

October 30, 2009

Ms. Jemellee Cruz
Flood Maintenance Division
Department of Public Works
County of Los Angeles
900 South Fremont Ave
Annex Building, 2nd Floor
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

VIA EMAIL AND OVERNITE EXPRESS
jcruz@dpw.lacounty.gov

Subject: Results of Focused Plant Surveys for the Ballona Creek Soft-Bottom Channel,
Los Angeles County, California

Dear Ms. Cruz:

This letter report presents the findings of focused plant surveys conducted for the Ballona Creek Soft-Bottom Channel (SBC), in Los Angeles County, California. Surveys were conducted for southern tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis*), a California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List 1B species with potential to occur because of the presence of suitable habitat. The approximately 0.75-mile Ballona Creek SBC reach is located in the Marina Del Rey area of the City of Los Angeles, and is surrounded mainly by residential, commercial, and industrial development (Exhibits 1 and 2). The reach starts at Centinela Avenue, and extends downstream almost to State Highway 90 (Marina Freeway). It is located west of Interstate 405, east of Marina Del Rey, and north of Los Angeles International Airport. The survey area is located on the Venice U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle map, with an elevation below approximately ten feet above mean sea level (msl).

METHODS

Prior to the field survey, a literature review was conducted to identify special status plants known from the general vicinity. This included a review of Beverly Hills, Hollywood, Venice, and Inglewood USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles in the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) California Natural Diversity Database (CDFG 2009) and the CNPS Inventory (CNPS 2009). Reference populations of southern tarplant were visited to confirm that this species was blooming during the surveys; it was observed to be flowering in the Newport Beach area on July 9, 2009, and in the City of Carson on July 13, 2009.

According to the National Weather Service, Los Angeles International Airport (located about three miles south of the survey area) has received 8.1 inches of precipitation over the past year (since July 1, 2008), which is about 61 percent of the normal 13.2 inches based on 1971-2000 averages (National Weather Service 2009).

Special status plant surveys were conducted on July 22, 2009, by BonTerra Consulting Botanist Andrea Edwards and Biologist Brian Daniels. Meandering transects were used to search the survey area. All plant species observed were recorded in field notes. Plant species were identified in the field or collected



for subsequent identification using keys in Hickman (1993) and Munz (1974). Taxonomy follows Hickman (1993) and current scientific data (e.g., scientific journals) for scientific and common names.

SITE DESCRIPTION

Open water was present within this SBC reach at the time of the survey. The SBC also contains developed areas consisting of concrete channel banks. The channel edges contain thin bands and patches of disturbed freshwater marsh vegetation, with the highest density in the upstream half of the reach (BonTerra Consulting 2009). This vegetation type includes interspersed patches of ruderal vegetation because of past site disturbance, possibly resulting from flood maintenance activities. Soil types generally consist of the Chino association (USDA 1969).

RESULTS

No special status plant species were observed during the survey. A list of all plants observed within the survey area during focused surveys can be found in Attachment A.

If you have any comments or questions, please call Marc Blain at (626) 351-2000.

Sincerely,

BONTERRA CONSULTING



Marc T. Blain
Biological Resources Manager/Associate



Andrea D. Edwards
Botanist

Enclosures:

- Exhibit 1 – Local Vicinity
- Exhibit 2 – Aerial Photograph
- Attachment A – Plant Compendium

REFERENCES

- BonTerra Consulting. 2009 (*In prep.*). *Results of Biological Reconnaissance Surveys of Two Soft-Bottom Channels, Los Angeles County, California*. Pasadena, CA: BonTerra Consulting.
- California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). 2009 (July 4). California Natural Diversity Database. Records of Occurrence for Beverly Hills, Hollywood, Venice, and Inglewood quadrangle maps. Sacramento, CA: CDFG, Natural Heritage Division.
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS). 2009. Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (v7-09d). Records of Occurrence for Beverly Hills, Hollywood, Venice, and Inglewood quadrangle maps. Sacramento, CA: CNPS. <http://www.cnps.org/inventory>.
- Hickman, J.C., Ed. 1993. *The Jepson Manual of Higher Plants of California*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Munz, P.A. 1974. *A Flora of Southern California*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- National Weather Service. 2009 (June 12). National Weather Service Forecast Office: Los Angeles/Oxnard. <http://www.weather.gov/climate>.
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). 1969 (revised). *Report and General Soil Map, Los Angeles County, California*. Lancaster, CA: USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service.



Local Vicinity

Ballona Creek Soft-Bottom Channel, Los Angeles County, California

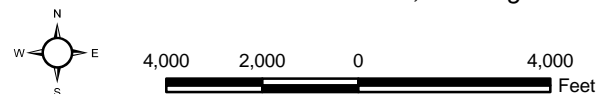
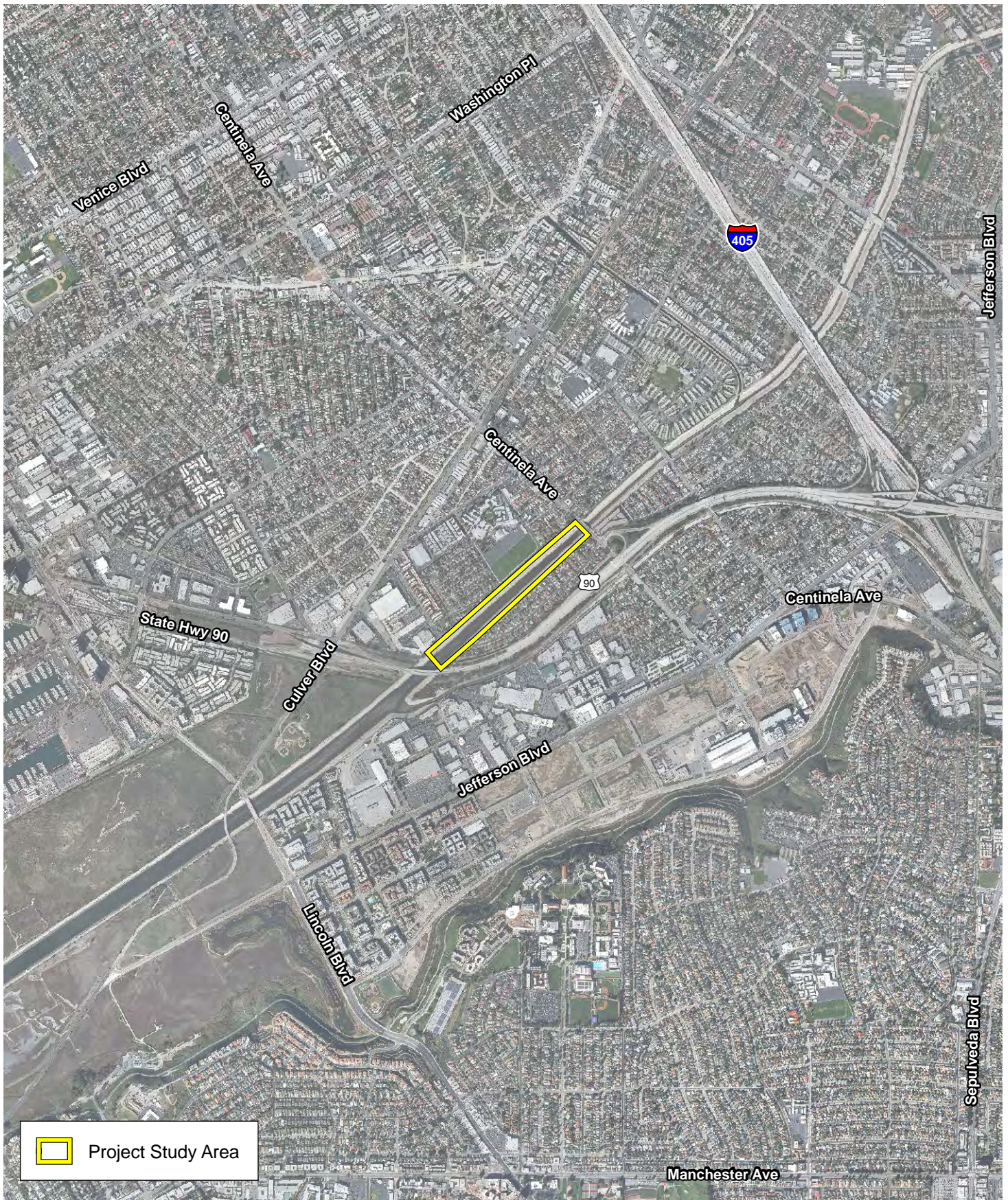


Exhibit 1

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Aerial Photograph

Ballona Creek Soft-Bottom Channel, Los Angeles County, California

Exhibit 2



2,000 1,000 0 2,000
Feet

Bonterra
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ATTACHMENT A PLANT COMPENDIUM

| FLOWERING PLANTS |
|--|
| CLASS DICOTYLEDONES (DICOTS) |
| <i>APIACEAE (UMBELLIFERAE) - CARROT FAMILY</i> |
| <i>Conium maculatum*</i> poison hemlock |
| <i>Foeniculum vulgare*</i> sweet fennel |
| <i>ASTERACEAE (COMPOSITAE) - SUNFLOWER FAMILY</i> |
| <i>Ageratina adenophora*</i> sticky eupatorium |
| <i>Artemisia dracunculus</i> tarragon |
| <i>Bidens pilosa*</i> common beggar ticks |
| <i>Chrysanthemum coronarium*</i> garland daisy |
| <i>Conyza canadensis</i> common horseweed |
| <i>Cotula coronopifolia*</i> African brass buttons |
| <i>Euthamia occidentalis</i> western goldenrod |
| <i>Lactuca serriola*</i> prickly lettuce |
| <i>Picris echioides*</i> bristly ox tongue |
| <i>Xanthium strumarium</i> cocklebur |
| <i>BRASSICACEAE (CRUCIFERAE) - MUSTARD FAMILY</i> |
| <i>Hirschfeldia incana*</i> shortpod mustard |
| <i>Lepidium virginicum</i> var. <i>pubescens</i> wild peppergrass |
| <i>Raphanus sativus*</i> wild radish |
| <i>CHENOPODIACEAE - GOOSEFOOT FAMILY</i> |
| <i>Atriplex triangularis</i> sparscale |
| <i>Chenopodium album*</i> lamb's quarters |
| <i>Salicornia virginica</i> common woody pickleweed |
| <i>EUPHORBIACEAE - SPURGE FAMILY</i> |
| <i>Chamaesyce</i> sp. spurge |
| <i>Ricinus communis*</i> castor bean |

PLANT COMPENDIUM (Continued)

| FLOWERING PLANTS |
|---|
| <i>FABACEAE (LEGUMINOSAE)</i> - LEGUME FAMILY |
| <i>Melilotus alba</i> * white sweet-clover |
| <i>MYRTACEAE</i> - MYRTLE FAMILY |
| <i>Callistemon</i> sp.* bottlebrush |
| <i>PLANTAGINACEAE</i> - PLANTAIN FAMILY |
| <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> * English plantain |
| <i>POLYGONACEAE</i> - BUCKWHEAT FAMILY |
| <i>Polygonum lapathifolium</i> willow weed |
| <i>Rumex crispus</i> * curly dock |
| <i>PORTULACACEAE</i> - PURSLANE FAMILY |
| <i>Portulaca oleracea</i> * common purslane |
| <i>PRIMULACEAE</i> - PRIMROSE FAMILY |
| <i>Anagallis arvensis</i> * scarlet pimpernel |
| <i>SOLANACEAE</i> - NIGHTSHADE FAMILY |
| <i>Solanum americanum</i> white nightshade |
| <i>ULMACEAE</i> - ELM FAMILY |
| <i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> * Chinese elm |
| CLASS MONOCOTYLEDONES (MONOCOTS) |
| <i>ARECACEAE (PALMAE)</i> - PALM FAMILY |
| <i>Phoenix canariensis</i> * Canary Island date palm |
| <i>Washingtonia robusta</i> * Mexican fan palm |
| <i>CYPERACEAE</i> - SEDGE FAMILY |
| <i>Cyperus involucratus</i> * African umbrella-sedge |
| <i>Scirpus californicus</i> California bulrush |
| <i>Scirpus maritimus</i> alkali bulrush |
| <i>POACEAE [GRAMINEAE]</i> - GRASS FAMILY |
| <i>Agrostis viridis</i> * water bentgrass |
| <i>Avena barbata</i> * slender wild oat |
| <i>Lolium perenne</i> * perennial ryegrass |
| <i>Paspalum dilatatum</i> * dallis grass |

**PLANT COMPENDIUM
(Continued)**

| FLOWERING PLANTS |
|---|
| <i>Paspalum distichum</i> knot grass |
| <i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> * African fountain grass |
| <i>Piptatherum miliaceum</i> * smilo grass / millett ricegrass |
| TYPHACEAE - CATTAIL FAMILY |
| <i>Typha domingensis</i> southern cattail |
| * indicates non-native species |