one of the following criteria:

1. All eucalyptus windrows
2. Any tree in excess of 30 ft tall and having a single-trunk DBH of 20 inches or more
3. Multitrunk trees having a total DBH of 30 inches or more
4. A stand of trees in which each tree depends on the others for survival
5. Any other tree as may be deemed historically or culturally significant by the City Planning Director because of its age, size, condition, location, or aesthetic qualities

Each of the assessed trees included in this report meets the City's heritage tree requirements, because either the subject tree is part of a historic eucalyptus windrow or the tree meets the size criteria. The size criteria is met when a tree both is in excess of 30 ft tall with a single trunk DBH of 20 inches or more and has a combined multitrunk DBH of 30 inches or more.

The City's Tree Preservation Ordinance lists reasons why trees may be considered for removal, such as poor health, weak structure, danger of collapse, and/or damage to improvements. City staff must also consider the necessity to remove a tree in order to construct improvements; the number of trees in a neighborhood; and whether the trees are required to be saved by any plan or condition of approval or due to their designation as a historic landmark.

It is worth noting that 16 of the identified heritage trees planted as part of a historic windrow no longer serve this function since the majority of the trees planted as part of the original windrow have already been removed. Nearly half of the trees located within the project footprint are in poor condition and significantly weakened due to years of injuries and stress from lack of maintenance, root damage, soil compaction, and drought. Due to the large size of these trees, and in many cases their poor condition, transplantation is not a viable option.

Additionally, as discussed above, the Tasmanian bluegum is listed as an invasive species in California by Cal-IPC. The Tasmanian bluegum stands existing today were planted long before they were recognized as an invasive species. As such, many of the Tasmanian bluegum now growing on the site originated by sprouting and were not planted as part of the original windrows. The Tasmanian bluegum is also highly flammable and should not be planted in close proximity to housing. Finally, the heritage trees located near the southwest corner of the proposed project site are within proposed access, and their removal would be necessary in order to construct improvements as required to successfully implement the proposed project.

Based on the survey and information, the proposed project would be required to seek a tree removal permit per Section 17.16.080 of the City's Municipal Code for the removal of any heritage trees on the project site.

REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO MIGRATORY BIRDS AND THEIR NESTS/EGGS

Native bird species and their parts (including eggs, nests, and feathers) are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (16 United States Code [USC] 703–712). The MBTA prohibits the take, possession, import, export, transport, selling, purchase, barter, or offering for sale of any migratory bird, its eggs, its parts, and its nests, except as authorized under a valid permit. The

United States Department of the Interior Solicitor has issued an Opinion that “finds that, consistent with the text, history, and purpose of the MBTA, the statute’s prohibitions on pursuing, hunting, taking, capturing, killing, or attempting to do the same apply only to affirmative actions that have as their purpose the taking or killing of migratory birds, their nests, or their eggs” (M-37050 pages 2 and 18). As a result, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has ceased enforcement of the MBTA with respect to activities that result in the incidental take of birds or destruction of nests that may occur pursuant to otherwise lawful activities. In lieu of such enforcement, in California the USFWS has noted that such activities may be regulated under the California Fish and Game Code.

The California Fish and Game Code has several sections pertaining to the legal protection of birds and their nests. Section 3503 makes it unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird. However, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has not provided any guidance on the phrase “needlessly destroy.” That term could range from incidental take that could otherwise be avoided with feasible measures to wanton destruction for no other purpose. Thus, it is not clear whether CDFW would pursue enforcement of this section in the case of destruction of an active nest that occurs incidentally to otherwise lawful activities. Nevertheless, Section 3800 clearly prohibits the take of any nongame bird—e.g., live nestlings—except in accordance with other sections of the Fish and Game Code, Fish and Game Commission regulations, or certain mining operations. The only species currently excepted from these protections are house sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) and European starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Section 3503.5 of the Fish and Game Code clearly prohibits the take, possession, or destruction of birds of prey as well as their nests or eggs. Numerous large trees are present on site that may provide nesting habitat for raptors and other migratory birds. Consequently, it would be prudent to do any vegetation removal outside the avian nesting period, which typically extends between February and September, or to conduct nesting bird surveys prior to vegetation removal.

Please contact me at (949) 553-0666 if you have any questions about this report.

Sincerely,

LSA Associates, Inc.



Leo Simone Associate/Biologist

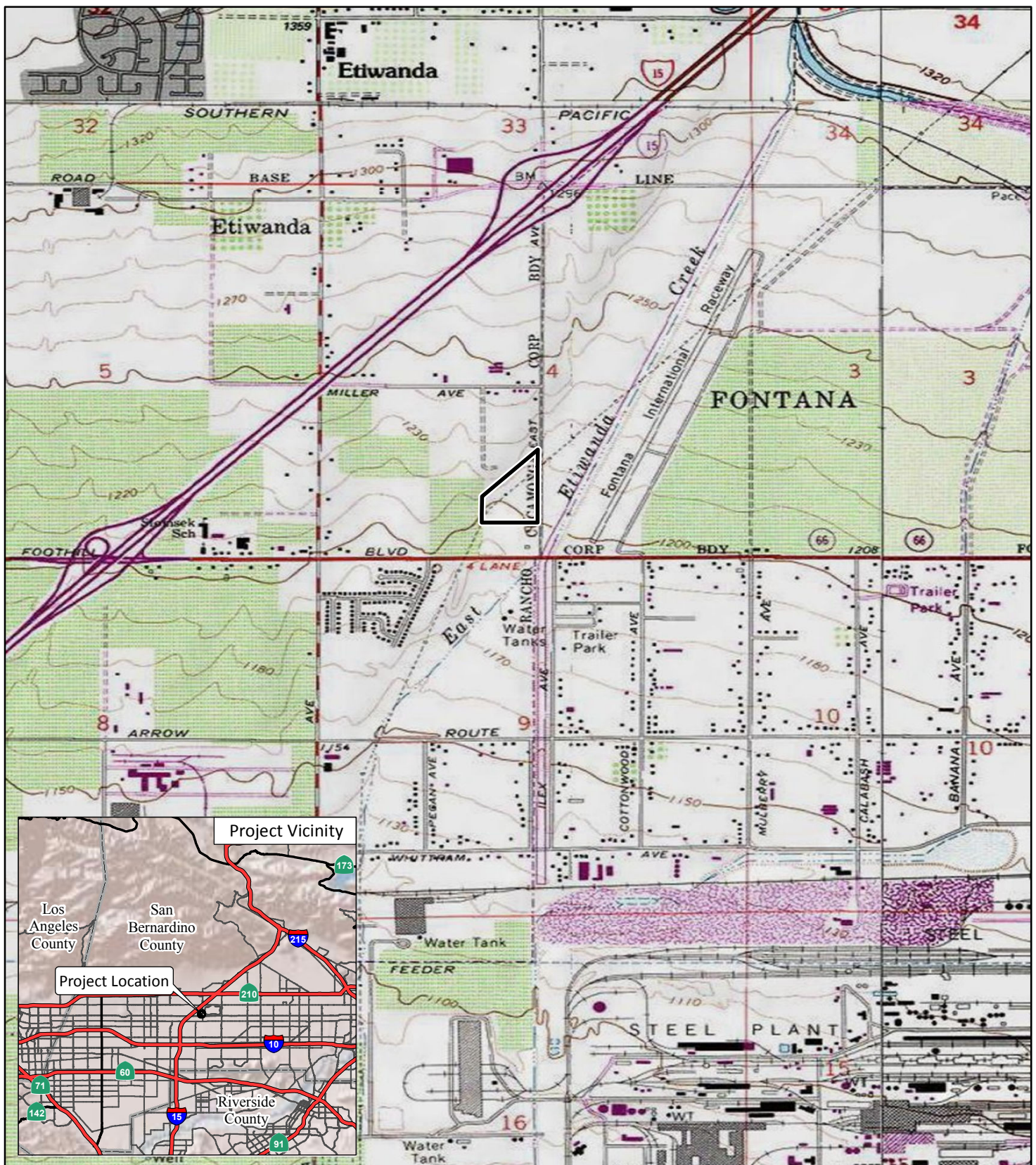
ISA Certified Arborist/Certified Tree Risk Assessor WE-8491-A

Attachments: Table A: Tree Assessment Table
Figures 1 through 3

TABLE A: TREE ASSESSMENT TABLE

Species	ID	DBH (inches)	Height (ft)	Spread (ft)	Condition	Historic Windrow	Remarks
<i>E. globulus</i>	3159	7, 4, 4, 4, 2 (21)	30	25	Poor	No	Multitrunk, topped, sprouted
<i>E. globulus</i>	3160	10, 9.5, 9, 8.5, 7, 5, 4, 4, 3, 3, 2, 2, 1, 1 (69)	40	25	Poor	No	Multitrunk, sprouted
<i>E. globulus</i>	3161	7, 5, 4, 4, 3, 2, 2 (27)	45	30	Fair	No	Multitrunk, sprouted
<i>E. globulus</i>	3162	48.5, 3, 2 (53.5)	95	60	Good	Yes	
<i>E. globulus</i>	3164	13.5, 6, 5, 5, 4 (33.5)	65	50	Fair	No	Multitrunk, sprouted
<i>E. globulus</i>	3165	35.5	90	45	Fair	Yes	
<i>E. globulus</i>	3171	21, 10.5, 6.5, 4, 4, 4 (50)	80	35	Fair	Yes	Multitrunk
<i>E. globulus</i>	3172	17, 7, 6.5, 4, 4 (38.5)	55	40	Poor	No	Multitrunk, sprouted
<i>E. globulus</i>	3173	11.5, 8.5, 6, 1 (27)	60	30	Poor	Yes	Significant trunk decay, multitrunk
<i>E. globulus</i>	3174	31.5	65	50	Fair	Yes	
<i>E. globulus</i>	3177	20	75	30	Poor	Yes	Significant decay
<i>E. globulus</i>	3179	22.5	85	25	Good	Yes	
<i>E. globulus</i>	3180	23, 5, 4, 3, 2, 2 (39)	70	30	Fair	Yes	Multitrunk
<i>E. globulus</i>	3181	31, 2 (33)	85	30	Fair	Yes	
<i>E. globulus</i>	3182	9, 6, 5, 4, 4 (28)	30	20	Poor	No	Multitrunk
<i>E. globulus</i>	3183	24, 15, 11, 10.5, 5 (65.5)	75	20	Poor	Yes	Multitrunk, decay, dieback of upper branches
<i>E. globulus</i>	3184	29.5, 9, 8 (46.5)	75	50	Fair	Yes	Multitrunk, codominant
<i>E. polyanthemos</i>	3185	14, 12, 10, 4, 3, 3, 3 (49)	40	25	Poor	No	Multitrunk, beetle damage, severe decay
<i>E. globulus</i>	3186	21, 18 (39)	70	40	Fair	Yes	Multitrunk
<i>E. polyanthemos</i>	3187	17.5, 3, 3, 3, 2, 2, 1, 1 (32.5)	20	25	Poor	Yes	Dead branches, dieback
<i>E. polyanthemos</i>	3188	20.5	35	45	Good	Yes	
<i>E. globulus</i>	3189	60.5, 3, 2, 2 (67.5)	70	35	Poor	Yes	Dieback in upper crown, codominant trunks, included bark
<i>E. globulus</i>	3190	41.5, 6, 2 (49.5)	65	40	Fair	Yes	Multitrunk

DBH = diameter at breast height
ft = foot/feet



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LEGEND

 Project Location

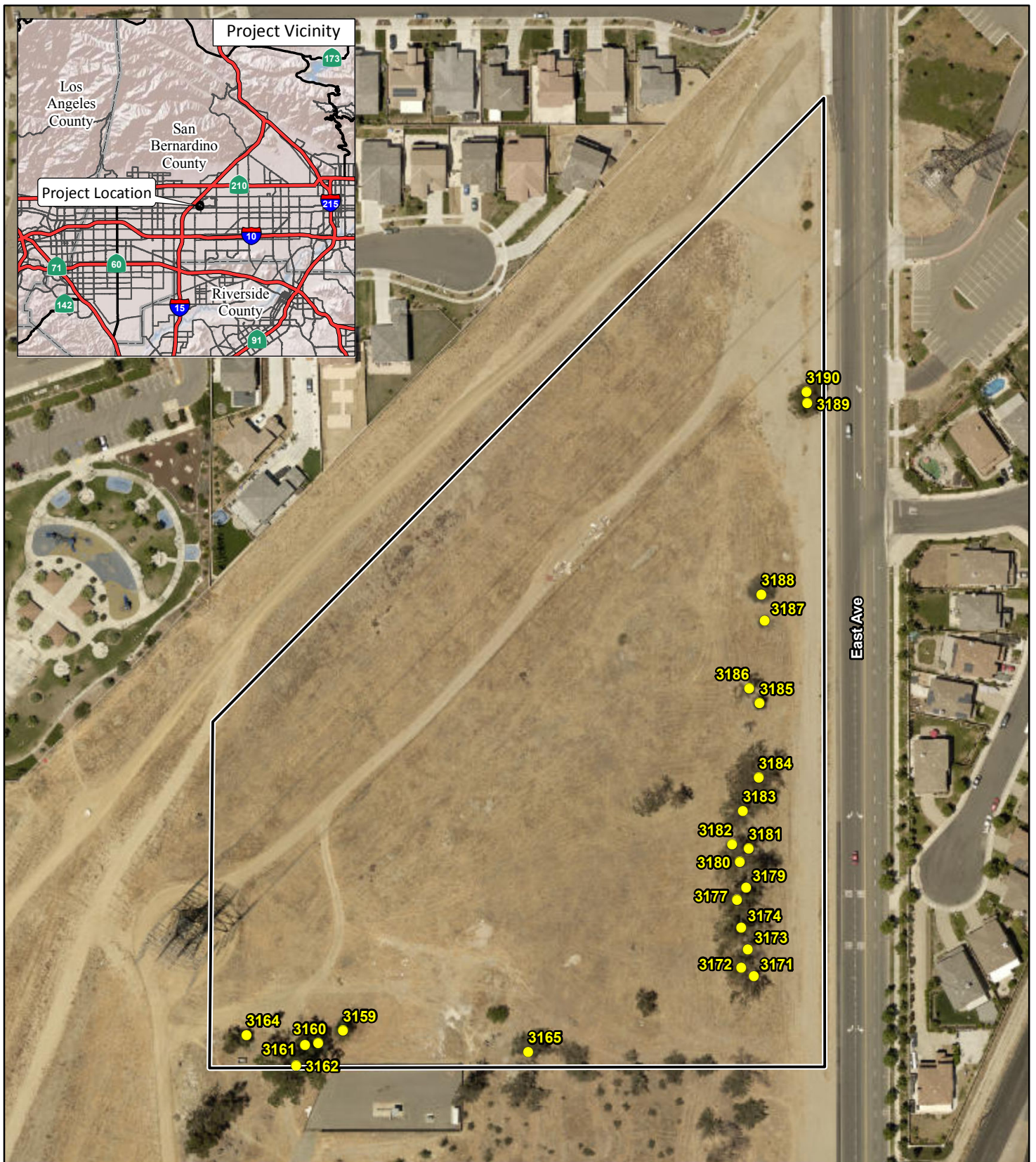


SOURCE: USGS 7.5' Quad - Guasti (1981), CA

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FIGURE 1

Westbury Residential Project
Arborist Heritage Tree Report
Project Location



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LEGEND

- Project Location
- Heritage Tree Location



0 75 150
FEET

SOURCE: ESRI (2015)

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FIGURE 2

Westbury Residential Project
Arborist Heritage Tree Report
Heritage Tree Locations



1: View of degraded eucalyptus on remaining windrow along East Avenue.



2: View of degraded eucalyptus on remaining windrow along southwest corner of site.



3: View of degraded eucalyptus trees in central portion of site.

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FIGURE 3

*Westbury Residential Project
Arborist Heritage Tree Report
Representative Photographs*