



September 29, 2015
20884

Jemellee Cruz
Flood Maintenance Division
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue, Annex Building
Alhambra, California 91803

SUBJECT: RESULTS FROM THE FOCUSED PLANT SURVEY FOR SOFT-BOTTOM CHANNEL REACH 115, LOWER SAN GABRIEL RIVER; MAINTENANCE PROJECT, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA. TASK ORDER NUMBER FMD-C339

Dear Ms. Cruz:

This letter report summarizes the findings of the focused plant survey conducted for the Soft-Bottom Channel (SBC) Reach 115, Lower San Gabriel River, for the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD) to support the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR) for the proposed actions relating to the Lower San Gabriel River SBC Reach Annual Maintenance Project (Project). Information contained in this document is in accordance with accepted scientific and technical standards that are consistent with the requirements of United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

The Project reach is located in the City of Long Beach and is surrounded mainly by residential, commercial, and industrial development. The Project extends from west of the Interstate 605 and I-405 interchange, to the coast, ending at Marina Drive in Long Beach (Figure 1). The proposed impact area includes:

- The expanse from the top of the riprap on one bank, across the channel, to the top of the riprap on the other bank
- A 50-foot buffer around any tree or shrub identified as having a 0.5-inch or more root diameter within the Lower San Gabriel River Project area (landward side of levee on one bank, across the channel, to the landward side of levee on the other bank plus an additional 15-foot buffer if it is contained within the LACFCD easement)
- The total channel length of 3.97 linear miles

METHODS

The focused plant survey was conducted by Chambers Group, Inc. (Chambers Group) botanists Jeremy Smith and Christina Congedo on September 2, 2015. During the survey, the botanists visually scanned the impact area for the presence of southern tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* subsp. *australis*) within the Lower San Gabriel River Project area as identified by BonTerra in their biological reconnaissance survey report (BonTerra 2010).

The survey was conducted by walking parallel transects throughout the impact area. If a targeted plant species was observed during the survey, botanists recorded the location using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology that provides real-time sub-meter accuracy and that has the capability to provide sub-foot accuracy with post processing. All plant species observed during the survey were recorded (Attachment 1). Plants of uncertain identity were collected and subsequently identified from keys, descriptions, and illustrations in *The Jepson Manual, Vascular Plants of California, Second Edition* (Baldwin et al. 2012) and the *Sunset Western Garden Book* (Brenzel 2007). Plant nomenclature follows that of Baldwin et al. (2012) for native plants and naturalized waifs, or the Sunset Publishing Corporation (Brenzel 2007) for ornamental cultivars.

RESULTS

Vegetation

Open water is present within this reach, and developed areas consisting of riprap are present along the banks. The channel edges contain thin bands of disturbed salt marsh dominated by native common pickleweed (*Salicornia pacifica*) and nonnative African brass buttons (*Cotula coronopifolia*). The upper slopes of the banks contain patches of riparian herbaceous vegetation including native spearscale (*Atriplex triangularis*), common horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis*), and five-hook bassia (*Bassia hyssopifolia*), along with nonnative common sow-thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*). On the upper banks at the downstream end of the reach, there are also patches of nonnative iceplant hottentot fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*) and nonnative grassland dominated by wild oats (*Avena* sp.), smilo grass (*Stipa miliacea* var. *milacea*), and foxtail barley (*Hordeum murinum*).

Sensitive Plants

Southern tarplant was not observed within the impact area during the survey and is considered absent. No other sensitive plant species were observed within the reach.

CONCLUSIONS

Southern tarplant was not observed during the survey; therefore, this species is considered absent from the SBC Reach 115. Mitigation will not be required.

Please feel free to contact me at (949) 261-5414 ext. 7241 or at hclayton@chambersgroupinc.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Heather Clayton
Senior Botanist

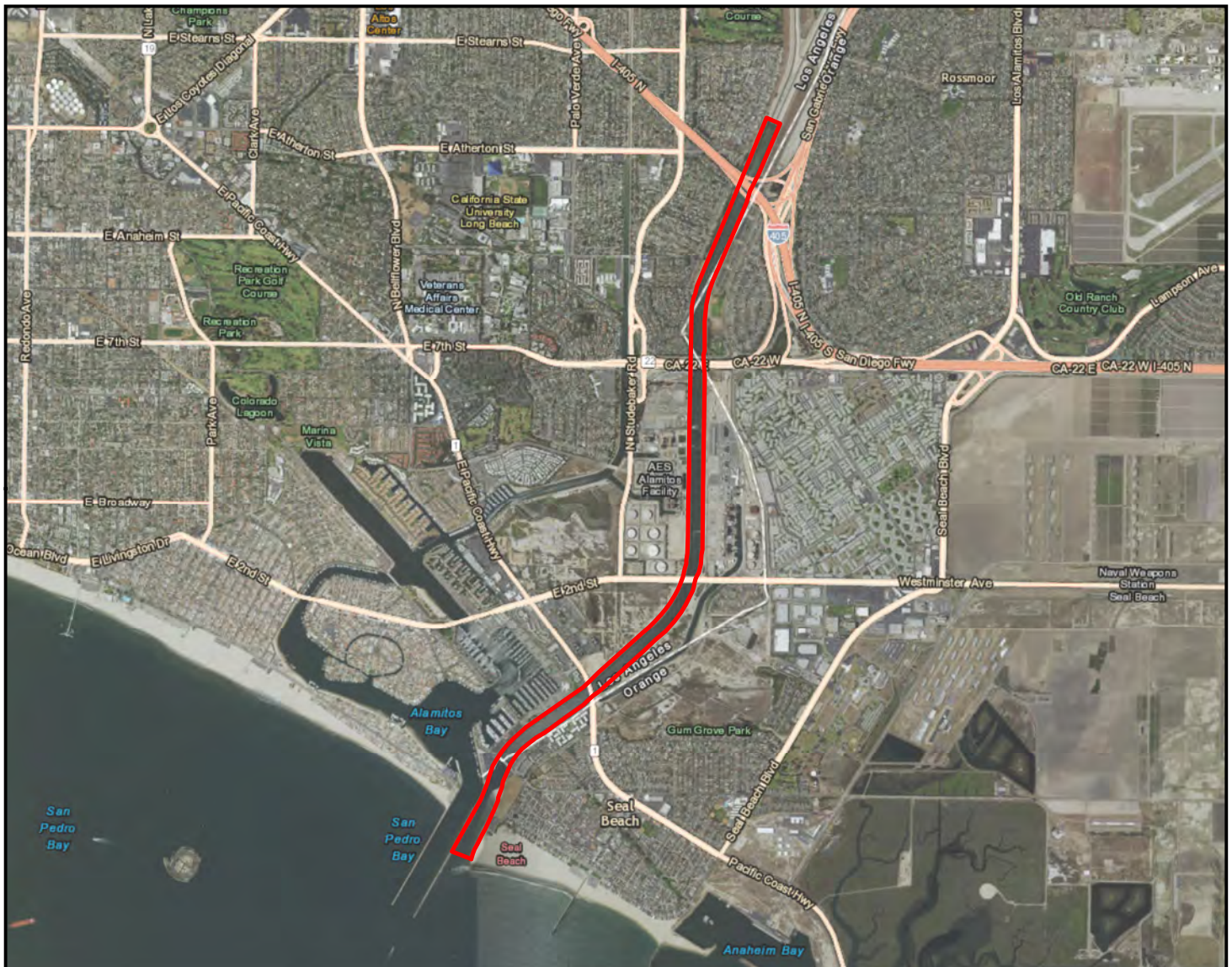
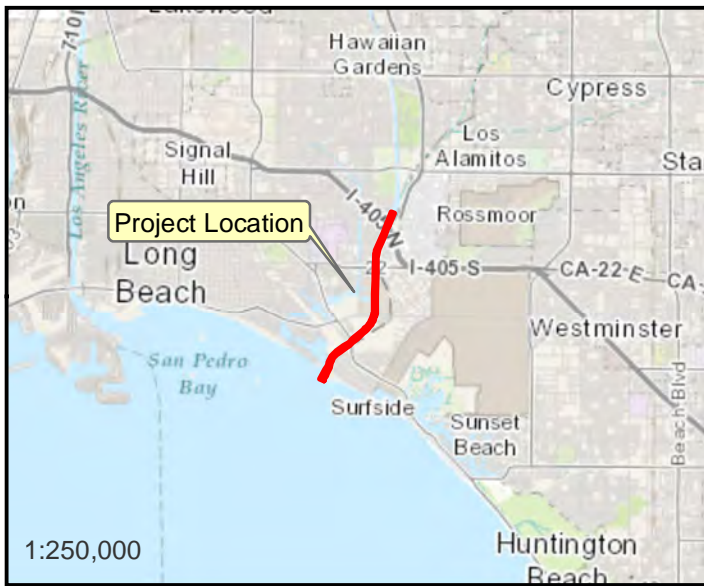
References

- Baldwin, B.G., D.H. Goldman, D.J. Keil, R. Patterson, and T.J. Rosatti, and D.H. Wilken (editors)
2012 *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California, Second Edition*. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA.
- BonTerra
2010 Results of Biological Reconnaissance Surveys of Two Soft-Bottom Channels, Los Angeles County, Unpublished Letter Report Prepared for the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Flood Control Maintenance Division, Los Angeles, CA.
- Brenzel, K. N., (editor)
2007 *The Sunset Western Garden Book, Eighth Edition*. Sunset Publishing Corporation, Menlo Park, CA.

Figures and Attachments

Figure 1 – Project Location and Vicinity Map

Attachment 1 – Plant Species Observed



Legend

Survey Area



0 2,000 4,000 8,000
Feet

Figure 1
Lower San Gabriel Reach
Project Location & Vicinity Map

ATTACHMENT 1 – PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED



ATTACHMENT 1
PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED

Scientific Name	Common Name
GYMNOSPERMS	
PINACEAE	PINE FAMILY
<i>Pinus halepensis</i> *+	Aleppo pine
ANGIOSPERMS (EUDICOTS)	
ADOXACEAE	MUSKROOT FAMILY
<i>Sambucus nigra</i> subsp. <i>caerulea</i>	blue elderberry
AIZOACEAE	FIG-MARIGOLD FAMILY
<i>Carpobrotus</i> sp.*	iceplant
AMARANTHACEAE	AMARANTH FAMILY
<i>Amaranthus palmeri</i>	Palmer's amaranth
ANACARDIACEAE	SUMAC OR CASHEW FAMILY
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> *	Brazilian pepper tree
APIACEAE	CARROT FAMILY
<i>Apium graveolens</i> *	celery
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> *	fennel
ASTERACEAE	SUNFLOWER FAMILY
<i>Ambrosia acanthicarpa</i>	annual bur-sage
<i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i>	western ragweed
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	California sagebrush
<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	mugwort
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	coyote brush
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i> subsp. <i>salicifolia</i>	mule fat
<i>Baccharis salicina</i>	Emory baccharis
<i>Bidens pilosa</i> *	common beggar-ticks
<i>Centaurea melitensis</i> *	totalote
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i> *	bull thistle
<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i> *	brass-buttons
<i>Dimorphotheca fruticosa</i> *	trailing African daisy
<i>Erigeron bonariensis</i> *	flax-leaved horseweed
<i>Erigeron canadensis</i>	horseweed
<i>Euthamia occidentalis</i>	western goldenrod
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	common sunflower
<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i> *	bristly ox-tongue
<i>Lactuca serriola</i> *	prickly lettuce
<i>Pluchea odorata</i> var. <i>odorata</i>	salt marsh fleabane
<i>Pseudognaphalium stramineum</i>	cotton-batting plant

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Pulicaria paludosa</i> *	Spanish sunflower
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	cocklebur
BRASSICACEAE	MUSTARD FAMILY
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i> *	shortpod mustard
<i>Lepidium latifolium</i> *	perennial peppergrass
CACTACEAE	CACTUS FAMILY
<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i> *	Indian fig
CHENOPODIACEAE	GOOSEFOOT FAMILY
<i>Atriplex prostrata</i> *	sparscale
<i>Atriplex rosea</i> *	tumbling oracle
<i>Atriplex semibaccata</i> *	Australian saltbush
<i>Chenopodium album</i> *	goosefoot
<i>Salicornia pacifica</i>	common pickleweed
<i>Salsola tragus</i> *	Russian thistle
CONVOLVULACEAE	MORNING-GLORY FAMILY
<i>Cuscuta</i> sp.	dodder
EUPHORBIACEAE	SPURGE FAMILY
<i>Ricinus communis</i> *	castor-bean
FABACEAE	LEGUME FAMILY
<i>Acacia longifolia</i> *	Sydney golden wattle
<i>Acacia saligna</i> *	orange wattle
<i>Ceratonia siliqua</i> *+	St John's bread
<i>Melilotus alba</i> *	white sweetclover
FAGACEAE	OAK FAMILY
<i>Quercus ilex</i> *+	holly oak
MALVACEAE	MALLOW FAMILY
<i>Malva parviflora</i> *	cheeseweed
MORACEAE	MULBERRY FAMILY
<i>Ficus</i> sp.*	fig
MYRTACEAE	MYRTLE FAMILY
<i>Callistemon citrinus</i> *	crimson bottlebrush
OLEACEAE	OLIVE FAMILY
<i>Fraxinus uhdei</i> *	shamel ash
<i>Olea europaea</i> *	olive
ONAGRACEAE	EVENING PRIMROSE FAMILY
<i>Oenothera biennis</i> *	common evening-primrose
PLANTAGINACEAE	PLANTAIN FAMILY
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> *	English plantain

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Plantago major</i> *	common plantain
POLYGONACEAE	BUCKWHEAT FAMILY
<i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i>	willow-weed
<i>Rumex conglomeratus</i> *	dock
PORTULACACEAE	PURSLANE FAMILY
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i> *	common purslane
SALICACEAE	WILLOW FAMILY
<i>Salix exigua</i>	narrow-leaved willow
<i>Salix gooddingii</i>	black willow
SAPINDACEAE	SOAPBERRY FAMILY
<i>Cupaniopsis anacardioides</i> *	carrotwood
SCROPHULARIACEAE	FIGWORT FAMILY
<i>Myoporum laetum</i> *	myoporum
SIMAROUBACEAE	QUASSIA FAMILY
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> *	tree of heaven
SOLANACEAE	NIGHTSHADE FAMILY
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i> *	tree tobacco
<i>Solanum douglasii</i>	Douglas' nightshade
TAMARICACEAE	TAMARISK FAMILY
<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i> *	Mediterranean tamarisk
ULMACEAE	ELM FAMILY
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> *+	Chinese elm
URTICACEAE	NETTLE FAMILY
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	stinging nettle
ZYGOPHYLLACEAE	CALTROP FAMILY
<i>Tribulus terrestris</i> *	puncture vine
ANGIOSPERMS (MONOCOTS)	
ARECACEAE	PALM FAMILY
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i> *	Mexican fan palm
CYPERACEAE	SEDGE FAMILY
<i>Cyperus involucratus</i> *	umbrella-plant
<i>Schoenoplectus acutus</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i>	tule
<i>Schoenoplectus americanus</i>	winged three-square
POACEAE	GRASS FAMILY
<i>Arundo donax</i> *	giant reed
<i>Bromus diandrus</i> *	ripgut grass
<i>Bromus madritensis</i> subsp. <i>madritensis</i> *	foxtail chess
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> *	pampas grass

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> *	Bermuda grass
<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	saltgrass
<i>Panicum capillare</i> *	witchgrass
<i>Paspalum vaginatum</i> *	seashore paspalum
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> *	fountain grass
<i>Stipa miliacea</i> var. <i>miliacea</i> *	smilo grass
*Non-Native Species, +Ornamental, Unlikely to be Invasive	