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May 28, 2021
1175.03

Hector Cano
Salvador Cano
8770 Highway 58
Santa Margarita, CA 93453

Re: Spring Botanical Survey Addendum for 8770 Carrisa Highway, San Luis Obispo County,
DRC2018-00010

Dear Mr. Cano:

This letter report describes the results of 2021 spring season botanical surveys that serve as supplemental information to the Revised Biological Resource Assessment (BRA) for 8770 Carrisa Highway, San Luis Obispo, DRC2018-00010 (A&M 2020). The botanical survey was conducted on the approximate 40.9-acre property (Property) located approximately 0.5 mile between Tule Elk Lane and Helios Way on Highway 58 (Carrisa Highway), in Santa Margarita, San Luis Obispo County, California. Approximate coordinates for the center of the Property are 35.368950° N, - 120.069272° W (WGS 84) in the California Valley USGS 7.5' topographic quadrangle (Figure 1, Attachment B). The Property is assessor's parcel number (APN) 072-301-012.

Surveys were conducted to provide updated information regarding special status plants with potential to occur on the Property, or which could be affected by the proposed project (Project), a Cannabis Cultivation Minor Use Permit on approximately 4.1 acres of the Property. Figure 2 in Attachment B provides an aerial view of the Property and a site plan for the Project is provided in Attachment C.

Methods

Surveys were conducted on April 13 and May 4, 2021 by Althouse and Meade, Inc. Botanist Kristen Andersen. Spring surveys were conducted on foot to compile a species list and search for potential special status plants. All areas of the site were reviewed and suitable habitat for each rare plant species was visually examined. One-hundred percent visual cover was achieved by meandering transects throughout the Property. Surveys were appropriately timed to incorporate the bloom periods for all special status plants with potential to occur (Attachment D). An observed list of plants (Table 1) was documented. Identification of botanical resources included field observations and laboratory analysis of collected material. Botanical nomenclature used in this document follows biodiversity data provided by the participants of the Consortium of California Herbaria (CCH 2021).

Prior to the 2021 botanical surveys, Althouse and Meade, Inc. conducted a data search from the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) On-line Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California on April 5, 2021 (CDFW 2021, CNPS 2021). Other database searches included online museum and herbarium specimen records for locality data within San Luis Obispo County, as maintained by the Consortium of California Herbaria (CCH 2021). The data search area included the California Valley USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle and the eight surrounding quadrangles (La Panza Ranch, La Panza NE, Las Yeguas Ranch, La Panza, Simmler, Los Machos Hills, Branch Mtn, and Chimineas Ranch). Data was reviewed according to each species potential to occur on the Property.

To determine the appropriate bloom period, a reference site within a similar geographic range for Salinas milkvetch (*Astragalus macrodon*) was visited to determine its phenological status. Salinas milkvetch was observed in flower at one reference site in Paso Robles, California on April 15, 2021. *Layia* spp. were observed in flower at Shell Creek and in the Carrizo Plain on April 13, 2021, suggesting that Munz's layia (*Layia munzii*) could be detected at this time.

Results

The botanical survey identified an additional 21 species, subspecies, and varieties of vascular plant taxa on the Property. Table 1 provides a comprehensive plant list which includes a total of 36 plants identified during 2021 and 2019 surveys (A&M 2020). The list includes 22 species native to California and 14 introduced (naturalized or planted) species. Native plant species account for approximately 61 percent of the flora; introduced species account for approximately 39 percent. General site conditions are represented in Photo 1 and Photo 2 below. No special status plant species were identified on the Property.



Photo 1. Fallow cropland habitat on the Property with dominant species red stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*) and wild mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), view southeast. April 13, 2021.



Photo 2. Fallow cropland habitat on the Property, view northwest. May 4, 2021.

TABLE 1. VASCULAR PLANT LIST

Scientific Name	Common Name	Special Status	Origin
Trees - 1 Species			
<i>Juglans californica</i>	California black walnut	None (Planted)	Native
Shrubs - 1 Species			
<i>Isocoma acradenia</i>	Alkali goldenbush	None	Native
Forbs - 30 Species			
<i>Achyrrachaena mollis</i>	Blow wives	None	Native
<i>Acmispon wrangelianus</i>	California lotus	None	Native
<i>Amsinckia menziesii</i>	Common fiddleneck	None	Native
<i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	Narrow-leaved milkweed	None	Native
<i>Astragalus</i> sp.	Annual milkvetch	None	Native
<i>Calandrinia menziesii</i>	Red maids	None	Native
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's purse	None	Introduced
<i>Castilleja exserta</i> subsp. <i>exserta</i>	Purple owl's clover	None	Native
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow star thistle	None	Introduced
<i>Clarkia purpurea</i> subsp. <i>purpurea</i>	Wine cups	None	Native
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Bindweed	None	Introduced
<i>Croton setiger</i>	Doveweed	None	Native
<i>Datura wrightii</i>	Jimsonweed	None	Native
<i>Deinandra fasciculata</i>	Clustered tarweed	None	Native
<i>Descurainia pinnata</i>	Western tansy mustard	None	Native
<i>Descurainia sophia</i>	Tansy mustard	None	Introduced
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Red stemmed filaree	None	Introduced
<i>Heterotheca sessiliflora</i>	Goldenaster	None	Native
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Wild mustard	None	Introduced
<i>Lasthenia gracilis</i>	Common goldfields	None	Native
<i>Lepidium latifolium</i>	Perennial pepperweed	None	Introduced

Scientific Name	Common Name	Special Status	Origin
<i>Lepidium nitidum</i>	Pepperwort	None	Native
<i>Lupinus bicolor</i>	Miniature lupine	None	Native
<i>Lupinus nanus</i>	Sky lupine	None	Native
<i>Malvella leprosa</i>	Alkali mallow	None	Native
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineapple weed	None	Native
<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	California burclover	None	Introduced
<i>Micropus californicus</i>	Q tips	None	Native
<i>Microseris douglasii</i>	Douglas' microseris	None	Native
<i>Phacelia ciliata</i>	Great valley phacelia	None	Native
<i>Plagiobothrys canescens</i> var. <i>canescens</i>	Valley popcornflower	None	Native
<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Prostrate knotweed	None	Introduced
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curly dock	None	Introduced
<i>Vicia villosa</i>	Winter vetch	None	Introduced
Graminoids - 4 Species			
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft chess brome	None	Introduced
<i>Bromus madritensis</i> subsp. <i>rubens</i>	Red top brome	None	Introduced
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Foxtail barley	None	Introduced
<i>Hordeum marinum</i> subsp. <i>gussoneanum</i>	Mediterranean barley	None	Introduced

Conclusion

Seasonally appropriate botanical surveys were conducted in April and May 2021 to confirm presence or absence of special status plants with potential occur on the Property. Updated queries of special status plants known to occur in the region (CNDDDB 2021, CNPS 2021) were analyzed and no new species were considered likely to occur on the Property. The fallow cropland habitat was dominant with non-native species such as red stemmed filaree and wild mustard, and very few wildflowers were observed during spring 2021 surveys. Of the five special status plant species with potential to occur, none were found on the Property during April or May 2021 surveys. Below-average rainfall experienced in winter 2020-2021 resulted in a reduced overall wildflower bloom in San Luis Obispo County. However, rare plant species did bloom in other areas of the Carrizo Plain in low to moderate abundance and we expect the surveys conducted on this Property were sufficient to determine no rare plants are present. No further botanical surveys or additional Mitigation Measures are recommended.

Thank you for allowing us to be of assistance. For questions, please call me at (805) 237-9626.

Sincerely,



Kristen Andersen
Botanist

Attachments

- **Attachment A. References**
- **Attachment B. Figures**
- **Attachment C. Site Plan for 8770 Carrisa Highway, Santa Margarita, CA**
- **Attachment D. Special Status Plants with Potential to Occur**

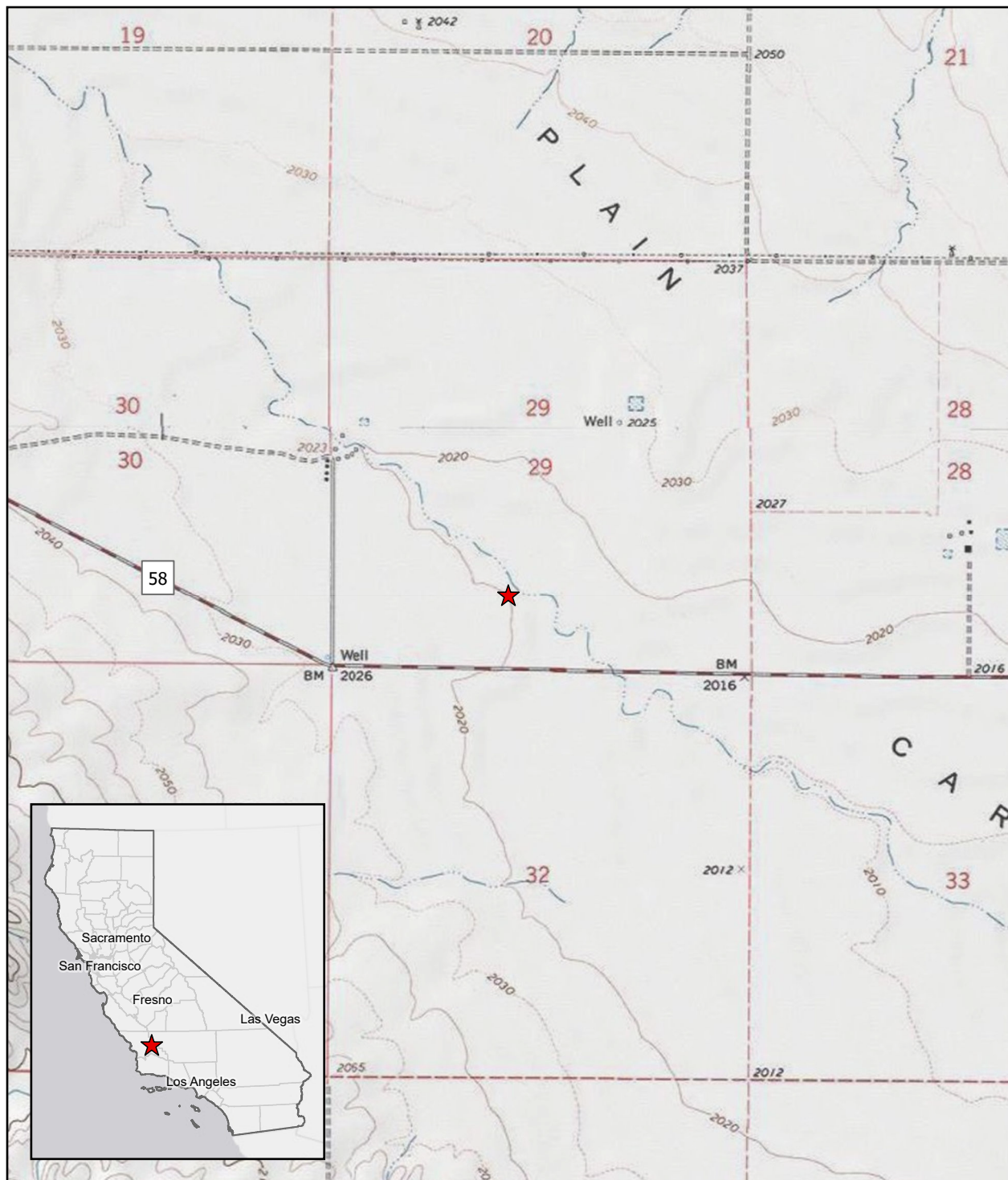
ATTACHMENT A. REFERENCES

- Althouse and Meade, Inc. 2020. Revised Biological Resource Assessment for 8770 Carrisa Highway, San Luis Obispo County, DRC2018-00010.
- [CDFW] California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Natural Diversity Database. 2021. Special vascular plants, bryophytes, and lichens list, periodic publication [Internet]. Sacramento (CA): California Department of Fish and Wildlife. April 2021. Available from <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/list.html>. Accessed April 5, 2021.
- [CNPS] California Native Plant Society, Rare Plant Program. 2021. Inventory of rare and endangered plants of California. Sacramento (CA): California Native Plant Society; [online edition, v8-03 0.39]. Available from <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org>. Accessed April 5, 2021.
- [CCH] Consortium of California Herbaria - CCH1 Portal. 2021. Berkeley (CA): Regents of the University of California. Available from <http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/consortium/>. Accessed April 5, 2021.

ATTACHMENT B. FIGURES

- **Figure 1. USGS Topographical Map**
- **Figure 2. Aerial Photograph**
- **Figure 3. Biological Resources and Impacts**

Figure 1. United States Geological Survey Topographic Map



Legend

★ Project Location



Scale: 1:24,000

0 1,000 2,000 Feet

Cano - 8770 Hwy 58
Map Center: 120.0692°W 35.36895°N
Santa Margarita, San Luis Obispo County

USGS Quadrangle: California Valley

Figure 2. Aerial Photograph



Legend

 Property (072-301-012)

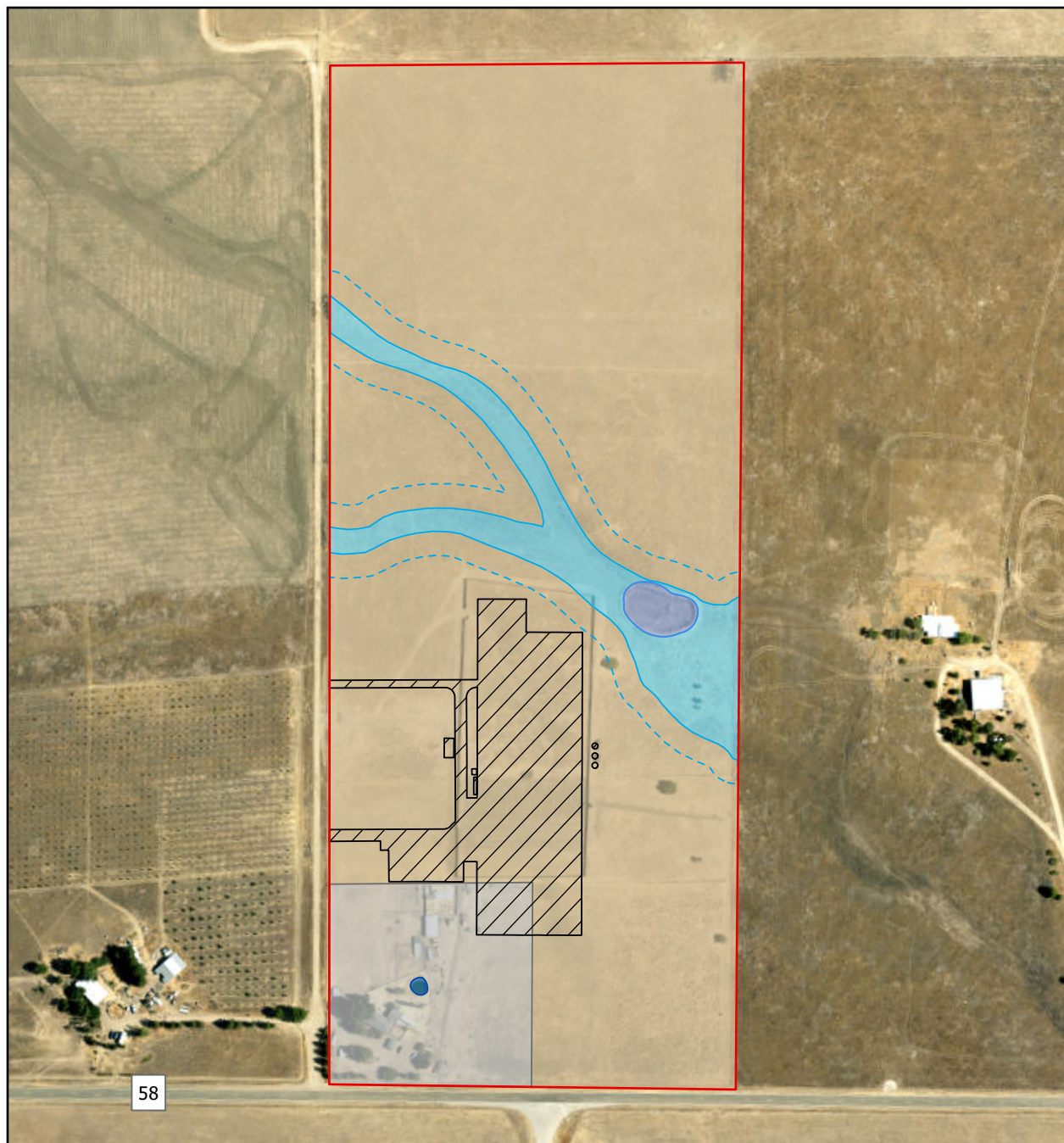


0 250 500 Feet









Cano - 8770 Hwy 58
Map Center: 120.06924°W 35.36923°N
Santa Margarita, San Luis Obispo County

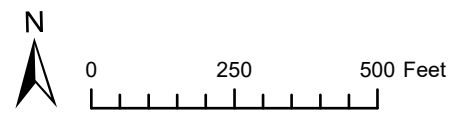
Imagery Source: USDA NAIP, 05/21/2020

Figure 3. Biological Resources and Impacts



Legend

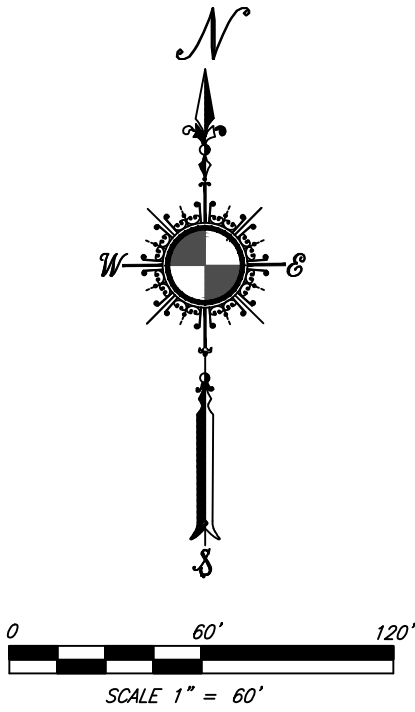
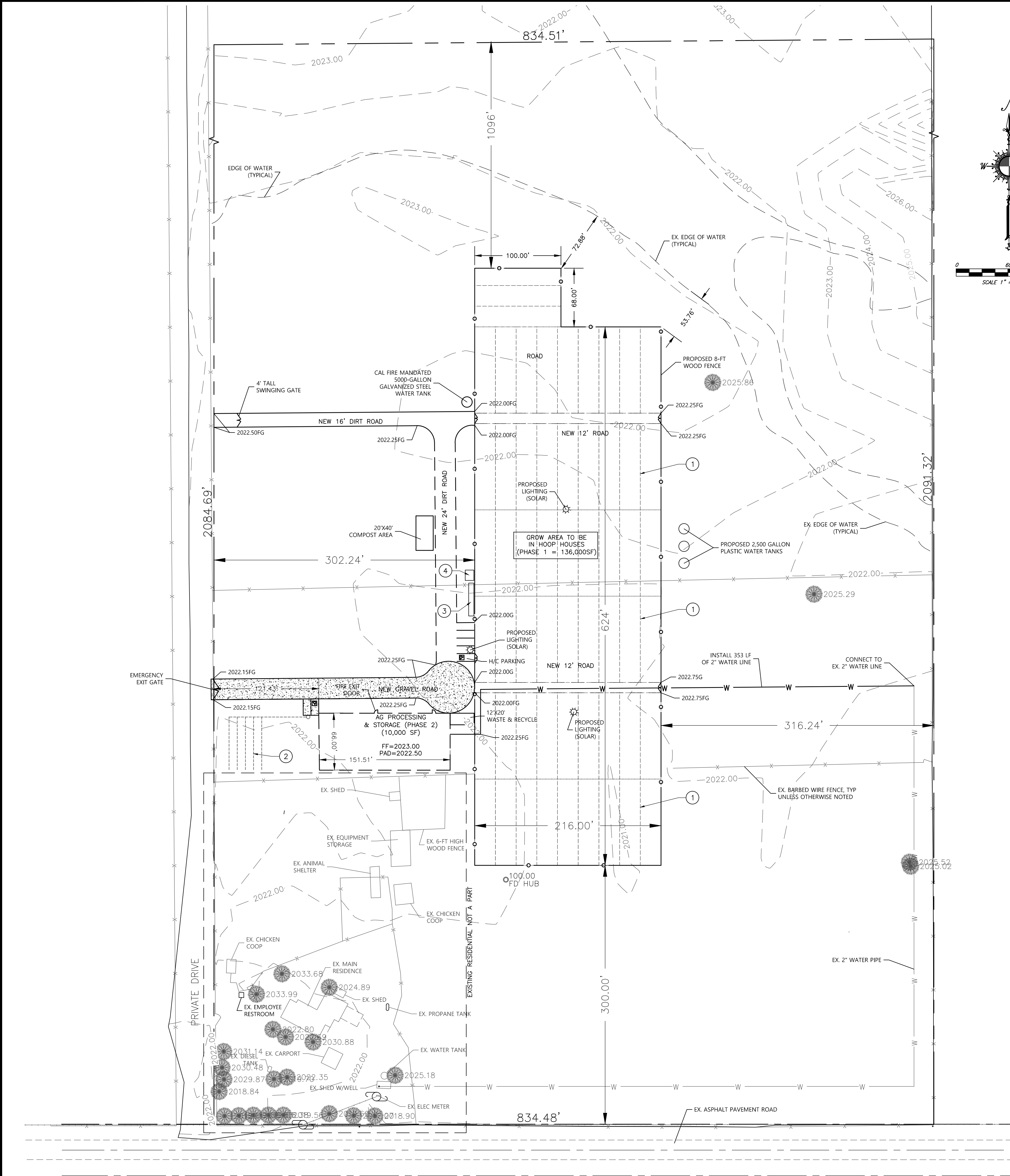
- | | |
|--|--|
|  Property (072-301-012) |  Residential (4.0 acres, 0.3 acre impacted) |
|  Project Footprint (4.1 acres) |  Fallow Cropland (33.7 acres, 3.7 acres impacted) |
|  Ephemeral Drainage (2.9 acres) |  Ephemeral Pond (0.3 acre) |
|  Ephemeral Drainage Setback (50-Feet) |  Pond |



Cano - 8770 Hwy 58
 Map Center: 120.06924°W 35.36923°N
 Santa Margarita, San Luis Obispo County

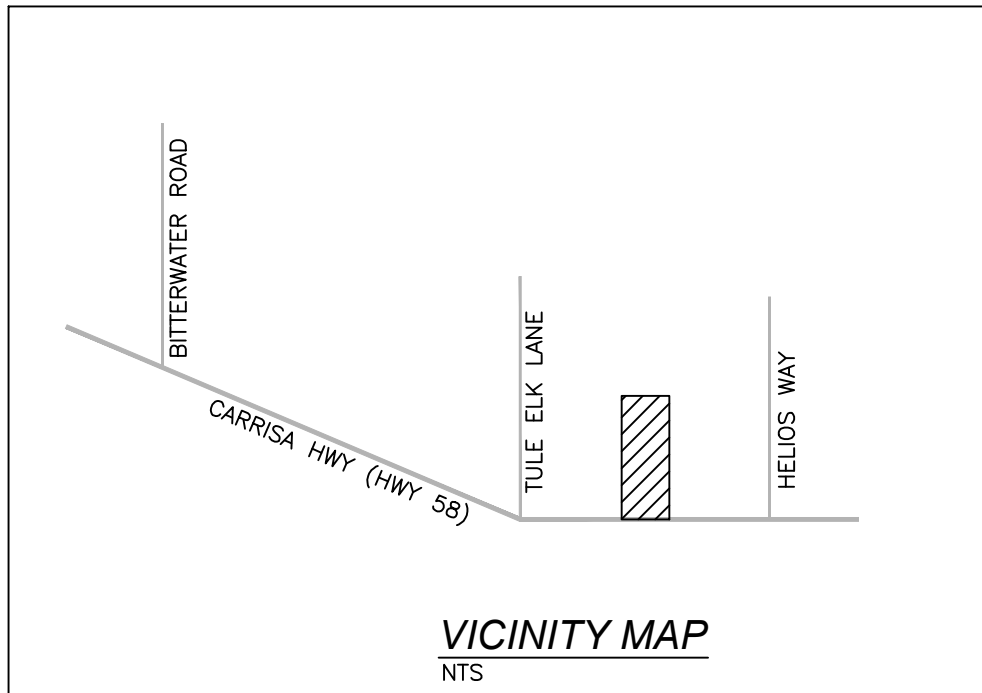
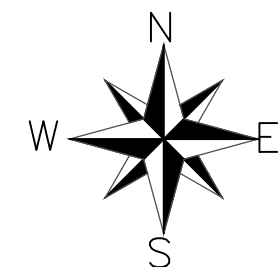
Biological Survey Date: 01/18/2019
 Imagery Source: USDA NAIP, 05/21/2020

ATTACHMENT C. SITE PLAN FOR 8770 CARRISA HIGHWAY, SANTA MARGARITA, CA



- SITE PLAN FOR THE PURPOSE OF CANNABIS CULTIVATION
1. NO TREE INSIDE PROPOSED CULTIVATION AREA.
 2. ACCESS FROM NEW GATE ALONG PRIVATE SHARED DRIVE.
 3. CAL FIRE MANDATED 6-INCH ALL WEATHER SIGN WITH ADDRESS.
 4. CAL FIRE MANDATED MAINTAINED PRIVATE ACCESS ROAD.
 5. WOOD FENCES TO BE 8'-0" HIGH WITH 4" GAP AT BOTTOM.
 6. GATES TO BE 6'-8" CHAIN LINK WITH 4" GAP AT BOTTOM.

- KEYNOTES**
- ① HOOP HOUSES (TYPICAL 24'x100')
 - ② SEPTIC & LEACH FIELD (PHASE 2)
 - ③ PORTABLE RESTROOMS
 - ④ PESTICIDE STORAGE 120 SF (PHASE 1)



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SANTA MARGARITA, CA
APN: 072-301-012

ATTACHMENT D. SPECIAL STATUS PLANTS WITH POTENTIAL TO OCCUR

	Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal/State Status Global/State Rank CA Rare Plant Rank	Blooming Period	Habitat Preference	Potential to Occur
1.	Oval-Leaved Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum ovatum</i>	-/- G3/S3 4.2	May - November	Heavy, adobe-clay soils on gentle, open slopes, also disturbed areas; 200-1000 m. s San Joaquin Valley, s SCoRI	Low. Appropriate habitat is present, but soils may not be suitable.
2.	Indian Valley Spineflower	<i>Aristocapsa insignis</i>	-/- G1/S1 1B.2	May - September	Foothill woodland; 300-600 m. SCoRI (Monterey, SLO Counties)	Low. Appropriate habitat may be present in untilled portions of the Property, but soils may not be suitable.
3.	Salinas Milkvetch	<i>Astragalus macrodon</i>	-/- G4/S4 4.3	April - July	Eroded pale shales or sandstone, or serpentine alluvium; 300-950 m. SCoR	Moderate. Appropriate habitat may be present in untilled portions of the Property.
4.	Diamond-petaled California Poppy	<i>Eschscholzia rhombipetala</i>	-/- G1/S1 1B.1	March - April	Alkaline clay flats and slopes in grasslands, fallow fields;	Low. Appropriate habitat is present, but soils may not be suitable.
5.	Munz's Tidy-tips	<i>Layia munzii</i>	-/- G2/S2 1B.2	March - April	Alkaline clay soils in chenopod scrub, grasslands.	Low. Potentially suitable habitat is present on the Property.

Habitat characteristics are from the Jepson manual and the CNDDB.

California Rare Plant Ranks:

- CRPR 1A: Plants presumed extirpated in California and either rare or extinct elsewhere
- CRPR 1B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
- CRPR 2A: Plants presumed extirpated in California, but common elsewhere
- CRPR 2B: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
- CRPR 4: Plants of limited distribution - a watch list

CRPR Threat Ranks:

- 0.1 - Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)
- 0.2 - Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)
- 0.3 - Not very threatened in California (less than 20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

Global/State Ranks

G1/S1 – Critically Imperiled
G2/S2 – Imperiled
G3/S3 – Vulnerable
G4/S4 – Apparently Secure
G5/S5 – Secure

Q – Element is very rare but there are taxonomic questions associated with it.
Range rank – (e.g., S2S3 means rank is somewhere between S2 and S3)
? – (e.g., S2? Means rank is more certain than S2S3 but less certain than S2)