

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Office of Planning and Research 1400 Tenth Street Sacramento, CA 95814 FROM: Department of Parks and Recreation 1416 Ninth Street P.O. Box 942896 Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

PROJECT TITLE: Chino Hills SP Habitat Restoration (20/21-IE-05)

LOCATION: Chino Hills State Park COUNTY: Riverside

DESCRIPTION OF THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF PROJECT: Land use prior to the establishment of Chino Hills State Park (CHSP) has introduced non-native invasive exotic plant species which has degraded the quality and value of these habitats or locally extirpated them. It is the goal of California State Parks to restore the majority of lands within CHSP to a condition where native vegetation dominates the landscape. This project covers general habitat enhancement and/ or restoration actions throughout CHSP that fall within the project scope and site selection process, as identified by California State Parks - Inland Empire District. Measures to be implemented to avoid environmental impact may be obtained by submitting a request to the project Environmental Coordinator listed below.

PUBLIC AGENCY APPROVING THE PROJECT: California Department of Parks and Recreation

NAME OF DIVISION OR DISTRICT CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT: Inland Empire

EXEMPT STATUS:

 Declared Emergency (Section 15269(a))
 Emergency Project (Section 15269(b) and (c))
 Statutory Exemption (Section)
 Categorical Exemption *Class:* 4 Section: 15304 – Minor Alterations to Land

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT: No potential for significant impact to the environment is anticipated in compliance with CEQA §15300.4. If the project is implemented as indicated within the CDPR Project Evaluation Form, then it is exempt under CEQA §15304 – Minor Alterations to Land. The action falls under the Departmental List of Exempt activities according to CEQA §15300.4 as "resource management projects."

CONTACT: Harmony Gugino, Environmental Coordinator Inland Empire District PHONE NO.: (951) 503-3376 EMAIL: harmony.gugino@parks.ca.gov

Kelly Elliott

Kelly Elliott District Superintendent Inland Empire District

5/20/2021

ER 13237

Project ID No.

PCA No.

PROJECT CONCEPT				
PROJECT TITLE	PARK UNIT NAME			
Habitat Restoration at Chino Hills State Park		Chino Hills State Park		
DISTRICT NAME		FACILITY NO.		
Inland Empire District		508		
PROJECT MANAGER PHONE NO.		EMAIL		
Ken Kietzer	951-453-4250	ken.kietzer@parks.ca.gov		
DISTRICT PROJECT MANAGER	PHONE NO.	EMAIL		
Same				
PROJECT BID DATE	CONSTRUCTION START DATE	FUNDING SOURCE		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Identify the scope of the project in detail, including its purpose, location, and potential impacts. If the ground is to be disturbed, describe the depth and extent of excavation. Describe the existing site conditions, including previous development. Note if work will impact or extend beyond park property. Indicate if work will be done in conjunction with, or as part of, other projects. (Use additional pages if necessary.)

Project Objective: This project covers general habitat enhancement and/ or restoration actions throughout Chino Hills State Park (CHSP) that fall within the project scope and site selection process, as identified within the scope of this document. Actions that do not fall within the scope of this document will be considered as separate project(s) and receive separate site-specific environmental review as necessary. This project (herein referred to as 'Project') includes one identified restoration site and additional, unidentified future restoration sites throughout the park unit. **See Exhibit 1 – Project Area Topographic Map; see Exhibit 2 – CHSP Known Future Habitat Restoration Site** (attached).

Purpose/Need: Five major habitat types dominate Chino Hills SP: coastal sage scrub, cactus scrub, grassland, oak/ walnut woodland and riparian. A few small areas would be described as chaparral as well. Land use prior to the establishment of CHSP, primarily long-term livestock grazing, has introduced non-native invasive exotic plant species which has degraded the quality and value of these habitats or locally extirpated them. It is the goal of California State Parks (herein referred to as 'Department') to restore the majority of lands within CHSP to a condition where native vegetation dominates the landscape.

 The Department Operations Manual for Natural Resources states "It is the policy of the Department to restore habitat and native animal populations that have been negatively affected by past land use in the parks. Habitats can be manipulated to restore a disturbed or altered natural habitat or to re-create or simulate a natural habitat element or process. Landscapes and plants in park units may also be altered for special purposes, such as to achieve habitat management objectives for a particular species, population, or community. Such alteration will be carried out in a manner designed to restore the natural functioning of the plant and animal community. An example is using prescribed fire to maintain natural ecosystem processes or to manage the habitat of a sensitive species where natural fires can no longer be permitted to occur. Such management actions will be considered on a site-bysite basis and be made only after review of park management objectives. Restoration

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requiring active management can benefit from development of resource management plans that address the steps necessary to achieve the restoration goal."

• The General Plan for Chino Hills State Park states, "The purpose of Chino Hills State Park is to preserve the natural, cultural, and scenic resources of the rolling hills, wooded canyons, and riparian forests that are representative of the early California landscape, and make them available for public enjoyment and education. California State Parks will endeavor to preserve and restore native habitats in the park for their intrinsic natural values, to promote biological diversity, and to support the integrity of regional ecosystems. California State Parks will endeavor to protect the cultural and scenic resources, promote an understanding of the park's unique features, and provide recreation opportunities in a manner consistent with the protection of natural and cultural values."

To meet these objectives, the Department can include approval of habitat enhancement and/or restoration within CHSP. See Exhibit 3 – CHSP Existing Habitat Restoration Sites (attached).

Project Scope: Project scope includes both the site selection process and implementation of habitat enhancement and/or restoration actions that fit within the criteria described in this document. The site selection process will integrate all Departmental programs into the decision process, including Park Management, Facilities Maintenance, Law Enforcement, Cultural Resource Management, Interpretation and Natural Resource Management so as to be assured that the restoration of native habitat will adhere to the Project scope.

- **Site-Specific Plan:** Each restoration site will have its own site-specific restoration plan which will be reviewed and approved by Parks personnel and will provide any necessary further details regarding how the site will be restored.
- **Right-of-Entry/Easements:** Contractors and non–Department personnel will be required to obtain a Right of Entry permit in order to operate within the state park. CHSP has utility easements traversing the unit, including but not limited to Southern California Edison, Metropolitan Water District, and Sempra Energy (So. Cal Gas). Habitat restoration will not take place within any recorded easements within the park and appropriate buffers will be established to prevent habitat disturbance should any of the easement holders need to conduct operations within their easement. Buffers of 10-25 feet may be maintained along park boundaries as well.
- **Labor:** Habitat enhancement and restoration work will be conducted by Department personnel or by licensed contractors.
- **Phased Activity:** Habitat restoration covered under this Project may be a phased effort that includes one or more of the following:
 - <u>Phase 1 Site Preparation and Collection of Plant Material</u>: Primarily the control of preexisting exotic and invasive vegetation and typically takes one or two growing seasons. Seed and other propagule collection takes place concurrently.

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- Exotic plant control is achieved via and integrated pest management (IPM) approach. This applies a variety of the most efficient and environmentally sound practices to control exotic species, which include mowing, hand weeding and chemical control with herbicides. See Appendix A – IPM Memo (attached). State Parks genetic integrity policy requires that to the degree possible, seed and propagule collection will take place in the park or at least within the same watershed ("State of California State Park and Recreation Commission: Statements of Policy", 1994). Collection will follow best practices set by the Center for Plant Conservation. ("Center for Plant Conservation at San Diego Zoo Global: CPC Best Practices for Collecting Seeds from Wild Rare Plant Populations", 2017). Collection activity will avoid sites and/or times of year that would interfere with bird nesting. Bird nesting season for this region is generally recognized as beginning March 15 and extending until September 15. For the California gnatcatcher, the season begins February 15. Certain owls may begin nesting activity as early as November. Phase 2 – Native Vegetation Installation: Planting native seed and/or container plants. Depending on the site conditions supplemental irrigation and soil amendments may be required during this phase to help the plantings become established. Irrigation may be established either by connecting to hard plumbed water systems or placing temporary water storage tanks and plumbing the irrigation lines off them. All temporary water tanks and irrigation lines will be removed once plantings are established enough to survive without supplementary irrigation. No water will be drawn from any natural watercourses. Mycorrhiza fungi may be applied to soil within sites to facilitate natural water and mineral uptake by the native plants. Only appropriate mycorrhizae for the site will be used. No chemical fertilizers or other soil amendments will be applied. One to two inches of clean, weed free wood chips may be placed around container plants to prevent weed growth. Phase 3 – Maintenance: Includes gradual removal of supplemental irrigation,
 - <u>Phase 3 Maintenance</u>: Includes gradual removal of supplemental irrigation, continued exotic plant control and replacement of container plants that do not survive the initial stages of Phase Two. Maintenance timelines depend on the habitat type being restored and will be outlined in the site-specific restoration plan. These typically

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last from 5-10 years. Limited exotics management and sensitive species monitoring will continue in perpetuity to maintain the integrity of the habitat.

- <u>Natural Resources:</u> Site selection will prioritize habitat connectivity that facilitates movement through the state park and the larger Puente-Chino Hills Wildlife Corridor. Access to restoration sites will be via existing roads and trails. Restoration sites will be delineated and exclusionary fencing installed, as necessary. No artificial lighting will be used There are a number of listed and sensitive species that occupy CHSP including but not limited to the California gnatcatcher, least Bell's vireo and California cactus wren. See Exhibit 4 CNDDB Map (attached). Most habitat restoration projects will enhance or restore habitat specifically targeted at one or more sensitive or listed species.
 - As site selection is assessed and/or during the restoration process, plant and animal surveys will take place as needed to assure avoidance of impacts to sensitive species. Exotic plant control efforts will also be timed such that they do not have impacts to nesting birds. Consultation with state and federal regulators will take place as appropriate to confirm that planned measures satisfy their concerns.
 - Some restoration sites may take place in jurisdictional wetlands. Regulatory permits and agreements will be acquired as necessary to comply with all laws and regulations.
 - All work will be consistent will any applicable Habitat Conservation Plans (HCPs) or Natural Community Conservation Plans (NCCPs).
- **Cultural Resources:** Site selection will avoid all known cultural sites. Where soil disturbance is necessary and known archeological sites are not present, a state park archeologist will be consulted and monitoring will occur as needed.
- **Recreational Resources:** Access to restoration sites will be via existing roads and trails. Restoration sites will be delineated and exclusionary fencing installed, as necessary. Project activity will not interfere with any aspect of park operations.
- Aesthetic Resources: All work will take place during daylight hours and no artificial lighting will be used.
- Safety: Access for first responders will be maintained at all times during the restoration process. No excavation will be left open overnight, they will be covered or backfilled. All activities will adhere to Fire Contingency Specifications for Chino Hills SP. See Appendix B Fire Contingency Specs (attached).

References:

Center for Plant Conservation at San Diego Zoo Global: CPC Best Practices for Collecting Seeds from Wild Rare Plant Populations. (2017, August). Accessed January 8, 2020. https://www.saveplants.org/cpc-best-practices-collecting-seeds-wild-rare-plant-populations/

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State of California State Park and Recreation Commission: Statements of Policy, Policy II.4 Preservation of Vegetative Entities. (Amended 1994, August 4). Accessed January 8, 2020. https://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/843/files/CommissionPolicies9-23-05.pdf				
DOCUMENTS ATTACHED				
 7.5 minute (quad) map of project area (<i>Required</i>) Site Map (<i>Required</i> - Scale should show relationship to existing buildin DPR 727 Accessibility Review and Comment Sheet (<i>Required</i> – A the Accessibility Section.) Sea-level Rise Worksheet (for coastal park units) Graphics (Specify - photos, diagrams, drawings, cross-sections, etc.): Other (Specify): 				
REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS				
IS AN APPLICATION, PERMIT, OR CONSULTATION REQUIRED? Coastal Development Permit DFG Stream Alteration Permit State & Federal Endangered Species Consultation Corps of Engineers 404 Permit RWQCB or NPDES Permit DPR Right to Enter or Temporary Use Permit PRC 5024 Review Stormwater Management Plan Encroachment Permit (Specify Agency): Native American Consultation Other (Specify):	YES MAYBE NO CONTACT I II II III IIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII			
<i>COMMENTS:</i> All habitat restoration actions conducted by non-DPR personnel and Project will be required to obtain a right-of-entry permit from California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). Any habitat restoration covered under this Project is subject to applicable federal and/or state regulatory requirements. Consultation and/or permits issued to a subcontractor must be submitted to DPR as part of internal review process for eligibility under this Project.				

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PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

DEPARTMENT POLICY COMPLIANCE YES NO HAS A GENERAL PLAN BEEN APPROVED FOR THE UNIT? Image: Complete C				
IS THE PROJECT WITHIN A CLASSIFIED SUBUNIT? Natural Preserve Cultural Preserve State Wilderness				
IS THE PROJECT CONSISTENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVES?	CULTURAL			
IS THE PROJECT CONSISTENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S MANUAL CHAPTER 0300?	OPERATIONS			
COMMENTS:				
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT PROJECT CONCEPT APPROVAL OR DESIGNEE TITLE DATE Contract Superintendent 5/20/2021				
Kelly Elliott District supermeendent 3720/2021 RESOURCES Explain all 'Yes' or 'Maybe' answers in the "Evaluation and Comments" section (reference by letter and number). Attach additional pages, if necessary.				
YES MAYBE NO A. EARTH – WILL THE PROJECT: Image: Ima				
YES MAYBE NO B. AIR – WILL THE PROJECT: Image:				
YES MAYBE NO C. WATER – WILL THE PROJECT: Image: Imag				

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¥	MAYBE	≌ NNUNX NX	 D. PLANT LIFE - WILL THE PROJECT: 1. Adversely affect any native plant community? 2. Adversely affect any unique, rare, endangered, or protected plant species? 3. Introduce a new species of plant to the area? 4. Adversely affect agricultural production? 5. Adversely affect the vigor or structure of any tree? 6. Encourage the growth or spread of alien (non-native) species? 7. Interfere with established fire management plans or practices?
YES	MAYBE	≥ ⊠⊠⊠⊠	 E. ANIMAL LIFE – WILL THE PROJECT: 1. Adversely affect any native or naturalized animal population? 2. Adversely affect any unusual, rare, endangered, or protected species? 3. Adversely affect any animal habitat? 4. Introduce or encourage the proliferation of any non-native species?
YES		≥ N N N N N N N	 F. CULTURAL RESOURCES – WILL THE PROJECT: 1. Adversely affect a prehistoric or historic archeological site, or tribal cultural resource? 2. Adversely affect a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object? 3. Cause an adverse physical or aesthetic effect on an eligible or contributing building, structure, object, or cultural landscape? 4. Diminish the informational or research potential of a cultural resource? 5. Increase the potential for vandalism or looting? 6. Disturb any human remains? 7. Restrict access to a sacred site or inhibit the traditional religious practice of a Native American community?
YES	MAYBE	S N⊠⊠⊠⊠	 <u>G. AESTHETIC RESOURCES</u> – WILL THE PROJECT: 1. Adversely affect a scenic vista or view? 2. Significantly increase noise levels? 3. Adversely affect the quality of the scenic resources in the immediate area or park-wide? 4. Create a visually offensive site? 5. Be incompatible with the park design established for this unit or diminish the intended sense of "a special park quality" for the visitor?
YES X	MAYBE	N N N N S	 H. RECREATIONAL RESOURCES – WILL THE PROJECT: 1. Be in a public use area? 2. Have an adverse effect on the quality of the intended visitor experience? 3. Have an adverse effect on the quality or quantity of existing or future recreational opportunities or facilities? 4. Have an adverse effect on the accessibility of recreational facilities (e.g., ADA requirements)?
	MAYBE	NO	 <u>I. SEA-LEVEL RISE AND EXTREME EVENTS (COASTAL UNITS ONLY):</u> 1. Has this project been evaluated for potential impacts from sea-level rise, coastal storm surge, and other extreme events, using the Department's Sea-Level Rise and Extreme Events Guidance Document or an equivalent process? <i>Please attach the Sea-Level Rise Worksheet (provided in the guidance document) or other detailed evaluation.</i> 2. Based on the evaluation described above, will the project be adversely impacted by frequent flooding or permanent inundation during its expected lifetime?

EVALUATION AND COMMENTS

D.5. Some trees identified as invasive species may be removed as a result of this project. They will be replaced with native vegetation. H.1. This project will take place within a unit of the California State Parks system.

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PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

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ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW To Be Completed by Qualified Specialist(s) ONLY. Attach additional reviews or continuation pages, as necessary.
TRIBAL LIAISON COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)
 Reviewer is Designated District/Service Center/Division Tribal Liaison or Designee NAHC Listed Tribe(s) contacted (attach correspondence record for contact and findings)
 DN 2007-05 Tribal Consultation Only AB52 Consultation Initiated
 Findings: ➢ Project action does not have potential to affect "tribal cultural" resources (explain) Check more than one box if tribes provide differing responses, and describe all consultations below. ☐ Tribe(s) did not respond ☐ Tribe(s) approved project as written ➢ Tribe(s) approved project with treatments or conditions ☐ Tribe(s) and DPR unable to reach mutual agreement on project treatments or conditions
 Explain A Sacred Lands File (SLF) search was conducted for the Habitat Restoration project. The SLF was returned positive and letters were sent to the Native American community, as suggested by the Native American Heritage Committee (NAHC), on March 15, 2021. Letters addressed the 1-to-2-inch rolling activity at the known restoration site as well as the intent to consult on the project as a larger park-wide programmatic project. <u>Site Specific Restoration Plan:</u> Project activities at the one known location includes rolling a roller over the land to create 1-to-2-inch divots for seeding and watering. No specific concerns were raised regarding the rolling activity. The project activity, as herein described, is not anticipated to affect any known or unknown cultural resources due to the limited-to-no-disturbance. Should activities outside of this scope need to be conducted within this area, the Tribal Liaison/Designee shall be contacted to review the new project scope in order to maintain compliance with applicable regulations. Should inadvertent discoveries of Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs) be identified, the Project Tribal Liaison/Designee shall be notified so that appropriate protection measures can be addressed. <u>Chino Hills Habitat Restoration Plan:</u> Based on the review of tribal input and a positive result returned from the NAHC for nearby Sacred Lands, it is recommended to have a qualified local Native American monitor present during ground disturbance for the future unknown locations for this project. Furthermore, it is recommended that prior to vegetation removal, grubbing, or clearing activities to ensure that any sensitive TCRs are protected appropriately, as TCRs could include several components of a landscape other than surface and subsurface archaeological materials.
 The following information summarized the responses received: The Gabrielino Tongva Indians of California Tribal Council stated that there is a lot of correlation between Chino and tribal histories and cultural resources. They also stated that if there is any soil disturbance, mechanical or by hand, they would like to be contacted and be provided the opportunity to work in conjuction with State Parks. The Juaneño Band of Mission Indians Acjachemen Nation-Belardes did not have any concerns. The Rincon Band has no knowledge of cultural resources within the identified project area, however, they do recommend further consulting with affiliated tribes as they might have pertinent information. Additionally, they recommend archaeological monitoring for the ground-disturbing activities associated with this project. The Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians state that there is always a concern when projects are planned within the boundaries of the Chino Hills State Park and surrounding vicinity. They state that it is also important to understand that the associated tribal oral histories are treated with the utmost sensitivity and only provided when

ER <u>13237</u> Project ID No.

PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

	PRINTED NAME	
> Kituth Nulins	Juliette Meling	
TITLE	DATE	
Assistant State Archaeologist	April 29, 2021	
ARCHEOLOGIST COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED	D FOR ALL FINDINGS)	
Findings:		
No PRC 5024 necessary (provide justification)		
PRC 5024 attached; project approved as written		
PRC 5024 attached, conditions necessary		
PRC 5024 attached, mitigations and/or potential significant impacts		
Explain		
This review includes the Chino Hills Habitat Restoration Plan as and the Site-Specific Restoration Plan for the one known restora <u>Chino Hills Habitat Restoration Plan</u> : There are known archaeolo could potentially be impacted by future restoration projects. A St process of selecting sites for future restoration and also have inp plans to ensure that any impacts to cultural resources are avoide projects and the site-specific restoration plans prepared for these archaeologist and Tribal Liaison/Designee prior to implementatic any future restoration areas that have the potential to impact arc <u>Site-Specific Restoration Plan</u> : Approximately 90% of the known Environmental Inc. in 2019. No previously recorded cultural reso resources were identified within the project area during the 2019 visibility was not very high. The only potentially ground-disturbing project activity proposed w roller over the project area to create 1-to-2-inch divots in the soil to affect any cultural resources, even if unknown resources are p scope will need to be reviewed by a State-qualified archaeologis regulations. Should cultural resources be encountered during rol be contacted immediately for evaluation of the resource.	ation site. bgical resources within Chino Hills State Park which cate-qualified archaeologist should be included in the but during the preparation of the site-specific restoration ed early in the planning process. All future restoration e projects shall be reviewed by a State-qualified on. PRC 5024 reviews will be prepared at that time for chaeological resources. a restoration project area was surveyed by Wood burces are known to be in the area, and no new b survey. However, due to dense vegetation, ground within the known restoration location consists of rolling a l for seeding and watering. This activity is not anticipated present in the project area. Any activities outside of this st in order to maintain compliance with applicable	a d
SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	
* Aug	Joanna Collier	
TITLE	DATE	
Senior State Archaeologist	5/10/2021	

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PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

Project ID No.

HISTORIAN COMMENTS AND SIGNATURE (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)				
Findings:				
 No PRC 5024 necessary (provide justification) PRC 5024 attached, project approved as written PRC 5024 attached, conditions necessary PRC 5024 attached, mitigations and/or potential significant impacts 				
Explain				
The proposed project consists of Park-wide habitat enhancement and restoration work, including but not limited to the issuance of right-of-entry permits; exotic pest control; invasive plant removal; and revegetation with native plants. No known above-ground historic resources will be impacted by the proposed work, including the residence (CDPR Facility # 508-A-1-10-0-001), barn (CDPR facility # 508-A-1-02-0-001), and other buildings and structures at the historic Rolling M Ranch complex.				
SIGNATURE				
Alichael C. Yengling	Mike Yengling			
TITLE DATE Associate Park & Rec Specialist and Reviewing Historian, Southern Service Center 2/16/2021				
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST COMMENTS AND SIGNATURI	E (REQUIRED FOR A	LL FINDINGS)		
 Findings: No Impact Impact(s), see conditions/mitigations below or on attached page(s) Potential Significant Impact Explain If this project is implimneted as it is described it is not anticipated resources. 	l that it will have signif	icant impacts to natural		
SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME			
& Kenneth Hat	Kenneth Kietzer			
TITLE SrES		DATE 12/17/2020		

PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

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MAINTENANCE CHIEF/SUPERVISOR (REQUIRED FOR ALL FINDINGS)				
COMMENTS: No Maintenance Impact				
SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME Darin J Hewitt			
×				
TITLE PMC II	DATE 1/22/21			
SOUTHERN SERVICE CENTER ENVIRONMENTAL COORDI	NATOR			
1. Please ensure that all projects based on this programmatic	-			
their scope and potential for environmental impact. This incl project evaluation procedures. At a minimum, a project desc all resource staff before proceeding to ensure that the work review.	udes review by the Southern Service Center via normal cription of what work will be done should be provided to			
2. Please also ensure that all project measures are provided w reference by the Project Manager and work staff.	vithin a Project Completion Verification Form (PCVF) for			
SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME			
Juke Sema	Luke Serna			
TITLE Appropriate Dark and Depression Specialist	DATE			
Associate Park and Recreation Specialist	February 16, 2021			
OTHER COMMENTS (COMMENTER MUST INCLUDE TITLE /	AND SIGNATURE)			
SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME			
×				

PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

Project ID No. PCA No.

TITLE		DATE
OTHER COMMENTS (COMMENTER MUST INCLUDE TITLE	AND SIGNATURE)	
SIGNATURE	PRINTED NAME	
TITLE		DATE

	ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR REVIEW					
YES	MAYBE	NO	CUMULATIVE IMPACTS 1. Will the project be conducted in conjunction with or at the same time as other projects			
			at the park?			
		\boxtimes	 Will the project be part of a series of inter-related projects? Are there any other projects that must be completed for any part of this project to 			
			 become operational? 4. Are there any other projects (including deferred maintenance) that have been completed or any probable future projects that could contribute to the cumulative impacts of this project? 			
		\boxtimes	5. Are any of the projects that relate to the proposed work outside the General Plan?			
	COMMENTS: Project may occur at the same time as other projects, but no other known projects are planned for the same location. The project as described is eligible for Categorical Exemption § 5304 – Minor Alterations to Land.					
	Projec	project et is cov et is cov number	for the purposes of CEQA compliance. vered activity under DOM 0600 (Figure F) that does not require a Notice of Exemption; vered activity under previously prepared CEQA Document (internal or external);			
	A Mitig	gated N	 AB52 Consultation Initiated. See Tribal Liaison d be prepared. 			

PROJECT EVALUATION (PEF)

Project ID No. _____ PCA No. _____

SIGNATURE Harmong hugind	PRINTED NAME Harmony Gugino		
TITLE DEC		^{DATE} May 19, 2021	
DISTRICT SUPERINTE	NDENT REVIE	W	
COMMENTS:			
I acknowledge any constraints placed on the project as a re	esult of the spec	cialists' comme	nts above and
recommend the project proceed.	sources and spec		
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT APPROVAL SIGNATURE	TITLE		DATE
> Kelly Elliott	District Super	intendent	5/20/2021

State of California – Natural Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

ACCESSIBILITY DIVISION

REVIEW	& COMMENT	SHEET
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Project: Habitat Restoration	Design Entity: Inland Empire District
Location: Chino Hills State Park	Project Manager: Ken Kietzer
Review Date: 02/01/2021	Reviewer: Srikanth (Sri) Rao - CASp-927
Project Phase: PEF	Phone: 916-698-5984

This review and comment does not authorize any omissions or deviations from applicable regulations. The intent of this review is for general conformance with applicable parts of Americans with Disabilities Act Standards for Accessible Design (ADASAD), California Code of Regulations Title 24 - access compliance, and the Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) California State Parks Accessibility Guidelines (CSPAG). Plans were reviewed solely on the items submitted to the Accessibility Division as it relates to standards in design and construction of accessibility features for individuals with disabilities. All construction must comply with the Latest Editions of the California Building Code (CBC), California Mechanical Code (CMC), California Plumbing Code (CPC), California Electrical code (CEC), California Fire Code (CFC), current editions of the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and all other prevailing state and federal regulations.

GENERAL COMMENTS

The project, as described in the PEF, involves the restoration and maintenance of natural resource habitat at Chino Hills State Park. The Accessibility Division has completed review of this PEF, determined that there are no accessibility requirements, and the project is exempt for accessibility compliance. Unless the scope of work changes, no further review is required.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can contact me at <u>Srikanth.rao@parks.ca.gov</u> or via phone at 916-698-5984.

Sincerely,

Srikanth (Sri) Rao CASp-927

END OF COMMENTS

Integrated Pest Management Memo:

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties. Pesticides are used only after monitoring indicates they are needed according to established guidelines, and treatments are made with the goal of removing only the target organism. Pest control materials are selected and applied in a manner that minimizes risks to human health, beneficial and non-target organisms, and the environment.

The IPM strategy for this project includes the application of herbicides, and mechanical weed control, specifically clearing, grubbing and raking of debris. Combining these methods will reduce the volume of herbicides that will be necessary to control the nonnative and invasive plant species known and/ expected to occur within the proposed restoration plots. The project site(s) will be cleared prior to herbicide treatment such that only resprouts of seedlings will require treatment with herbicide. This approach will reduce the surface area of plant which requires treatment along with reducing interference of residual thatch from standing dead skeletons of spent annual plants.

Along with the Best Management Practices outlined below the IPM approach for this project will reduce the overall volume of herbicide necessary to control exotic plant species and allow for the successful restoration of the native plant community targeted by the project.

GENERALIZED HERBICIDE APPLICATION BMPS FOR ALL HERBICIDES AND LINKS

Source: Best Management Practices for Control of Non-Native Invasives. 2009. Montgomery County, Maryland, Department of Parks | mongtomeryparks.org Park Planning and Resource Stewardship Division | parkplanningandstewardship.org Natural Resources Stewardship Section | parksnaturalresources.org

APPLICATION METHODS FOR RECOMMENDED HERBICIDE TREATMENTS Cut Stem Treatments

Cut stem (or cut surface) treatments involve cutting woody stems and applying concentrated herbicides directly to the exposed stem surface. They are useful for treating vines, shrubs, and trees. Two methods are most often used – "cut stump" or "cut stem," and "hack and squirt." The advantages of these methods are: 1) economy, 2) minimal probability of non-target damage, 3) minimal application time, and 4) they can be used in the winter as long as the ground is not frozen or snow-covered and air temperatures will be above freezing during the middle of the day. Backpack sprayers or spray bottles are very effective for these methods.

□ **Cut Stump/Cut Stem Method**: Cut plant stems horizontally at or near ground level; all cuts should be level, smooth, and free of debris. Immediately apply the herbicide to the cut surface, making sure to cover the outer 25% of the stump; this is where the actively growing tissue is. Delayed application may reduce the effectiveness of treatment.

□ **Hack and Squirt Method:** This is sometimes called the "injection method." Using a hatchet or similar cutting tool, make uniformly spaced cuts around the stem at chest height. The cuts should angle downward, be less than 2 inches apart, and extend into the sapwood. Apply ("inject") herbicide to each cut to the point of overflow.

Basal Bark Treatments

Basal bark treatments involve the spraying or painting of woody stems with concentrated herbicides mixed with oil so that the chemical penetrates the outer bark. No cutting is required. Basal bark treatments are effective for controlling woody vines, shrubs, and trees. Treatments can be made any time of year, including the winter months, except when snow or water prevents spraying the basal parts of the stem. Basal bark treatments will have reduced effectiveness at temperatures below 40 degrees F. Proper plant identification is crucial during the dormant season due to the absence of foliage.

Apply herbicide in accordance with label instructions. To treat vegetation with a basal stem diameter of less than 3 inches, apply the specified herbicide-oil mixture on one side of the basal stem to a height 6 inches. Apply herbicide to the point of run-off; within an hour the mixture should have moved through the plant's vascular tissue to encircle the stem. For stems greater than 3 inches basal diameter or with thick bark, treat two sides of the stem to a height of 12 - 18 inches.

Re-entry guidelines and posting signage in application areas

Some herbicides require signage to be posted after application to notify those entering the area and minimize their exposure. However, all the herbicides commonly used by State Parks are labeled with the "Caution" signal word and posting is not required after application according to the product label. Areas where these herbicides are used are considered safe to enter, based on the label information, after the herbicide has completely dried. It is the responsibility of individual districts to determine how or where to close the area to public use after herbicide application until the herbicide is dry, which may take some time in cool coastal areas. It is also suggested that staff or contractors completing the applications should be able to explain the project to interested individuals or have a card with contact information for the project manager so the public can contact someone directly with questions. Details on the posting requirements on herbicide labels for the known active ingredients used by State Parks are included in Table C-1.

Foliar Treatments

Foliar applications involve spraying the leaves of target species with a low concentration mixture of herbicide **in accordance with label instructions**. Foliar treatments should be done during the active growing season, after full leaf expansion in the spring and before fall colors are visible. Foliar spraying is most effective when temperatures are between 60 and 90 degrees F, the air is humid, there is a light breeze (9 mph or less), and rain is not expected for 8 to 12 hours (these factors vary with type of herbicide and type of plant – **follow label instructions**). Rain too soon after spraying can wash unabsorbed herbicide off of leaves and transport it into nearby streams. It may also be necessary to re-treat the affected area.

Use a nonionic surfactant with foliar spray herbicides that do not contain surfactant in the formulation (e.g., Rodeo or Aqua Neat), unless otherwise specified by the manufacturer's label. Surfactants increase the effectiveness of the herbicide by 1) reducing surface tension and ensuring complete foliar coverage, and 2) increasing the rate of absorption through the leaf cuticle.

Equip your backpack sprayer, hand-operated pump sprayer, or spray bottle with a flat spray tip or adjustable cone nozzle. Apply herbicide to the leaves of target plants using a consistent motion. Cover foliage thoroughly, but not to the point of run-off. Foliar treatments should not be done where leaves of target plants are above applicator's shoulder height. **For all chemical application methods:**

□ We recommend adding an EPA-approved blue marker dye to foliar spray solutions in order to keep track of which plants have been treated.

□ Always use the lowest herbicide concentration that proves effective.

□ Remember, the label is the law. Always apply herbicides in accordance with specific label instructions, which include personal protective equipment and storage requirements.

□ If you have questions about safety gear, first aid procedures, or herbicide use call the manufacturer at the number listed on the label for customer inquiries.

Links to Safety Data Sheets for herbicides to be used for this project:

Round-up Pro Concentrate: <u>http://www.monsantoito.com/docs/RoundupProConcentrate_MSDS.pdf</u>

Rodeo: http://www.cdms.net/ldat/mp4TN006.pdf

Garlon 4 Ultra: https://assets.greenbook.net/M86132.pdf

Pathfinder II: <u>https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/agrian-cg-fs1-production/pdfs/Pathfinder II_MSDS1i.pdf</u>

Transline: https://transportation.ky.gov/Maintenance/Pesticides/Transline%20MSDS.pdf

SPECIFICATIONS FOR FIRE CONTINGENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED AT CHINO HILLS STATE PARK

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION:

Chino Hills State Park (CHSP) is in a high fire danger area of southern California that includes portions of San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange Counties and is adjacent to a portion of Los Angeles County. Wildfires that occur in or near the park pose significant threat to life and property. CHSP is near numerous developments, including residential, commercial and industrial, and contains significant segments of important regional utility infrastructure.

The wildfire history of the park and adjacent areas is well documented, indicating that over 98% of wildfires in over 100 years were human caused fires. ¹ As of February, 2013, there have been only two wildfires at CHSP started by natural causes since the park was dedicated in 1984. These fires were caused by lightning strikes. Statistics gathered since the early 1940's by various agencies document that human-caused wildfires in California have increased significantly as population increases and the amount of urban-wildland interface has increased at a rapid pace. ², ³ Particularly alarming is the percentage of wildfires caused by various kinds of equipment operation. These include activities such as, but not limited to, using plastic line weed whips, mowing, driving over vegetation with vehicles and heavy equipment as well as the use of grinder, welding and power cutting tools, including chain saws. ³ Depending on which study or data is cited and which region each covers, the percentage of equipment caused wildfires in California ranges between 20% and 30%, compared to other causes. The other causes listed generally top out in each study below 15%. ⁴ Southern California has the highest percentage of equipment caused wildfires, partially attributable to its long, dry, hot seasonal climate conditions.

Climate change is also contributing to increased wildfires in many areas of the world, including California. Fire season in California is not just limited to late summer and fall anymore. With generally warm, dry conditions and regular prolonged drought periods, CHSP has experienced wildfires every month of the year on a regular basis. Additionally, the increased frequency of wildfires is converting many natural areas to non-native annual grasslands, where fires start more easily and spread faster, especially during southern California's long dry season. These light fuels contribute to increased fire danger along the urban-wildland interface. ⁵, ⁶

In summary, equipment operation is one of the categories of fire causes that can be managed in ways that can lower the risk of human-caused fire starts. Therefore, actions need to be taken to require prudent methods and practices for all projects using equipment in order to minimize the risk of accidental equipment related fire starts.

SPECIFICATIONS:

The following described fire contingency requirements will be followed for activities within CHSP:

1) Equipment operation will not occur during high fire danger warnings or advisories as determined by the National Weather Service and other State, National or Local agencies, (High Fire Danger Advisory; High Fire Danger Warning; Red Flag Conditions Advisory; Red Flag Conditions Warning), <u>**OR**</u> when high fire risk advisories have not yet been issued and weather conditions on site are severe enough to stop equipment operation for fire safety purposes.

If any **<u>one</u>** of the following three criteria is met equipment operation will stop for the remainder of the day.

High fire risk conditions are as follows:

- Mean relative humidity (RH), for a given hour of the workday in question, is less than 15%
- Average wind speeds, for a given hour of the workday in question, are 10 MPH or higher
- Mean temperatures, for a given hour of the workday in question, are 85 degrees Fahrenheit (F) and above.

Time of operation: Most seasons in our region have decreasing relative humidity and increasing wind speeds and air temperatures by late morning hours, which increases fire danger before noon and the risk continues to increase during afternoon hours.

Because of this, equipment operation after 10 a.m. will require hourly monitoring and logging of weather conditions. The operator/ or project lead will be responsible for checking the readings at the Chino Hills Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS) <u>https://mesowest.utah.edu/cgi-bin/droman/meso_base_dyn.cgi?stn=TT661</u>

When Mean RH's remain above 15%, Mean wind speed remains below 10 MPH and Mean Temperatures remain below 85 F equipment operation may continue beyond 10 am. Until such time that one of these criteria surpasses the given threshold.

A weather log will be provided to the State Park representative for the project on a daily basis.

2) All equipment will have approved spark arrestors that comply with all Federal, State and local safety requirements.

3) Vehicles and equipment will not drive off-road except for approved clearing of access and/or staging areas using mowing or vegetation clearing methods per the approved project plan, following all fire contingency guidelines stated herein. All vehicles must use existing cleared pullouts for passing other vehicles, even if one vehicle must back to a pull-out. It is DPR's intent that vehicles not drive over natural vegetation, especially dry vegetation which could be ignited by a hot vehicle parts.

4) Smoking on site will not be allowed by any personnel.

5) Except during some winter and early spring conditions when the park vegetation may be saturated with ample moisture, all mowing activities should be conducted before 10:00 a.m. when

the relative humidity is highest, unless otherwise authorized by the Park Superintendent, Environmental Scientist or Maintenance Chief.

6) Except for normal patrol by vehicles on well-maintained roads, all equipment operation will require separate, appropriately equipped fire spotter personnel who has been trained in the proper use of the equipment determined to best suit the circumstances to be present (see #7 for appropriate equipment descriptions). Their function is to watch for small sparks or fire starts during all equipment operation and immediately use their equipment to extinguish sparks or small fire starts should they occur. Fire spotters are dedicated to fire watch and do not perform additional duties on the project such as equipment operation. If a spark or small fire cannot be extinguished by the spotter immediately, evacuation procedures for all personnel will be ordered and the fire reported by calling 911 immediately. Any spark that starts a fire, no matter how small, will be reported to park staff within 24 hours after the spark was extinguished.

7) Fire extinguishing equipment should be used that is appropriate for conditions. For example, the use of water type extinguishers are preferable when in dry grassland surroundings because standard pressurized fire extinguishers can actually blow a small flame into a larger fire rapidly in light, dry fuels such as the grasslands prevalent in the park. A combination of regulation fire extinguishers with vehicles and water hogs or water trucks with hose and pumps and/or water backpack sprayers may be required.

8) Under certain site and weather conditions, pre-wetting of vegetation may be required, such as when access routes to repair underground utilities must be mowed during semi dry or dry conditions.

9) Under certain conditions, periodic pre-wetting of nearby vegetation and spark shields may be required for actions such as pipe cutting operations that may throw sparks.

10) All contractors will submit an emergency action plan for their particular project that is specific to its location and needs that includes escape routes and evacuation procedures as well as implementation procedures and emergency contact information. Prior to commencement of the project, safety training will be conducted for all staff to insure familiarization with the plan and safety concerns. Regular safety meetings will be conducted throughout the duration of the project for review and to communicate project changes or new safety concerns. This will also insure that new personnel will receive the safety orientation whenever there are staff changes during the project.

11) Under certain conditions, projects may be required to use "cold cutting" equipment instead of saws or torches that throw sparks.

¹ Hills For Everyone. "A 100 Year History of Wildfires Near Chino Hills State Park" 2012

² USA Today. "Human-Caused Wildfires Increase in California". May 14, 2009.

³ California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). "2011 Wildfire Activity Statistics Annual Report".

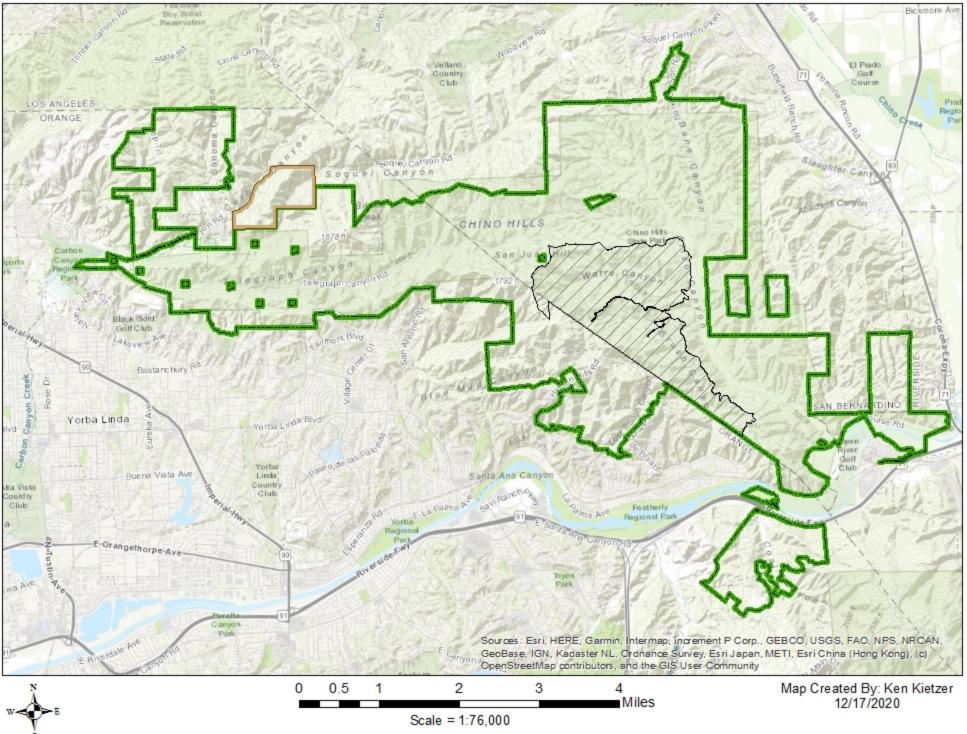
⁴ California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). "Percent of Fires By Cause Statewide 5-Year Average (2000-2005)".

⁵ United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service. "The National Fire Danger Rating System: basic equations" General Technical Report PSW-82, 1985.

⁶ National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Authority and National Weather Service. "Guide to Grassland Curing Observations for National Weather Grassland Fire Danger Forecast Indices (GDFI)". Published 2010.

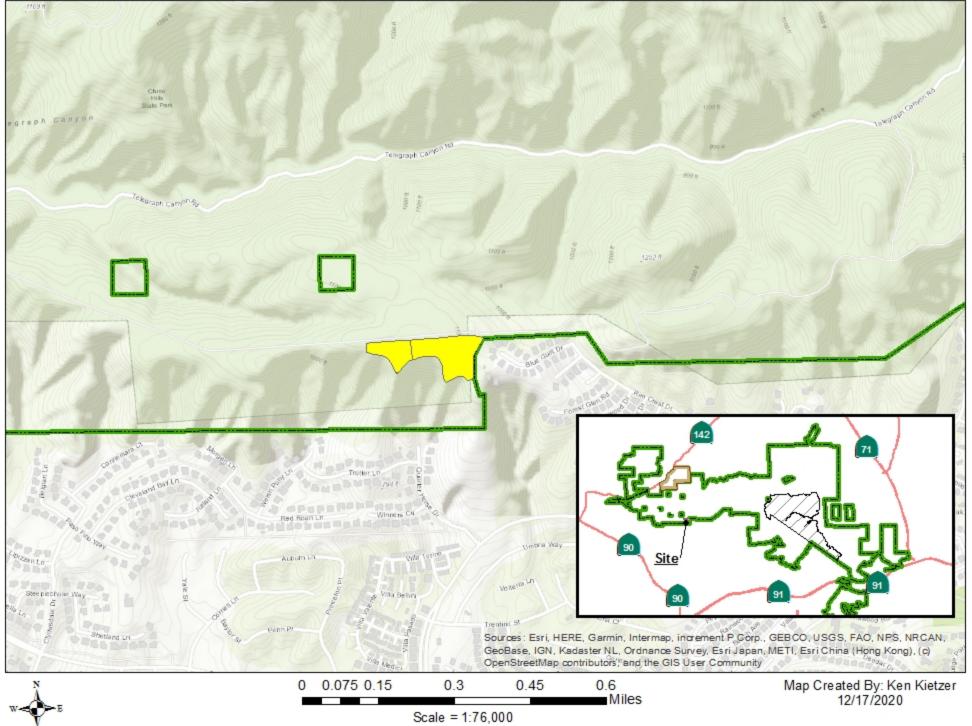
Chino Hills State Park





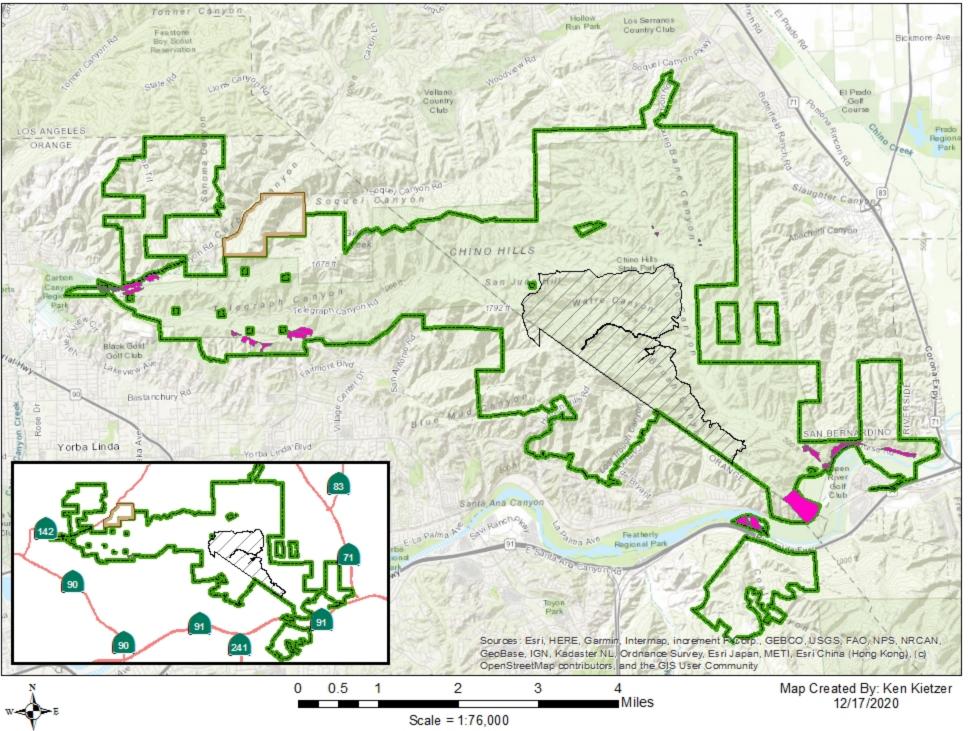
Chino Hills State Park Known Future Habitat Restoration Site





Chino Hills State Park Existing Habitat Restoration Sites

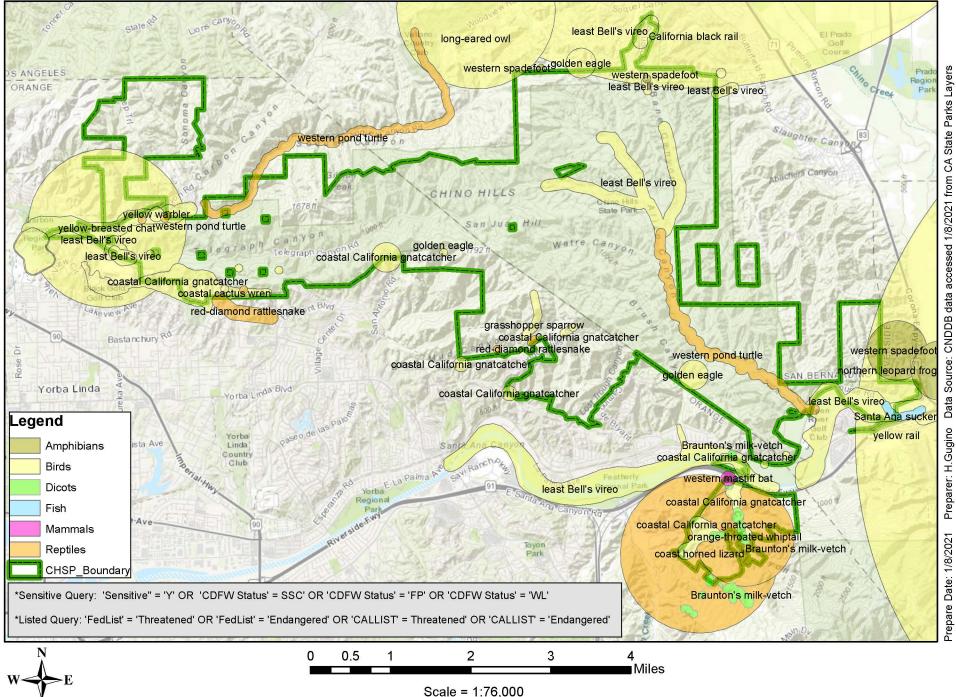




Chino Hills State Park - California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB)



Sensitive and/or Listed Species*



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