Natural Environment Study (NES)

Public Draft

Along Las Positas Road from Cliff Drive north to Modoc Road and west along Modoc Road to Calle De Los Amigos
Santa Barbara, California
District 5-SB-SR-225-PM 0.0 – 1.6 + one mile of Modoc Road

05-1500-0024

Federal Project Number: ATPL-5007(065)

November 2016

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Natural Environment Study (NES)
Public Draft

November 2016

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation
City of Santa Barbara

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Summary of Findings, Conclusions and Determinations

The City of Santa Barbara (City) proposes to construct a Class I separated multiuse pathway (multiuse path) for bicyclists, runners, and pedestrians. The purpose of this multiuse path is to provide a safe regional connector between Santa Barbara's regional Crosstown and Coastal Bike Routes, the neighborhoods adjacent to the path, and regional parks including Elings Park, Arroyo Burro Beach and Park, and the Douglas Family Preserve.

The project consists of constructing 2.6 miles of multiuse path along Las Positas and Modoc Roads. The Multiuse path would follow the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans) Design Standards for a Class I bikeway with a minimum path width of 12 feet (ft), including an 8-ft wide travel path and 2-ft wide shoulders on each side of the path. The multiuse path would be designed to tie into the existing Class II facilities along both Modoc Road and Las Positas Road. Several segments of the multiuse path along Las Positas Road would require retaining walls and roadway barriers.

The Biological Study Area (BSA) for the project is 72 acres and includes the project footprint plus a 100-foot (ft) buffer from the edge of the footprint. The BSA primarily contains existing paved roadway and disturbed road shoulder where the multiuse path improvements are focused; however some improvements are bordered by native habitats within the BSA. Habitats in the BSA include riparian forest, oak woodland, eucalyptus woodland, non-native grassland, wetlands, and coastal sage scrub/chaparral. As a result of the project, an estimated area of 1.04 acres of temporary impacts and 4.32 acres of permanent impacts would occur to vegetation communities in the BSA (see Table 5).

A list of special status species with potential for presence in the BSA was developed by reviewing local species occurrences and species life history information against information gathered during site visits. Amec Foster Wheeler biologists determined there is potential for presence of the following special status species and protected habitats in the vicinity of the BSA:

Potential Wetlands and Non-Wetland Waters

Approximately 3.8 acres of wetlands and non-wetland waters regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Regional Water Quality Control Board are located in the BSA. Approximately 10.6 acres of riparian habitat and creek channel within Arroyo Burro and Las Positas Creeks is regulated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and approximately 3.0 acres of wetlands in the BSA are regulated by the California Coastal Commission.

Federal or State Listed Species

Southern California steelhead DPS (*Oncorhynchus* (salmo) *mykiss irideus*) (Federally endangered)
California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) (Federally threatened and California species of special concern)
Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) (Federally endangered and State endangered)
Least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) (Federally endangered and State endangered)
Bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*) (State threatened)

State Species of Special Concern

Western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*)
Two-striped garter (*Thamnophis hammondii*)
Silvery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*)
Yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*)
Bryant's [San Diego desert] woodrat (*Neotoma bryanti [lepida] intermedia*)

Other Special Status Species

Nesting raptors
Special status bats
Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)
Oak titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*)
Yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechial*)

Migratory Birds

The project has the potential to affect migratory birds protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code.

Invasive Species

At least 29 invasive plant species occur in the BSA. Measures will be taken to prevent the spread of these species as well as any additional species identified during subsequent surveys. One invasive animal species, the rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), was observed flying over the BSA but is not expected to regularly occur on-site.

Potential Impacts

Construction activities generating permanent impacts to the BSA, such as land clearing, grubbing, excavation, paving, and cut and fill associated with retaining walls, will be focused within and adjacent to the existing roadway and avoid natural habitat to the extent

practicable. Some areas of potentially jurisdictional wetlands east of Las Positas Road may be permanently impacted by a shift in the roadway and related construction of retaining walls to support steep uphill slopes. In addition, some areas containing natural habitat adjacent to the existing Las Positas and Modoc roadways, including a number of native and non-native trees, may be removed and converted to multi-use path surface. Temporary impacts to biological resources from construction noise, vegetation trimming, and construction staging may occur across the project site.

Given current project design plans, areas of natural habitat, including wetlands, that may support sensitive species will be permanently removed and temporarily disturbed by the project. Therefore the project has the potential to impact special status species, by disrupting nesting and/or foraging activities and removing potentially occupied habitat.

Project Benefits

The project benefits safety by separating pedestrians and bicyclists from high speed traffic with posted roadway speed limits of 35 to 55 miles per hour. It benefits public health by providing a facility that encourages walking and biking. The project also provides indirect air quality benefits by encouraging people to walk and bike rather which reduces the emission of greenhouse gases emitted by alternate forms of transportation.

Proposed Avoidance, Minimization, and Compensation

Best management practices (BMPs) presented in the project description would be implemented during the multiuse path project to ensure construction related impacts to the environment are minimized and avoided to the maximum extent practicable. These measures will be implemented to prevent discharge of sediment or other pollutants into project waters during construction and operation of the project and include soil stabilization and sediment control BMPs and waste management and materials pollution control BMPs such as measures for maintenance, inspection, and repair of other BMPs. Parking of equipment, project access, supply logistics, equipment maintenance, and other project related activities will occur within the designated construction staging and work areas. All ground disturbing work will be timed to occur during daylight hours, approximately 30 minutes after sunrise to 30 minutes before sunset to avoid nocturnal and crepuscular (dawn/dusk) animal activity periods.

Additionally, general and project specific avoidance and minimization measures for special status species and protected habitats will be implemented avoid and minimize potential impacts to sensitive natural resources. This project is included in the 2040 Santa Barbara County Association of Governments' Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy (SBCAG RTP/SCS). Mitigation measures identified in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the SBCAG RTP/SCS document will be incorporated in this project, where

appropriate, to avoid and/or minimize impacts to species and sensitive natural resources. These measures include preconstruction surveys, worker awareness training, buffers around environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs), biological monitoring, and restoration of temporarily impacted areas at the completion of construction.

Regulatory Agencies and Required Permits

As currently designed, the proposed project will require the following permits:

- Preconstruction Notification for the discharge of dredged or fill material pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).
- Water Quality Certification pursuant to Section 401 of the CWA.
- Streambed Alteration Agreement pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code.
- Coastal Development Permit (CDP) pursuant to the certified Local Coastal Program of the City of Santa Barbara.
- Local tree removal permit from the City of Santa Barbara.

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List of Abbreviated Terms

AMSL	Above mean sea level
BSA	Biological Study Area
BMP	Best management practices
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CCC	California Coastal Commission
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Data Base
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CRLF	California red-legged frog
CRPR	California Rare Plant Rank
dbh	Diameter at breast height (~4.5 ft above grade)
DPS	Southern California Distinct Population Segment
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
ESAs	environmentally sensitive areas
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FESA	Federal Endangered Species ACT
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
ft	foot/feet
GHG	Greenhouse gas
IPAC	Information for Planning and Conservation
LCP	Local Costal Program
m	meter(s)
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
mi	mile(s)
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NES	Natural Environment Study
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOAA Fisheries	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service
NPPA	Native Plant Protection Act

NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
PM	post mile
Project	Las Positas Multiuse Path Project
RHNA	Regional Housing Needs Assessment
ROW	Right-of-way
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SBCAG	Santa Barbara County Association of Governments
SCS	Sustainable Community Strategy
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
WDR	Waste Discharge Requirements
WEAP	Worker Environmental Awareness Program

Chapter 1. Introduction

The City of Santa Barbara (City) proposes to construct a Class I separated multiuse pathway (multiuse path) for bicyclists, runners, and pedestrians. The multiuse path would extend along Las Positas and Modoc Roads and run adjacent to the Hidden Valley, Campanil Heights and Bel Air neighborhoods; and Arroyo Burro Creek and Elings Park (Figure 1 and Figure 2). Design of the Las Positas Multi-use Path Project (Project) is funded by the Active Transportation Program (ATP), which is administered by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

As part of its National Environmental Policy Act assignment of federal responsibilities by the Federal Highway Administration, effective October 1, 2012 and pursuant to 23 USC 326, Caltrans is acting as the lead federal agency for Section 7 of the federal Endangered Species Act.

1.1. Project History

The Project is located in an area of the City long planned for alternative transportation improvements, creek restoration, and expanded public open space and recreation. The Project was identified in the City of Santa Barbara's Six Year Capital Improvement Program Fiscal Year 2014-2019, Bicycle Master Plan and Pedestrian Master Plan. The Capital Improvement Program and Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plans underwent extensive community-based public participation which identified the interest and need in developing a regional connector between Santa Barbara's regional Crosstown and Coastal Bike Routes, the neighborhoods adjacent to the path, and regional parks including Elings, Arroyo Burro Beach Park, and the Douglas Family Preserve.

Between 2012 and 2014, City staff attended three neighborhood meetings regarding traffic conditions on Cliff Drive and Las Positas Road. The community expressed a strong desire for the City to move forward with the Project to improve commuting conditions and public safety and to increase recreational opportunities. The City applied for and was awarded $1,372,000 in ATP grant funds to design and prepare the bidding and environmental documents for the Project.

1.2. Project Description

The Project includes construction of the multiuse path as well as development of safe road crossings, barriers from roadway edges, railings near steep grades, retaining walls and safety barriers, and provision of good visibility to accommodate the full range of user groups. It also includes trimming and removal of some existing vegetation, roadway realignment, new pavement, and utility relocation. For a detailed description of the Project, including project components, construction, and approach, please refer to Appendix A.

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Vicinity Map
Las Positas Road Multi-Use Path Project
Santa Barbara, California

FIGURE
1

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Biological Study Area
Las Positas Road Multi-Use Path Project
Santa Barbara, California

FIGURE

2

Chapter 2. Study Methods

This section presents the laws and statutes that regulate impacts to protected natural resources in the Project area and the survey methods used to evaluate the potential for presence of special-status wildlife and plant species, jurisdictional waters, and other sensitive biological resources in the vicinity of the Project.

2.1. Regulatory Requirements

Detailed descriptions of the federal, state and local regulatory requirements pertaining to protected resources in the Project area are provided below.

Federal Laws and Regulations

National Environmental Policy Act (42 USC 4321 et seq.). The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) declares a continuing Federal policy "to use all practicable means and measures...to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations. NEPA directs "a systematic, interdisciplinary approach" to planning and decision making and requires environmental statements for "major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment." Implementing regulations by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) requires Federal agencies to identify and assess reasonable alternatives to proposed actions that will restore and enhance the quality of the human environment and avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts. Federal agencies are further directed to emphasize adverse environmental issues in project planning and to integrate impact studies required by other environmental laws and Executive Orders into the NEPA process. The NEPA process should therefore be seen as an overall framework for the environmental evaluation of Federal actions.

Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 USC 1531-1543). The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) and subsequent amendments provide guidance for the conservation of endangered and threatened species and the ecosystems upon which they depend.

Section 7 requires Federal agencies, in consultation with, and with the assistance of the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce, as appropriate, to insure that actions they authorize, fund, or carry out are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat for these species. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) share responsibilities for administering the Act. Regulations governing interagency cooperation under Section 7 are found at 50 CFR Part

402. The opinion issued at the conclusion of consultation will include a statement authorizing take that may occur incidental to an otherwise legal activity.

Section 9 lists those actions that are prohibited under the FESA. Take of a species listed in accordance with the FESA is prohibited. There are two processes whereby take is allowed when it is incidental to an otherwise legal activity.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976. This act was established to conserve and manage fishery resources found off the coast, as well as anadromous species and Continental Shelf fishery resources of the United States, by exercising (A) sovereign rights for the purposes of exploring, exploiting, conserving, and managing all fish within the exclusive economic zone established by Presidential Proclamation 5030, dated March 10, 1983, and (B) exclusive fishery management authority beyond the exclusive economic zone over such anadromous species, Continental Shelf fishery resources, and fishery resources in special areas. Habitat designated for protection under this act is referred to as “essential fish habitat (EFH)”.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 703-711). This treaty with Canada, Russia, Mexico and Japan makes it unlawful at any time, by any means or in any manner, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, or kill migratory birds. The law applies to the removal of nests (such as swallow nests on bridges) occupied by migratory birds during the breeding season.

Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. This act was originally implemented for the protection of bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and then amended by Congress in 1962 to cover golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*). This modification was in part an attempt to strengthen protection of bald eagles, since bald eagles were often killed by people mistaking them for golden eagles. This act makes it illegal to import, export, take (which includes molest or disturb), sell, purchase, or barter any bald eagle or golden eagle or part thereof.

Clean Water Act (33 USC 1251-1376). The Clean Water Act (CWA) provides guidance for the restoration and maintenance of the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation’s waters.

Section 401 requires that an applicant for a Federal license or permit that allows activities resulting in a discharge to waters of the United States must obtain a state certification that the discharge complies with other provisions of CWA. The Regional Water Quality Board (RWQCB) administers the certification program in California. Section 402 establishes a permitting system for the discharge of any pollutant (except dredge or fill material) into waters of the United States.

Section 404 establishes a permit program administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulating the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the

United States (including wetlands). Implementing regulations by the USACE are found at 33 CFR Parts 320-330. Guidelines for implementation are referred to as the Section 404 (b)(1). These guidelines and were developed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in conjunction with the USACE (40 CFR Parts 230). The Guidelines allow the discharge of dredged or fill material into the aquatic system only if there is no practicable alternative that would have less adverse impacts.

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC 661-666). This act applies to any Federal project where the waters of any stream or other body of water are impounded, diverted, deepened, or otherwise modified. Project proponents are required to consult with USFWS and the appropriate state wildlife agency. These agencies prepare reports and recommendations that document project effects on wildlife and identify measures that may be adopted to prevent loss or damage to wildlife resources. The term “wildlife” includes both animals and plants. Provisions of the Act are implemented through the NEPA process and Section 404 permit process.

Executive Order 11988 Floodplain Management (May 24, 1977). This order directs all Federal agencies to avoid the long-term and short-term adverse impacts associated with floodplain modification and to avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain development whenever there is a practicable alternative.

Executive Order 13112 Invasive Species (February 3, 1999). This order directs all Federal agencies to prevent and control the spread of invasive plants and animals and to avoid direct or indirect impacts whenever there is a practicable alternative.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (PL 194-297). The Fishery Conservation and Management Act (FCMA) of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.) was amended in 1996 and renamed the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Management Act. The amended portion addresses substantially reduced fish stocks that declined as a result of direct and indirect habitat loss. Major provisions include the following: the FCMA requires national fishery conservation and management standards to provide for the sustained participation of fishery dependent communities; modifies operation of established Fishery Management Councils; mandates that the Secretary of Commerce shall take actions to identify overfished species and take action to rebuild those stocks; and mandates the Secretary of Commerce to promulgate guidelines for identification of essential fish habitat (EFH) by Fishery Management Councils. Other Federal agencies are required to consult with the Secretary when actions they take impact designated essential fish habitat.

State Laws and Regulations

California Environmental Quality Act (P.R.C. 21000 et seq.). The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) establishes State policy to prevent or mitigate significant, avoidable damage to the environment by requiring changes in projects through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures. CEQA applies to actions directly undertaken, financed, or permitted by State lead agencies. Regulations for implementation are found in the State CEQA Guidelines published by the Resources Agency. These guidelines establish an overall process for the environmental evaluation of projects that is similar to that promulgated under NEPA. The Guidelines make provisions for joint NEPA/CEQA documents.

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act of 1969. Under Porter-Cologne, the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) have jurisdiction over state water quality permitting activities. The act specifies water quality provisions and discharge requirements for regulating the discharge of waste that could affect the quality of state waters. Under the act, the State Water Resources Control Board has the ultimate authority over state water rights and water quality policy. However, the appropriate RWQCB is tasked with setting waste discharge requirements (WDR) for projects and for updating basin plans (water quality control plans) for protected waters of the state. Waters of the state are defined as "any surface water or groundwater, including saline waters, within the boundaries of the state (Water Code section 13050(e)) which include all waters within the State's boundaries, whether private or public, including waters in both natural and artificial channels."

California Endangered Species Act (Fish and Game Code 2050 et seq.). The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) establishes the policy of the State to conserve, protect, restore, and enhance threatened or endangered species and their habitats. CESA mandates that State agencies should not approve projects that would jeopardize the continued existence of threatened or endangered species if reasonable and prudent alternatives are available that would avoid jeopardy. CESA requires State lead agencies to consult with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) during the CEQA process to avoid jeopardy to threatened or endangered species. As an outcome of consultation, CDFG is required to issue a written finding indicating if a project would jeopardize threatened or endangered species and specifying reasonable and prudent alternatives that would avoid jeopardy. CESA provides for joint consultations when species are listed by both the State and Federal governments.

Native Plant Protection Act (Fish and Game Code 1900-1913). California's Native Plant Protection Act (NPPA) requires all State agencies to utilize their authority to carry out programs to conserve endangered and rare native plants. Provisions of NPPA prohibit the taking of listed plants from the wild and require notification of the CDFG at least 10 days in advance of any change in land use. This allows CDFG to salvage listed plant species that would otherwise be destroyed. The project sponsor is required to conduct botanical

inventories and consult with CDFG during project planning to comply with the provisions of this act and sections of CEQA that apply to rare or endangered plants.

California Fish and Game Code Sections 1601-1603. Under these sections of the Fish and Game Code, the project sponsor and other agencies are required to notify CDFG prior to any project that would divert, obstruct, or change the natural flow, bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake. Preliminary notification and project review generally occurs during the environmental process. When an existing fish or wildlife resource may be substantially adversely affected, CDFG is required to propose reasonable project changes to protect the resource. These modifications are formalized in a Streambed Alteration Agreement that becomes part of the plans, specifications, and bid documents for the project.

California Fish and Game Code Section 3503. It is unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation made pursuant thereto.

California Fish and Game Code Section 3503.5. It is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds of prey) or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto.

California Fish and Game Code Section 3511 (a)(1). States that, “(e)xcept as provided in Section 2081.7, fully protected birds or parts thereof may not be taken or possessed at any time.”

California Fish and Game Code Section 4150. All mammals occurring naturally in California that are not game mammals, fully protected mammals, or fur-bearing mammals, are nongame mammals. Nongame mammals or parts thereof may not be taken or possessed except as provided in this code or in accordance with regulations adopted by the commission.

California Fish and Game Code Section 4700. Section 4700(a)(1): Except as provided in Section 2081.7, fully protected mammals or parts thereof may not be taken or possessed at any time.

Local Laws and Policies

City of Santa Barbara Local Coastal Program. The California Coastal Commission (CCC) regulates the alteration of wetlands within the Coastal Zone under jurisdiction of the California Coastal Act. The CCC has delegated responsibility of regulating the California Coastal Act to the city of Santa Barbara in the southern portion of the BSA (Figure 2)

through the approval of their Local Coastal Program (LCP). However, the CCC has oversight authority over the LCP.

Santa Barbara County Association of Governments Regional Transportation Plan. The Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) prepared a Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy (SBCAG 2013). The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is a long-range planning document that defines how the region plans to invest in the transportation system over 20+ years based on regional goals, multi-modal transportation needs for people and goods, and estimates of available funding.

The Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) is a component of the RTP, newly required by SB 375, that sets forth a forecasted development pattern for the region, which, when integrated with the transportation network and other transportation measures and policies, will reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from passenger vehicles and light trucks to achieve the GHG reduction targets set by the California Air Resources Board. The future land use and transportation scenario presented in the SCS must accommodate forecast population, employment, and housing sufficient to meet the needs of all economic segment of population, including the State-mandated Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), while considering State housing goals.

The plan is collectively known as the 2040 RTP SCS and identifies this project, at least in part, as SB-PL-304 “Arroyo Burro Multi-Purpose Pathway” on Las Positas Rd from Modoc Rd to Cliff Dr. The stated plan is to construct a pathway for bicycles and other recreational users to connect neighborhoods with Elings Park, Hendry's Beach and the Douglas Family Preserve. It is listed as being operational in 2026.

The SBCAG 2040 RTP SCS includes mitigation measures for impacts to biological resources that have been incorporated into this document as best management practices and Project specific avoidance and minimization measures.

The City of Santa Barbara Trees Preservation Ordinance (2009). Ordinance 5505 found within the City of Santa Barbara Municipal Code section 15.24 “Preservation of Trees,” regulates the removal and alteration of privately-owned trees within the city limits of Santa Barbara. The ordinance specifies which trees are protected and require a permit for removal or alteration. Generally, all trees over four inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) equal to 4.5 ft above grade, are protected. Exceptions include trees that are diseased, trees that are dead, and trees that have been ordered removed by the fire department.

Agreements and Understandings

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Fish and Game (December 1990). This MOU ensures that State transportation projects are planned, designed, constructed and maintained to protect fish and wildlife resources in conformance with CEQA and CESA.

Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between FHWA, USACE, EPA, USFWS, CDFG, and Caltrans: Early Mitigation Planning for Transportation Improvements in California (May 1991). This MOA establishes a process to identify and evaluate valuable natural resources and habitat at the earliest stages of transportation improvement planning. It provides a framework to implement coordinated mitigation planning at the beginning of the project development process leading to an agreement on mitigation strategy for guidance during project design.

MOU – NEPA and Clean Water Act Section 404 Integration Process (March 3, 1994). This MOU ensures the earliest possible consideration of environmental concerns pertaining to waters of the U.S., including wetlands, at the transportation project planning, programming, and project development stages by integrating section 404 into the NEPA process.

2.2. Studies Required

Prior to field reconnaissance surveys, available Project plans and literature describing natural resources in the Project area and vicinity were reviewed. Data sources included the following:

- USGS 7.5’ Santa Barbara and Goleta, Calif. quadrangles (USGS 2015)
- California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) RareFind 5 (CDFW 2015b)
- California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Inventory of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants of California (CNPS 2015)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) Species List (USFWS 2015b)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey (NRCS 2015a).
- Final Environmental Impact Report, Veronica Meadows Specific Plan (City of Santa Barbara 2005)
- Douglas Family Preserve, Management Plan (City of Santa Barbara 2008)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Essential Fish Habitat Mapper (NOAA 2015)
- Biological Assessment, Elings Park Phase III Improvement Plan (Watershed Environmental, Inc. 2009)

The review included CNDDB records from the Santa Barbara and Goleta USGS 7.5' Quadrangle maps (CDFW 2015b). The USFWS online species database, which is a predictive database for federal special-status species, was queried using the USGS 7.5-minute quads for Santa Barbara and Goleta (USFWS 2015b).

Special status species evaluated in this report are those species that are listed as endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidates for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act; species listed as endangered, threatened, high priority or rare under the California Endangered Species Act; bat species listed as "high priority species" by the Western Bat Working Group (WBWG); species that are designated as Fully Protected or species of special concern under the California Fish and Game Code; and species that have a California Rare Plant Rank of 1, 2 or 3.

Habitat descriptions were primarily developed using the following references:

- *Preliminary Descriptions of Terrestrial Natural Communities of California* (Holland 1986),
- *A Manual of California Vegetation* (Second Edition) (Sawyer et al 2009),
- The Jepson eFlora (UCB 2015),
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture NRCS PLANTS Database (NRCS 2015b),
- *A Complete List of Amphibian, Reptile, Bird, and Mammal Species in California* (CDFW 2014); and
- Checklist of America Birds, 7th Edition (American Ornithologists Union 2015).

The availability of suitable habitat and the potential for a species to occur in the Project area was evaluated by comparing the proximity of verified species occurrences and the habitat characteristics observed in the BSA with habitat and life history requirements for each species. A table summarizing the results of this review is included in Appendix B.

2.3. Personnel, Survey Dates and Methodology

In advance of field surveys a biological study area (BSA) was established and consisted of the Project footprint surrounded by a 100-ft radius buffer (Figure 2).

Potentially jurisdictional wetland and water features in the BSA were examined by Amec Foster Wheeler senior biologist and regulatory specialist Nick Ricono on October 29th and 30th, 2015 using methodology established in the 1987 *Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual* (Environmental Laboratory 1987) and the *Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region* (USACE 2008).
A reconnaissance level biological survey of the Project area was conducted by Amec Foster Wheeler senior biologist John F. Green on September 29th, 2015. The survey consisted of walked pedestrian transects throughout the entire BSA. Suitable habitat was assessed

based on the presence or absence of habitat components (e.g., soils, vegetation and topography) characteristic of the special status biological resources with potential to occur. Flora and fauna observed or otherwise detected (e.g., dead remains, vocalizations, presence of scat, tracks, and/or bones) during the course of the site visit were recorded and listed in Appendix C. Representative site photographs taken during field surveys are included in Appendix D.

2.4. Agency Coordination and Professional Contacts

An official USFWS species list of federally listed species potentially occurring in the Project area was requested and obtained on 28 October 2015 (USFWS 2015b). It is attached as Appendix E.

2.5. Limitations That May Influence Results

The late summer/early fall timing of field visits limited the detection of some plant and animal species. The field site visit was conducted outside the normal breeding season birds and wildlife, and the normal blooming/growing season for most plants, specifically annuals. The visibility of sensitive biological resources in the BSA was also potentially reduced by ongoing drought conditions throughout California.

Chapter 3. Results: Environmental Setting

This section presents the biological and physical conditions in the Project area, including climate, topography, soils, hydrology, vegetation communities, and common wildlife species that combine to provide suitable habitat elements that support sensitive plant and animal species. This section also presents the list of special status species that have been determined to have the potential for presence in the Project area based upon the availability of suitable habitat and known occurrences of the species either within the Project area or within similar habitat near the proposed Project.

3.1. Biological Study Area

The BSA includes the footprint of the proposed Project plus an approximate 100-foot buffer around that footprint. The BSA is the area within which natural resources were examined and extends beyond the Project's direct impact footprint in order to include all of the land surface that Project construction activities may indirectly affect. The anticipated extent of project impacts is depicted on Figure 3a – Figure 3c.

The BSA extends for 2.6 miles along Modoc Road and Las Positas Road and terminates within two miles of the Pacific Ocean. It is located in the Santa Barbara USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle and is approximately 72 acres in size. Landownership in the BSA is a mixture of public and private land, including residential, public open space, and Caltrans right-of-way.

3.2. Physical Conditions

This section describes the physical conditions of the BSA, including its climate, topography, hydrology, and soils. These characteristics provide the context for the biological conditions and the biological resource descriptions that follow.

3.2.1. Climate

Santa Barbara's climate is mild and Mediterranean. It is characterized by warm summers with daytime highs exceeding 80 degrees Fahrenheit (F), and mild winters with daytime highs exceeding 60 degrees F. Annual rainfall averages approximately 16 inches in the County of Santa Barbara and falls between October and April. (County of Santa Barbara Public Works 2008).

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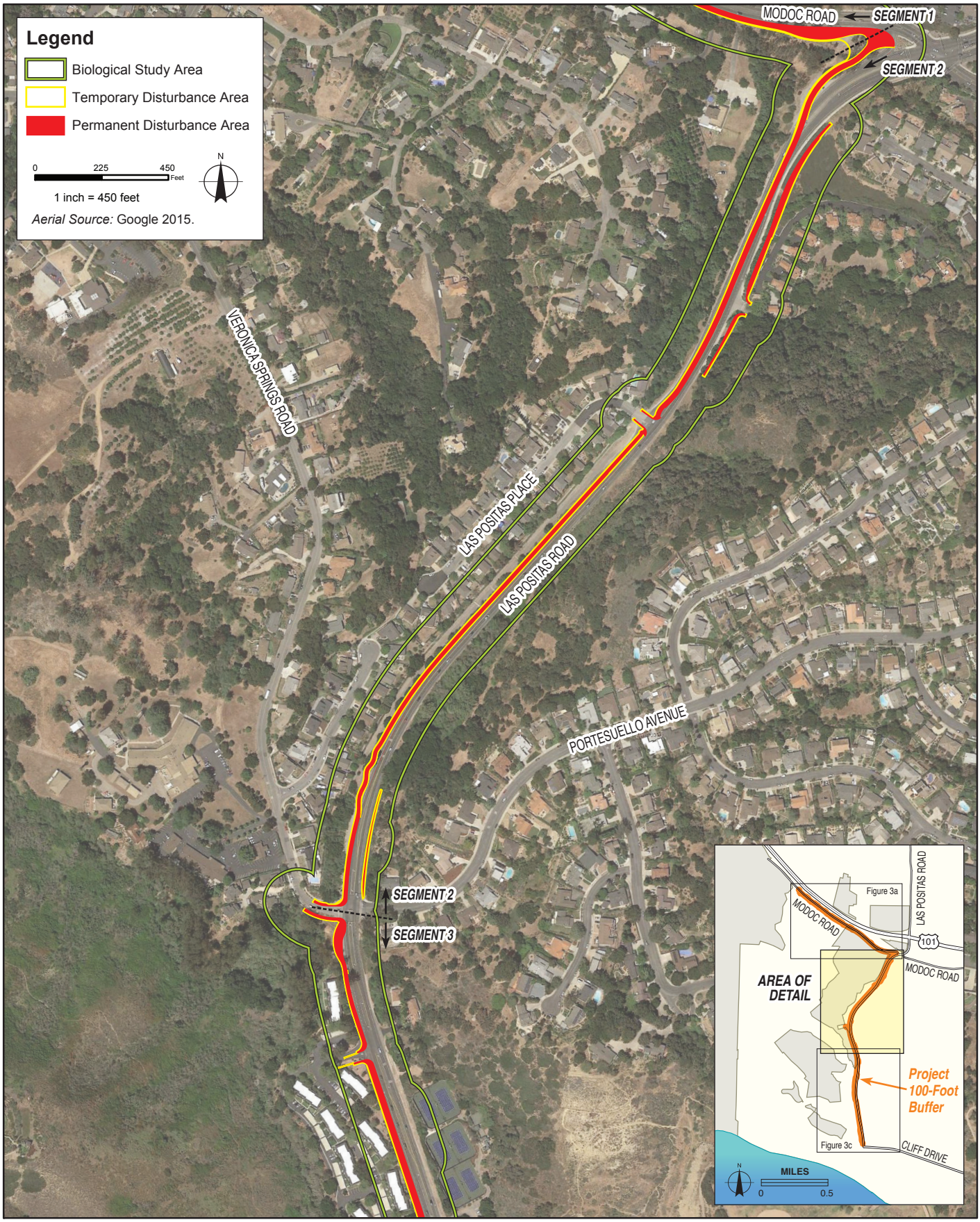
Impacts – Segment 1
Las Positas Road Multi-Use Path Project
Santa Barbara, California

FIGURE
3a



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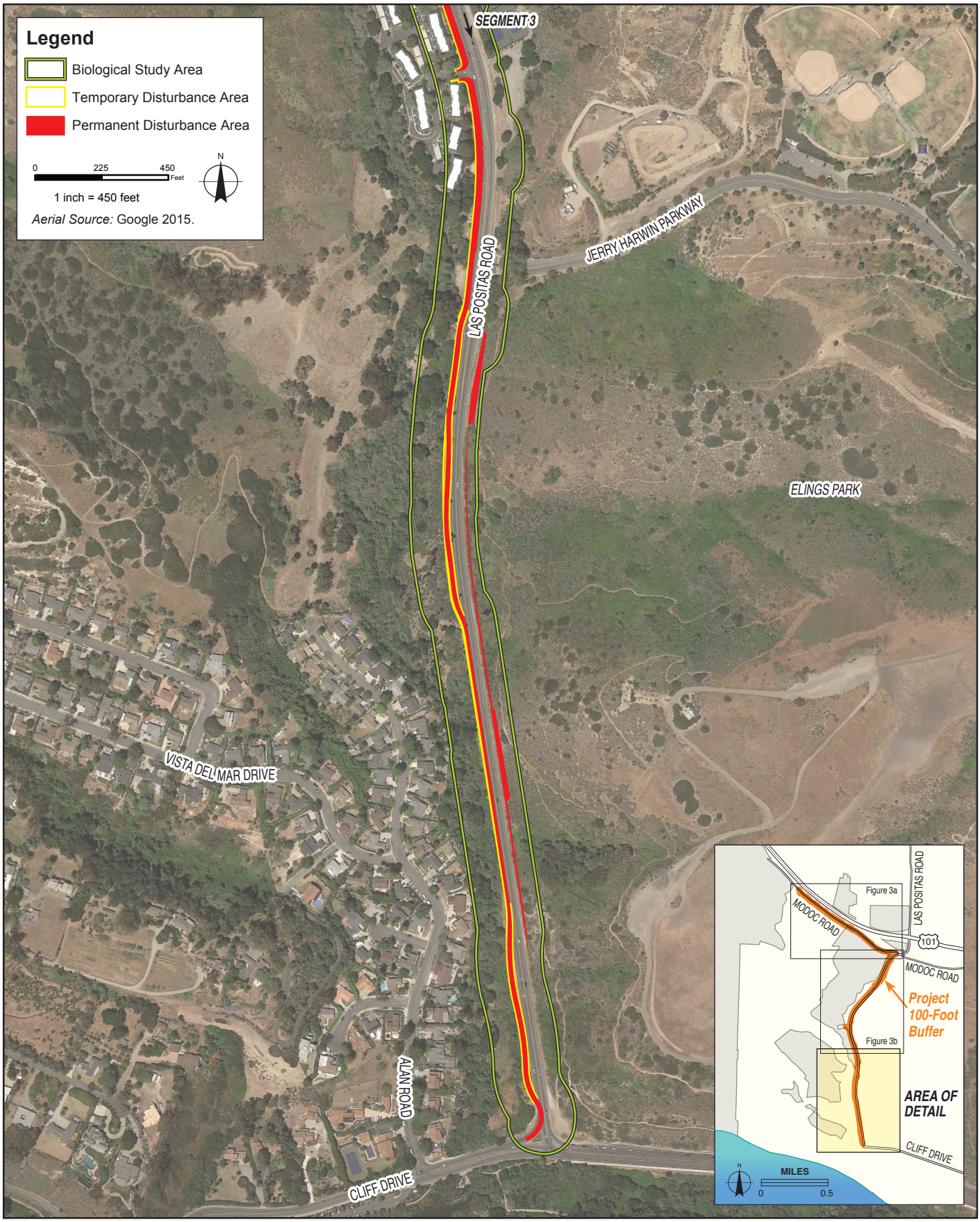
Impacts – Segment 2
Las Positas Road Multi-Use Path Project
Santa Barbara, California

FIGURE
3b



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Impacts – Segment 3
Las Positas Road Multi-Use Path Project
Santa Barbara, California

FIGURE

3c

3.2.2. Topography and Soils

From the intersection of Modoc Road with Calle De Los Amigos to the intersection of Modoc Road with Las Positas Road, the BSA extends for 1 mile west through a relatively level broad valley situated approximately 150 ft (46 meters) above mean sea level (AMSL). Elevation within the BSA then gently drops along Las Positas Road to about 25 ft AMSL at the intersection of las Positas Road with Cliff Drive. The 1.6 mile long southern reach of the BSA is located within a coastal canyon containing Arroyo Burro Creek and a number of its lower tributaries.

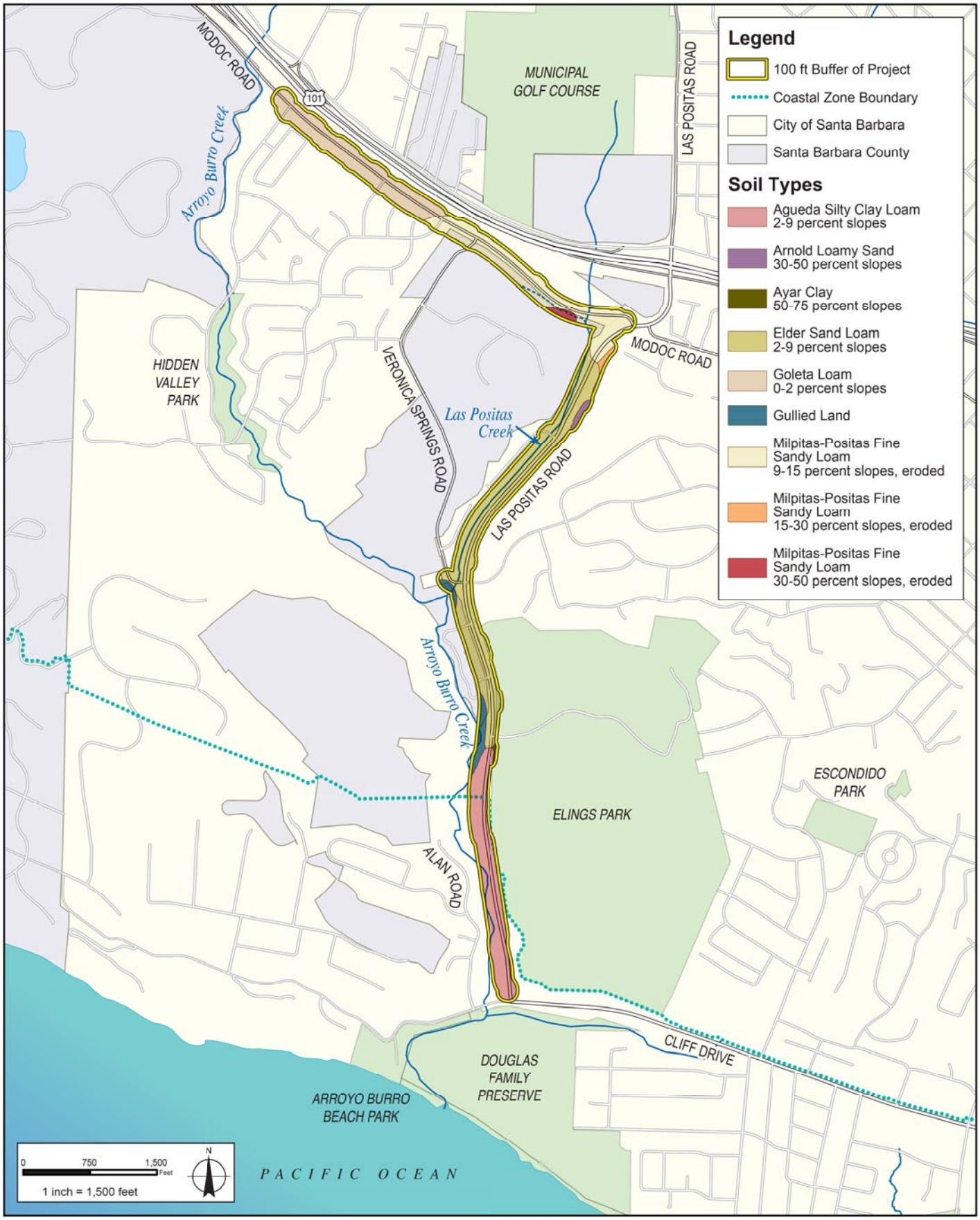
Nine soil types occur in the BSA, as shown on Figure 4 and listed in Table 1 (NRCS 2015a). No hydric (wetland) soils identified by the NRCS are present in the BSA (NRCS 2014).

Table 1. Soil Types in the BSA

Soil Type
Agueda Silty Clay Loam, 2 to 9 Percent Slopes (AaC)
Arnold Loamy Sand, 30 to 50 Percent Slopes, Eroded (AgF2)
Ayar Clay, 50 to 75 Percent Slopes (AhG)
Elder Sandy Loam, 2 to 9 Percent Slopes (EaB)
Goleta Loam, 0 to 2 Percent Slopes (GdA)
Gullied Land (GU)
Milpitas-Positas Fine Sandy Loam, 9 to 15 Percent Slopes, Eroded (MeD2)
Milpitas-Positas Fine Sandy Loams, 15 to 30 Percent Slopes, Eroded (MeE2)
Milpitas-Positas Fine Sandy Loams, 30 to 50 Percent Slopes, Eroded (MeF2)

3.3. Hydrology

The BSA is located in the Lower Arroyo Burro Watershed, and contains reaches of two named drainages: Arroyo Burro Creek and Las Positas Creek (Figure 2). Arroyo Burro Creek is a perennial stream that drains the foothills of St. Ynez Mountains and traverses portions of the city of Santa Barbara before traveling under US 101, northwest of the BSA. Arroyo Burro Creek then meanders east through Hidden Valley Park towards the BSA where it turns south to parallel Las Positas Road. The creek then flows south along the western edge of Las Positas Road before veering west at the Douglas Family Preserve and emptying into the Pacific Ocean. A number of smaller tributaries feed into Arroyo Burro Creek in the BSA, from surrounding hillsides in Hope Ranch and Elings Park, not least of which is Las Positas Creek.



amec foster wheeler

Soils within the Biological Study Area
Las Positas Road Multi-Use Path Project
Santa Barbara, California

FIGURE

4

Las Positas Creek is an intermittent drainage that originates in the vicinity of the Santa Barbara Municipal Golf Course, across US 101 and north of the BSA. It flows south under Calle Real, US 101, the Union Pacific Railroad and Modoc Road, at which point it is joined by an unnamed tributary carrying ephemeral flow from hillsides to the west and a stormwater runoff drainage carrying ephemeral flow during rain events, from the Modoc Road-Las Positas Road intersection to the east. The unnamed tributary to Las Positas Creek flows east within the BSA, parallel to the southern edge of Modoc Road. Las Positas Creek continues due south through the BSA, paralleling Las Positas Road, until it crosses under the intersection of Veronica Springs Road and empties into Arroyo Burro Creek.

3.4. Biological Conditions

3.4.1. Vegetation Communities

The BSA includes a mixture of developed areas and natural habitats. Developed areas include paved roadway (Modoc Road, Las Positas Road, driveways, and side roads) and disturbed/landscaped areas including road shoulders and pull-outs, adjacent residential communities, and landscaped vegetation beside roadways. Terrestrial natural habitats in the BSA include riparian forest, oak woodland, eucalyptus woodland, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and ruderal (weedy) vegetation communities (Figure 5). Aquatic vegetation communities in the BSA include in-channel/riparian wetlands and slope wetlands within the perennial portions of Arroyo Burro Creek and its tributaries and groundwater seeps along the eastern edge of the Las Positas roadway. The extent of each mapped land cover type, including vegetation communities in the BSA, is summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Landcover in the BSA

Community Name	Area (acres)	Area (square feet)
Wetlands[1]	1.34	58,314
Southern Riparian Forest	9.31	405,424
Ruderal	2.17	94,689
Paved Road	17.44	759,660
Oak Woodland	2.43	105,797
Eucalyptus Woodland	2.18	95,162
Developed/Landscaped	30.46	1,326,736
Coastal Sage Scrub/Chaparral	6.71	292,186

[1] The wetland vegetation community is a general vegetation characterization and does not equate directly to jurisdictional wetland area. Jurisdictional waters, including wetlands, are a subset of the wetlands and southern riparian forest vegetation communities presented in this table.

3.4.1.1. SOUTHERN RIPARIAN FOREST

Riparian forest in the BSA is associated with Arroyo Burro Creek and its tributaries and dominated by arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) with minor components of Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), Washington fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), and coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*).

Las Positas Creek enters the BSA just west of the intersection of Las Positas Road and Modoc Road and the riparian community along the drainage transitions from eucalyptus woodland north of Modoc Road to an oak dominated riparian immediately downstream that transitions to arroyo willow and Oregon ash dominated riparian with patches of giant reed (*Arundo donax*) near the confluence with Arroyo Burro Creek. Riparian understory species in these areas include natives such as California rose (*Rosa californica*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), and California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*) and invasive non-natives such as German ivy (*Delairea odorata*). An unnamed tributary to Las Positas Creek is located in the northern portion of the BSA and its stream channel is dominated by riparian woodland including coast live oak mixed with arroyo willow (Figure 5).

Taken as a whole, the definition of this Southern Riparian Forest community under the Manual of California Vegetation (MCV) 2nd Edition classification (Sawyer et al 2009) would be a combination of *Quercus agrifolia* Woodland Alliance, Coast live oak woodland and *Salix lasiolepis* Shrubland Alliance, Arroyo willow thicket. Arroyo willow thicket is considered a natural community of special concern, per the MCV.

3.4.1.2. OAK WOODLAND

Coast live oak woodland occurs primarily along northern Las Positas Road, on the east slope. The overstory is dominated by coast live oak, while the understory is comprised of native species such as poison oak, mugwort (*Artemisa douglasiana*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos mollis*), hummingbird sage (*Salvia spathacea*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), and giant ryegrass (*Elymus condensatus*). Various non-native vines, such as German ivy occur as part of the understory. An approximately 0.3 mile section of Las Positas Creek is concrete lined between Las Positas Place and Veronica Springs Road and contains a narrow band of oak woodlands along its eastern border. At least some of the oaks in this area may have been planted as roadside trees.

Under MCV this community is a *Quercus agrifolia* Woodland Alliance, Coast live oak woodland.

3.4.1.3. EUCALYPTUS WOODLAND

Non-native eucalyptus woodland dominated by weeping red gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) occurs in upland areas adjacent to the stream channels within the BSA, as

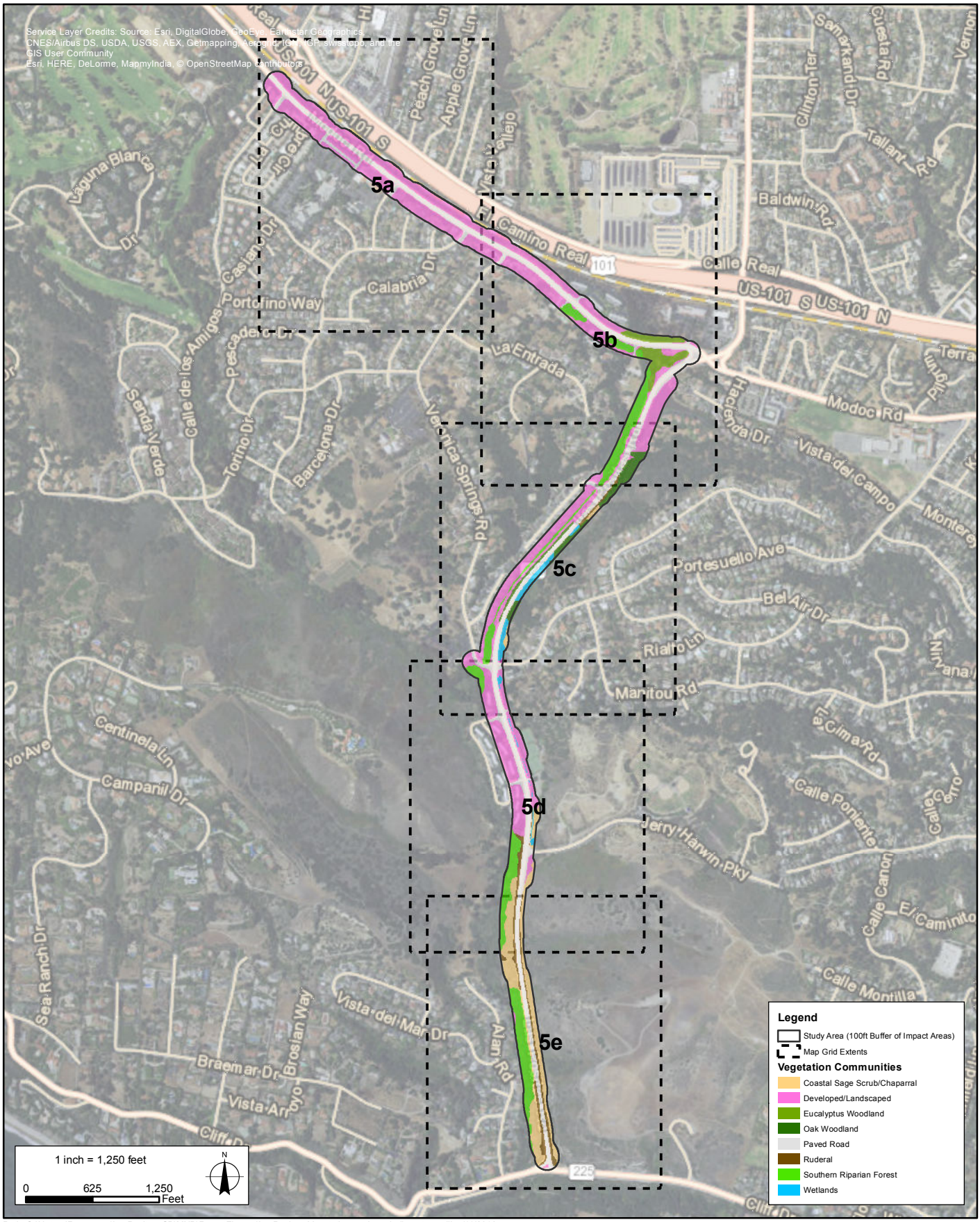
well as the channel of Las Positas Creek north of Modoc Road immediately upstream of the BSA. It occurs intermittently, but is at its densest southwest of the Las Positas-Modoc Road intersection. Understory species include non-natives such as fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), cheeseweed (*Malva parviflora*), and black mustard (*Brassica nigra*) and native species such as California everlasting (*Pseudognaphalium californicum*), coastal morning-glory (*Calystegia macrostegia* ssp. *cyclostegia*), poison oak, and mugwort. The BSA contains planted eucalyptus trees, both blue gum and weeping red gum, in landscaped areas beside Las Positas Road, south of Veronica Springs Road; however these trees are not considered part of the eucalyptus woodland community.

Under MCV this community is a *Eucalyptus* (*globulus*, *camaldulensis*) Woodland Semi-Natural Alliance, Eucalyptus groves.

3.4.1.4. RUDERAL

Ruderal areas include a number of roadsides and pullouts areas, particularly near the intersection of Las Positas Road with Cliff Drive. Patches of this vegetation type are dominated by weedy species such as cheeseweed, black mustard, Italian thistle, fennel, castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), hottentot fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*), and non-native grasses such as smilo grass (*Stipa miliacea* var. *miliacea*) and ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*).

MCV's *Brassica nigra and other mustards* Herbaceous Semi-Natural Alliance, Upland mustards, is the best match to this community.



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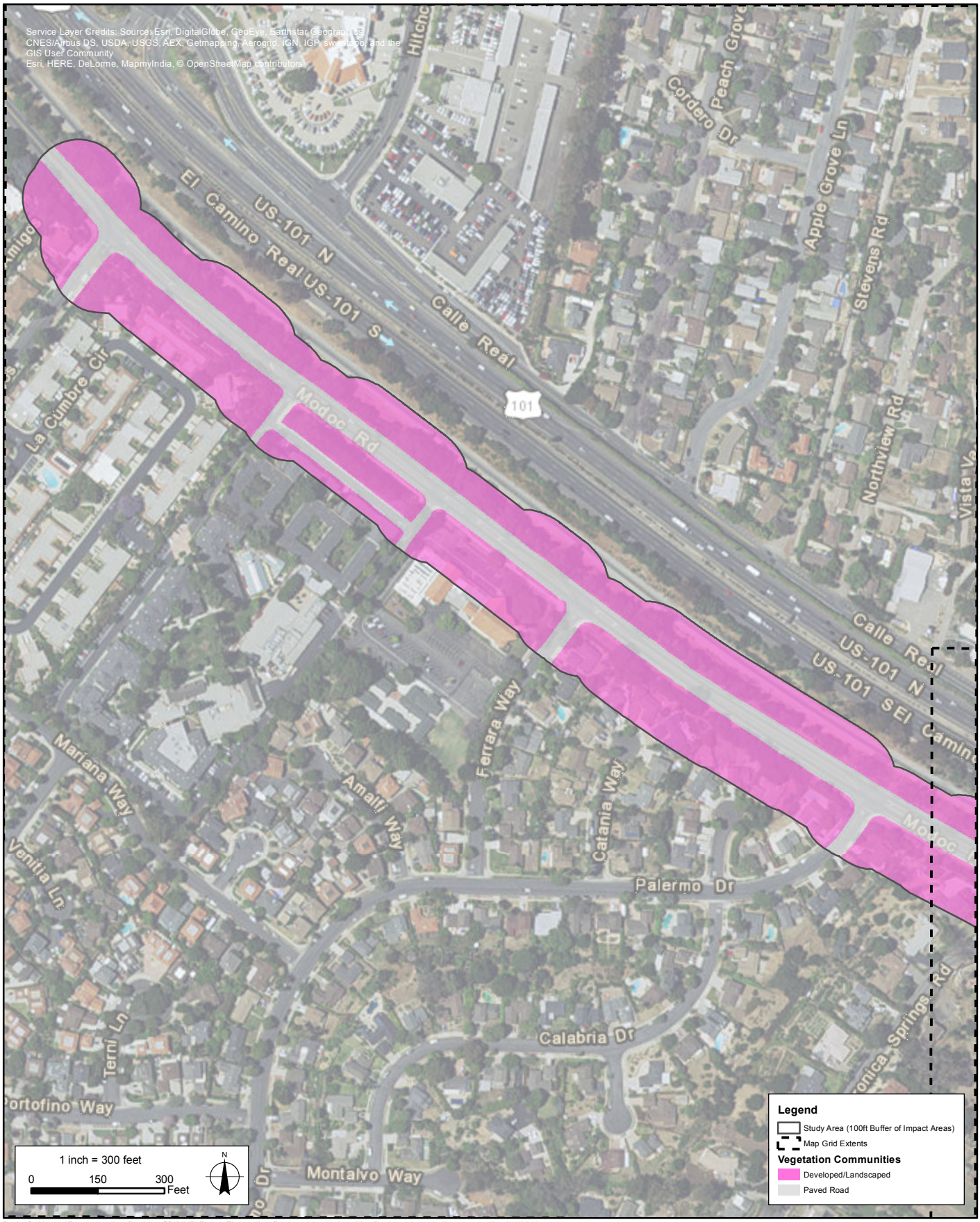
Mapped Vegetation Communities in the BSA
Las Positas Multiuse Path Project
Santa Barbara, CA

FIGURE

5



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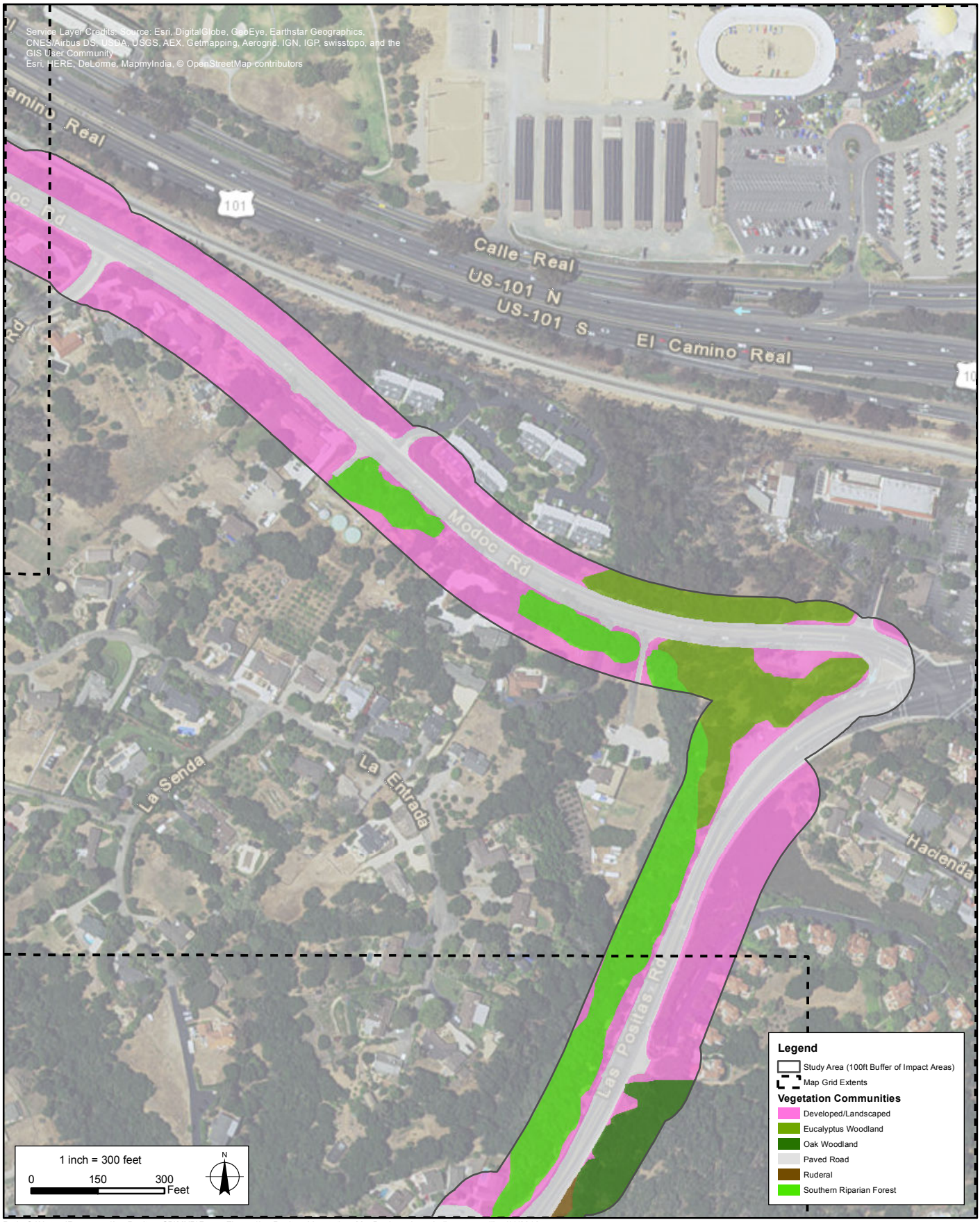
amec foster wheeler

Mapped Vegetation Communities in the BSA
Las Positas Multiuse Path Project
Santa Barbara, CA

FIGURE

5a



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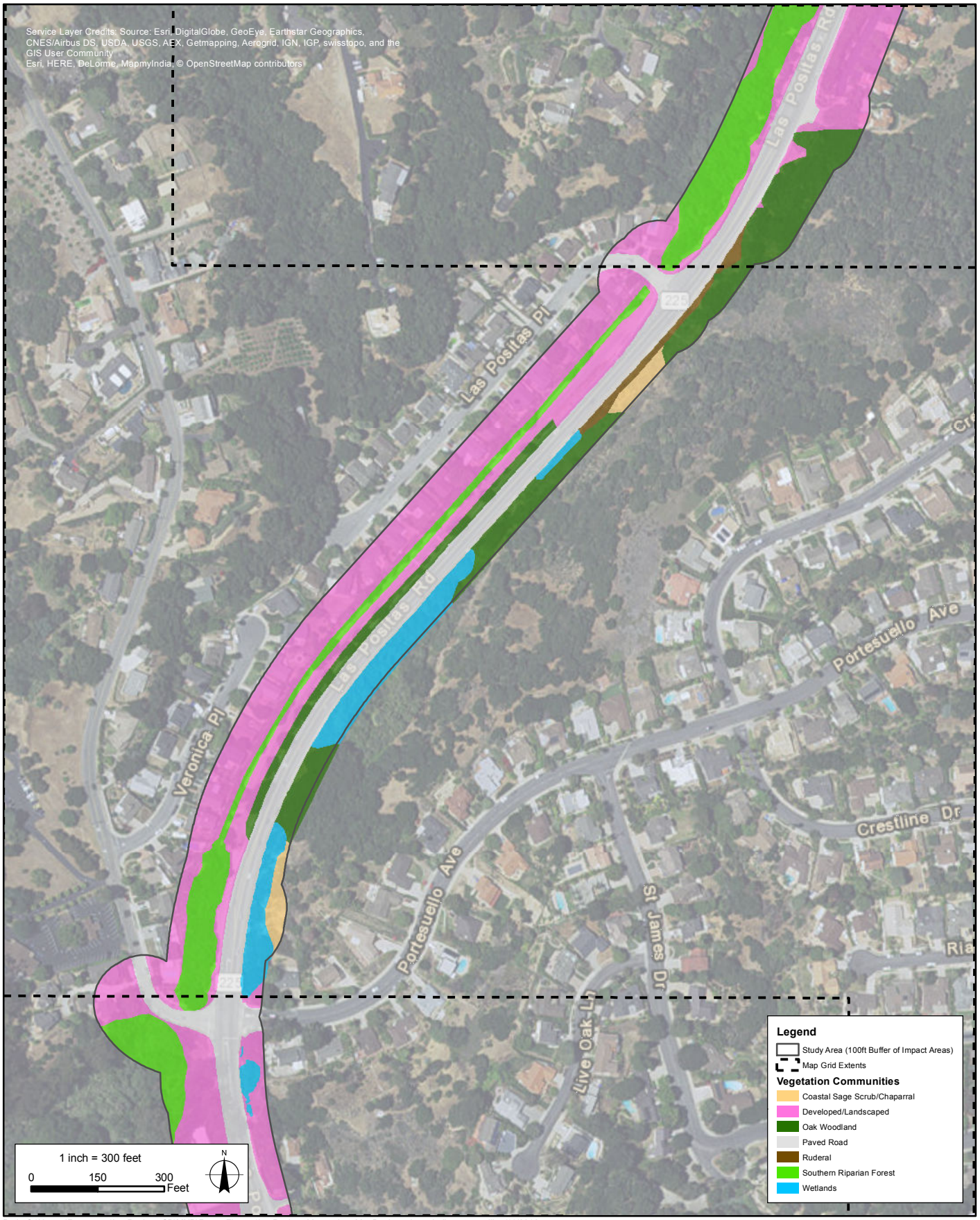
amec foster wheeler

Mapped Vegetation Communities in the BSA
Las Positas Multiuse Path Project
Santa Barbara, CA

FIGURE

5b



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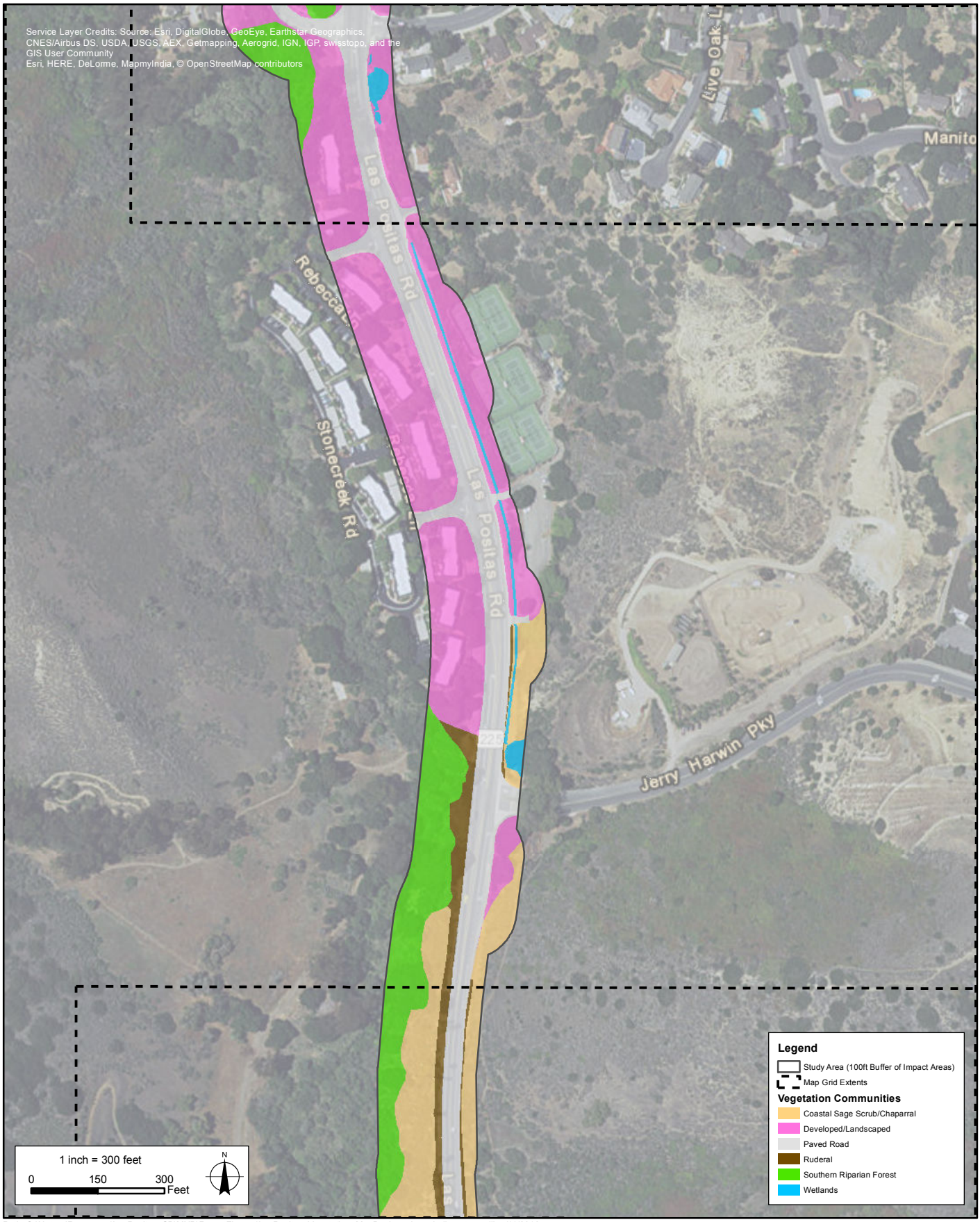
amec foster wheeler

Mapped Vegetation Communities in the BSA
Las Positas Multiuse Path Project
Santa Barbara, CA

FIGURE

5c



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Mapped Vegetation Communities in the BSA
Las Positas Multiuse Path Project
Santa Barbara, CA

FIGURE

5d

Path: Q:\NaturalResources\LasPositas_SB\MXD\ReportFigures\LasPositas_Vegetation_MapBook.mxd, rochelle.petruccelli 5/11/2016

amec foster wheeler

Mapped Vegetation Communities in the BSA
Las Positas Multiuse Path Project
Santa Barbara, CA

FIGURE

5e

3.4.1.5. COASTAL SAGE SCRUB

Undeveloped uplands away from the stream channels along the east and west sides of southern Las Positas Road contain a coastal sage scrub and chaparral community dominated by coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*) with minor components of giant wild rye (*Elymus condensatus*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*), and poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). Scattered ruderal species such as black mustard, fennel, and ripgut brome are present.

Under MCV, this would be termed *Baccharis pilularis* Shrubland Alliance, Coyote brush scrub.

3.4.1.6. DEVELOPED/LANDSCAPED

Developed/landscaped areas include unpaved roads and driveways, dirt pullouts beside Las Positas Road and along Modoc Road, and all planted non-native vegetation lining Modoc and Las Positas Road, particularly in front of residences on both streets. Plant species identified in these landscaped areas are predominantly trees and include weeping red gum eucalyptus, blue gum eucalyptus, Monterey cypress, Mexican fan palms, and various non-native conifers. Some landscaped areas also contain *Myoporum* sp. shrubs.

This is not really a vegetation community, so is not defined under MCV.

3.4.2. Wetlands

Along the southern extent of Las Positas Creek, wetlands occur at the base of the channel. In-channel wetlands dominated by cattail (*Typha latifolia*) and horsetail (*Equisetum* sp.) also occur at the base of Arroyo Burro Creek's perennial channel.

Several groundwater seeps at the base of steep hillsides east of the Las Positas Road have created toe-slope wetlands dominated by willow, cattail, rush (*Juncus* sp.), dogwood (*Cornus* sp.), and umbrella sedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*). Similar seeps occur throughout this area both east and west of the BSA, supporting perennial flows in the lower reaches of Las Positas Creek, even when upper foothill reaches are dry.

This area is best described by MCV as *Typha* (*angustifolia*, *domingensis*, *latifolia*) Herbaceous Alliance, Cattail marshes.

3.4.3. Common Wildlife Species

Vertebrate animal species encountered during the field survey included two reptile and 24 bird species. A complete list of wildlife observed during surveys is included in Appendix C.

The two reptiles observed during surveys included the side-blotched lizard (*Uta stansburiana*) and western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*). Bird species detected

during surveys included residents such as the California thrasher (*Toxostoma redivivum*) and wrentit (*Chamaea fasciata*); the non-native rock pigeon (*Columba livia*); and migrants/wintering birds such as the Townsend's warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*) and ruby-crowned kinglet (*Regulus calendula*).

Other expected or previously detected common vertebrate species in the BSA include the non-native Western Mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*); amphibians such as the Baja California Treefrog (*Pseudacris hypochondriaca*) and western toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*); reptiles such as the southern alligator lizard (*Elgaria multicarinata*), gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer*), and kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getula*); bird species such as the red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Bullock's oriole (*Icterus bullockii*), and non-native house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*); and mammals such as the mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus californicus*), Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), and the non-native Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) and feral cat (*Felis catus*) (City of Santa Barbara 2005).

3.4.4. Invasive Species

Several invasive plant species were identified in the BSA and additional species may be identified during focused plant surveys. Table 3 lists invasive species that are known to occur in the BSA and their invasive status. Sources consulted for species' invasive status included the California Invasive Plants Council (Cal-IPC) (2015), Invasive Species Council of California (2010), Weeds of California and Other Western States (DiTomaso 2008), and Encycloweedia (2015). One invasive animal species, the rock pigeon was observed in the BSA, but only as a small flyover flock.

Table 3. Invasive Species in the BSA

Scientific Name	Common Name	Invasive Status[1]
Arundo donax	giant reed	Cal-IPC High, CDFA Noxious weed
Avena fatua	wild oat	Cal-IPC Moderate
Brassica nigra	black mustard	Cal-IPC Moderate
Bromus diandrus	ripgut brome	Cal-IPC Moderate
Cirsium vulgare	bull thistle	Cal-IPC Moderate, CDFA Noxious weed
Convolvulus arvensis	bindweed	CDFA Noxious weed
Cynodon dactylon	Bermudagrass	Cal-IPC Moderate
Delairea odorata	German ivy	Cal-IPC High
Erodium cicutarium	redstem filaree	Cal-IPC Limited
Erodium botrys	broad-leaved filaree	Included in "Weeds of California"
Eucalyptus globulus	blue gum	Cal-IPC Limited
Eucalyptus camaldulensis	Weeping red gum	Cal-IPC Limited
Ficus carica	edible fig	Cal-IPC Moderate
Foeniculum vulgare	fennel	Cal-IPC High

Scientific Name	Common Name	Invasive Status[1]
Hedera sp.	English and/or Algerian ivy	Cal-IPC High
Hirschfeldia incana	Mediterranean mustard	Cal-IPC Moderate
Hordeum murinum	foxtail	Cal-IPC Moderate
Malva parviflora	cheeseweed	Included in "Weeds of California"
Olea europaea	olive	Cal-IPC Limited
Pennisetum setaceum	crimson fountain grass	Cal-IPC Moderate
Phoenix canariensis	Canary Island palm	Cal-IPC Limited
Plantago lanceolata	English plantain	Cal-IPC Limited
Polypogon monspeliensis	rabbitfoot's grass	Cal-IPC Limited
Portulaca oleracea	common purslane	Included in "Weeds of California"
Ricinus communis	castor bean	Cal-IPC Limited
Robinia pseudoacacia	black locust	Cal-IPC Limited
Salsola tragus	Russian thistle	Cal-IPC Limited
Stipa miliacea var. *miliacea*	smilo grass	Cal-IPC Limited
Tribulus terrestris	puncture vine	CDFA Noxious weed
Washingtonia robusta	Mexican fan palm	Cal-IPC Moderate

[1]Invasive status key:

High – These species have severe ecological impacts on physical processes, plant and animal communities, and vegetation structure. Their reproductive biology and other attributes are conducive to moderate to high rates of dispersal and establishment. Most are widely distributed ecologically.

Moderate – These species have substantial and apparent-but generally not severe-ecological impacts on physical processes, plant and animal communities, and vegetation structure. Their reproductive biology and other attributes are conducive to moderate to high rates of dispersal, though establishment is generally dependent upon ecological disturbance. Ecological amplitude and distribution may range from limited to widespread.

Limited – These species are invasive but their ecological impacts are minor on a statewide level or there was not enough information to justify a higher score. Their reproductive biology and other attributes result in low to moderate rates of invasiveness. Ecological amplitude and distribution are generally limited, but these species may be locally persistent and problematic.

Alert –An Alert is listed on species with High or Moderate impacts that have limited distribution in California, but may have the potential to spread much further.

3.4.5. Wildlife Movement Corridors

The natural communities in the BSA are largely bordered by residential and commercial development and busy paved roads, particularly along Modoc Road, and based upon publicly available reports addressing wildlife movement patterns and areas of state-wide importance, the project site does not occur within a mapped wildlife corridor (Penrod et al., 2001 and CDFW 2015b).

However, on a local level, the complex of open lands within and around the BSA is recognized in the City of Santa Barbara's General Plan as an important island of wildlife habitat within an otherwise urban area. The lower reaches of Arroyo Burro Creek are bordered to the west by more than 200 acres of open hillsides and canyon bottom that support relatively uninhibited wildlife movement into the BSA and the lower reaches of the

BSA are bordered by almost 200 acres of open lands within Elings Park and the Douglas Family Preserve, which provide additional potential for wildlife dispersal. The perennial flows in lower Arroyo Burro Creek offer potential fish passage along more than one mile of stream, despite existing passage barriers downstream of the BSA that limit the number and type of species that are able to migrate upstream from the Pacific Ocean.

3.5. Special Status Species

A review of available information indicates that several special-status animal species, special status plant species and one natural community of special concern have potential to occur in the BSA. Table 4 lists the special status species determined to have potential to be present in the BSA (including species that may occur on site only during migration). These species are evaluated in more detail in Chapter 4.

The table in Appendix B of this NES presents a qualitative assessment and rationale for all species considered for presence within the BSA based on a characterization of the habitats present in the BSA and vicinity. Appendix B provides a full description of species and habitats. Table 4 provides a summary of the species and habitats described in Appendix B. Figure 6 and Figure 7 show the results of a CNDDB query for species occurrences and mapped critical habitat within a 5-mile buffer of the BSA. Species that are not likely to occur in the BSA are not considered further in this report.

Sensitive Species Records in the Vicinity of the Biological Study Area
Las Positas Road Multi-Use Path Project
Santa Barbara, CA

1 inch = 1 miles
0 0.5 1 Miles
N

FIGURE
6

Path: Q:\NaturalResources\LasPositas_SB\MXD\ReportFigures\CriticalHabitat.mxd, rochelle.petruccelli 12/17/2015

Critical Habitat in the Vicinity of the Biological Study Area
Las Positas Road Multi-Use Path Project
Santa Barbara, CA

1 inch = 1 miles
0 0.5 1 Miles
N

FIGURE
7

Table 4. Special Status Species and Critical Habitat with Potential to Occur in the BSA

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status[1]	Habitat Present/ Absent[2]	Occurrence Probability[3]
Special Status Plants				
Southern tarplant	*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis*	1B.1	HP	L
Santa Barbara honeysuckle	*Lonicera subspicata* var. *subspicata*	1B.2	HP	L
white-veined monardella	*Monardella hypoleuca* ssp. *hypoleuca*	1B.3	HP	L
Gambel's water cress	*Nasturtium* (*Rorippa*) *gambelii*	FE, ST, B.1	HP	L
Nuttall's scrub oak	*Quercus dumosa*	1B.1	HP	L
black-flowered figwort	*Scrophularia atrata*	1B.2	HP	L
Sonoran maiden fern	*Thelypteris puberula var. sonorensis*	2B.2	HP	L
Invertebrates				
Monarch, California overwintering population	*Danaus plexippus* pop. 1	--	HP: overwintering habitat	O
Fish				
Steelhead				
Southern California DPS	*Oncorhynchus* (*salmo*) *mykiss irideus*	FE, SSC	HP, CH	L
Amphibian				
California red-legged frog	*Rana draytonii*	FT, SSC	HP	L
Reptiles				
western pond turtle	*Emys marmorata*	SSC	HP	M
two-striped garter snake	*Thamnophis hammondii*	SSC	HP	M
silvery legless lizard	*Anniella pulchra pulchra*	SSC	HP	L
Birds				
Cooper's hawk	*Accipiter cooperii*	SWL	HP: foraging	H
northern harrier	*Circus cyaneus*	SSC	A: nesting HP: Foraging	N/L
white-tailed kite	*Elanus leucurus*	SFP	HP	N/L
southwestern willow flycatcher	*Empidonax traillii extimus*	FE, SE	HP	L
least Bell's vireo	*Vireo bellii pusillus*	FE, SE	HP	L
bank swallow	*Riparia riparia*	ST	HP	N/L
oak titmouse	*Baeolophus inornatus*	BCC	P	O
yellow warbler	*Setophaga petechia*	BCC, SSC	HP	M
yellow-breasted chat	*Icteria virens*	SSC	HP	M
Mammals				
Townsend's big-eared bat	*Corynorhinus townsendii*	SC	HP	M
San Diego desert woodrat	*Neotoma lepida intermedia*	SSC	HP	L
big free-tailed bat	*Nyctinomops macrotis*	SSC	HP	L

[1] Status definitions

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status[1]	Habitat Present/ Absent[2]	Occurrence Probability[3]

Federal

FE – listed as Endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act
FT – listed as Threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act
BCC – Birds of Conservation Concern

State

SE – Listed as Endangered under the California Endangered Species Act
ST– Listed as Threatened under the California Endangered Species Act
SSC– State species of special concern
SFP– Fully protected under California Fish and Game Code

California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR)

List 1B = Plant species that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California of elsewhere
List 2 = Plant species that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere
.1 seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree of immediacy of threat)
.2 fairly endangered in California (20 – 80% of occurrences threatened)
.3 Not very endangered in California (<20% if occurrences threatened or no current threats known)

[2] Habitat Present/Absent
HP – Habitat Present
A – Habitat Absent

[3] Occurrence Probability
O – Occurs
H – High Probability of Occurrence
M – Moderate Probability of Occurrence
L – Low Probability of Occurrence
N – No Occurrence

Chapter 4. Results: Biological Resources, Discussion of Impacts and Mitigation

This chapter describes the sensitive natural communities, special status plant species, and special status animal species that have potential to occur in the BSA. It also describes the potential impacts to individual resources and species, proposed avoidance and minimization measures, suggested mitigation measures for unavoidable impacts, and anticipated cumulative impacts.

The proposed Project could potentially impact biological resources through:

Permanent or temporary loss of aquatic and terrestrial habitat within the BSA,
Erosion and sedimentation from Project construction, and
Temporary noise and visual disturbance to special-status animal species from construction activities.

Figures 3 and 5 show the potential areas of direct permanent and temporary impacts in the BSA based upon the preliminary trail design plans and anticipated construction needs. Permanent impact areas are defined based upon the location of new permanent structures such as trail surface and retaining walls. Temporary impact areas are defined as areas where temporary construction staging and operations will occur. All temporarily impacted areas will be restored to their preconstruction, native condition at the completion of Project construction. Table 5 lists areas of permanent and temporary impact to each vegetation community mapped in the BSA. Impact areas for the wetland types shown in Table 5 represent the vegetation component only; the impact areas presented in Section 4.3.1 represent both wetland vegetation and aquatic components.

Table 5. Summary of Impacts to Vegetation Communities in the BSA

Vegetation Community	Temporary		Permanent	
	Acres	Square feet	Acres	Square feet
Wetlands	0.02	729	0.03	1,132
Southern Riparian Forest	0.02	857	0.05	2,341
Ruderal	0.11	4,724	0.64	27,718
Oak Woodland	0.03	1,489	0.29	12,463
Eucalyptus Woodland	0.10	4,360	0.24	10,598
Developed/Landscaped	0.59	25,650	2.44	106,504
Coastal Sage Scrub/Chaparral	0.17	7,610	0.63	27,628

[1] Impact acreage are based upon preliminary design and refinements to the Project design are anticipated to reduce the area of impact in Coastal scrub/Chaparral, as well as other natural habitats, particularly along the southern portion of Las Positas Road in the BSA.

To minimize potential impacts to biological resources, general avoidance and minimization measures as well as Project- and species-specific avoidance and minimization measures

will be implemented. These measures are described below in Sections 4.1 and 4.2. Species-specific measures may also be implemented and are described in the appropriate species' section of this Chapter.

4.1. General Avoidance and Minimization Measures

AM-1 Construction Timing: Construction activities will be conducted between July 1st and October 15th to avoid nesting birds, to reduce potential for erosion and sedimentation, and to avoid affects to spawning salmonids in Arroyo Burro Creek. Construction should only be extended into the rainy season, as necessary, on a week-by-week basis dependent on local weather forecasts.

AM-2 Construction Work, Access, and Staging Areas: All proposed construction will be limited to the existing and proposed construction right-of-way. Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) will be identified on contract plans and include areas designated in the environmental document and biological reports that support wetlands, waters, and/or habitats that potentially support listed species, and have been specifically identified to avoid during construction. ESA provisions may include, but are not limited to, the use of temporary orange fencing to delineate the proposed limit of work in areas adjacent to sensitive resources, or to delineate and exclude sensitive resources from potential construction impacts. Contractor encroachment into ESAs will be restricted (including the staging/operation of heavy equipment or casting of excavation materials). ESA provisions will be implemented as a first order of work and remain in place until all construction is completed.

AM-3 Ground disturbance: Ground disturbance shall be limited to the minimum area necessary to complete the Project. The Project limits of disturbance shall be flagged. Areas of special biological concern within or adjacent to the limits of disturbance shall have highly visible orange construction fencing installed between said area and the limits of disturbance. At the end of each work day, all excavations with vertical walls shall be secured with cover or a ramp to prevent wildlife entrapment.

AM-4 Construction discharges: No debris, soil, silt, sand, bark, slash, sawdust, cement, concrete, washings, petroleum products or other organic or earthen material shall be allowed to enter into or be placed where it may be washed by rainfall or runoff into waters of the United States or drainages. No discharges of excessively turbid water will be allowed, and all equipment will be well-maintained and free of leaks. All vehicle maintenance/ fueling/ staging shall occur not less than 100 ft from any riparian habitat or water body. Suitable containment procedures shall be implemented to prevent spills. A minimum of one spill kit shall be available at each work location near riparian habitat or water bodies.

AM-5 Dust: Dust control measures, including wetting construction sites, will be implemented when construction could result in the mobilization of fine dust particles.

AM-6 Erosion control: Temporary erosion control and slope stabilization BMPs will be installed before the start of the wet season (October 15 through April 15). Erosion control measures may include silt fencing, straw wattles, straw bales, coir blankets, sediment traps, and other protective measures to minimize the potential for erosion of sediment beyond the work area or degradation of water quality in adjacent aquatic habitats.

AM-7 Biological Monitor: for all work occurring within or adjacent to sensitive habitats that may support federally and/or state Endangered/Threatened species a CDFW and/or USFWS-approved biologist will be present during all initial ground disturbing/vegetation clearing activities. Once initial ground disturbing/vegetation clearing activities have been completed, said biologist shall conduct daily pre-activity clearance surveys for Endangered/Threatened species. Alternatively, and upon approval of the CDFW and/or USFWS, said biologist may conduct site inspections at a minimum of once per week to ensure all prescribed avoidance and minimization measures are begin fully implemented.

AM-8 Work in Riparian areas: All Project activities occurring within/adjacent to aquatic habitats (including riparian habitats and wetlands) shall be completed between April 1 and October 31, if feasible, to avoid impacts to sensitive aquatic species.

AM-9 Vegetation Removal: Removal of any large trees or riparian habitat with potential to provide nest habitat should be conducted outside of bird breeding season (generally defined as February 1st-September 15th) in order to avoid special-status birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

4.2. Project-Specific Avoidance and Minimization Measures

The Santa Barbara County Association of Governments 2040 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Community Strategy (SBCAG 2040 RTP/SCS) includes a portion of the Project in its analysis and the EIR document for that plan identifies two mitigation measures and their subdivisions as mitigation for potential impacts to biological resources. These measures, as described below, shall be applied as Project-specific avoidance and minimization measures and implemented where appropriate (SBCAG 2013).

In order to avoid and minimize impacts to special status plants and animals the following measures will be implemented:

B-1 (b) Special Status Plant Species Surveys

AM-10 Surveys for special status plants shall be completed prior to any vegetation removal, grubbing, or other construction activity of each segment (including staging and mobilization). The surveys shall be conducted no more than two years before initial ground disturbance and seasonally-timed to coincide with the target species identified in the project-specific BSA. Special status plants covered by this

measure include southern tarplant, Santa Barbara honeysuckle, white-veined monardella, Gambel's water cress, Nuttall's scrub oak, black-flowered figwort, and Sonoran maiden fern.

AM-11 Surveys shall be floristic in nature and be conducted in accordance with the most current protocols established by the CDFW, USFWS, and the local jurisdictions, if said protocols exist. All special status plant species identified on-site shall be mapped onto a site specific aerial photograph and topographic map. A report of the survey results shall be submitted to the implementing agency, and the CDFW and/or USFWS, as appropriate, for review and approval. Special status plants covered by this measure include southern tarplant, Santa Barbara honeysuckle, white-veined monardella, Gambel's water cress, Nuttall's scrub oak, black-flowered figwort, and Sonoran maiden fern.

B-1(c) Special Status Plant Species Avoidance and Minimization measures

If state listed or California Rare Plant List 1B species are found during special status plant surveys, the project shall be redesigned to avoid impacting these plant species, if feasible. Rare plant occurrences that are not within the immediate disturbance footprint, but are located within 50 ft of disturbance limits shall have bright orange protective fencing installed at least 30 ft beyond their extent, or other distance as approved by a qualified biologist, to protect them from harm. Special status plants covered by this measure include southern tarplant, Santa Barbara honeysuckle, white-veined monardella, Gambel's water cress, Nuttall's scrub oak, black-flowered figwort, and Sonoran maiden fern.

B-1 (e) Endangered/Threatened Species Habitat Assessment and Survey Protocol

If the results of a biological resources analysis determine that suitable habitat may be present for any federally and state Endangered or Threatened species, protocol habitat assessments/surveys shall be completed in accordance with CDFW and/or USFWS protocols prior to issuance of any construction permits. If through consultation with the CDFW and/or USFWS it is determined that protocol habitat assessments/surveys are not required, said consultation shall be documented prior to issuance of any construction permits. Each protocol has different survey and timing requirements. If a federally listed species is found in the work area, Caltrans shall be notified immediately and no work shall occur until Caltrans resolves Section 7 discussions with USFWS and/or NMFS. If a state listed species is found in the work area, the County and CDFW shall be notified immediately and no work shall occur until it is resolved with the County and CDFW. The applicants for each project shall be responsible for ensuring they understand the protocol requirements. Species covered by this measure include: Gambel's water cress, Steelhead Southern California DPS, California red-legged frog, southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo, and bank swallow.

B-1 (f) Endangered/Threatened Species Avoidance and Minimization

AM-12 No Endangered/Threatened species shall be captured and relocated without expressed permission from the CDFW and/or USFWS. Species covered by this measure include: Gambel's water cress, Steelhead Southern California DPS, California red-legged frog, southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo, and bank swallow.

AM-13 If at any time during construction of the project an Endangered/Threatened species enters the construction site or otherwise may be impacted by the project, all project activities shall cease. Caltrans shall be notified and any actions that may affect a federally listed species must cease until Caltrans has consulted with the USFWS and/or NMFS and has notified the County that construction may resume. A CDFW/USFWS-approved biologist shall document the occurrence and consult with the CDFW and/or USFWS as appropriate. Species covered by this measure include: Gambel's water cress, Steelhead Southern California DPS, California red-legged frog, southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo, and bank swallow.

AM-14 For all projects occurring in areas where Endangered/Threatened species may be present and are at risk of entering the project site during construction, exclusion fencing shall be placed along the project boundaries prior to start of construction (including staging and mobilization). The placement of the fence shall be at the discretion of the CDFW/USFWS-approved biologist. This fence shall consist of solid silt fencing placed at a minimum of 3 ft above grade and 2 ft below grade and shall be attached to wooden stakes placed at intervals of not more than 5 ft. The fence shall be inspected weekly and following rain events and high wind events and shall be maintained in good working condition until all construction activities are complete. Species covered by this measure include: Gambel's water cress, Steelhead Southern California DPS, California red-legged frog, southwestern willow flycatcher, least Bell's vireo, and bank swallow.

AM-15 All trenches, pipes, culverts or similar structures shall be inspected for animals prior to burying, capping, moving, or filling. All animals are covered by this measure.

AM-16 If any federally and/or state protected species are harmed during project construction activities, the CDFW/USFWS-approved biologist shall document the circumstances that led to harm and shall determine if project activities should cease or be altered in an effort to avoid additional harm to these species. Dead or injured special status species shall be disposed of at the discretion of the CDFW and USFWS. All incidences of harm will be reported to the CDFW and USFWS within 48 hours. This would include most species in Table 4 and Appendix B; most birds, and a variety of other protected plants and animals.

B-1(g) Non-Listed Special Status Animal Species Avoidance and Minimization

AM-17 For non-listed special-status terrestrial amphibians and reptiles, coverboard surveys shall be completed within three months of the start of construction. The coverboards shall be at least four ft by four ft and constructed of untreated plywood placed flat on the ground. The coverboards shall be checked by a qualified biologist once per week for each week after placement up until the start of vegetation removal. All non-listed special status and common animals found under the coverboards shall be captured and placed in five-gallon buckets for transportation to relocation sites. All relocation sites shall be reviewed by the project sponsor and shall consist of suitable habitat. Relocation sites shall be as close to the capture site as possible but far enough away to ensure the animal(s) is not harmed by construction of the project. Relocation shall occur on the same day as capture. CNDDB Field Survey Forms shall be submitted to the CDFW for all special status animal species observed. This includes all unlisted animal species in Table 4 & Appendix B and any other unlisted special-status animals that might occur on-site.

AM-18 Preconstruction clearance surveys shall be conducted within 14 days of the start of construction (including staging and mobilization). The surveys shall cover the entire disturbance footprint plus a minimum 200 foot buffer if feasible and shall identify all special status animal species that may occur on-site. All nonlisted special status species shall be relocated from the site either through direct capture or through passive exclusion (e.g., American badger). A report of the preconstruction survey shall be submitted to SBCAG/and or the local jurisdiction for their review and approval prior to the start of construction. This includes all unlisted animal species in Table 4 & Appendix B and any other unlisted special-status animals that might occur on-site.

AM-19 Upon completion of the project, a qualified biologist shall prepare a Final Compliance report documenting all compliance activities implemented for the project, including the preconstruction survey results. The report shall be submitted within 30 days of completion of the project.

B-1(h) Preconstruction Surveys for Nesting Birds

For construction activities occurring during the nesting season (generally February 1 to September 15), preconstruction surveys for nesting birds shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 14 days prior to vegetation removal. The surveys shall include the entire segment disturbance area plus a 200 foot buffer around the site.

If active nests are located, all construction work shall be conducted outside a buffer zone from the nest to be determined by the qualified biologist. The buffer shall be a minimum of 50 ft for non-raptor bird species and at least 150 ft for raptor species. Larger buffers may be

required depending upon the status of the nest and the construction activities occurring in the vicinity of the nest. The buffer area(s) shall be closed to all construction personnel and equipment until the adults and young are no longer reliant on the nest site.
A qualified biologist shall confirm that breeding/nesting is completed and young have fledged the nest prior to removal of the buffer. A report of these preconstruction nesting bird surveys shall be submitted to the appropriate local jurisdiction.

B-1(j) Worker Awareness Program (WEAP)

Prior to initiation of construction activities (including staging and mobilization), all personnel associated with project construction shall attend WEAP training, conducted by a qualified biologist, to aid workers in recognizing special status resources that may occur in the project area. The specifics of this program shall include identification of the sensitive species and habitats, a description of the regulatory status and general ecological characteristics of sensitive resources, and review of the limits of construction and mitigation measures required to reduce impacts to biological resources within the work area. A fact sheet conveying this information shall also be prepared for distribution to all contractors, their employers, and other personnel involved with construction of the project.
All employees shall sign a form documenting that they have attended the WEAP and understand the information presented to them. The form shall be submitted to the appropriate local jurisdiction to document compliance.

B-1(k) Tree Protection

If it is determined that construction may impact trees protected by local agencies, the applicant shall procure all necessary tree removal permits. A tree protection and replacement plan shall be developed by a certified arborist as appropriate.
The plan shall include, but would not be limited to, an inventory of trees to within the construction site, setbacks from trees and protective fencing, restrictions regarding grading and paving near trees, direction regarding pruning and digging within root zone of trees, and requirements for replacement and maintenance of trees.
If protected trees will be removed, replacement tree plantings of like species in accordance with local agency standards, but at a minimum ratio of 2:1 (trees planted to trees impacted), shall be installed on-site or at an approved off-site location and a restoration and monitoring program shall be developed in accordance with B-1(d) and shall be implemented for a minimum of seven years or until stasis has been determined by certified arborist. If a protected tree shall be encroached upon but not removed, a certified arborist shall be present to oversee all trimming of roots and branches.

B-2 (c) Wetland and Riparian Habitat Restored

A qualified biologist/landscape architect shall prepare a landscape plan for that project. This plan shall indicate the locations and species of plants to be installed, and use drought tolerant, locally native plant species. Noxious, invasive, and/or non-native plant species that are recognized on the Federal Noxious Weed List, California Noxious Weeds List, and/or California Invasive Plant Council Lists 1, 2, and 4 will not be permitted. Species selected for planting will be similar to those species found in adjacent native habitats.

B-2(d) Invasive Weed and Pest Prevention and Management Program

Prior to start of construction for each project, an Invasive Weed Prevention and Management Program shall be developed by a qualified biologist to prevent invasion of native habitat by non-native plant species. A list of target species shall be included, along with measures for early detection and eradication. If herbicides are required to eradicate invasive plant species, application shall avoid all water contact; application within 60 feet of water body shall be clearly described. Measures to ensure invasive species are not imported to the site from fill materials shall be included.

All disturbed areas shall be hydroseeded with a mix of locally native species upon completion of work in those areas. In areas where construction is ongoing, hydroseeding shall occur where no construction activities have occurred within six (6) weeks since ground disturbing activities ceased. If exotic species invade these areas prior to hydroseeding, weed removal shall occur in consultation with a qualified biologist and in accordance with the restoration plan. Removed weed material shall be collected, contained and transported out of the Project area to a permitted disposal site or greenwaste recycling facility.

4.3. Natural Communities of Special Concern

4.3.1. Discussion of Wetlands and Waters

4.3.1.1. Survey Results

Wetlands and non-wetland Waters in the BSA that fall under the jurisdiction of USACE, CDFW, and RWQCB; riparian habitat and streambed under the jurisdiction of CDFW; and coastal zone wetlands under City of Santa Barbara and CCC jurisdiction were delineated in the BSA on October, 2015. The location and acreages of these features, as mapped during the jurisdictional delineation for the project, are summarized in Table 5 and shown on the Figure in Appendix F respectively. Additional detail on the extent and character of wetlands and waters in the BSA is presented in the Jurisdictional Delineation Report for the Las Positas Multi-use Path Project (Amec Foster Wheeler 2016).

Table 6. Potentially Jurisdictional Wetlands and other Waters in the BSA

Jurisdiction	Non-Wetland Waters (ac)	Wetlands (ac)	Total (ac)
Federal Waters of the U.S. (WUS)	0.9	2.9	3.8
Waters of the State of California (WSC)	0.9	2.9	3.8
State (CDFW)	10.6[1]	n/a	10.6
Local (CCC and Santa Barbara)	n/a[2]	3.0	3.0

[1] Non-wetland waters include streambeds and adjacent riparian habitat under CDFW jurisdiction
[2] n/a stands for "not applicable"

4.3.1.2. AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION EFFORTS

The multi-use path has been designed to be located above the banks of creeks and streams in the BSA. No work will be conducted in the wetted portion of the channel of Las Positas Creek, the unnamed tributary to Las Positas Creek, or Arroyo Burro Creek; however, some work may occur above the banks of these drainages. The stormwater channel will be modified and re-routed to avoid the multi-use path; however all work will occur during the dry season and erosion control, sediment control, and water quality BMPs as well as general and project specific avoidance and minimization measures listed in Sections 4.1 and 4.2 will be implemented during construction to protect wetlands and non-wetland waters in the BSA, including AM-2, Construction Work, Access, and Staging Areas; AM-8, Work in Riparian Areas; and B-2 (c), Wetland and Riparian Habitat Restored.

4.3.1.3. PROJECT IMPACTS

As currently designed, the Project will permanently fill wetlands and non-wetland waters under the jurisdiction of the USACE, CDFW, RWQCB, and CCC. Approximately 0.01 acre of wetlands located on the east side of Las Positas Road, north of Portesuello Road, will be filled to shift the roadway east, and 0.01 acre of the ephemeral stormwater drainage located southwest of the Las Positas Road-Modoc Road intersection will be filled and re-designed to avoid the proposed multi-use path. The project will also temporarily impact wetlands and non-wetland waters through removal of vegetation and soil compaction within construction access and work areas. Table 7 summarizes anticipated impacts to wetlands and non-wetland waters in the BSA.

Table 7. Impacts to Wetlands and Other Waters in the Study Area

Waters Type	Jurisdiction	Acres of Permanent Impacts	Acres of Temporary Impacts

Waters (non-wetland)	USACE, CDFW, and RWQCB	0.01	<0.01
Riparian Habitat	CDFW	0.05	0.02
Wetlands	USACE, CDFW, and RWQCB (CCC)[1]	0.005 (0.01)	0.01 (0.01)
Grand Total		**0.07**	**0.03**

[1] Wetlands under the jurisdiction of the CCC are a subset of the wetlands category, and impact acreage for the portion of wetlands within the coastal zone under CCC jurisdiction are called out within parenthesis.

4.3.1.4. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

Permanent impacts to jurisdictional wetlands and riparian habitat will be mitigated at a minimum ratio of 2:1 (acres of habitat restored to acres impacted), and will occur on-site or as close to the impacted habitat as possible. A mitigation and monitoring plan will be developed by a qualified restoration specialist, and include detailed instructions for installation of riparian vegetation, success criteria, location of compensatory mitigation, and no less than three years of annual monitoring and reporting (or until the local jurisdiction and/or the permitting authority [e.g., CDFW or USACE] has determined that restoration has been successful).

4.3.1.5. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Two relatively small projects intersecting the BSA are identified in SBCAG 2040 RTP/SCS and may be constructed. These include the roundabout at the “Las Positas Road and Cliff Drive Intersection I” which is in design; and improvement of the Las Positas and Modoc Roads intersection which is proposed and currently unfunded. In addition, a residential housing project on Veronica Springs Road, the Hillside House Project, was reviewed for CEQA compliance in 2009 and consists of demolition of existing residential units and construction of new, upgraded units within the existing developed footprint. Further, substantial improvements were formerly proposed within Elings Park, including road and active recreational improvements and recreational trail improvements are also proposed within the Douglas Family Preserve; the Elings Park improvements are on hold but maybe brought forward again, while the Douglas Preserve improvements are pending. Finally, the Santa Barbara Creeks Division is planning a restoration and flood control project along Las Positas Creek that will remove the concrete lined channel in an effort to restore natural hydrologic function. This project includes re-grading sections of the creek, removal of existing vegetation, and restoration of willow riparian habitat.

Although the projects listed above, particularly the Creeks’ Project, could produce impacts to wetlands and other waters in the BSA, as well as other sensitive natural resources, impacts from the proposed Project on sensitive natural resources are limited and not substantial. As such it is anticipated that construction and operation of the proposed Project will not

contribute a cumulatively considerable impact to potentially jurisdictional waters and other sensitive natural resources in the BSA.

4.3.2. Discussion of Protected Trees

Trees within the BSA are regulated by the Tree Preservation Ordinance of the City of Santa Barbara (Ord 5505, 2009). Protected trees include all live trees on private property that are greater than four inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) which is equal to 4-ft 6-inches above grade. This ordinance protects trees that meet that definition, regardless of nativity. Trees that are exempt from this protection include trees that are weakened by disease and present a danger to healthy trees, trees that are dead, and trees ordered for removal by the fire department for protection of defensible space around structures.

4.3.2.1. Survey Results

Mapping and surveys of the BSA identified the presence of protected trees in the BSA. These include Eucalyptus trees at the intersection of Modoc Road and Las Positas Road, coast live oak and planted conifers along Modoc Road within front-yard setback areas; and native as well as non-native planted trees along Las Positas Road (oaks, Sycamores, and non-native eucalyptus, palms, and conifers). A certified arborist conducted a site visit within a portion of the BSA in January 2016 and noted the presence of many trees within the BSA that are in relatively good health, including a number of large, mature eucalyptus trees off of Modoc Road and coast live oak trees along Las Positas Road, between Las Positas Place and Veronica Springs Road. In addition, the survey noted the presence of aging palm trees along Las Positas Road, planted eucalyptus along Las Positas Road, and various planted species (Cypress and fan palm) within the set-backs along Modoc Road.

4.3.2.2. Avoidance and Minimization Efforts

As described in Project-specific measure B-1(k), trees within the impact footprint of the Project will be inventoried and described in an appropriate report before the start of construction and appropriate tree removal permits with the appropriate department within the City of Santa Barbara, as described in Municipal Code Sections 15.24.040 -15.24.060, would be obtained. In addition, if protected trees are to be removed, a tree planting plan will be prepared and a restoration and monitoring program will be implemented. Additionally, general and project specific avoidance and minimization measures listed in Sections 4.1 and 4.2 will be implemented during construction to protect trees in the BSA, including AM-9, Vegetation Removal; and B-1(k), Tree Protection.

4.3.2.3. Project Impacts

Although the Project has been designed to avoid tree impacts to the maximum extent practicable, as currently designed, the Project would require the removal and/or pruning of

protected trees. It is anticipated that a limited number of eucalyptus trees at the intersection of Modoc Road and Las Positas Road would need to be removed to accommodate the path alignment (approximately 7 trees). The grove; however, will be retained, as not all of the individuals will be removed for the Project. Additionally, up to 26 coast live oak trees along the banks of the section of Las Positas Creek within a concrete channel (between Las Positas Place and Veronica Springs Road) may be removed to construct the multiuse path, and other coast live oak trees along this segment may need to be pruned to accommodate construction equipment within the temporary impact areas.

4.3.2.4. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

Permanent tree impacts will be compensated as described in Project-specific measure B-1(k) at a minimum ratio of 2:1 (trees planted to trees removed), and all removed coast live oaks shall be replaced in kind on-site at a 5:1 ratio. A Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) would be developed by a certified arborist and implemented for a minimum of seven years, or until the trees are determined to have established successfully.

4.3.2.5. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.4. Special Status Plant Species

No special status plant species are known to occur in the BSA; however focused botanical surveys have not been conducted in the BSA for the Project and seven species have been determined to have some potential to occur based upon the presence of suitable habitat. Additionally, general and project specific avoidance and minimization measures listed in Sections 4.1 and 4.2 will be implemented during construction to protect special status species in the BSA, including AM-1, Construction Timing; AM-2, Construction Work, Access, and Staging Areas; AM-7, Biological Monitor; and B-1(b), Special Status Plant Species Surveys.

4.4.1. Discussion of Southern Tarplant

Southern tarplant (*Centromadia parryi ssp. australis*) is a CNPS 1B.1 species and has no federal or state listing. It is an annual herb that blooms from May to November and occurs in coastal marshes and swamps, vernal pools, and disturbed moist sites between 0 and 480 meters above mean sea level. This species is threatened by urbanization, off-road vehicles, foot traffic, grazing, habitat disturbance, and competition from non-native plants (CNPS 2015).

4.4.1.1. Survey Results

Although previous botanical surveys within and near the BSA have not detected the species in the Las Positas Valley, small wetlands on the east side of Las Positas Road may offer appropriate habitat for this species.

4.4.1.2. Avoidance and Minimization Efforts

As identified in Section 4.2, Measure B-1(b), preconstruction focused plant surveys will be conducted in the BSA during the peak blooming period for this species by a qualified botanist. If Southern tarplant is identified in the BSA during focused preconstruction surveys, additional avoidance and minimization efforts may be determined in coordination with appropriate agency staff, including B-1(c), Special Status Plan Species Avoidance and Minimization Measures; and AM-7, Biological Monitor.

4.4.1.3. Project Impacts

Project activities are not planned to occur within the wetlands on the east side of Las Positas Road, which contain the only suitable habitat in the BSA for the southern tarplant. As a result, the proposed Project would not permanently or temporarily impact the southern tarplant.

4.4.1.4. Compensatory Mitigation

No compensatory mitigation is proposed for the southern tarplant, as no impacts to the species are anticipated as a result of Project related activities.

4.4.1.5. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.4.2. Discussion of Southern California Black Walnut

Southern California black (*Juglans californica*) is a CNPS 4.2 species and has no federal or state listing. It is a perennial deciduous tree that blooms from March to August and occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian woodland near alluvial systems between 50 and 900 meters above mean sea level. This tree species is threatened by urbanization, grazing, non-native plant growth, and possibly by lack of natural reproduction and/or hybridization with horticultural varieties of walnut (CNPS 2015).

4.4.2.1. Survey Results

A walnut tree was identified in the BSA during the field visit but could not be conclusively identified due to the absence of fruit. It could either have been a Southern California black

walnut or a non-native English walnut (*Juglans regia*). Southern California black walnut can occur in chaparral, coastal scrub, and riparian woodland, all of which are present in the BSA. Although no focused plant surveys have been conducted for this Project, previous botanical surveys within and near the BSA did not identify the species.

4.4.2.2. Avoidance and Minimization Efforts

As identified in Section 4.2, Measure B-1(b), preconstruction focused plant surveys will be conducted in the BSA during the peak blooming period for this species by a qualified botanist. If California black walnut is identified in the BSA during focused surveys, additional avoidance and minimization efforts would be determined in coordination with appropriate agency staff, including B-1(c), Special Status Plan Species Avoidance and Minimization Measures; and AM-7, Biological Monitor.

4.4.2.3. Project Impacts

Due to the high visibility of the species, it is anticipated that the species would be identified, if present, during focused botanical surveys in the BSA. With the implementation of appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for any individuals identified in the Project footprint (such as exclusion zones and limiting work within the drip lie), it is not anticipated that the Project will impact the California black walnut.

4.4.2.4. Compensatory Mitigation

Although no impacts are anticipated to the California black walnut, in the event that focused surveys identify an individual that cannot be avoided, the following mitigation will be applied for the species:

1. All unavoidable impacts to special status plant species shall be mitigated at a minimum ratio of 2:1 (number of acres/individuals restored to number of acres/individuals impacted) for each species as a component of habitat restoration.
2. A restoration plan shall be prepared and submitted to the appropriate jurisdiction overseeing the Project for approval.

4.4.2.5. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.4.3. Discussion of Santa Barbara Honeysuckle

Santa Barbara honeysuckle (*Lonicera subspicata* var. *subspicata*) is a CNPS 1B.2 species and has no federal or state listing. It is a perennial evergreen shrub that blooms from May to February and occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub, between 10

and 1000 meters above mean sea level. This plant is threatened by development, road construction, and off-road vehicles (CNPS 2015).

4.4.3.1. Survey Results

Although focused plant surveys have not been conducted for the Project and previous botanical surveys within and near the BSA did not detect the species, the BSA contains suitable coastal scrub/chaparral and woodland habitat and is within the elevation range of the species. As a result, the BSA contains potentially suitable habitat for the Santa Barbara honeysuckle.

4.4.3.2. Avoidance and Minimization Efforts

As identified in Section 4.2, Measure B-1(b), preconstruction focused plant surveys will be conducted in the BSA during the peak blooming period for this species by a qualified botanist. If Santa Barbara honeysuckle is identified in the BSA during focused preconstruction surveys, additional avoidance and minimization efforts will be determined in coordination with appropriate agency staff, including B-1(c), Special Status Plan Species Avoidance and Minimization Measures; and AM-7, Biological Monitor.

4.4.3.3. Project Impacts

Permanent and temporary impacts to coastal scrub/chaparral and oak woodland habitats are anticipated as a result of Project construction, and if the Santa Barbara honeysuckle is present in these habitats, Project construction could lead to loss of individuals. Project specific avoidance and minimization measures, including focused botanical surveys and flagging of rare species occurrences, would avoid and minimize impacts to the species. In the unlikely event that the Project cannot avoid the species, permanent losses will be mitigated.

4.4.3.4. Compensatory Mitigation

In the event that the Project cannot avoid impacts to individual Santa Barbara honeysuckle, mitigation would be provided for the species, as described in Section 4.4.2.4.

4.4.3.5. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.4.4. Discussion of White-Veined Monardella

White-veined monardella (*Monardella hypoleuca* ssp. *hypoleuca*) is a CNPS 1B.3 species and has no federal or state listing. It is a perennial herb that blooms from April to December and occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland between 50 and 1525 meters above mean

sea level and is known to occur on dry slopes. The species is most commonly threatened by trail maintenance (CNPS 2015).

4.4.4.1. Survey Results

Although previous botanical surveys within and near the BSA did not detect the species, the BSA is within the range of the species and contains suitable chaparral habitat.

4.4.4.2. Avoidance and Minimization Efforts

As identified in Section 4.2, Measure B-1(b), preconstruction focused plant surveys will be conducted in the BSA during the peak blooming period for this species by a qualified botanist. If White-veined monardella is identified in the BSA during focused preconstruction surveys, additional avoidance and minimization efforts will be determined in coordination with appropriate agency staff, including B-1(c), Special Status Plan Species Avoidance and Minimization Measures; and AM-7, Biological Monitor.

4.4.4.3. Project Impacts

Permanent and temporary impacts chaparral habitats are anticipated as a result of Project construction, and if the species is present in this habitat, the Project could result in the loss of individuals. Project specific avoidance and minimization measures, including focused botanical surveys and flagging of rare species occurrences, would avoid and minimize impacts to the species. In the unlikely event that the Project cannot avoid the species, permanent losses will be mitigated.

4.4.4.4. Compensatory Mitigation

In the event that the Project cannot avoid permanent impacts to white-veined monardella, mitigation would be provided for the species, as described in Section 4.4.2.4.

4.4.4.5. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.4.5. Discussion of Gambel’s Water Cress

Gambel's water cress (*Rorippa gambelii*) is a federally endangered and stated threatened species and is also listed as a CNPS 1B.1. It is a perennial rhizomatous herb that blooms from April to October and occurs in marshes and swamps in freshwater and brackish water between 5 and 330 meters above mean sea level. This plant is nearly extinct and is know from only four locations in California. The species is seriously threatened by habitat loss, erosion, and the ecological effects of Eucalyptus spp. (CNPS 2015).

4.4.5.1. Survey Results

There is no designated critical habitat for Gambel's water cress in the BSA; however the BSA contains suitable habitat for the species within the small wetlands on the east side of Las Positas Road. It is extremely rare, currently known from only four occurrences, so it is very unlikely to be present. Nevertheless, there is potential habitat in the BSA and the nearest CNDDB record is about two miles away. Previous botanical surveys within and near the BSA did not detect the species.

4.4.5.2. Avoidance and Minimization Efforts

As identified in Section 4.2, Measure B-1(b), preconstruction focused plant surveys will be conducted in the BSA during the peak blooming period for this species by a qualified botanist. If Gambel's water cress is identified in the BSA during focused preconstruction surveys, additional avoidance and minimization efforts may be determined in coordination with appropriate agency staff, including B-1(c), Special Status Plan Species Avoidance and Minimization Measures; and AM-7, Biological Monitor.

4.4.5.3. Project Impacts

Project activities are not planned to occur within the wetlands on the east side of Las Positas Road, which contain the only suitable habitat in the BSA for the Gambel’s water cress. As a result, the proposed Project will not permanently or temporarily impact Gambel’s water cress.

4.4.5.4. Compensatory Mitigation

No compensatory mitigation is proposed for the Gambel's water cress as no impacts to the species are anticipated as a result of Project related activities.

4.4.5.5. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.4.6. Discussion of Nuttall's Scrub Oak

Nuttall’s scrub oak (*Quercus dumosa*) is a CNPS 1B.1 species and has no federal or state listing. It is a perennial evergreen shrub that blooms from February to August and occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, and coastal scrub in sandy, clay loam soils between 15 and 400 meters above mean sea level (CNPS 2015). The CNPS states that the species is threatened by development, fire suppression, vegetation/fuels management, and possibly by hybridization with scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*).

4.4.6.1. Survey Results

Previous botanical surveys within and near the BSA did not detect the species but chaparral and coastal scrub habitat in the BSA could support the species.

4.4.6.2. Avoidance and Minimization Efforts

As identified in Section 4.2, Measure B-1(b) preconstruction focused plant surveys will be conducted in the BSA during the peak blooming period for this species by a qualified botanist. If Nuttall's scrub oak is identified in the BSA during focused preconstruction surveys, additional avoidance and minimization efforts will be determined in coordination with appropriate agency staff, including B-1(c), Special Status Plan Species Avoidance and Minimization Measures; and AM-7, Biological Monitor.

4.4.6.3. Project Impacts

Permanent and temporary impacts chaparral habitats/Coastal scrub habitats are anticipated as a result of Project construction, and if the species is present in this habitat, the Project could result in the loss of individuals. Project specific avoidance and minimization measures, including focused botanical surveys and flagging of rare species occurrences, would avoid and minimize impacts to the species. In the unlikely event that the Project cannot avoid the species, permanent losses will be mitigated.

4.4.6.4. Compensatory Mitigation

In the event that the Project cannot avoid impacts to Nuttalls's scrub oak, mitigation would be provided for the species, as described in Section 4.4.2.4.

4.4.6.5. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.4.7. Discussion of Sonoran Maiden Fern

Southern maiden fern (*Thelypteris puberula*) is a CNPS 2B.2 species and has no federal or state listing. It is a perennial rhizomatous herb that blooms from January to September and occurs in meadows and seeps between 50 and 610 meters above mean sea level. Possibly threatened by foot traffic, recreational activities, and invasion of non-native plants (CNPS 2015).

4.4.7.1. Survey Results

Previous botanical surveys on and near the BSA did not detect the species; however suitable habitat for the species was identified within the wetlands on the east side of Las Positas Road and the stream channels.

4.4.7.2. AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION EFFORTS

As identified in Section 4.2, Measure B-1(b), preconstruction focused plant surveys will be conducted in the BSA during the peak blooming period for this species by a qualified botanist. If Sonoran maiden fern is identified in the BSA during focused preconstruction surveys, additional avoidance and minimization efforts would be determined in coordination with appropriate agency staff, including B-1(c), Special Status Plan Species Avoidance and Minimization Measures; and AM-7, Biological Monitor.

4.4.7.3. PROJECT IMPACTS

Project construction will not occur within the wetlands on the east side of Las Positas Road or within the channels of any drainages in the BSA, and the implementation of avoidance and minimization measures will prevent construction-related materials and waste from leaking out of Project impact footprint. As a result, the Project will not impact the Sonoran maiden fern.

4.4.7.4. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

No compensatory mitigation is proposed for the Sonoran maiden fern as no impacts to the species are anticipated as a result of Project related activities.

4.4.7.5. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.5. Special Status Animal Species

Based upon the presence of suitable habitat, and in the absence of focused wildlife surveys, a number of special status animal species have been determined to have potential to occur in the BSA. In addition, two special status animal species were encountered in the BSA during the field visit: the monarch (butterfly) and the oak titmouse (bird). Additionally, general and project specific avoidance and minimization measures listed in Sections 4.1 and 4.2 will be implemented during construction to protect special status species in the BSA, including AM-1, Construction Timing; AM-2, Construction Work, Access, and Staging Areas; AM-7, Biological Monitor; and B-1(e), Endangered/Threatened Species Habitat Assessment and Survey Protocol. Each species is discussed below.

Federally and State Listed Species

4.5.1. Discussion of Southern California Steelhead

The Southern California steelhead Distinct Population Segment (DPS) (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) are listed as endangered by the USFWS, and include all natural populations below natural and manmade impassable barriers in streams from the Santa Maria River in San Luis Obispo County to the U.S.-Mexico Border (NOAA Fisheries 2006). In 2005 the Federal Government published a final rule listing most streams and estuarine areas (below impassable manmade barriers) along the south coast of California as critical habitat for the Southern California Steelhead DPS (NOAA Fisheries 2005).

Steelhead are the migratory, ocean-going form of rainbow trout. They spawn in freshwater coastal streams, but spend their adult lives in the ocean where they may migrate extensively (Eschmeyer et al. 1999). Adult steelhead enter creeks in the winter, usually after the first substantial rainfall and move upstream to suitable spawning areas. Spawning usually takes place from March to early May, generally in riffle areas or the tails of pools that contain clean, coarse gravel (NOAA Fisheries 2006). Juvenile steelhead will remain in freshwater for an average of two years before migrating to the ocean (Titus et al. 2010). Downstream movement of adults after spawning and juveniles migrating to the ocean usually occurs from March through July. Juvenile steelhead may spend several weeks in the coastal lagoon or estuary of a stream before entering the ocean. Optimal habitat for steelhead throughout its range on the Pacific Coast can generally be characterized by clear, cool water with abundant instream cover, well-vegetated stream banks, relatively stable water flow, and a 50:50 pool-to-riffle ratio (Raleigh et al. 1984).

4.5.1.1. Survey Results

Review of creeks in the BSA during the field visit did not indicate the presence of suitable steelhead dispersal in the BSA. Limited potential does exist for some individuals to enter the BSA on occasion, when stream flow is sufficiently high that they could get over the one downstream passage barriers and travel upstream into the BSA. However, based on field observations, such passage would limited outside of times of very high tides and adequate flows due to the height of the drop structure under the Cliff Drive Bridge. Further, based on field observations, the BSA does not appear to contain suitable spawning habitat for the species due to the high concentrations of fine grained sediments within the channel along this reach, the associated absence of appropriate substrate (i.e., clean gravels) and well established pool-to-riffle sequences in the perennial waters of the Arroyo Burro Creek within the BSA.

4.5.1.2. CRITICAL HABITAT

Although Arroyo Burro Creek is federally designated critical habitat for the Southern California steelhead, the presence of one passage barrier downstream of the BSA render the stretch of Arroyo Burro in the BSA disconnected from downstream, potentially occupied critical habitat. Regardless, the BSA does contain portions of Arroyo Burro Creek that are federally designated as critical habitat for the DPS.

4.5.1.3. AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION EFFORTS

No Project activities would occur within the wetted portions of Arroyo Burro and Las Positas Creek, and appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented to avoid water contamination from Project activities that would occur upslope of the creeks. In addition, Project-specific measures for threatened and endangered species would be implemented, as detailed in Project-Specific Measures B-1(e) and B-1(f), to avoid and minimize disturbance to the species and its habitat.

4.5.1.4. PROJECT IMPACTS

Although the perennially wet portions of the creeks in the BSA provide marginally suitable habitat for the species, all Project construction will occur outside of the wetted portions of Arroyo Burro and Las Positas Creeks. In addition, with the implementation of avoidance and minimization measures in Section 4.1, water quality impacts would be avoided in Arroyo Burro and Las Positas Creek. Therefore, with the implementation of general and Project-specific avoidance and minimization measures, the Project would not impact the southern California steelhead DPS or designated critical habitat for the species.

4.5.1.5. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

No compensatory mitigation is proposed because the Project will have no effect on the southern California steelhead and will not cause adverse modification to its critical habitat. Additionally, the implementation of the proposed avoidance and minimization measures and habitat restoration presented in Project-specific measure B-1(e) and AM-7, Biological Monitor would further ensure the proposed Project would not adversely affect this species or its habitat.

4.5.1.6. CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

Cumulative effects from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.5.2. Discussion of California Red-Legged Frog

The California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii [=R. draytonii]*: CRLF), was federally listed as threatened species on May 23, 1999 (USFWS 1999), and is distributed throughout 26 counties in California. Populations have become isolated in the Sierra Nevada, northern Coast, and northern and southern Transverse and Peninsula Ranges (Jennings and Hayes 1994, Stebbins 2003). California red-legged frogs predominately inhabit permanent water sources such as streams, lakes, marshes, natural and manmade ponds, and ephemeral drainages in valley bottoms and foothills up to 4,920 ft in elevation (Jennings and Hayes 1994, Bulger et al. 2003, Stebbins 2003).

California red-legged frogs breed between November and April in standing or slow-moving water at least 2½ ft deep with emergent vegetation, such as cattails (*Typha* spp.), tules (*Schoenoplectus* spp.) or overhanging willows (*Salix* spp.) (Hayes and Jennings 1988). Egg masses containing 2,000 to 5,000 eggs are attached to vegetation below the surface and hatch after 6 to 14 days (Storer 1925, Jennings and Hayes 1994). Larvae undergo metamorphoses 3½ to 7 months after hatching, and reach sexual maturity at 2 to 3 years of age (Jennings and Hayes 1994).

In a study of California red-legged frog terrestrial activity in the Santa Cruz Mountains, Bulger et al. (2003) categorized terrestrial use as migratory and non-migratory. Non-migratory activity occurs over one to several days and was associated with precipitation events. Migratory movements were characterized as the movement between aquatic sites and were most often associated with breeding activities. Bulger reported that non-migrating frogs typically stayed within 200 ft of aquatic habitat 90 percent of the time and were most often associated with dense vegetative cover, i.e., California blackberry, poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), and coyote bush. Additionally, a Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) is in place for the CRLF, which sets guidelines for actions that must be taken if there are any potentially adverse effects to CRLF.

4.5.2.1. Survey Results

Marginally suitable breeding and dispersal habitat for CRLF was identified in Las Positas and Arroyo Burro Creeks in the BSA. However, predominantly urban development adjacent to the majority of the perennial stretches of the Creek limits dispersal opportunities and the potential presence of bull frogs may also limit opportunities. The nearest known locations of the species include the upper reaches of Hot Springs Creek in the Montecito Foothills, located over 5 miles to the northeast, water features on Glenn Annie Golf Course in the Goleta, located over 8 miles to the west of the BSA, and drainages on the rural Gaviota Coast such as Eagle Canyon just west of the City of Goleta. Although presence of the species is unlikely in the BSA all riparian habitat with dense stream-side cover in the BSA

was assumed potentially suitable dispersal habitat and stream habitat within perennial sections of Arroyo Burro Creek were deemed suitable breeding habitat.

4.5.2.2. AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION EFFORTS

Although it is unlikely that this species will be present in the BSA due to the absence of recorded species observations in the BSA and vicinity, general and Project -specific avoidance and minimization measures described in Section 4.1 and 4.2, would be implemented to avoid and minimize potential adverse effects to the CRLF and its habitat, including AM-7, Biological Monitors; B-2(c), Wetland and Riparian Habitat Restored; B-2(d), Invasive Weed Prevention and Management Program; B-1(e) Endangered/Threatened Species Habitat Assessment and Survey Protocol; and B-1(f), Endangered/Threatened Species Avoidance and Minimization. In addition, the following species-specific measures are proposed to avoid and minimize impacts to dispersing CRLF. BIO-2 through BIO-20 are developed to apply to the Project based on the measures provided in the 2011 CRLF Programmatic Biological Opinion prepared for Caltrans by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS 2011).

BIO-1. *Installation of exclusion fencing:* Exclusion fencing would be installed prior to any construction activities during the dry season (April 15 – October 15) when CRLF would not be actively dispersing to prevent unintentional entrapment within the BSA. ESA fencing would be attached to permanent barriers to frog dispersal (as determined by an on-site biologist) to ensure a complete barrier to prevent any subsequent wandering CRLF from entering the BSA.

BIO-2. Only USFWS-approved biologists shall participate in activities associated with the capture, handling, and monitoring of California red-legged frogs.

BIO-3. Ground disturbance will not begin until written approval is received from the USFWS that the biologist is qualified to conduct the work, unless the individual(s) has/have been approved previously and the USFWS has not revoked that approval.

BIO-4. A USFWS-approved biologist will survey the project site no more than 48 hours before the onset of work activities. If any life stage of the California red-legged frog is found and these individuals are likely to be killed or injured by work activities, the approved biologist will be allowed sufficient time to move them from the site before work begins. The USFWS-approved biologist will relocate the California red-legged frogs the shortest distance possible to a location that contains suitable habitat and that will not be affected by activities associated with the proposed project. The relocation site should be in the same drainage to the extent practicable. The City of Santa Barbara and/or Caltrans will coordinate

with the USFWS on the relocation site prior to the capture of any California red-legged frogs.

BIO-5. Before any activities begin on a project, a USFWS-approved biologist will conduct a training session for all construction personnel. At a minimum, the training will include a description of the California red-legged frog and its habitat, the specific measures that are being implemented to conserve the California red-legged frog for the current project, and the boundaries within which the project may be accomplished. Brochures, books, and briefings may be used in the training session, provided that a qualified person is on hand to answer any questions.

BIO-6. A USFWS-approved biologist will be present at the work site until all California red-legged frogs have been relocated out of harm's way, workers have been instructed, and disturbance of habitat has been completed. After this time, the State or local sponsoring agency will designate a person to monitor on-site compliance with all minimization measures. The USFWS-approved biologist will ensure that this monitor receives the training outlined in measure 4 above and in the identification of California red-legged frogs. If the monitor or the USFWS-approved biologist recommends that work be stopped because California red-legged frogs would be affected in a manner not anticipated by Caltrans and the USFWS during review of the proposed action, they will notify the resident engineer (the engineer that is directly overseeing and in command of construction activities) immediately. The resident engineer will either resolve the situation by eliminating the adverse effect immediately or require that all actions causing these effects be halted. If work is stopped, the USFWS will be notified as soon as possible.

BIO-7. During project activities, all trash that may attract predators will be properly contained, removed from the work site, and disposed of regularly. Following construction, all trash and construction debris will be removed from work areas.

BIO-8. All refueling, maintenance, and staging of equipment and vehicles will occur at least 60 feet from riparian habitat or water bodies and in a location from where a spill would not drain directly toward aquatic habitat (e.g., on a slope that drains away from the water). The monitor will ensure contamination of habitat does not occur during such operations. Prior to the onset of work, the City of Santa Barbara and/or Caltrans shall ensure a plan is in place for prompt and effective response to any accidental spills. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.

BIO-9. Habitat contours will be returned to their original configuration at the end of project activities. This measure will be implemented in all areas disturbed by activities associated with the project, unless the USFWS and Caltrans determine that it is not feasible or modification of original contours would benefit the California red-legged frog.

BIO-10. The number of access routes, size of staging areas, and the total area of the activity will be limited to the minimum necessary to achieve the project goals. Environmentally Sensitive Areas will be delineated to confine access routes and construction areas to the minimum area necessary to complete construction, and minimize the impact to California red-legged frog habitat; this goal includes locating access routes and construction areas outside of wetlands and riparian areas to the maximum extent practicable.

BIO-11. Work activities will be scheduled for times of the year when impacts to the California red-legged frog would be minimal. For example, work that would affect large pools that may support breeding would be avoided, to the maximum degree practicable, during the breeding season (November through May). Isolated pools that are important to maintain California red-legged frogs through the driest portions of the year would be avoided, to the maximum degree practicable, during the late summer and early fall. Habitat assessments, surveys, and coordination between the City of Santa Barbara, Caltrans, and the USFWS during project planning will be used to assist in scheduling work activities to avoid sensitive habitats during key times of the year.

BIO-12. To control sedimentation during and after project implementation, the City of Santa Barbara and/or Caltrans will implement best management practices outlined in any authorizations or permits issued under the authorities of the Clean Water Act that it receives for the specific project. If best management practices are ineffective, the City of Santa Barbara and/or Caltrans will attempt to remedy the situation immediately, in coordination with the USFWS.

BIO-13. If a work site is to be temporarily dewatered by pumping, intakes will be completely screened with wire mesh not larger than 0.2 inch to prevent California red-legged frogs from entering the pump system. Water will be released or pumped downstream at an appropriate rate to maintain downstream flows during construction. Upon completion of construction activities, any diversions or barriers to flow will be removed in a manner that would allow flow to resume with the least disturbance to the substrate. Alteration of the stream bed will be minimized to the maximum extent possible; any imported material will be removed from the stream bed upon completion of the project.

BIO-14. Unless approved by the USFWS, water will not be impounded in a manner that may attract California red-legged frogs.

BIO-15. A USFWS-approved biologist will permanently remove any individuals of non-native species, such as bullfrogs *(Rana catesbeiana),* signal and red swamp crayfish *(Pacifasticus leniusculus; Procambarus clarkii),* and centrarchid fishes from the project area, to the maximum extent possible. The USFWS-approved biologist will be responsible for ensuring his or her activities are in compliance with the California Fish and Game Code.

BIO-16. If the City of Santa Barbara and/or Caltrans demonstrates that disturbed areas have been restored to conditions that allow them to function as habitat for the California red-legged frog, these areas will not be included in the amount of total habitat permanently disturbed.

BIO-17. To ensure that diseases are not conveyed between work sites by the USFWS-approved biologist, the fieldwork code of practice developed by the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force will be followed at all times.

BIO-18. Project sites will be re-vegetated with an assemblage of native riparian, wetland, and upland vegetation suitable for the area. Locally collected plant materials will be used to the extent practicable. Invasive, exotic plants will be controlled to the maximum extent practicable. This measure will be implemented in all areas disturbed by activities associated with the project, unless the USFWS and Caltrans determine that it is not feasible or practical.

BIO-19. The City of Santa Barbara and/or Caltrans will not use herbicides as the primary method used to control invasive, exotic plants. However, if the use of herbicides is the only feasible method for controlling invasive plants at a specific project site, it will implement the following additional protective measures for the California red-legged frog:

a. Use herbicides will not occur during the breeding season for the California red-legged frog;

b. Surveys shall be conducted for the California red-legged frog immediately prior to the start of any herbicide use. If found, California red-legged frogs will be relocated to suitable habitat far enough from the Project area that no direct contact with herbicides would occur;

c. Giant reed and other invasive plants will be cut and hauled out by hand and the painted with glyphosate or glyphosate-based products, such as Aquamaster® or Rodeo®;

d. Licensed and experienced City of Santa Barbara and/or Caltrans staff or a licensed and experienced contractor will use a hand-held sprayer for foliar application of Aquamaster® or Rodeo® where large monoculture stands occur at an individual project site;

e. All precautions will be taken to ensure that no herbicide is applied to native vegetation;

f. Herbicides will not be applied on or near open water surfaces (no closer than 60 feet from open water);

g. Foliar applications of herbicide will not occur when wind speeds are in excess of 3 miles per hour;

h. No herbicides will be applied within 24 hours of forecasted rain;

i. Application of all herbicides will be done by a qualified City of Santa Barbara or Caltrans staff or contractors to ensure that overspray is minimized, that all application is made in accordance with label recommendations, and with implementation of all required and reasonable safety measures. A safe dye will be added to the mixture to visually denote treated sites. Application of herbicides will be consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Pesticide Programs, Endangered Species Protection Program county bulletins; and

j. All herbicides, fuels, lubricants, and equipment will be stored, poured, or refilled at least 60 feet from riparian habitat or water bodies in a location where a spill would not drain directly toward aquatic habitat. The City of Santa Barbara and/or Caltrans will ensure that contamination of habitat does not occur during such operations. Prior to the onset of work, the City of Snata Barbara and/or Caltrans will ensure that a plan is in place for a prompt and effective response to accidental spills. All workers will be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measures to take should a spill occur.

BIO-20. Upon completion of any project for which this programmatic consultation is used, the City of Santa Barbara and/or Caltrans will ensure that a Project Completion Report is completed and prqovided to the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office. A copy of the form is enclosed. Caltrans should include recommended modifications of the protective measures if alternative measures would facilitate compliance with the provisions of this consultation. In addition, the City of Santa Barbara and/or Caltrans will reinitiate formal consultation in the event any of the

following thresholds are reached as a result of projects conducted under the provisions of this consultation:

The City of Santa Barbara and/or Caltrans will reinitiate consultation when, as a result of projects conducted under the provisions of this consultation:

a. 10 California red-legged frog adults or juveniles have been killed or injured in any given year. (For this and all other standards, an egg mass is considered to be one California red-legged frog.);

b. 50 California red-legged frogs have been killed or injured in total;

c. 20 acres of critical habitat for the California red-legged frog that include the primary constituent elements of aquatic breeding and non-breeding aquatic habitat and upland and dispersal habitat have been permanently lost in any given year;

d. 100 acres of critical habitat for the California red-legged frog that include the primary constituent elements of aquatic breeding and non-breeding aquatic habitat and upland and dispersal habitat have been permanently lost in total;

e. 100 acres of critical habitat for the California red-legged frog that include the primary constituent elements of aquatic breeding and non-breeding aquatic habitat and upland and dispersal habitat have been temporarily disturbed in any given year; or

f. 500 acres of critical habitat for the California red-legged frog that include the primary constituent elements of aquatic breeding and non-breeding aquatic habitat and upland and dispersal habitat have been temporarily disturbed in total.

Total acreages of dispersal habitat that may be adversely affected would be confined to the Caltrans or City rights-of-way that occur adjacent to roads, and would be linear in nature. Dispersal habitat for the California red-legged frog adjacent to roads and highways, within these rights-of-way, is generally less ecologically valuable to the California red-legged frog than larger blocks of habitat. Road corridors and associated disturbances may lead to reduced habitat quality resulting in decreased abundance or density of breeding individuals.

4.5.2.3. PROJECT IMPACTS

The Project will not impact aquatic habitat in the BSA therefore no impacts are anticipated to breeding CRLF or their habitat. Work would be conducted during the dry season, outside of

the dispersal window of the species, therefore no impacts are anticipated to dispersing CRLF. Temporary and permanent impacts to potential dispersal habitat, including riparian vegetation, are anticipated to result from the Project and would be performed after species specific surveys had been conducted to refine the areas of suitable CRLF dispersal habitat within the larger extent of riparian habitat in the BSA.

4.5.2.4. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

No compensatory mitigation is proposed for CRLF because with the implementation of the proposed avoidance and minimization measures and habitat restoration presented in Project-specific measure B-2(c) and species-specific measures BIO-1 through BIO-20, the proposed Project is not likely to adversely affect this species or its habitat.

4.5.2.5. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.5.3. Discussion of Southwestern Willow Flycatcher

The federally endangered southwestern willow flycatcher (SWF) is a small, insectivorous songbird. It is one of four subspecies of willow flycatchers recognized in North America, and is distinguished by subtle differences in color and morphology. Although the subspecies occupy distinct breeding ranges, northern subspecies (*E. t. brewsteri* and *E. t. adastus*) do pass through southern California during migration.

SWF breed in riparian habitats along rivers, streams, or other wetlands characterized by dense willows and shrubs in woodlands with standing water. Willow flycatcher subspecies winter in Mexico and Central America, and typically arrive at breeding sites in the southwest in mid-May and remain until late August.

Historically, SWF were abundant in riparian habitats throughout southern California, Arizona, New Mexico, southwestern Colorado, southern Nevada and Utah, western Texas, and extreme northern Mexico. The SWF currently occupies a small fraction of its former range. The decline has been attributed to widespread destruction and degradation of riparian habitats and brood-parasitism by the brown-headed cowbird. As a result, the southwestern willow flycatcher was listed by CDFW as an endangered species in 1991 and was federally listed as endangered in 1995. Currently, less than 100 breeding pairs are known in southern California. Most are located at Prado Dam in Riverside County, the Kern Valley Nature Reserve, Kern County, the San Luis Rey River and Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base in San Diego County, and the San Ynez River, Santa Barbara County. Drought, brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) parasitization, and flood control Projects such as

stream channelization are among the ongoing general threats to the species (Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2015, Ehrlich and Wheye 1988, Sibley 2003).

4.5.3.1. Survey Results

The southwestern willow flycatcher is a rare and declining bird which is not known to have occurred in the immediate area and unlikely to occur in the BSA. However, due to the presence of suitable willow riparian nesting habitat the species is considered to have some potential to occur in the BSA. There is no designated critical habitat for the species in the BSA.

4.5.3.2. Avoidance and Minimization Efforts

In order to avoid and minimize potential impacts to this federally listed species and its habitat, Measure B-1(e), Endangered/Threatened Species Habitat Assessment and Survey Protocol; B-1(f), Endangered/Threatened Species Avoidance and Minimization (including AM-11 through AM-15); and B-1(h), Preconstruction Surveys for Nesting Birds would be implemented.

4.5.3.3. Project Impacts

Due to the scheduling of Project activities outside of the nesting period for the species, and the performance of nesting bird surveys to determine when fledging is complete for the year, no impacts are anticipated to southwestern willow flycatcher individuals or their nestlings. The Project will have permanent and temporary impacts on riparian habitat and mitigation measures described in Section 4.3.1.4 will mitigate for losses of riparian habitat.

4.5.3.4. Compensatory Mitigation

No compensatory mitigation is proposed because with the implementation of the proposed avoidance and minimization measures, the proposed Project is not likely to adversely affect this species and all potentially suitable habitat for the species will be restored, as described in Section 4.3.1.4.

4.5.3.5. Cumulative impacts

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.5.4. Discussion of Least Bell’s vireo

The least Bell's vireo (*Vireo belli pusillus*) is a federally and state listed endangered species. This migratory songbird requires riparian woodlands with a dense understory. Historically, least Bell’s vireo was abundant in riparian habitats throughout the central valley, coastal southern California, and in scattered oases and canyons in California deserts. Populations

declined dramatically due to widespread destruction and degradation of riparian habitats and brood-parasitism by the brown-headed cowbird (*Molothrus ater*).

Current LBV populations in southern California are concentrated in the Santa Ana River at Prado Basin in Riverside County, and in drainages within San Diego County. During the last decade, least Bell's vireo has begun to exhibit a substantial recovery due in large measure to management, including trapping to remove brown-headed cowbirds from areas occupied by the vireo. Habitat restoration has also provided additional habitat areas for this species, contributing to its recovery (Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2015, Ehrlich and Wheye 1988, Sibley 2003).

It is now a rare, local, summer resident below about 600 m (2000 ft.) in willows and other low, dense valley foothill riparian habitat and lower portions of canyons mostly in San Benito and Monterey Counties; in coastal southern California from Santa Barbara County south; and along the western edge of the deserts in desert riparian habitat. In 1977 – 78, 67 males or paired individuals were counted at 23 of 65 sites surveyed on the coastal slope of southern California, and 23 at 9 of 18 sites on the desert slope (Goldwasser et al. 1980, Garrett and Dunn 1981).

Inhabits low, dense riparian growth along water or along dry parts of intermittent streams. Typically associated with willow, cottonwood, coyote brush, wild blackberry, or mesquite in desert localities. Thickets of willow and other low shrubs afford nesting and roosting cover. Builds an open-cup nest of pieces of bark, fine grasses, plant down, horsehair. Nest often placed on slender branch of willow, other shrub, mesquite, or other small tree, usually 0.6 – 0.9 m (2 – 3 ft.), but sometimes 0.3 – 3.0 m (1 – 10 ft.), above ground. Drought, brown-headed cowbird parasitization, and flood control projects such as stream channelization are among the ongoing general threats to the species.

4.5.4.1. Survey Results

The least Bell's vireo is not known to have occurred in the vicinity of the BSA; however due to the presence of suitable nesting habitat for the species it has limited potential to occur in the BSA. The BSA does not contain designated critical habitat for the species.

4.5.4.2. Avoidance and Minimization Efforts

In order to avoid and minimize potential impacts to this federally listed species, relevant provisions of Project-specific Measures B-1(e), Endangered/Threatened Species Habitat Assessment and Survey Protocol; B-1(f), Endangered/Threatened Species Avoidance and Minimization (including AM-11 through AM-15); and B-1(h), Preconstruction Surveys for Nesting Birds would be implemented.

4.5.4.3. PROJECT IMPACTS

Due to the scheduling of project activities outside of the nesting period for the species, and the performance of nesting bird surveys to determine when fledging is complete for the year, no impacts are anticipated to Least Bell's vireo individuals or their nestlings. The project will have permanent and temporary impacts on riparian habitat and mitigation measures described in Section 4.3.1.4 will mitigate for losses of riparian habitat.

4.5.4.4. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

No compensatory mitigation is proposed because with the implementation of the proposed avoidance and minimization measures, the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect this species and all potentially suitable habitat for the species will be restored, as described in Section 4.3.1.4.

4.5.4.5. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.5.5. Discussion of Bank swallow

Bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*) is listed as threatened by the state. The species requires vertical banks and cliffs with fine-textured or sandy soils near streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, and the ocean for nesting. Will also roost on logs, shoreline vegetation, and telephone wires. Predominantly a colonial breeder. Colonies range in size of 10 to 1,500 nesting pairs in California, although most colonies have 100 – 200 nesting pairs (Garrison et al. 1987). Requires fine-textured or sandy banks or cliffs to dig horizontal nesting tunnel and burrow. Nest almost always near water, and lined with grasses and other plant material and feathers. Burrows are 2.5 to 5.5 cm (1 to 2.2 in) wide and up to 140 cm (54 in) deep. A small chamber at end of burrow contains the nest.

The species feeds primarily over grassland, shrubland, savannah, and open riparian areas during breeding season and over grassland, brushland, wetlands, and cropland during migration and uses holes dug in cliffs and riverbanks for cover (Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2015, Ehrlich and Wheye 1988, Sibley 2003). Drought, declining aerial insect populations, and flood control projects such as stream channelization are among the ongoing general threats to the species.

4.5.5.1. SURVEY RESULTS

Although the species has not been documented in the vicinity of the BSA since 1927, and the CDFW reports that the species has been extirpated as a breeder in the state, suitable

foraging habitat is present in the BSA. Therefore, the species is considered to have the potential to forage but not breed in the BSA.

4.5.5.2. Avoidance and Minimization Efforts

In order to avoid and minimize potential impacts to this state listed species, relevant provisions of Measure B-1(e), Endangered/Threatened Species Habitat Assessment and Survey Protocol; B-1(f), Endangered/Threatened Species Avoidance and Minimization (including AM-11 through AM-15); and B-1(h), Preconstruction Surveys for Nesting Birds would be implemented..

4.5.5.3. Project Impacts

With implementation of the proposed Project-specific measures for listed animal species, detailed in Section 4.2, the Project is not anticipated to impact the bank swallow.

4.5.5.4. Compensatory Mitigation

No compensatory mitigation is proposed because with the implementation of the proposed avoidance and minimization measures, the proposed project is not anticipated to adversely affect the species.

4.5.5.5. Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

State Species of Special Concern

4.5.6. Discussion of Western pond turtle

The western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*) is a California Species of Special Concern that can be found along coastal California into northern Baja California. This species is known to inhabit ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, creeks, marshes and irrigation ditches containing abundant vegetation and either rocky or muddy bottoms in woodlands, forests and grasslands. It can be found basking on logs, rocks, cattail mats, and exposed banks within brackish water and seawater. This turtle feeds primarily on aquatic plants, invertebrates, worms, frog and salamander eggs and larvae, crayfish, carrion, and occasionally frogs and fish. It mates in April and May, eggs are laid sometime between April and August, and hatchlings emerge in early fall or overwinter in the nest (Jennings and Hayes 1994). Drought, non-native species, and flood control projects such as stream channelization are among the ongoing general threats to the species.

4.5.6.1. Survey Results

The specie was not observed during surveys and the CNDDB does not contain any records from the BSA, but the species has been recorded in locations both up and downstream of the BSA within the Arroyo Burro Creek watershed. The BSA contains suitable habitat in Las Positas and Arroyo Burro Creeks.

4.5.6.2. Avoidance and Minimization Efforts

General and Project-specific avoidance and minimization measures for non-listed special status terrestrial amphibians and reptiles detailed in Section 4.2, Measure B-1(g), Non-listed Special Status Animal Species Avoidance and Minimization will be implemented to avoid impacts to western pond turtle.

4.5.6.3. Project Impacts

Although project activities will not occur within the creeks in the BSA, vegetation removal in the riparian areas along the creeks where western pond turtle may nesting or dispersing could impact the species. Despite implementation Measure B-1(g), construction is anticipated to occur in late summer/early fall when western pond turtle hatchlings would be leaving the nest and in the event that nests are present in the Project impact footprint and vegetation removal is occurring while hatchlings are leaving a nest, loss of individuals could occur, resulting in an adverse impact. In the event that hatchlings are observed leaving the nest during construction, construction would be stopped in the area and an appropriate response would be coordinated with agency personnel before construction could resume.

4.5.6.4. Compensatory Mitigation

Although the project could result in losses of individuals, no compensatory mitigation is proposed for the species because the species is not formally listed by the state or federal government as threatened or endangered.

4.5.6.5. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.5.7. Discussion of Two-striped garter snake

The two-striped garter snake (*Thamnophis hammondii*) is a California Species of Special Concern that is associated with permanent or semi-permanent bodies of water in a variety of habitats from sea level to 8,000 ft (2,400m). It is a historically common species that now only occurs in approximately 40% of its historic range. This snake is aquatic and forages primarily in and along streams. Its primary food source is fish, especially trout and Sculpin

and their eggs, and amphibians and amphibian larvae. Courtship and mating occur in the spring, soon after emergence, with one to 25 young born in late summer and fall (Jennings and Hayes 1994). Drought, non-native species, and flood control projects such as stream channelization are among the ongoing general threats to the species.

4.5.7.1. Survey Results

Although the species has not been reported from the BSA, focused surveys have not been conducted for the Project and the BSA contains suitable aquatic habitat. As a result the species has the potential to occur within aquatic habitat in the BSA.

4.5.7.2. Avoidance and Minimization Efforts

General and Project-specific avoidance and minimization measures for non-listed special status terrestrial amphibians and reptiles detailed in Section 4.2, Measure B-1(g), Non-listed Special Status Animal Species Avoidance and Minimization will be implemented to avoid impacts to two-striped garter.

4.5.7.3. Project Impacts

Due to the absence of construction in aquatic habitat in the BSA and the implementation of BMPs and General avoidance and minimization measures designed to prevent discharge of materials into the creeks in the BSA, the Project will not impact the two-striped garter.

4.5.7.4. Compensatory Mitigation

No compensatory mitigation is proposed because with the implementation of the proposed avoidance and minimization measures, the proposed project is not anticipated to impact the species or its habitat.

4.5.7.5. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.5.8. Discussion of Silvery legless lizard

Slivery legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra pulchra*) is a California Species of Special Concern that occurs in moist, friable soils in a variety of habitats from coastal dunes to oak woodlands and chaparral. This species avoids dry soils and is typically found in sparsely vegetated areas of beach dunes, chaparral, pine-oak woodlands, desert scrub, sandy washes, and stream terraces with sycamores, cottonwoods, or oaks from sea level to 5,900 ft. Leaf litter under trees and bushes in sunny areas and dunes stabilized with native shrubs often indicate suitable habitat. The species is found from Contra Costa County south to northwestern Baja California Del Norte. The species also occurs in scattered locations in the

San Joaquin Valley, along the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains, the Tehachapi Mountains, and at the edge of the California deserts (Jennings and Hayes 1994, Stebbins 1985).

4.5.8.1. Survey Results

There are no reported records of the species within the BSA but the CNDDB reports occurrences of the species in Elings Park, in the immediate vicinity of the BSA. The BSA contains suitable habitat within coastal chaparral and along the stream terraces of Arroyo Burro Creek.

4.5.8.2. Avoidance and Minimization Efforts

General and Project-specific avoidance and minimization measures for non-listed special status terrestrial amphibians and reptiles detailed in Section 4.2, Measure B-1(g), Non-listed Special Status Animal Species Avoidance and Minimization will be implemented to avoid impacts to silvery legless lizard.

4.5.8.3. Project Impacts

Vegetation removal and construction operations are anticipated in chaparral and oak woodlands in the BSA, both of which are potentially suitable silvery-legless lizard habitat. Despite implementation Measure B-1(g), which includes placement of cover boards to detect the presence of the species, loss of individuals could occur during clearing and equipment moving, resulting in an adverse impact. In the event that individuals are observed during construction, construction would be stopped in the area and an appropriate response would be coordinated with agency personnel before construction could resume.

4.5.8.4. Compensatory Mitigation

Although the project could result in losses of individuals, no compensatory mitigation is proposed for the species because the species is not formally listed by the state or federal government as threatened or endangered.

4.5.8.5. Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.5.9. Discussion of Bryant's Woodrat

There are six species of woodrat in the genus Neotoma found in California, including numerous subspecies of *N. fuscipes, N. macrotis, N. bryanti,* and *N. lepida,* four of which are special status species. The Bryant's woodrat (*Neotoma lepida intermedia,* now *N. bryanti intermedia*) is one these special status species and occurs in coastal California from San

Luis Obispo south through the Transverse and Peninsular Ranges into Baja California. Desert woodrats are found in mixed chaparral habitats. Bryant's woodrats are herbivorous and rely on consuming succulent plants rather than drinking water.

4.5.9.1. SURVEY RESULTS

Woodrat nests (middens) were identified in the BSA in coastal sage scrub/chaparral habitat adjacent to Las Positas Road. Although trapping was not conducted to identify the species inhabiting the nests, it is highly unlikely that the inhabitants were desert woodrats due the absence of suitable chaparral habitat and succulent vegetation. It is suspected that the large stick nests were instead occupied by the San Diego big-eared woodrats (*Neotoma macrotis macrotis*) which are common in Santa Barbara County and not listed as a special status species. There are no recorded observations of the desert woodrat species in the vicinity of the BSA, and as a result, the potential for presence of the species is extremely low.

4.5.9.2. AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION EFFORTS

Despite the low likelihood of occurrence, live trapping will be conducted in the BSA in advance of construction by a mammologist who is qualified to identify woodrats to species. If the species are identified as Bryant's woodrat (or any other listed woodrat species) impacts to this species will be avoided through compliance with Project Specific Measure B-1(g), Non-Listed Special Status Animal Species Avoidance and Minimization, which indicates that nocturnal live-trapping efforts would be initiated if woodrat nests are identified during preconstruction surveys of the project impact footprint. In addition, nests would be relocated outside of the project footprint.

4.5.9.3. PROJECT IMPACTS

With the implementation of the general and project specific avoidance and minimization measures, particularly B-1(g) referenced above, permanent impacts to San Diego woodrat would be avoided. As stated in Measure B-1(g), if woodrat nests occupied by the species are identified during pre-construction surveys, individuals and their nests would be relocated in advance of construction. Therefore temporary impacts to the species through the temporary relocation of individuals and permanent relocation of their nests could occur.

4.5.9.4. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

No compensatory mitigation is proposed because with the implementation of the proposed avoidance and minimization measures, the proposed project is not anticipated to significantly impact the Bryant's woodrat.

4.5.9.5. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.5.10. Discussion of White-tailed Kite, Cooper's Hawk, Northern Harrier and Other Nesting Raptors

Nesting raptors, including the white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), Cooper's hawk (*Accipiter cooperii)* and the northern harrier (*Circus cyaneus*), are protected under the CA Fish and Game Code Section 3503.5, which states," It is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds-of-prey) or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto." In addition, the white-tailed kite is a California fully protected species, and the northern harrier is a California species of special concern.

The white-tailed kite is a year-round resident in coastal and valley lowlands in California. The species inhabits herbaceous and open stages of most habitats yet is rarely found away from agricultural areas. The species preys primarily on voles and other small diurnal mammals while foraging in undisturbed, open grasslands, meadows, farmlands and emergent wetlands. White-tailed kite use trees with dense canopies for cover and makes its nests out of loosely piled sticks and twigs lined with grass and straw placed near the top of dense oaks, willows and other tree species. Nests are usually located near open foraging areas (CWHR 2005). Its home range for foraging can be as large as 1.9 square miles but this radius shrinks to 0.5 miles from the nest when the species is breeding. White-tailed kites are monogamous and breed from February to October with a peak in breeding from May to August. The average clutch size is 4 – 5 eggs and the young fledge in 35 – 40 days. Great horned owls may prey on young and adult white-tailed kites and magpies, jays and raccoons may prey on their nests (CWHR 2005).

The Cooper's hawk is protected by the federal MBTA, the state Fish and Game Code, and is a state watch list species, ranked as apparently secure. Nests and forages in woodlands, including suburban areas.

The northern harrier is a California resident raptor that is found in open country, including salt and freshwater marshes and/or croplands. This species breeds in meadows and open marshlands. Northern harriers lay 4-9 eggs on the ground nests using the shelter of taller veg., shrubs, or grasses. Most nests are built within patches of dense, often tall, vegetation (i.e., cattails, meadowsweet (*Spirea* sp.)). The species is very selective in its choice of veg. cover, even within a single area. Most nest sites are dry-land habitats, and/or wet areas (i.e., areas surrounding stock ponds or along creeks). Egg are incubated for about 29-39 days,

and chicks fledge about 30-35 days later (Sibley 2003, Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2015, and Audubon 2015).

Threats to all of these species include habitat fragmentation, nesting failure due to disturbance and loss of foraging habitat.

4.5.10.1. SURVEY RESULTS

No individual nesting raptors were seen during site visits nor reported in the CNDDB within or near the BSA; however, the CDFW range map for the white-tailed kite shows the project site within the species' year-round range. Marginally suitable foraging habitat for the northern harrier and Cooper's hawk are present in the BSA and both species are known to occur in the immediate vicinity. Marginal nesting habitat for other raptors is present within the BSA in large oak and eucalyptus trees. Foraging habitat for many raptor species is limited within the BSA, but present and abundant directly adjacent to the BSA within the Veronica Meadows and Elings Park areas. There is some limited potential for the northern harrier, Cooper's hawk, or other non-listed nesting raptor to be present within and adjacent to the BSA during construction activities. However, it is highly unlikely that a white-tailed kite would pass through the project area due to the absence of nearby agricultural habitat.

4.5.10.2. AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION EFFORTS

In addition to the proposed general and Project-specific avoidance and minimization measures, implementation of the following species-specific avoidance and minimization measures for nesting raptors would prevent impacts to special status and other nesting raptors:

BIO-21. For construction activities occurring during the nesting season (generally February 1 to September 15), surveys for nesting birds covered by the California Fish and Game Code and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act will be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 14 days prior to vegetation removal. The surveys shall include the entire segment disturbance area plus a 200 foot buffer around the site. If active nests are located, all construction work shall be conducted outside a buffer zone from the nest to be determined by the qualified biologist. The buffer, per CDFW and Caltrans requirements, shall be a minimum of 50 ft for non-raptor bird species, a 250 ft buffer for passerines, and at least 500 ft for raptor species. Larger buffers may be required depending upon the status of the nest and the construction activities occurring in the vicinity of the nest. The buffer area(s) shall be closed to all construction personnel and equipment until the adults and young are no longer reliant on the nest site. A qualified biologist shall confirm that breeding/nesting is completed and young have fledged the nest prior to removal of the buffer. A report of these

preconstruction nesting bird surveys shall be submitted to SBCAG and/or the local jurisdiction.

In the event that active nest are identified during pre-construction surveys the following will be implemented. During construction, the qualified biologist will conduct weekly monitoring to evaluate any occupied nests for potential disturbances associated with construction activities. Construction within the buffer is prohibited until the qualified biologist determines the nest is no longer active. If an active nest is found after the completion of the pre-construction surveys and after construction begins, all construction activities will stop until the qualified biologist has evaluated the nest and erected the appropriate buffer around the nest. If establishment of the buffer is not feasible, CDFG will be contacted for further avoidance and minimization guidelines.

4.5.10.3. PROJECT IMPACTS

No permanent impacts to individual special status and other nesting raptors are anticipated with implementation of the proposed general and project specific avoidance and minimization measures. Potential temporary impacts to raptors would include temporary displacement due to construction noise and temporary loss of foraging habitat. However this potential loss of foraging habitat would be negligible as the quantity of suitable foraging habitat in the BSA is small compared to the quantity of suitable foraging habitat adjacent to the BSA. Additionally, it is not anticipated that noise or activity levels from construction activities will produce a recognizable increase in the amount of noise or activity currently experienced in the BSA. Removal of trees within the BSA has some potential to result in a loss of marginally suitable nesting habitat, however, if implemented during the non-breeding season, this impact should be less than significant. No permanent or temporary impacts to the species are anticipated, because the project will not contribute to nest failure, habitat fragmentation or a loss of suitable foraging habitat.

4.5.10.4. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

No compensatory mitigation is proposed because with the implementation of the proposed avoidance and minimization measures, the proposed project is not anticipated to significantly impact nesting raptor species.

4.5.10.5. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.5.11. Discussion of Townsend's big-ear bat, big free-tailed bat and other Roosting Bat Species (Order Chiroptera)

Two special status bat species have the potential to be present within the BSA. These species include: Townsend's big-eared bat and the big free-tailed bat.

Townsend's big-eared bat has no federal status, but is a state candidate for CESA listing, a state special concern species, and state ranked S2 (imperiled). The WBWG also ranks it high (imperiled). The species utilizes a wide variety of habitats, but is most common in mesic sites. It roosts in the open, hanging from walls & ceilings, where it is extremely sensitive to human disturbance.

Big free-tailed bat has no federal status, but is a state special concern species and is state ranked S3 (vulnerable). The WBWG ranks it medium-high (medium level of concern – imperiled). The species forages in low-lying arid areas, but needs high cliffs or rocky outcrops for roosting sites. Disease, human disturbance, and declining insect populations are among the ongoing general threats to the species. This project will be designed to avoid or minimize impacts to the greatest extent possible.

4.5.11.1. SURVEY RESULTS

Townsend's big eared bat is known from the BSA area from a CNDDB record approximately one mile to the north. It may forage in the BSA, and there is a very small potential that it could roost somewhere in the BSA, such as within a retaining wall. Big free-tailed bat is also known from the BSA area based upon a CNDDB record. It may forage in the BSA, but no roosting habitat is present.

4.5.11.2. AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION EFFORTS

In addition to implementing general avoidance and minimization measures, implementation of the following specific avoidance and minimization measure will avoid and minimize potential impacts to special status bats:

BIO-22. If special status bat species may be present and impacted by the project, a qualified biologist shall conduct presence/absence surveys for special status bats within 30 days of the start of construction in consultation with the CDFW where suitable roosting habitat is present. Surveys shall be conducted using acoustic detectors and by searching tree cavities, crevices, and other areas where bats may roost. If active roosts are located, exclusion devices such as netting shall be installed to discourage bats from occupying the site. If a roost is determined by a qualified biologist to be used by a large number of bats (large hibernaculum), bat boxes shall be installed near the project site. The number of bat boxes installed will depend on the size of the hibernaculum and shall be

determined through consultations with the CDFW. If a maternity colony has become established, all construction activities shall be postponed within a 500-foot buffer around the maternity colony until it is determined by a qualified biologist that the young have dispersed. Once it has been determined that the roost is clear of bats, the roost shall be removed immediately.

4.5.11.3. PROJECT IMPACTS

Implementation of the proposed project could result in the disturbance of suitable roosting and nesting sites for special-status bat species. Disruption of suitable roosting and nesting sites would potentially have a temporary negative effect on bats; however, with the implementation of general and species specific avoidance and minimization measures the proposed project would not permanently impact the special status bats in the BSA.

4.5.11.4. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

No compensatory mitigation is proposed because with the implementation of the proposed avoidance and minimization measures, the proposed project is not anticipated to adversely impact special status bats.

4.5.11.5. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.5.12. Discussion of Monarch butterfly

The monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) is not federally or state listed as a threatened or endangered species; however, Monarch Butterfly overwintering sites are protected in the Local Coastal and General Plans of the City of Santa Barbara. This species overwinters in California, and is primarily found within winter roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress) with nectar and water sources nearby. These groves are frequently located within drainages that provide required sheltered conditions. The preferred host plant for this species is milkweed. This species is active September through March but overwinter from Mendocino County in the north to San Diego in the south. This species numbers are showing signs of stress, primarily due to habitat loss.

Santa Barbara area monarch butterfly overwintering sites have been mapped on several occasions. The most comprehensive mapping effort was performed in 1999 and did not identify any Monarch Butterfly overwinter sites or temporary bivouacs within the BSA (Meade, Dan, 1999; Monarch Butterfly Overwintering Sites in Santa Barbara County, California). However, one overwintering site did historically occur in the eucalyptus groves north of Modoc road around Las Positas Creek and an ancillary drainage. This site supports

thick eucalyptus groves set within a deep arroyo, characteristics typical of Monarch Butterfly overwintering sites.

4.5.12.1. SURVEY RESULTS

Only a foraging individual was seen during the field visit, but the species has been reported in the area in the past. No focused survey of potential roosts has been done for this project, but eucalyptus groves are present in the BSA.

4.5.12.2. AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION EFFORTS

Potential impacts to overwintering monarch butterflies will be avoided and minimized by implementing the following species-specific measures:

BIO-23. If review of final project design indicates potential impacts to known or potential winter roost sites will be impacted, a qualified biologist shall make recommendations to avoid impacts including, but not limited to, relocation/redesign of project features to avoid roost sites, guidance regarding tree removal and trimming at roost sites, and recommendations regarding planting additional roost trees.

BIO-24. Construction shall not occur within 100 ft of known or potential roost sites between October 1 and March 1, if feasible. If construction must occur during this period, the qualified biologist shall survey known and potential roost sites to confirm occupancy by monarch butterflies prior to start of construction within 100 ft. Multiple surveys may be necessary and the closest known roost sites shall be used as voucher sites to confirm the timing of butterfly arrival. If monarch butterflies are determined to be absent from a roost site, construction may commence. If monarch butterflies are found at a roost site, construction shall not occur within 100 ft of the roost site until the biologist has determined that the butterflies have left the area. The biologist shall visit the voucher sites to confirm that butterflies have left the region.

4.5.12.3. PROJECT IMPACTS

Eucalyptus trees in the BSA are not known roost sites for monarch butterfly and have not been identified in previous comprehensive surveys. In addition, the groves within the BSA are relatively open and are located on level or hillside areas that lack the characteristics that would typically support a monarch butterfly overwintering site. Therefore removal of eucalyptus individuals will not permanently or temporarily impact monarch butterfly winter roosts. The removal of eucalyptus trees will not be performed during the winter roost period and therefore impacts are not anticipated to dispersing monarch butterflies who may be foraging during the winter roost period in the BSA.

4.5.12.4. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

No compensatory mitigation is proposed due to the absence of winter roost sites and suitable host plants for the species in the BSA.

4.5.12.5. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.5.13. Discussion of Oak titmouse and Other Nesting Passerine Species (Class Aves)

The oak titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*) is not listed as a federal or state threatened or endangered species but is a federal bird of conservation concern. It is associated with oak trees (woodlands) of California. The species is known to live in areas of open dry oak or mixed oak-pine forest woodlands; and is restricted to dry slopes in California. This species will use scrub oaks or other brush as long as woodlands are nearby. Within the eastern portion of their range, the species is known to occur in pinyon or California juniper mixed with Joshua Trees.

4.5.13.1. SURVEY RESULTS

The species was encountered both in oak woodland habitat and suburban settings during the site visits and suitable nesting habitat was identified in oak woodlands in the BSA.

4.5.13.2. AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION EFFORTS

General and Project-specific avoidance and minimization measures for nesting birds detailed in Section 4.2, Measures B-1 (g), Non-Listed Special Status Animal Species Avoidance and Minimization; and B-1(h), Preconstruction Surveys for Nesting Birds, will be implemented to avoid impacts to the oak titmouse. Further, typical nesting buffers that CDFW requires are 250 feet for passerines and Caltrans requires minimum 100 feet buffer.

4.5.13.3. PROJECT IMPACTS

The proposed Project would include the removal of oak trees along Las Positas Road. The removal of these oaks may remove suitable nesting habitat for the oak titmouse. The implementation of avoidance and minimization measures for non-listed special status animal species, including preconstruction surveys for nesting birds and removal of oak trees outside of the nesting season will prevent permanent impacts to nesting birds, including the oak titmouse.

4.5.13.4. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

Compensation for the removal of oak trees in the Project footprint is proposed to mitigate for losses to oak titmouse habitat. Removed coast live oak trees will be replaced at a 5:1 ratio (planted to removed trees) on-site or at an approved off-site location, and a restoration and monitoring program shall be developed and implemented for a minimum of seven years or until stasis has been determined by certified arborist.

4.5.13.5. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.5.14. Discussion of Yellow-breasted chat

Yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*) is a California species of special concern. The species is an uncommon summer resident and migrant in coastal California and in foothills of the Sierra Nevada. In Southern California, the species breeds locally on the coast and very locally inland. The species requires riparian thickets of willow and other brushy tangles near watercourses for cover, and it typically nest approximately 2 – 8 ft above ground in dense shrubs along a stream or river. Frequents dense, brushy thickets and tangles near water, and thick understory in riparian woodland (Cornell Lab of Ornithology 2015 and Sibley 2003). Drought, brown-headed cowbird parasitization, and flood control projects such as stream channelization are among the ongoing general threats to the species.

4.5.14.1. SURVEY RESULTS

The species was not observed during surveys of the BSA; however, suitable nesting habitat for the species was identified in willow riparian habitat in the BSA.

4.5.14.2. AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION EFFORTS

General and Project-specific avoidance and minimization measures for nesting birds detailed in Section 4.2, Measures B-1 (g), Non-Listed Special Status Animal Species Avoidance and Minimization; and B-1(h), Preconstruction Surveys for Nesting Birds, will be implemented to avoid impacts to the yellow-breasted chat. Further, typical nesting buffers that CDFW requires are 250 feet for passerines and Caltrans requires minimum 100 feet buffer.

4.5.14.3. PROJECT IMPACTS

The proposed Project is not anticipated to remove substantial areas of willow riparian habitat and removal will not occur during the nesting season. The implementation of avoidance and minimization measures for listed animal species, including preconstruction surveys for

nesting birds and removal of vegetation outside of the nesting season, will prevent impacts to the yellow-breasted chat.

4.5.14.4. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

Compensation for the removal of riparian habitat in the Project footprint is proposed to mitigate for losses of potential yellow-breasted chat nesting habitat. Removed vegetation will be replaced at a 2:1 ratio in the Project footprint.

4.5.14.5. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

4.5.15. Discussion of Yellow warbler

The yellow warbler (*Dendroica petechia brewsteri*) is a California Species of Special Concern that was once abundant and common throughout California. The population of this species has significantly declined due to riparian habitat destruction, fragmentation, and parasitism by the brown-headed cowbird. This bird is highly recognizable by its extensively yellow colored underparts, rusty streaks on the breast, and yellow spotted tail. This species prefers moist habitats with a high insect abundance, such as wetlands and mature riparian woodlands dominated by cottonwoods, alders, willow, and ash trees. However, it is known to inhabit drier areas of thickets, orchards or farmlands. The breeding season for the yellow warbler ranges from mid-April to July. Drought, brown-headed cowbird parasitization, and flood control projects such as stream channelization are among the ongoing general threats to the species.

4.5.15.1. SURVEY RESULTS

The species was not observed during surveys of the BSA; however, suitable nesting habitat for the species was identified in willow riparian habitat in the BSA.

4.5.15.2. AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION EFFORTS

General and Project-specific avoidance and minimization measures for nesting birds detailed in Section 4.2, Measures B-1 (g), Non-Listed Special Status Animal Species Avoidance and Minimization; and B-1(h), Preconstruction Surveys for Nesting Birds, will be implemented to avoid impacts to the yellow warbler. Further, typical nesting buffers that CDFW requires are 250 feet for passerines and Caltrans requires minimum 100 feet buffer.

4.5.15.3. PROJECT IMPACTS

The proposed Project is not anticipated to remove substantial areas of willow riparian habitat and removal will not occur during the nesting season. The implementation of avoidance and minimization measures for non-listed special status animal species, including preconstruction surveys for nesting birds and removal of vegetation outside of the nesting season will prevent impacts to nesting birds, including the yellow warbler.

4.5.15.4. COMPENSATORY MITIGATION

Compensation for the removal of riparian habitat in the Project footprint is proposed to mitigate for losses of potential yellow-breasted chat nesting habitat. Removed vegetation will be replaced at a 2:1 ratio in the Project footprint.

4.5.15.5. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts from the proposed Project are addressed in Section 4.3.1.5 and are not cumulatively considerable.

Chapter 5. Conclusions and Determination

This section summarizes the permits and consultations required to comply with federal, state and local regulations, agreements, and agency policies. Section 2.1, *Regulatory Requirements*, contains complete descriptions of the relevant regulations, agreements, and agency policies themselves.

5.1. Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) Consultation Summary

An official "List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project" was requested and received from USFWS on 28 October 2015 (Appendix E). Species identified by that list with some potential to occur in the BSA due to the presence of suitable habitat and the anticipated effect of the Project on each species is listed in Table 8. Designated critical habitat in the BSA area is shown on Figure 7.

Table 8. Anticipated Project Effect on Potentially Occurring Federally Listed Species

Species	Project Effects[1]
California red-legged frog	NLAA
least Bell's vireo	NLAA
southwestern willow flycatcher	NLAA
southern California steelhead DPS	NLAA
Southern California steelhead designated Critical Habitat	NLAA
Gambel's watercress	NLAA

[1] no effect; may affect, not likely to adversely affect (NLAA); may affect, likely to adversely affect (LAA)

5.2. Essential Fish Habitat Consultation Summary

No consultation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has been conducted to date for the Project. The Essential Fish Habitat Mapper (EFH) did not identify any EFH in the BSA and fish species under NOAA Fisheries jurisdiction are not anticipated to be effected by the Project.

5.3. California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Consultation Summary

No consultation with CDFW has been conducted for this Project to date. State listed species identified by the literature search and the potential for "take" of any of these species is shown in Table 9 below:

Table 9. Potentially occurring state listed species and potential for "take"

Species Common Name	Potential for take[1]
Gambel's watercress	limited
southwestern willow flycatcher	limited
least Bell's vireo	limited
bank swallow	limited

[1] Potential for take.
Limited = habitat present in the BSA and Project footprint but species not known to occur.

5.4. Wetlands and Other Waters Coordination Summary

No wetlands/waters coordination has occurred to date. A JD was prepared will be submitted to the USACE for verification. If the results of the JD are accepted, it is likely that the placement or removal of dredge or fill material within jurisdictional waters would require a permit from the USACE under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Water Quality Certification from the RWQCB under Section 401 of the CWA. Substantial alteration of CDFW streambeds, including disturbance to contiguous riparian vegetation, would require a Streambed Alteration Agreement with CDFW under Section 1602 of the California Fish and Game Code. Under the LCP and General Plan, the City of Santa Barbara would review projects with impacts within 100 ft of wetland communities within the Coastal Zone for conformance with the California Coastal Act (City of Santa Barbara 2004).

5.5. Invasive Species

Per Executive Order 13112, determinations of the likelihood of introducing or spreading invasive species and a description of the measures being taken to minimize their potential harm should be part of the NEPA process. Compliance with Project specific measure B-2(d) which stipulates that a weed prevention and management program will be developed for the Project, will adequately minimize the risk of spreading known populations of invasive species in the BSA. In addition compliance with Measure B-2(c) will prevent any landscaping from introducing new invasive species to the BSA.

5.6. Tree Protection

An arborist report has been prepared for the Project and discusses potential impacts to trees in the BSA. Project-specific avoidance and minimization measure B-1 (k) will be implemented to address any potential impacts identified for protected trees in the BSA.

5.7. Protection of Nesting Birds Protected by the MBTA and State Fish and Game Code

In addition to the special status bird species discussed individually in Section 4.5, the MBTA and/or State Fish and Game Code protects all native bird species, both migratory and resident, and their active nests. Impacts to nesting birds from the Project will be avoided in accordance with work timing restrictions laid out in Project-specific avoidance and minimization measure B-1(h), which state that construction must be avoided during nesting bird season which extends generally from February 1 to September 15. Preconstruction nesting bird surveys will be conducted to determine the presence or absence of nesting birds in the BSA and the onset/completion of construction will be timed accordingly to avoid impacts to nesting birds in the BSA.

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Appendix A Detailed Project Description

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CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, PLANNING DIVISION

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PROJECT: LAS POSITAS MULTI-USE PATH PROJECT

Application Number: MST 2014-00055

November 17, 2016

Project Location

The Project site extends for approximately 2.6 miles along the southwestern portion of the City. The general Project boundaries would begin at the southwest side of the intersection of Modoc Road and Calle De Los Amigos, extend southeast on the southern side of Modoc Road for approximately one mile towards the intersection of Modoc Road and Las Positas Road, and then veer south for approximately 1.6 miles along the western side of Las Positas Road, ending at the intersection of Las Positas Road and Cliff Drive.

Property Characteristics

The Project site is located along side and within existing roadways and the right-of-way (ROW) of Modoc Road and Las Positas Road. Modoc Road and Las Positas Road are two lane roads with left turn channelization at intersections that carry approximately 6,490 to 17,620 average daily vehicle trips at posted speeds of 35 to 55 miles per hour (mph). Pedestrian pathways or sidewalks are lacking along much of the Project reach along these roadways; however, Class II bike lanes exist along Modoc Road and required road shoulders are located on Las Positas Road, which are intended for upgrading to Class II bike lanes under the next programmed slurry seal (refer to Table 1-1 and Section 11, *Transportation* for additional details). The east-west Modoc Road segment of the Project is generally located on level or gently sloping terrain. The north-south Las Positas Road portion of the Project gradually descends a broad coastal valley closely paralleling the existing roadway and Las Positas and Arroyo Burro Creeks. The gently sloping valley supports several residential neighborhoods, as well as three parks and open space areas on neighboring properties.

Table 1-1. Existing Characteristics of Project Area Roadways

Street Name	Approximate Road Width	General Characteristics	Bike Facilities	Pedestrian Facilities
Modoc Road	Approximately 55’ of paved width; intermittent curbs	Two lane road with turn lanes at intersections; limited areas developed with curbs	7’-wide painted Class II bike lanes along each travel lane	Generally lacking sidewalks; intermittent near existing neighborhoods
Las Positas Road	Up to 80’ wide at major intersections; 38’ wide along narrow segments	Two lane road with turn channelization at intersections; limited areas developed with curbs	7’-wide painted Class II bike lanes along each travel lane	Sidewalks generally absent; limited natural surface walkways

Existing public transportation in the Project vicinity is served by two bus lines operated by the Santa Barbara Metropolitan Transit District (MTD), Route 5 and Route 2540. There are six bus stops along the 2.6-mile long Project reach, as discussed within Section 11, *Transportation/Circulation*.

A majority of the proposed Project would be located within or immediately adjacent to developed roadways and heavily disturbed adjacent areas within the existing ROW. However, the proposed Project would be developed in

close proximity to existing recreational areas, such as Veronica Meadows, Elings Park, Douglas Family Preserve, and Arroyo Burro Beach and Park.

Assessor's Parcels

The Project site is located entirely within ROW controlled by the City and runs adjacent to at least 292 parcels in the southwestern portion of the City. These parcels support the following uses: the City's municipal golf course, senior care residences, utility water company, churches and rectory, single-story retail stores, two- to four-unit residential complexes, single family residences, parks, parking lots, condominiums and community apartment complexes, and vacant lands.

Land Use Designations and Zoning

City General Plan land use designations regulate and guide the type of development that may occur within City boundaries. There is a range of land use designations and allowable development densities within and adjacent to the Project site, as follows:

- Suburban Medium Density Residential (max 12 dwelling units (du)/acre);
- Suburban Low Density Residential (max 5 du/acre);
- Hillside Low Density Residential (max 3 du/acre);
- Suburban Low Density Residential (max 3 du/acre);
- Parks/Open Space; and
- Creeks

City zoning adjacent to the Project site includes residential zones A-1 (One Family Residence Zone), E-1 (One Family Residence Zone), and E-3 (One-Family Residence Zone), which allow single family residences, and R-2 (Two Family Residence Zone), which allow two family residences (e.g., duplex). Zones include Planned Unit Development-2.5, which allows planned unit development, Parks and Recreation (PR)/Special District Zone 3 – Coastal Zone (S-D-3), which designates parks and recreation or Coastal Zone areas, and non-residential zone PR, which indicates exclusively parks and recreation. The County of Santa Barbara additionally owns Unincorporated Urban Area land immediately west of the Project site, containing land uses and residential densities for Residential Ranchette (10 units per acre), for 1 unit per acre, and 12.3 units per acre, in addition to an Educational Facility.

Approximately 2,300 linear feet, or 0.44 miles, of the 2.6 mile path at the southernmost reaches of the Project site along Las Positas Road extend into the appealable and non-appealable jurisdiction of the California Coastal Zone (see Figure 2). This portion of the path requires a Coastal Development Permit from the Planning Commission. Since a small portion of the path is located within the appealable jurisdiction of the California Coastal Zone, the Coastal Development Permit is appealable to the California Coastal Commission. Additionally, an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA) is present along Arroyo Burro Creek.

Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The Project site is bordered by a range of land uses. Generally, Modoc Road runs adjacent to residential and commercial uses, as well as the Municipal Golf Course to the north (across U.S. 101), and residential uses to the south. The northern half of the Project site along Las Positas Road runs adjacent to residential uses to the west and east. The southern half of the Project site along Las Positas Road is adjacent to Elings Park to the west and east, Douglas Family Preserve to the south, and residential uses to the west.

Project Description

Project Overview – 2.6 miles total	
Length on Modoc Road	0.9 mile
Length on Las Positas Road	1.5 miles
Proposed Improvements: 1 new traffic signal 11 street crossings 2 mid-block pedestrian street crossings 10 private driveway crossings 5 retaining walls 2780 feet of concrete safety barriers	

Project Overview: The City of Santa Barbara (City) proposes to construct a Class I separated multi-use pathway (multi-use path) for bicyclists, runners, and pedestrians along 2.6 miles of Las Positas Road and Modoc Road in the southwestern portion of the City. The purpose of the Project is to develop a safe, multi-modal, regional multi-use path for all ages and abilities connecting to the City's Crosstown and Coastal Bike Routes, the neighborhoods adjacent to the path, schools, commercial services, and regional parks/coastal access points, including Veronica Meadows, Elings Park, Arroyo Burro Beach Park, and the Douglas Family Preserve. The Project is located in an area of the City planned for alternative transportation improvements, creek restoration, and expanded public open space and recreation. Project was identified by the City's Six-Year Capital Improvement Program Fiscal Year 2014-2019 and Bicycle Master Plan and Pedestrian Master Plan, as well as by the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) 2040 Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy Plan and Final EIR (SBCAG 2013). The community has also expressed a strong desire for the City to move forward with the Project to improve safety and access for pedestrians and cyclist, including commuters using these modes of transportation, as well as increase recreational opportunities within the popular yet high speed corridors of Las Positas and Modoc Roads. The initial Project design and permitting stage is funded primarily by the Active Transportation Program (ATP), which is administered by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

Project Components: The proposed multi-use path would extend along the south side of Modoc for 1 mile from Calle De Los Amigos to Las Positas Road and then continue south along the west side of Las Positas Road for approximately 1.6 miles to Cliff Drive (see Figure 1). The proposed multi-use path would run adjacent to and connect existing neighborhoods of Hidden Valley, Campanil Heights, and Bel Air, as well as adjacent County unincorporated areas. Design of the multi-use path would comply with Chapter 1000, *Bicycle Transportation Design*, of the Caltrans Highway Design Manual for a Class I bike path and American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) design standards (see Figure 2).

The multi-use path would extend for 1 mile along the southern edge of Modoc Road from Calle De Los Amigos to Las Positas Road.

The multi-use path would extend for 1.6 miles along the western edge of Las Positas Road from Modoc Road to Cliff Drive.

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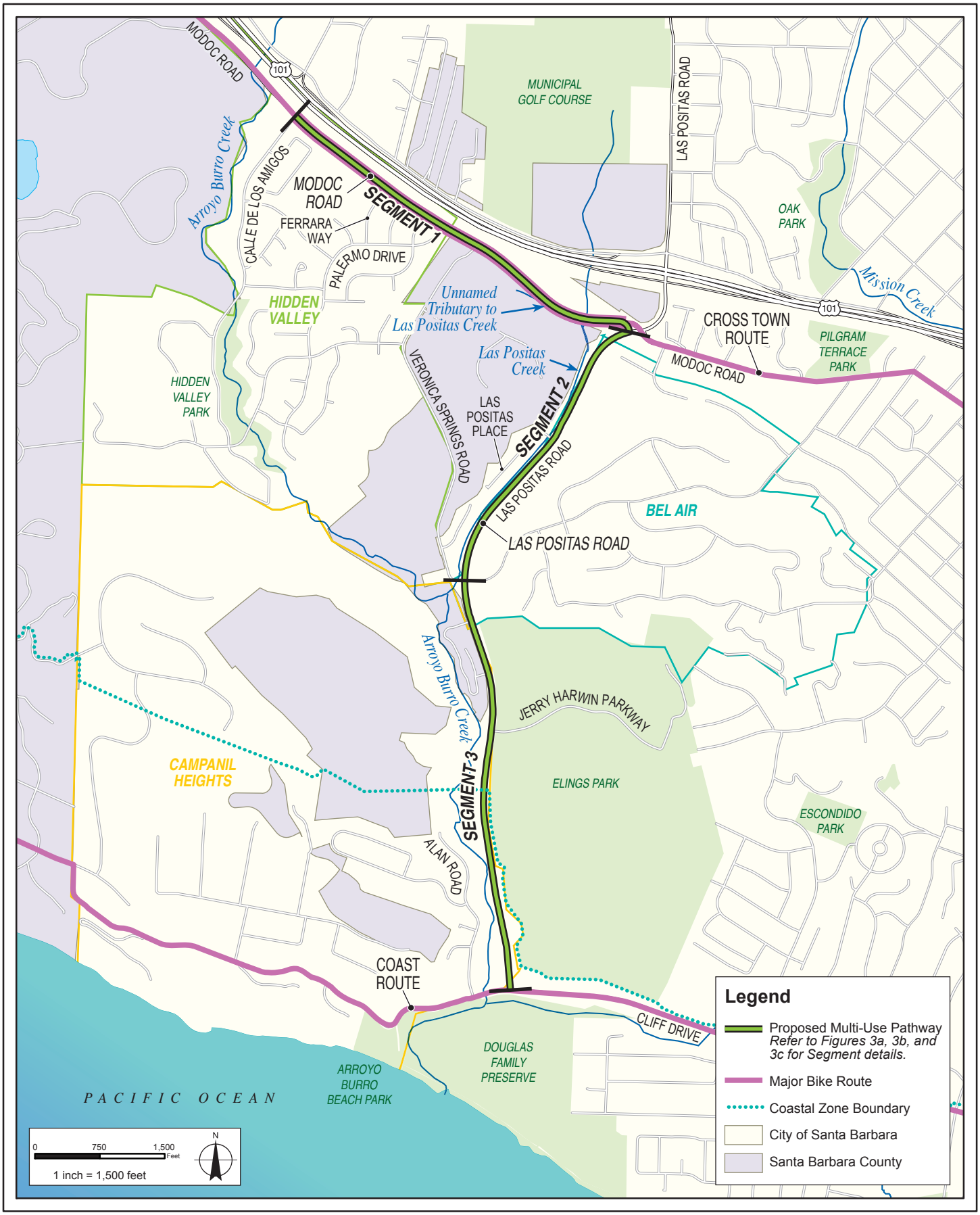
Vicinity Map
Las Positas Road Multi-Use Path Project
Santa Barbara, California

FIGURE
1



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Project Site

FIGURE

2

The Project is designed to be integrated with and tie into the existing Class II facilities along both Modoc Road and Las Positas Road, which would be maintained as roadway shoulders and on-road bike lanes to serve higher speed bike traffic. The Project would provide off-road access adjacent to these busy roadways for recreational and commuter bike traffic while permitting higher speed and sometimes larger groups of on-road cyclists the option to continue use of Modoc Road's Class II facilities and Las Positas Road's required road shoulders that are currently maintained along the entire alignment. In addition, families, walkers, runners, and less experienced cyclists would be provided a safer option separate from adjacent higher speed traffic. The proposed Project would be constructed and maintained by the City within existing ROW, including paved areas and disturbed road shoulder for the maximum extent possible along the proposed 2.6-mile-long reach. Maintenance may include periodic sweeping of the path, servicing of trash receptacles, and vegetation and pest management, which would be conducted in conformance with the City's Integrated Pest Management Plan and would include bi-annual shoulder plant trimming and hand labor, as necessary.

Key Project components are discussed below. A Project overview is provided then followed by detailed descriptions of each segment because Project design would vary and require somewhat different types of improvements along different segments. This approach would allow flexibility in construction phasing and timing.

Path Design

The Project would involve designation of a 16-foot wide multi-use path. The path would provide a 12-foot wide paved surface with two travel lanes and two 2-foot wide unimproved natural surface (but code compliant) shoulders. However, the width of the multi-use path would vary depending on constraints such as slope and available ROW. The surface of the multi-use path would be paved with an aggregate base overlain by asphalt. Portland cement concrete would be used at intersection corners and sidewalks. The multi-use path section would consist of 4-inch thick asphalt on 6-inch thick class II compacted roadbase on top of compacted native soil.

There are several segments of the path that would require decorative concrete barriers with railings between the roadway shoulder and the path edge. All safety barriers with railings proposed as part of the project would be up to 54 inches tall and a minimum of 42 inches tall. The multi-use path would be designed to avoid and protect existing habitat and land uses to the maximum extent possible, as described in more detail below.

Retaining Walls

Six retaining walls are proposed to support the multi-use path, and would range from 100 to 1,400 feet long and 3 to 5 feet tall as described in more detail within the segment descriptions below. Retaining walls would be constructed with reinforced concrete and would serve to support the multi-use path in sections where it runs adjacent to sloped areas. Typical construction would include over-excavation of the slope using an excavator situated on the existing path to accommodate placement of retaining walls.

Grading and Drainage

All cut and fill required for the proposed retaining wall locations would be balanced onsite. The retaining wall on Modoc Road west of Palermo Road would involve approximately 40 cubic yards (cy) of cut. The retaining wall on Modoc Road east of Palermo Road would involve approximately 30 cy of fill. The retaining wall on Las Positas Road along Las Positas Creek would involve approximately 218 cy of cut. The retaining walls along the

southern extent of Las Positas Road, including one on the west side at the existing Caltrans wall, and two on the east side south of the wall, would each include approximately 48 cy of cut.

The Project would construct approximately 196,984 square feet (sf) of new impervious area. The surface of the multi-use path would be graded to match existing grades as much as possible to minimize the extent of grading and maintain existing drainage patterns. Two existing culverts carrying storm water runoff currently outflow into the unpaved pullout area at the Las Positas Road/Modoc Road intersection and convey water from the east into a westward-oriented ephemeral storm water channel. Drainage improvements and new culverts are proposed at this location as follows: the channel would be modified to branch into two channels that flow along the north and south sides of the proposed path surface. Two new 18" culverts are planned in the southeast corner of the Las Positas Road/Modoc Road intersection to re-route the existing storm water channel under the path and prevent water collection on the path surface. To meet the City's Tier 3 Storm Water requirements, the multi-use path surface would be graded to drain to the adjacent shoulder, which would be constructed out of permeable aggregate to retain and infiltrate all runoff.

There are several existing down-drains and concrete ditches along the west side of Las Positas Road, between Las Positas Place and Veronica Springs Road, that would be maintained as concrete ditches and conveyed under the multi-use path within culverts. Some existing culverts may need to be relocated or extended, but would not be re-sized. Where Modoc Road crosses Las Positas Creek, the existing AC Dike on the south side of road forms a weir crest and the road is overtopped during high flows. The multi-use path would be constructed in this area at or below the elevation of the existing AC Dike so flood elevations would not be changed.

In total, the Project would create two new drainage structures, relocate four drainage structures, extend or replace seven drainage structures, retain in-place two drainage structures, and either retain in-place, extend, or replace 10 additional drainage structures. Per City standards, since 180 cubic feet (cf) of storage is required per 1,000 sf of new impervious surface, the Project would include 8,700 linear feet (lf) of infiltration trenches and 2.8 cf of storage per lf would be installed along the Project alignment; 373 lf along north Las Positas Road, 5,487 lf along west Modoc Road/west Las Positas Road, 554 lf along Las Positas Road from Stonecreek Road to Richelle Lane, and 430 lf along Las Positas Road from Richelle Lane to Jerry Harwin Parkway.

Pedestrian Crossings and Lighting

The Project would include two mid-block pedestrian crossings with accompanying lighting along Modoc Road, a new pedestrian crosswalk with lighting across the southbound turn lane at the intersection of Modoc Road and Las Positas Road connecting the pedestrian island in the center of the intersection to the multi-use path, and a new stop light and crosswalk at the Jerry Harwin Parkway intersection with accompanying lighting for pedestrians.

Realignment of Roadway Features (Existing Curb, Median, Striping, etc. Realignment)

Roadway features, such as curbs, medians, and roadway striping, would need to be moved or adjusted to accommodate installation of the multi-use path along one edge of the roadway. For instance, installation of the multi-use path along the western edge of the road extending south from the Modoc Road/Las Positas Road intersection would intrude into the existing roadway by approximately 18 feet (including multi-use path, shoulders, and concrete barrier). To accommodate this part of the multi-use path, the existing concrete curb and sidewalk along the eastern edge of the road would be adjusted at most 18 feet into the adjacent ROW area, as

indicated in Figure 3d, below. Similarly, the median along Las Positas Road at this location would be realigned to accommodate the realigned vehicle and Class II travel lanes within the center of the roadway.

Along the Project extent of each roadway, similar encroachment would occur in various locations that would result in necessary on-street realignment of existing roadway curbs, medians, and striping to accommodate the multi-use path. Pedestrian curb ramps and surrounding pavement at intersection corners would also be widened at major intersections (i.e. Jerry Harwin Parkway and Veronica Springs Road) to allow for accessible curb ramps with truncated domes, allowing visible and predictable crossing locations for cyclists and pedestrians to transition from the path to the roadway and back onto the path again.

Project Design Features Protecting Adjacent Habitat and Uses

The proposed Project has been designed to minimize tree and vegetation removal, encroachment into sensitive habitat, and disruption of sensitive uses to the maximum extent feasible by incorporating the following features.

- Wherever possible, the multi-use path would be constructed on existing paved roadway or on the disturbed road base on the roadway shoulders.
- Modoc Road and Las Positas Road would be restriped and shifted into the north and east sides of the roadway respectively, to create more space for the path to be constructed on existing paved roadway and disturbed areas.
- The multi-use path would be narrowed in places in order to keep as much of the path as possible within the existing paved roadway or disturbed areas so as to protect adjacent habitat areas and vegetation.
- The proposed Project has been designed to avoid intruding into adjacent riparian habitats of Las Positas Creek and Arroyo Burro Creek.

Re-Vegetation and Planting

Areas adjacent to the multi-use path, particularly at the Modoc Road/Las Positas Road intersection and alongside the proposed retaining walls may be temporarily disturbed or excavated during construction for installation of structures, relocation of utilities, or equipment access. All temporarily disturbed areas will be re-graded to approximate their pre-existing condition and re-vegetated with native plant species, as directed by a qualified restoration specialist and identified in the landscape design and restoration plan for the Project.

Segments:

The Project is divided into three segments that have independent utility and may be constructed simultaneously or independently, as described in detail below (see Figure 2).

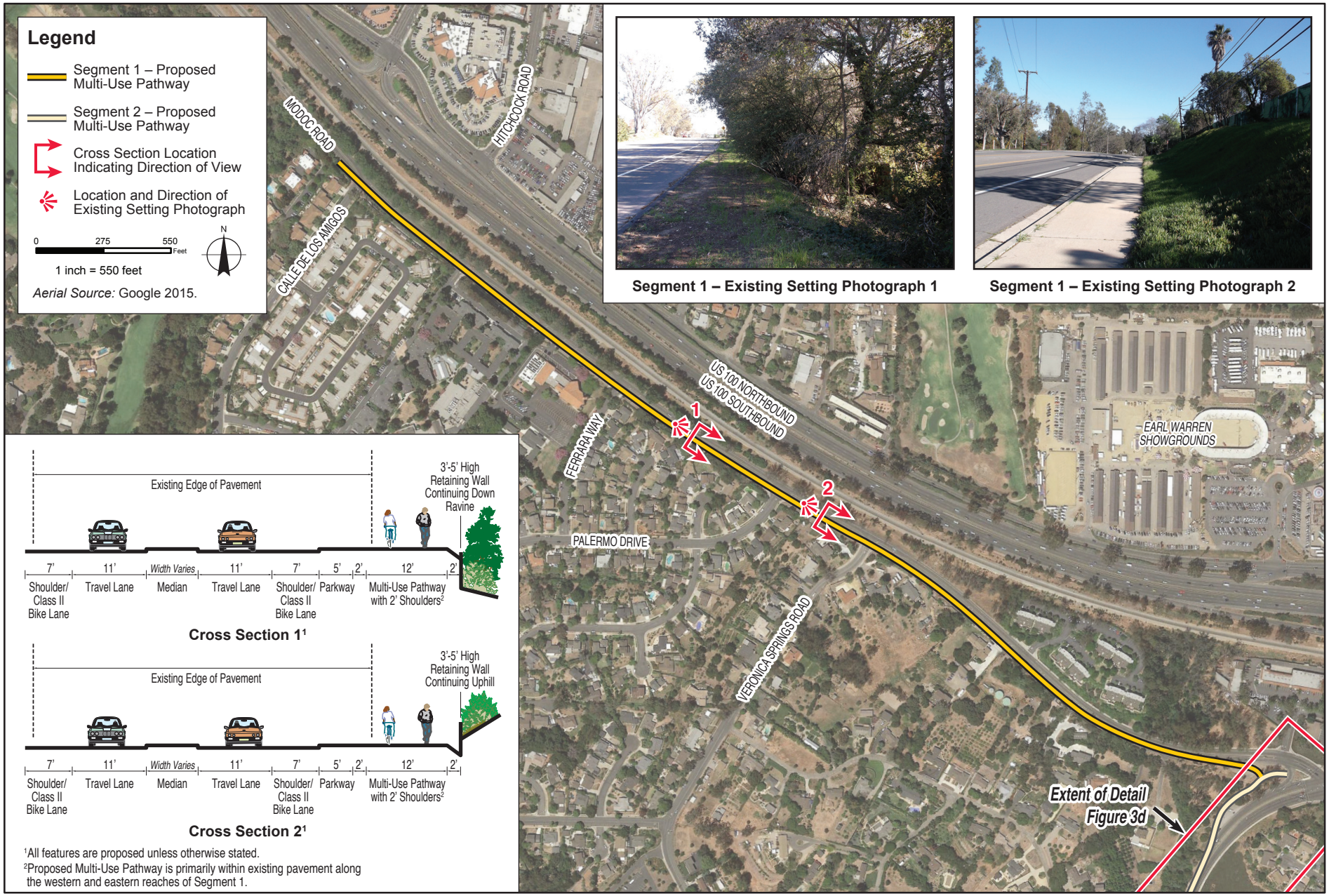
Segment 1 – Modoc Road to Las Positas Road Intersection:

Segment 1 would extend for 1 mile southeast starting approximately 90 feet northwest of the intersection of Modoc Road and Calle De Los Amigos and would connect to the next segment at the intersection of Modoc Road and Las Positas Road (see Figure 3a). In the event that this segment is constructed first, it would also include improvement to the Modoc Road/Las Positas Road intersection. Segment 1 would be constructed along the southern edge of Modoc Road adjacent to the Vista Del Monte Retirement Community, Hidden Valley neighborhood, and other residences. In some places, up to 13 feet of the width of the path would be constructed within the existing paved roadway, and in other places, up to 21 feet of the width of the path would be constructed outside the existing paved roadway within the previously disturbed City ROW.

This segment would generally consist of a 12-foot wide paved path with two 2-foot wide unpaved shoulders. This segment would include 2 mid-block crossings, 6 stop sign controlled residential street crossings with marked crosswalks, one pedestrian crosswalk at the intersection with Las Positas Road, 10 bright green striped pedestrian crossings across private driveways, and installation of striping and green pavement markings for six intersections. The green pavement markings heighten visibility and awareness between motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists, and designates the continuation of the bicycle path to guide bicyclists through the conflict zone. These crossings would also include warning signage or mirrors at the foot of private driveways or other intersections. Street lighting would be incorporated into the mid-block and intersection crossings so drivers are able to see approaching pedestrians/bicyclists.

This segment would include two 180 to 200 foot-long retaining walls that are 3 to 5 feet tall along the south side of Modoc Road. One retaining wall would be constructed downslope of the multi-use path between Ferrera Way and Palermo Drive, extending below-grade to support the path where it borders an unnamed tributary to Las Positas Creek. The second retaining wall would be installed between Palermo Drive and Veronica Springs Road, extending above-grade to support the existing southerly slope. Along the entirety of this segment, a 7-foot wide Class II on-road striped bike path would provide further buffering as well as act as a shoulder for the roadway.

Segment 1 would include channel modifications to the existing ephemeral storm water channel to protect water quality and maintain path integrity. Segment 1 of the multi-use path would remain at grade through the existing dirt pullout and terminate at a signalized crossing on Modoc Road for the right turn-lane onto Las Positas Road.



Segment 1 – Existing Setting Photograph 1

Segment 1 – Existing Setting Photograph 2

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Segment 1 – Modoc Road Reach
Las Positas Road Multi-Use Path Project
Santa Barbara, California

FIGURE

3a

A proposed 180-200 foot long retaining wall of 3-5 feet in height would be installed along an intermittent drainage between Ferrera Way and Palermo Drive looking south along Modoc Road.

A proposed 180-200 foot long retaining wall of 3-5 feet in height would be installed along a slope between Palermo Drive and Veronica Springs Road looking south along Modoc Road.

Project construction within Segment 1 would require the relocation of a limited number of street lights and utility boxes, as well as the clearing and/or trimming of existing disturbed/landscaped vegetation, such as eucalyptus trees, palms, cypress, and ice plant mats.

Improvements within the Modoc Road/Las Positas Road intersection may be part of this segment, if Segment 1 is built first. Improvements to the intersection would focus on increasing safety and facilitating a connection between the multi-use path and the existing Crosstown Bike Route. New crosswalks would be developed within the existing median at the southeast corner of the intersection and provide crossings to the Class I bike lane and sidewalk on the north side of Modoc Road, as well as the road shoulder on the east side of Las Positas Road. The intersection signals would remain in their current position and roadway re-striping is not anticipated. Improved signalized crossings for pedestrians would be added to the intersection (see Figure 3d below).

Segment 2 – North End of Las Positas Road at Modoc Intersection to Veronica Springs Road Intersection:

Segment 2 includes improvements within the southern portion of the southwest corner of the Modoc Road/Las Positas Road intersection and construction of a 0.7-mile section of multi-use path extending from the path fork at the Modoc Road/Las Positas Road intersection south to Veronica Springs Road (see Figure 3b).

Along Segment 2, the proposed multi-use path would be constructed between and parallel to Las Positas Road and Las Positas Creek.

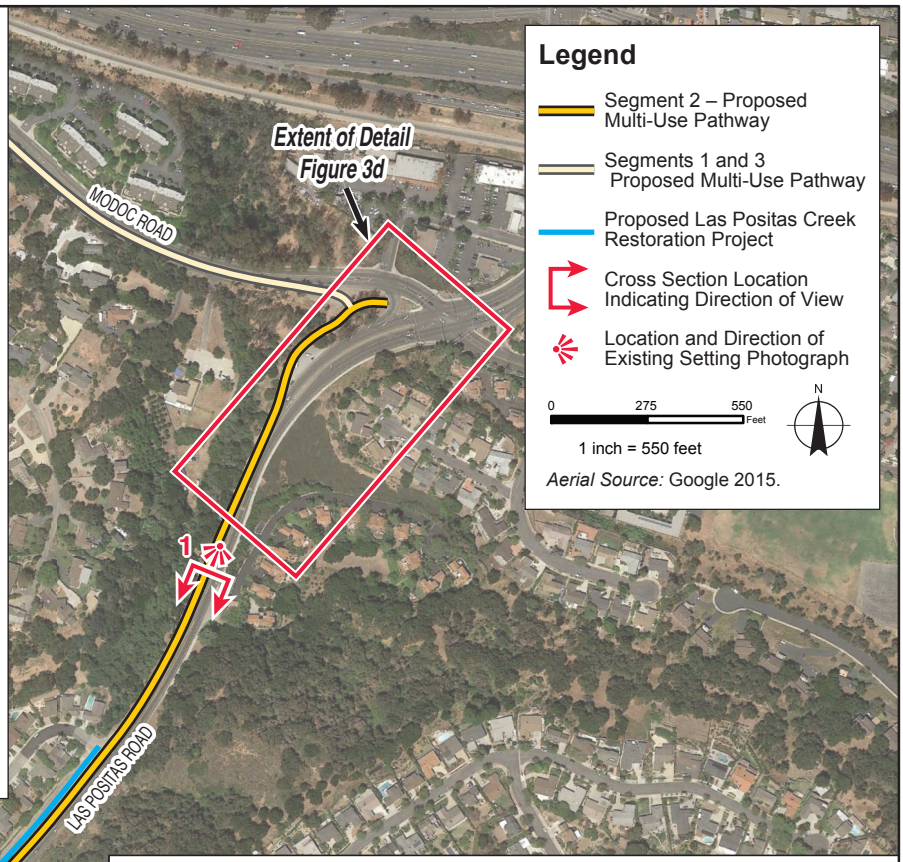
This segment would generally consist of a 12-foot wide paved path with 2-foot wide unpaved shoulders. This segment would include 2 stop sign controlled residential street crossings with marked crosswalks and green lane intersection conflict striping across 6 residential streets on both sides of Las Positas, including the Veronica Springs Road intersection. Along the entirety of this segment between the travel lane on Las Positas Road and the concrete barrier, a 7-foot wide Class II on-road striped bike lane would provide buffering as well as provide the required shoulder for the roadway.

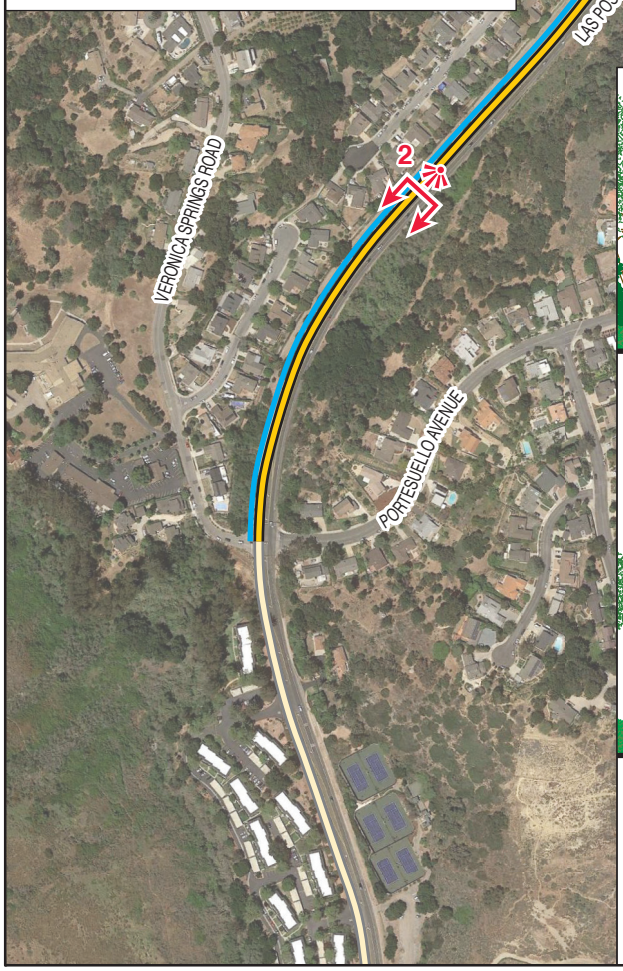
Travelling southeast, the multi-use path transitions to Segment 2 from Segment 1 where the path forks within the unpaved pullout area southwest of the existing Modoc Road/Las Positas Road intersection. Within the unpaved pullout area, the southern of two existing storm water culverts currently releases flow into an ephemeral channel that runs where the proposed multi-use path would be constructed. Segment 2 would include channel modifications (described above) to the existing ephemeral storm water channel to protect water quality and maintain path integrity (see Figure 3d).

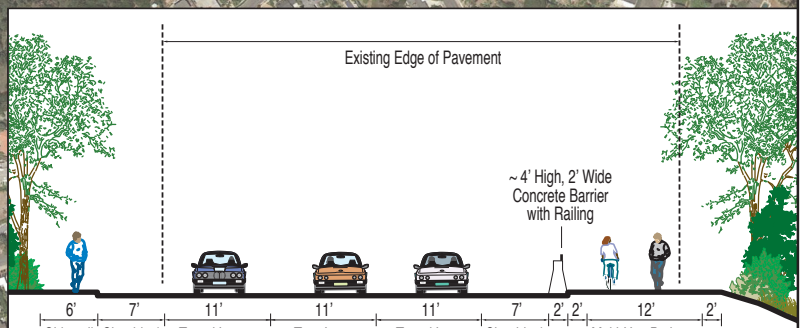
While one fork of the proposed path would direct pedestrian and bicycle traffic east to the Modoc Road/Las Positas Road intersection, the fork included in Segment 2 directs traffic south, slightly upslope, to meet and continue adjacent to Las Positas Road. The multi-use path then runs alongside Las Positas Road until the Las Positas Place intersection. A 2-foot wide concrete safety barrier and safety railing would be constructed for approximately 1,160 feet to separate the multi-use path from the adjacent roadway of Las Positas Road. At the intersection at Las Positas Place, the existing stop-sign controlled intersection would be improved to include ADA curb ramps, cyclist crossing notifications, and crosswalk striping.

Segment 2 – Existing Setting Photograph 1

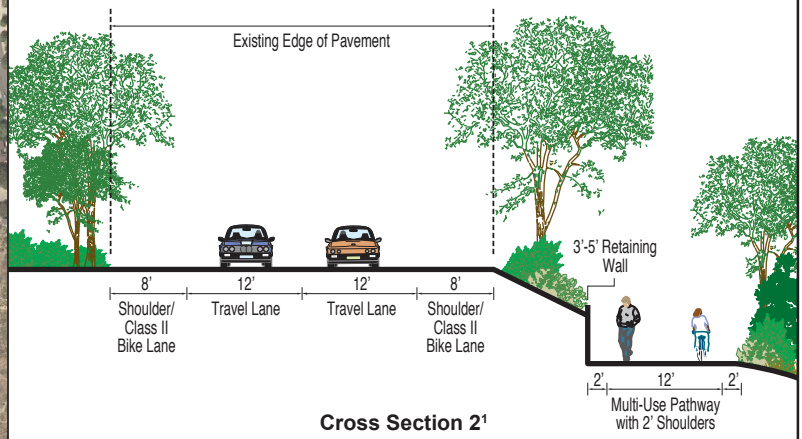
Segment 2 – Existing Setting Photograph 2







Cross Section 1[1]



Cross Section 2[1]

[1]All features are proposed unless otherwise stated.

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Segment 2 – North Las Positas Road Reach
Las Positas Road Multi-Use Path Project
Santa Barbara, California

FIGURE

3b

South of the intersection with Las Positas Place, the multi-use path would then descend slightly onto an existing maintenance road, and run for approximately 600 feet adjacent to the channelized portion of Las Positas Creek, following the foot of the western slope of Las Positas Road. A 1,400-foot long, 3- to 5-foot tall retaining wall would be constructed on the eastern, upslope side of the multi-use path. The wall would retain coast live oak trees (also called California live oaks) located upslope oaks between the proposed path and Las Positas Road. Development of the multi-use path along this portion of Segment 2 would include 26 coast live oak trees removed and 22 significantly impacted along Las Positas Road in order to situate the path outside of the future Las Positas Creek Restoration Project. The Las Positas Creek Restoration Project would also change the location of the 100-year floodplain so it shifts closer to the road and away from the adjacent single family homes. The proposed multi-use path would be located outside of the newly aligned 100-year floodplain.

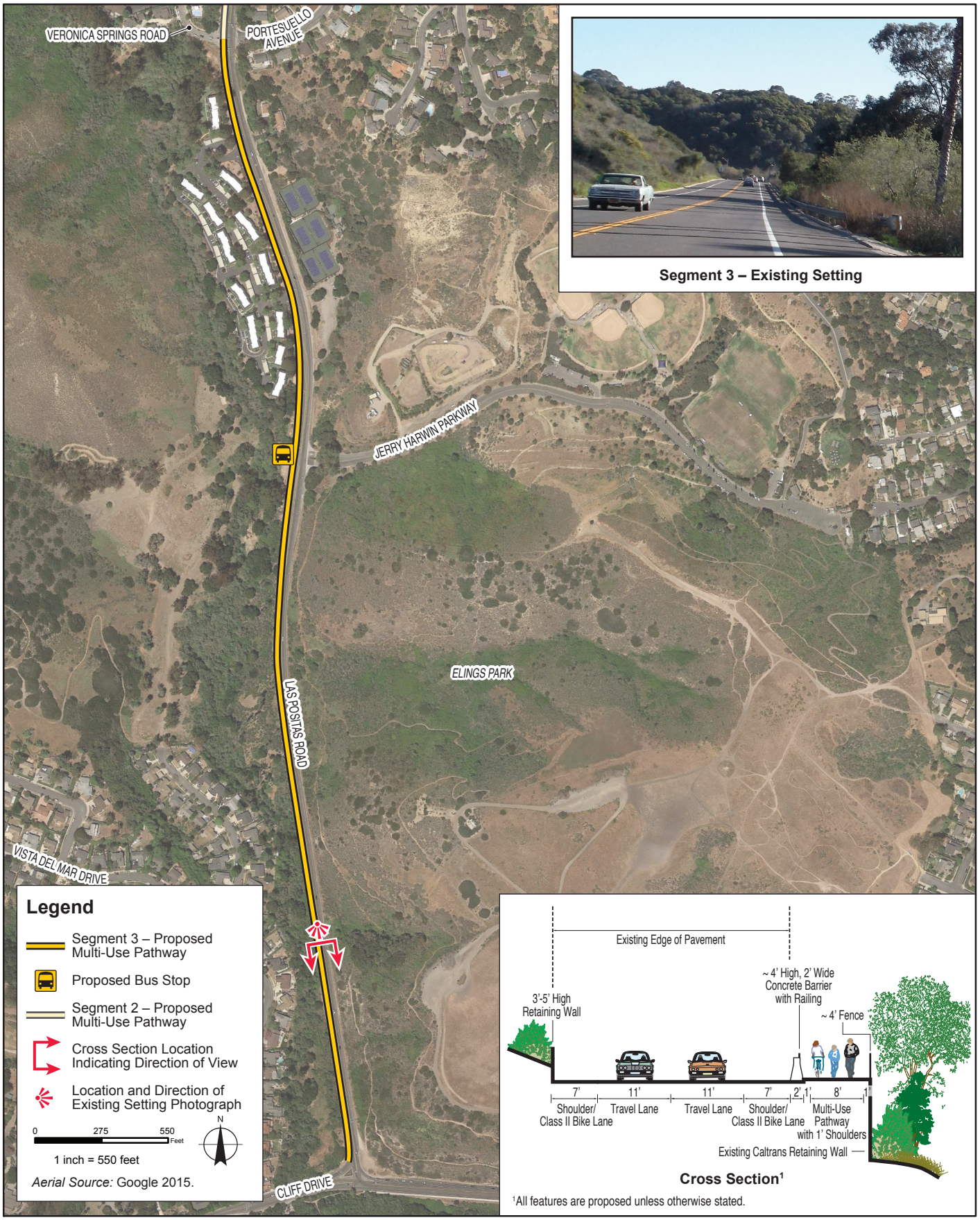
The proposed multi-use path would be developed adjacent to a line of mature oaks along Las Positas Road; planned creek restoration would require relocation of the path eastward into this line of oaks and the installation of a 100-foot long and 3-5 foot tall retaining wall, with removal of 26 coast live oak trees and significantly impacting 22.

The multi-use path would then veer slightly east to run alongside Las Positas Road for approximately 390 feet between the end of the concrete channelized portion of Las Positas Creek and the Veronica Springs Road intersection. This stretch of path would include a concrete safety barrier and railing 2 feet wide to separate the path from vehicular traffic on Las Positas Road.

Within Segment 2, the Las Positas roadway would be shifted 5 to 7 feet east in some places to accommodate the multi-use path. This would move the existing northbound and southbound Class II bike lanes east, and move the sidewalk on the east side of the road further east into disturbed and/or landscaped areas. Roadway widening in this location would require relocation of an existing water meter, a backflow device, and a fire hydrant on the east side of the roadway.

Segment 3 – Veronica Springs Road to Cliff Drive:

Segment 3 would extend for approximately 0.9 mile south along the west side of Las Positas Road from the Veronica Springs Road intersection to the intersection of Las Positas Road and Cliff Drive. The path would tie into the existing Class II bicycle facilities along Cliff Drive and provide connectivity to Arroyo Burro Beach County Park to the west and to the Douglas Family Reserve to the south (see Figure 2). The multi-use path would terminate at a stop sign controlled intersection at Cliff Drive (see Figure 3c). As a separate effort, this stop sign controlled intersection is proposed to be replaced with a roundabout, with construction estimated to be completed in 2017. A future crossing at Cliff Drive and Las Positas Road is being designed as part of the proposed roundabout intersection project and is not included in the design of this Project.



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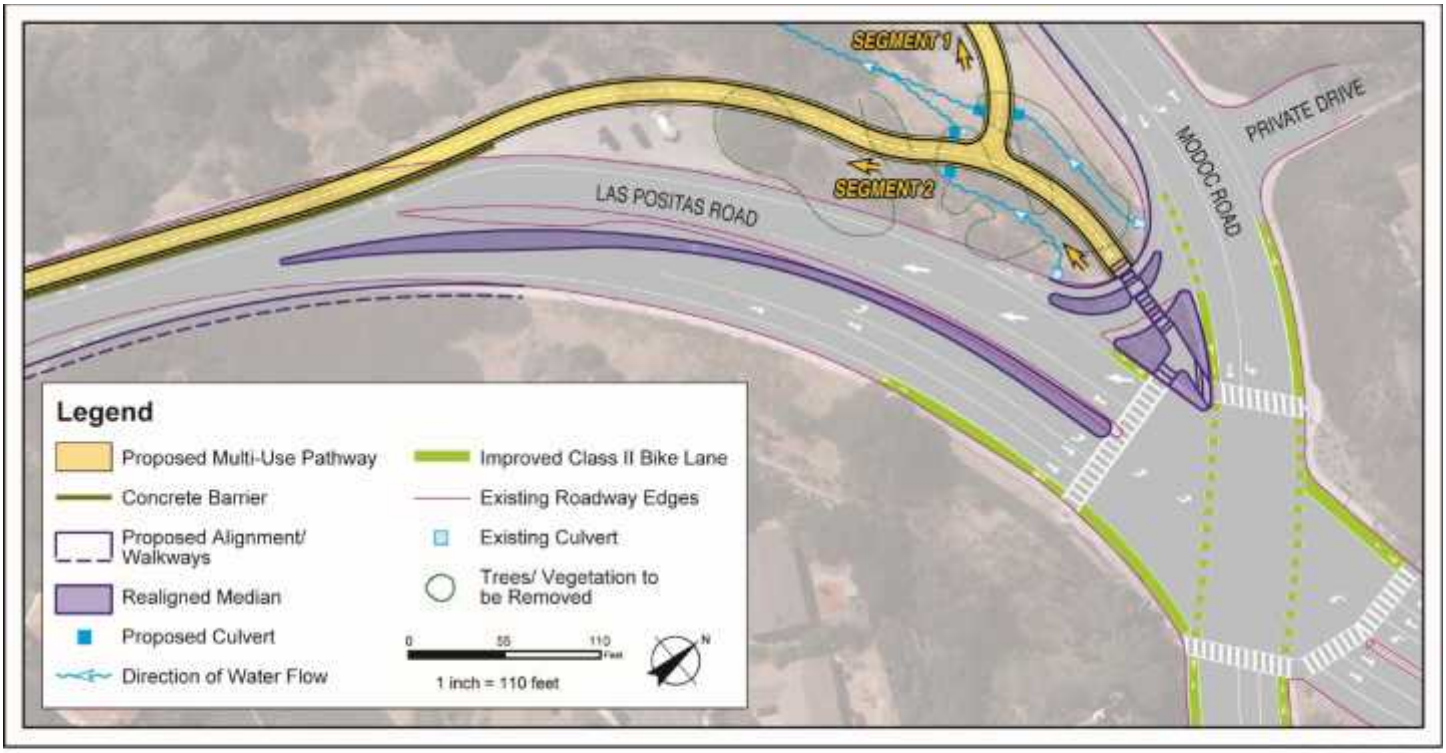
Segment 3 – South Las Positas Road Reach
Las Positas Road Multi-Use Path Project
Santa Barbara, California

FIGURE

3c



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Modoc Road/ Las Positas Intersection
Las Positas Road Multi-Use Path Project
Santa Barbara, California

FIGURE 3d

Segment 3 would generally consist of a 12-foot wide paved path with two 2-foot wide unpaved shoulders. This segment would include a new signalized intersection with pedestrian lighting and a crosswalk at Jerry Harwin Parkway. A new bus stop would be installed at this intersection to improve public transit access to Elings Park. In addition, green lane intersection conflict striping across 8 intersections crossings would also be added on both sides of Las Positas Road to increase cyclist visibility and safety. Along the entirety of this segment between the travel lane on Las Positas Road and the parkways/concrete barriers described below, a 7-foot wide Class II on-road striped bike path would provide buffering and the required shoulder for the roadway.

Segment 3 would require construction of 3 retaining walls. One retaining wall would be installed along the west side of Las Positas Road and two would be installed along the east side of Las Positas Road, south of the Jerry Harwin Parkway intersection and north of the Cliff Drive intersection. Both retaining walls along the east side of the roadway would be installed to support an easterly adjustment to the roadway alignment requiring cut into the steep, uphill slopes to Elings Park. These retaining walls would be approximately 300 feet long and 3 to 5 feet tall. The third wall would be constructed downslope/below the path where it is proposed to ascend out of coastal scrub north of the Arroyo Burro Creek floodplain and would be approximately 100-feet long and 3-5 feet tall.

At the Veronica Springs Road intersection, Las Positas Creek reaches its confluence with Arroyo Burro Creek and Arroyo Burro Creek turns to the west. The multi-use path alignment would run adjacent to Las Positas Road with the exception of a slight departure west near this creek confluence. The multi-use path would be separated from the roadway by a 2-foot wide and approximately 350-foot long concrete safety barrier and railing, ending at Stonecreek Road.

South of the Jerry Harwin intersection, the path would narrow to 10 feet (8-foot wide path with 1-foot wide paved

shoulders) along 200 feet of an existing Caltrans retaining wall located 1,500 feet north of the Cliff Drive and Las Positas intersection. This existing retaining wall would be modified by adding a safety railing to accommodate the multi-use path. One half of the existing retaining wall is scheduled to be repaired by Caltrans as part of a separate maintenance project prior to Project construction. The remaining half of the existing wall would remain as is. The proposed multi-use path would be constructed between the existing wall edge and the Las Positas Road edge with a safety barrier to separate the multi-use path users from the roadway.

Heading south from the Caltrans retaining wall, the multi-use path would descend downslope to the west, away from the existing roadway into existing previously disturbed ruderal/nonnative grassland and disturbed coastal sage scrub habitat, and continue for approximately 1,100 feet before merging again with the existing roadway, north of the Arroyo Burro floodplain. A 2-foot wide and approximately 880-foot long concrete barrier with safety railing would be constructed along the eastern side of the path alongside Las Positas Road and a safety fence would be constructed on the western side of the path for its extent along the road edge and adjacent to the riparian corridor of Arroyo Burro Creek. The final 400 feet of the multi-use path cuts away from the roadway once more into an existing weedy/ruderal area at the end of Segment 3.

Related Las Positas Creek Restoration Project:

Approximately 575 feet of the Project alignment between Las Positas Place and Veronica Springs Road overlaps with a major creek restoration and flood control project initiated by the City Parks and Recreation Department, Creeks Division.

Planned restoration of Las Positas Creek and development of the proposed multi-use path would occur along an existing gravel access road and impinge into an adjacent line of mature coast live oak trees.

The Las Positas Creek Restoration project would remove the concrete channel structure that conveys this section of Las Positas Creek and restore natural creek and hydrologic processes by enlarging the floodplain and planting riparian vegetation.

This restoration project would include creek restoration within existing flood control easements, but would extend eastward into the existing ROW of Las Positas Road. Excavation and grading would occur along the bank of Las Positas Creek adjacent to a section of the proposed multi-use path. The restoration plans include removing 30,000 sf of concrete lining from the creek channel, grading to establish shallower creek banks, planting the banks with native plant and tree species, and installing large sandstone boulders to protect the creek banks from erosion. Native trees such as alders, sycamores, and oaks would be planted to help stabilize creek banks, provide shade, and improve habitat value. Native wetland plants would also be planted to help improve water quality.

The Project would be coordinated with the Las Positas Creek Restoration project to ensure consistent designs, integration of the multi-use path and the restored creek environment, and minimization of construction overlap and disturbance. Due to limited available space to accommodate both creek restoration and the planned multi-use path and the required use of portions of available Las Positas Road ROW for creek restoration purposes, the proposed multi-use path would be constrained to impinge upon a line of mature coast live oak trees. The Las Positas Creek Restoration project would enlarge the floodplain through an easement and encroach into the City ROW, which would subsequently restrict the amount of ROW available to the multi-use path, pushing the Project

further east into the line of oak trees. Thus, accommodating both these projects could require removal of approximately 26 mature coast live oaks trees along this reach of approximately 575 feet.

Construction Process:

Construction Activities and Timing

Construction activities for completion of the Project would include grubbing, clearing, excavation, paving, fencing, installation of signage and roadway striping, regrading, and planting. The 3 Project segments have independent utility and would be constructed independently, either concurrently or at different times, depending upon the availability and timing of funding. Each segment is anticipated to require between 6 and 9 months to complete and would be developed to operate independently of the other two. For any single phase, the majority of the grading, grubbing, and ground work would be completed between October 15th and the end of February, to avoid the nesting season of migratory and native birds. The remaining construction would occur from February through July and include paving, fencing, constructing retaining walls, reseeding, planting, installing signage, and striping the roadway and multi-use path. Assuming maximum durations and independent phasing, it is anticipated that Project construction could take up to 2 years and 3 months. Construction would require the use of heavy equipment to grade a level surface for the multi-use path, as well as to haul equipment and materials. Project construction is anticipated to require use of the following pieces of equipment:

- Motor grader
- Landscape tractor with back box (for grading)
- Rubber tire roller (for compaction)
- Crawler excavator
- Bucket loader
- Hand tools (shovels, rakes, hand clippers)
- Dump truck
- Asphalt truck
- Concrete mixer

Staging

Construction would require key staging areas adjacent to or within the Las Positas Road and Modoc Road ROWs. Proposed staging areas make use of existing unpaved turn-outs and paved areas. Four potential staging areas have been identified in the following locations along Las Positas Road:

- South of Modoc Road on the west side of Las Positas Road in an existing unpaved pullout area (approximately 0.25 acres),
- At the southwest corner of the intersection with Las Positas Place (approximately 0.2 acres),

- At the southwest corner of the intersection with Veronica Springs (approximately 0.15 acres), and
- In the Las Positas Tennis Courts Parking Lot (approximately 0.3 acres, and would require prior Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Department approval).

Clearing and Grubbing

The Project would require removal of vegetation, including primarily landscaping and ornamental trees, as well as deleterious materials and unsuitable soils from the Project footprint. As noted above, clearing would also include 26 native oak trees removed and 22 significantly impacted. Vegetation and organic material would be removed to a depth of approximately 6 inches in order to reach suitable native sub-base material beneath the proposed path alignment. Clearing and grubbing would extend laterally approximately one foot beyond the edge of the path in areas where cut and fill slopes are required. Additionally, some trees and shrubs overhanging the proposed path alignment may need to be pruned to allow equipment visibility and access during construction.

Utility Relocation

Along Modoc Road, there are several street lights and a limited number of utility poles that may require relocation for the proposed path. One utility box and a fire hydrant may need to be moved just south of the unpaved pullout area near the Modoc Road/Las Positas Road intersection.

Along Las Positas Road near Meadows Lane, several existing wet utilities, including backflow preventers, water meter boxes, and fire hydrants, would need to be relocated to accommodate shifting Las Positas Road to the eastward. Additionally, south of Veronica Springs Road several utility boxes and backflow devices would need to be relocated.

General Demolition

Existing sidewalk and asphalt removed as part of the Project would be demolished and properly handled and disposed of in accordance with Chapter 7.16, Garbage and Refuse Collection and Disposal, of the City's Municipal Code. Heavy equipment would be required to demolish and remove these features. Drainage features would be protected from contamination and all debris generated by the demolition would be removed from the site.

Right-of-Way

The Project would be constructed within existing City ROW. Temporary construction easements or right-of-entry agreements may be necessary from private properties for potential construction work.

Construction Best Management Practices (BMPs)

The following soil stabilization and sediment control BMPs shall be implemented such that sediment and other pollutants are contained on the Project site:

- Construction equipment would be stored within the designated staging areas at the end of each work period. Concentrated runoff would be diverted around equipment, vehicle, and materials storage areas, and diversion of concentrated runoff would be accomplished through shallow earthen swales and straw bale reinforcement.
- The amount of construction materials stored on site would be minimized. Soil materials stock piled at the site would be covered with plastic sheeting at the end of each workday until permanently protected with rock ballast materials.

- Delivery and removal of construction materials would occur at pre-designated sites and materials would be stored in a manner that limits exposure to precipitation and controls storm-water runoff.
- The Project would adhere to measures included in the City's "Control of Runoff into Storm Drains and Watercourses" as attached to the construction contract. The discharge or creation of potential discharge, of any soil material including concrete, cement, silts, clay, sand, or any other materials to the waters of the State is prohibited.
- Pallets or secondary containment areas for chemicals, drums, or bagged materials would be provided. Should material spills occur, materials and/or contaminants would be cleaned from the Project site and recycled or disposed of to the satisfaction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).
- Waste dumpsters would be covered with plastic sheeting at the end of each workday and during storm events. All sheeting shall be carefully secured to withstand weather conditions.
- On-site personnel would be trained/instructed in spill prevention practices, and provide spill containment materials near all storage areas. All contractors are responsible for familiarizing their personnel with the information contained in the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).
- Wastes would be separated and recycled or disposed in compliance with regulations.
- Earth fill and disturbed ground surfaces would be watered as necessary to minimize wind-blown dust.

The following waste management and materials pollution control BMPs would also be implemented to minimize the potential for releases or spills of pollutants during the operation of construction equipment:

- All construction equipment would be maintained to prevent oil or fluid leaks.
- Drip pans or other secondary containment measures would be used beneath vehicles during storage.
- All equipment and vehicles would be regularly inspected for fluid leaks.
- Wastes (e.g., grease, oil or oil filters, antifreeze, cleaning solutions, batteries, and hydraulic or transmission fluid) would be placed in proper containers, stored in a designated storage areas, and ultimately recycled.
- Vehicles and equipment would be fueled and washed offsite.
- Spill prevention and control practices would be implemented throughout construction activities. Workers would be trained in techniques to reduce the chance for spills, contain and clean up spills, and properly dispose of spill materials for the potential pollutants that are relevant to each contractor or subcontractor activity. Cleanup materials shall be readily available to the employees of each contractor or subcontractor for immediate response should a spill occur on-site.

Following the completion of Project construction, materials storage areas shall be cleared of all construction-related debris.

Required Discretionary Actions:

The Project requires approval of a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) by the City Planning Commission (decision appealable to the City Council, and to the California Coastal Commission) for the 0.44 mile portion of the Project that is located in the California Coastal Zone.

The Project also requires Planning Commission adoption of the MND for the entire Project under CEQA, and

Caltrans acts as the lead agency for NEPA review.

Other Public Agency Approvals Required:

The Project requires approval of grading and construction permits from the City Community Development Department, and permit for improvements in City ROW from the City Department of Public Works. The Project also requires a Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps for fill placed in regulated waters of the U.S.; Water Quality Certification from the RWQCB for fill placed in Waters of the State; and a Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement for impacts to riparian and creek habitat.

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Appendix B Potential to Occur for Special-Status Species and Critical Habitat in the Study Area

Table B-1. Potential to Occur for Special-Status Species and Critical Habitat in the Study Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status[1]	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent[2]	Rationale
Plants					
Marsh Sandwort	*Arenaria paludicola*	F = FE C = SE, S1 CNPS: 1B.1	Sandy openings in freshwater or brackish marshes and swamps. 3 – 170 meters (m). Blooms (B): May – August.	A	No CNDDB records in the area, known from only two natural occurrences elsewhere. Discussed here only because USFWS (2015b) identified as potentially occurring.
Coulter's saltbush	*Atriplex coulteri*	F = ND C = S2 CNPS: 1B.2	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, valley and foothill grassland. Ocean bluffs, ridgetops, as well as alkaline low places. 3 – 460 m. B: March – October.	A	No mapped alkaline soils, ocean bluffs, or ridgetops within BSA. Previous botanical surveys on & near site have not detected the species (Watershed Environmental 2009, City of Santa Barbara 2005 & 2008). Nearest CNDDB record is approximately one mile north.
Davidson's saltscale	*Atriplex serenana* var. *davidsonii*	F = ND C = S1 CNPS: 1B.2	Coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub in alkaline soil. 10 – 200 m., B: April – October.	A	No suitable habitat (no mapped alkaline soils).
Plummer's baccharis	*Baccharis plummerae* ssp. *plummerae*	F = ND C = S3 CNPS: 4.3	Rocky places in broadleaved upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal	A	No rocky places in BSA. Although it is present to the south in the Douglas Family Preserve (City of Santa Barbara 2005), there are no CNDDB records

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status[1]	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent[2]	Rationale
			scrub. 5 – 425 m., B: May – October.		and previous on-site botanical surveys have not detected the species.
late-flowered mariposa-lily	*Calochortus fimbriatus*	F = ND C = S3 CNPS: 1B.2	Dry, open places on serpentine in chaparral, cismontane woodland, riparian woodland, coastal woodland. 275 – 1905 m., B: June – August.	A	Site is below known elevational range.
Santa Barbara morning-glory	*Calystegia sepium* ssp. *binghamiae*	F = ND C = SX CNPS: 1A	Coastal marshes. 0 – 30 m., B: August.	A	Habitat unsuitable, species is considered to be extinct.
southern tarplant	*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis*	F = ND C = S2 CNPS: 1B.1	Marshes and swamps (margins), valley & foothill grassland. Often in disturbed sites near coast at marsh edges. Also in alkaline soils sometimes with saltgrass. Sometimes on vernal pool margins. 0 – 480 m., B: May – November.	HP	Very low probability of occurrence. Habitat marginal. Previous botanical surveys on & near site have not detected the species (Watershed Environmental 2009, City of Santa Barbara 2005 & 2008). Nearest CNDDB record is approximately two miles west.
salt marsh bird's-beak	*Cordylanthus maritimus* ssp. *maritimus*	F = FE C = SE, S1 CNPS: 1B.2	Coastal dunes and coastal salt marshes and swamps. 0 – 30 m. B: May – October.	A	Habitat unsuitable.
umbrella larkspur	*Delphinium umbraculorum*	F = ND C = S3 CNPS: 1B.3	Cismontane woodland at mesic sites. 400 – 1600 m., B: April – June.	A	Site is below known elevational range

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status[1]	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent[2]	Rationale
mesa horkelia	*Horkelia cuneata* var. *puberula*	F = ND C = S1 CNPS: 1B.1	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. Sandy or gravelly sites. 70 – 810 m., B: February – September.	A	Site is below known elevational range
southern California black walnut	*Juglans californica*	F = ND C = S3 CNPS: 4.2	Alluvial areas in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, riparian woodland. 50 – 900 m., B: March – August.	HP	Low probability of occurrence. Site is just below known elevational range, but at least one *Juglans*, species unknown, was present on-site.
pale-yellow layia	*Layia heterotricha*	F = ND C = S2 CNPS: 1B.1	Cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, pinyon-juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland. On alkaline or clay soils in open areas. 300 – 1705 m., B: March – June.	A	Site is below known elevational range
Santa Barbara honeysuckle	*Lonicera subspicata* var. *subspicata*	F = ND C = S2 CNPS: 1B.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub. 10 – 1000 m., B: May – February.	HP	Low probability of occurrence. Habitat suitable, but previous botanical surveys on & near site have not detected the species (Watershed Environmental 2009, City of Santa Barbara 2005 & 2008). Nearest CNDDB record is approximately 3 miles north in a tributary of Arroyo Burro.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status[1]	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent[2]	Rationale
white-veined monardella	*Monardella hypoleuca* ssp. *hypoleuca*	F = ND C = S2S3 CNPS: 1B.3	Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Dry slopes. 50 – 1525 m., B: April – December.	HP	Very low probability of occurrence. Site is just below known elevational range. Habitat suitable, but previous botanical surveys on & near site have not detected the species (City of Santa Barbara 2005 & 2008, Watershed Environmental 2009). Nearest CNDDB record is approximately 2 miles northwest.
Gambel's water cress	*Nasturtium* (*Rorippa*) *gambelii*	F = FE C = ST, S1 CNPS: 1B.1	In or just above water level in freshwater & brackish marshes at the margins of lakes & swamps and along streams. 5 – 330 m., B: April – October.	HP	Very low probability of occurrence. Extremely rare, currently known from only four locations. Suitable habitat present, but previous botanical surveys on & near site have not detected the species (Watershed Environmental 2009, City of Santa Barbara 2005 & 2008). Nearest CNDDB record is approximately 2 miles west-northwest.
Nuttall's scrub oak	*Quercus dumosa*	F = ND C = S3 CNPS: 1B.1	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal scrub. Generally on sandy soils near coast; sometimes on clay loam. 15 – 400 m., B: February – August.	HP	Low probability of occurrence. Habitat suitable, but previous botanical surveys on & near site have not detected the species (Watershed Environmental 2009, City of Santa Barbara 2005 & 2008). Nearest CNDDB record is approximately 2 miles north-northwest.
black-flowered figwort	*Scrophularia atrata*	F = ND C = S2S3 CNPS: 1B.2	Closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal dunes, coastal scrub, and	HP	Very low probability of occurrence. Marginal habitat present (mapped sandy soils lacking in undeveloped

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status[1]	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent[2]	Rationale
			riparian scrub on sand, diatomaceous shales, and soils derived from other parent material; around swales and in sand dunes. 10 – 500 m., B: March – July.		areas). Previous botanical surveys on & near site have not detected the species (Watershed Environmental 2009, City of Santa Barbara 2005 & 2008). Nearest CNDDB record is approximately 3 miles north-northwest.
Sonoran maiden fern	*Thelypteris puberula var. sonorensis*	F = ND C = S2 CNPS: 2B.2	Meadows along streams and seepage areas. 50 – 610 m., B: January – September.	HP	Very low probability of occurrence. Site is just below known elevational range, habitat marginal. Previous botanical surveys on & near site haven't detected the species (City of Santa Barbara 2005 & 2008, Watershed Environmental 2009). Nearest CNDDB record is approximately 1 mile away.
Special Status Invertebrates					
Vernal Pool fairy shrimp	*Branchinecta lynchi*	F = FT C = S3	Temporary ponded water which lasts at least 2 – 6 weeks	A	No known temporary pools.
globose dune beetle	*Coelus globosus*	F = ND C = S1S2	Inhabitant of coastal sand dune habitat in foredunes and sand hummocks. It burrows beneath the sand surface and is most common beneath dune vegetation.	A	Habitat unsuitable

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status[1]	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent[2]	Rationale
monarch California overwintering population	*Danaus plexippus pop. 1*	F = ND C = S2S3	Roosts located in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby.	P	Individuals have been detected on-site by this and a previous study (City of Santa Barbara 2005). Eucalyptus stands are present in the project area, and may be utilized by wintering monarchs. There are known wintering sites in nearby Hidden Valley and at the Douglas Family Preserve (City of Santa Barbara 2005 & 2008). Nearest CNDDB record is approximately one mile east-southeast.
Special Status Fishes					
tidewater goby	*Eucyclogobius newberryi*	F = FE C = SSC, S3	Brackish water habitats in shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches. They need fairly still water with high oxygen levels.	A	City of Santa Barbara (2005) states that this species “resides year-round in the Arroyo Burro Creek estuary” just downstream from the project site. They “may travel upstream in freshwater reaches on occasion” but are prevented from entering Arroyo Burro in the project area “due to the presence of a 6 to 9 foot high concrete grade control structure at Cliff Drive” and “another 3 to 4 foot high concrete barrier is located about 500 ft upstream of Cliff Drive”
southern steelhead Southern California Distinct	Oncorhynchus (*salmo*) mykiss *irideus*	F = FE C = SSC, S1	Hatched in fresh water streams, where they spend their first 1 – 3 years of life. They then emigrate to the ocean where most of their	HP, CH	Very Low probability of occurrence. Arroyo Burro is designated critical habitat for this species, but there are no CNDDB records. City of Santa Barbara (2008) states that “No

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status[1]	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent[2]	Rationale
Population Segment (DPS)			growth occurs. After spending between 1 – 4 growing seasons in the ocean, they return to their native stream to spawn.		evidence of steelhead occurrence in Arroyo Burro Creek was found during the literature review," but that "this species may have historically occupied the stream. Although the potential does exist for some individuals of this species to enter the lagoon on occasion when stream flows are sufficient, it is considered unlikely that steelhead would currently use the stream due to the absence of suitable spawning habitat and low instream flows." City of Santa Barbara (2005) states that "The concrete apron at the downstream end of the Cliff Drive bridge represents a significant, if not impassable, barrier. A larger barrier is present about one-half mile upstream of Cliff Drive."
Special Status Amphibian					
California red-legged frog	*Rana draytonii*	F = FT C = SSC, S2S3	Prefers aquatic habitats with little or no flow. The largest densities of this species are typically associated with dense stands of overhanging willow and an intermixed fringe of sturdy emergent vegetation.	HP	Very Low probability of occurrence. Not found by previous surveys (City of Santa Barbara 2005). This species has not been documented as occurring in the general vicinity (City of Santa Barbara 2008), but suitable habitat is present and USFWS (2015b) identified this species as potentially occurring.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status[1]	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent[2]	Rationale
Special Status Reptiles					
western pond turtle	*Emys marmorata*	F = ND C = SSC, S3	Aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams & irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 6000 ft elevation. Needs basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 kilometers from water for egg-laying.	HP	Moderate probability of occurrence. Suitable habitat present. CNDDB record approximately three miles upstream in a tributary to Arroyo Burro and species has also been recorded downstream from site (City of Santa Barbara 2008).
two-striped garter snake	*Thamnophis hammondii*	F = ND C = SSC, S3S4	From sea level to about 7,000 foot elevation. Highly aquatic, found in or near permanent fresh water. Often along streams with rocky beds & riparian growth.	HP	Moderate probability of occurrence. Suitable habitat present, CNDDB record approximately four miles northwest of site.
silvery legless lizard	*Anniella pulchra pulchra*	F = ND C = SSC, S3	Sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation. Soil moisture is essential.	HP	Low probability of occurrence. No CNDDB records and undeveloped soils on-site are marginal. Watershed Environmental (2009) states that the species has been recorded in Elings Park.
Special Status Birds					
Burrowing owl	*Athene cunicularia*	F = ND C = SSC, S2	Suitable habitat throughout their breeding range typically includes open, treeless areas within grassland, steppe, and	A	Breeding populations of the species are of particular concern and there is no potential for breeding populations to occur. BSA is outside the current range

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status[1]	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent[2]	Rationale
			desert habitat. They generally inhabit gently-sloping areas, characterized by low, sparse vegetation. Species is often associated with high densities of burrowing mammals such as prairie dogs and California ground squirrels.		of breeding for the species (CDFG 2008). The BSA does not contain suitable breeding habitat due to the absence of appropriate vegetation and burrow structures. Species is known from Elings park to the south but not documented west of Las Positas Road.
California condor	*Gymnogyps californianus*	F = FE, MBTA C = SE, FP, S1	Historically permanent resident of the semi-arid, rugged mountain ranges surrounding the southern San Joaquin Valley, including the Coast Ranges from Santa Clara County south to Los Angeles County. Forages over wide areas of open rangelands, roosts on cliffs and in large trees and snags. Occurs mostly between sea-level and 2700 m (0 – 9000 ft), and nests from 610 – 1372 m. (2000 – 6500 ft). Nonbreeding individuals move north to Kern and Tulare Counties in April, often returning south in September to winter in Tehachapi Mountains, Mt. Pinos, and Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties.	A	There low to no potential for this species to occur in the BSA due to the absence of suitable nesting habitat and documented records of the species in the vicinity of the BSA.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status[1]	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent[2]	Rationale
Cooper's hawk	*Accipiter cooperii*	F = MBTA C = WL, S4	Woodland, chiefly of open, interrupted or marginal type, including suburbs.	HP	High probability of occurrence. Habitat suitable & there are CNDDB reports in the area. City of Santa Barbara (2005) states that species was “recently observed” and Watershed Environmental (2009) states that the species has been observed in Elings Park.
northern harrier	*Circus cyaneus*	F = MBTA C = SSC, S3	Coastal salt & fresh-water marsh. Nest & forage in grasslands, from salt grass in desert sink to mountain cienagas. Nests on ground in shrubby vegetation, usually at marsh edge.	A: nesting HP: foraging	Nesting habitat is absent and there are no CNDDB reports in the area, but City of Santa Barbara (2005) states that species was “perched in eucalyptus 1997” on-site and Watershed Environmental (2009) states that the species has been observed in Elings Park.
white-tailed kite	*Elanus leucurus*	F = MBTA C = FP, S3S4	Rolling foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks & river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodland. Open grasslands, meadows, or marshes for foraging close to isolated, dense-topped trees for nesting and perching.	HP	Nesting habitat is marginal and there are no CNDDB reports in the area, but City of Santa Barbara (2005) states that the species is “periodically observed foraging at site” and Watershed Environmental (2009) states that the species has been observed in Elings Park.
western snowy plover Pacific coastal population	*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*	F = FT, BCC, MBTA C = SSC, S2	Sandy beaches, salt pond levees & shores of large alkali lakes. Needs sandy, gravelly or friable soils for nesting.	A	Habitat unsuitable

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status[1]	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent[2]	Rationale
marbled murrelet CA, OR, WA populations	*Brachyramphus marmoratus*	F = FT, MBTA C = SE, S1	Marine subtidal and pelagic habitats. Nests and probably roosts in stands of mature redwood and Douglas-fir.	A	Habitat unsuitable. No CNDDB records but USFWS (2015b) identified this species as potentially occurring.
California least tern	*Sterna antillarum browni*	F = FE, MBTA C = SE, FP, S2	Breeding colonies are located along marine and estuarine shores and abandoned salt ponds. Feeds in nearby shallow, estuarine waters. After breeding can occur in lacustrine waters near coast.	A	Habitat unsuitable. No CNDDB records but USFWS (2015b) identified this species as potentially occurring.
southwestern willow flycatcher	*Empidonax traillii extimus*	F = FE, MBTA C = SE, S1	Breeds primarily in dense, willow dominated riparian communities. The closest known breeding population of this species occurs on the Santa Ynez River (City of Santa Barbara 2008).	HP	Low probability of occurrence. No CNDDB records but suitable habitat present and USFWS (2015b) identified this species as potentially occurring.
least Bell's vireo	*Vireo bellii pusillus*	F = FE, MBTA C = SE, S2	Low elevation willow riparian near water or dry river bottoms.	HP	Low probability of occurrence. No CNDDB records but suitable habitat present and USFWS (2015b) identified this species as potentially occurring.
bank swallow	*Riparia riparia*	F = MBTA C = ST, S2	Colonial nester, primarily in riparian and other lowland habitats west of the desert. Requires vertical banks/cliffs with fine-textured/sandy soils near	HP	There are historic records in the area, but CNDDB reports that the species is “considered extirpated as a breeder in southern California.” If present at all, expected only as a foraging transient during migration.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status[1]	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent[2]	Rationale
			streams, rivers, lakes, ocean to dig nesting hole.		
oak titmouse	*Baeolophus inornatus*	F = BCC, MBTA C = S4	Occurs in a variety of habitats, but primarily associated with oaks in montane hardwood-conifer, montane hardwood, blue, valley, & coastal oak woodlands, and montane & valley foothill riparian habitats in cismontane California	P	Occurs. Species observed in the BSA.
yellow warbler	*Setophaga petechia*	F = BCC, MBTA C = SSC, S3S4	Riparian plant associations in close proximity to water. Also nests in montane shrubbery in open conifer forests. Frequently found nesting and foraging in willow shrubs and thickets, and in other riparian plants including cottonwoods, sycamores, ash, and alders.	HP	Moderate probability of occurrence. No CNDDB reports in the area, but suitable habitat is present.
yellow-breasted chat	*Icteria virens*	F = MBTA C = SSC, S3	Inhabits riparian thickets of willow & other brushy tangles near watercourses. Nests in low, dense riparian, consisting of willow, blackberry, & wild grape.	HP	Moderate probability of occurrence. No CNDDB reports in the area, but suitable habitat is present.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status[1]	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent[2]	Rationale
Special Status Mammals					
Townsend's big-eared bat	*Corynorhinus townsendii*	F = ND C = SC, SSC, S2 WBWG = H	Uses a wide variety of habitats, but most common in mesic sites. Roosts in the open, hanging from walls & ceilings. Extremely sensitive to human disturbance.	HP	There is a moderate chance that this species could forage on-site. There is a CNDDB record from approximately one mile northwest. There is little or no roosting habitat, however.
Bryant's woodrat [San Diego desert woodrat]	*Neotoma byranti intermedia [Neotoma lepida intermedia]*	F = ND C = SSC, S3S4	Coastal scrub of southern California. Moderate to dense canopies preferred. Particularly abundant in rock outcrops & rocky cliffs & slopes.	HP	Low probability of occurrence. No CNDDB reports, habitat marginal, but woodrat nests, species unknown, have been reported in the immediate area (Marine Research Specialists 2012)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status[1]	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent[2]	Rationale
big free-tailed bat	*Nyctinomops macrotis*	F = ND C = SSC, S3 WBWG = M - H	Low-lying arid areas. Needs high cliffs or rocky outcrops for roosting sites.	HP	Low probability of occurrence. Foraging only, no suitable roosting habitat. CNDDB record from general area.

[1]Status

Federal designations: (F = federal Endangered Species Act or USFWS designations)

FE: Federally listed, Endangered
FT: Federally listed, Threatened
FP: Proposed for Federal listing
FC: Candidate for Federal listing
FUR: Under Review for Federal listing
BEPA: Bald Eagle Protection Act (also protects Golden Eagles)
BCC: Birds of Conservation Concern
MBTA: Migratory Bird Treaty Act
ND: No designation

State designations: (C = California Endangered Species Act or CDFW designations)

SE: State listed, Endangered
ST: State listed, Threatened
SC: Candidate for State listing
SR: State listed, Rare
FP: Fully Protected Species
SSC: Special Concern Species
WL: Watch List Species
ND: No designation

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status[1]	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present/ Absent[2]	Rationale

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) designations:
Primary Categories
LIST 1A: Plants Presumed Extirpated in California and either Rare or Extinct Elsewhere
LIST 1B: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere
LIST 2A: Plants Presumed Extirpated in California, But Common Elsewhere
LIST 2B: Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California, But More Common Elsewhere
LIST 3: Plants about Which More Information is needed – A Review List
LIST 4: Plants of Limited Distribution – A Watch List
Subdivisions within Categories
0.1: Seriously threatened in California
0.2: Moderately threatened in California
0.3: Not very threatened in California
Western Bat Working Group (WBWG) designations:
H = High: Species which are imperiled or are at high risk of imperilment based on available information on distribution, status, ecology and known threats.
M: = Medium: Species which warrant a medium level of concern and need closer evaluation, more research, and conservation actions of both the species and possible threats. A lack of meaningful information is a major obstacle in adequately assessing these species' status and should be considered a threat.
L: = Low: Species for which most of the existing data support stable populations, and for which the potential for major changes in status in the near future is considered unlikely. There may be localized concerns, but the overall status of the species is believed to be secure. Conservation actions would still apply for these bats, but limited resources are best used on High and Medium status species.
P: = Periphery: This designation indicates a species on the edge of its range, for which no other designation has been determined.
[2]Habitat Designations
Present [P] – the species is present.
Habitat Present [HP] –habitat is, or may be present. The species may be present.
Critical Habitat [CH] – project footprint is located within a designated critical habitat unit, but does not necessarily mean that appropriate habitat is present.
Absent [A] – no habitat present and no further work needed.

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Appendix C List of Species Observed in the BSA

Family	Scientific Name[1]	Common Name
Plants: Conifers		
CUPRESSACEAE	*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*	Monterey cypress
PINACEAE	*Pinus* sp.	pine
Plants: Dicots		
ADOXACEAE	*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*	Blue elderberry
AMARANTHACEAE	*Amaranthus* sp.	pigweed
ANACARDIACEAE	*Malosma laurina*	laurel sumac
	Rhus integrifolia	lemonadeberry
	Toxicodendron diversilobum	poison oak
APIACEAE	**Foeniculum vulgare*	fennel
APOCYNACEAE	*Funastrum cynanchoides* var. *hartwegii*	climbing milkweed
ARACEAE	*Lemna* sp.	duckweed
ARALIACEAE	**Hedera* sp.	ivy
ASTERACEAE	*Artemisa californica*	California sagebrush
	Artemisa douglasiana	mugwort
	Baccharis pilularis var. *consanguinea*	Coyote brush
	**Cirsium vulgare*	bull thistle
	**Delairea odorata*	German ivy
	Erigeron canadensis	horseweed
	Gnaphalium palustre	cudweed
	Heterotheca grandiflora	Telegraphweed
	Isocoma menziesii	coastal goldenbush
	Pseudognaphalium californicum	California everlasting
	**Sonchus asper* ssp. *asper*	prickly sow thistle
	**Sonchus oleraceus*	common sow thistle
	Stephanomeria sp.	wire-lettuce
	**Taraxacum officinale*	common dandelion
	Xanthium strumarium	cocklebur
BORAGINACEAE	*Heliotropium curassavicum* var. *oculatum*	seaside heliotrope
BRASSICACEAE	**Brassica nigra*	black mustard
	**Hirschfeldia incana*	Mediterranean mustard
	**Nasturtium officinale*	watercress
CAPRIFOLIACEAE	*Symphoricarpos mollis*	snowberry
CHENOPODIACEAE	*Chenopodium* sp.	Goosefoot
	**Salsola tragus*	Russian thistle
CLEOMACEAE	*Peritoma arborea*	Bladderpod
CONVOLVULACEAE	*Calystegia macrostegia* ssp. *cyclostegia*	coastal morning-glory
	**Convolvulus arvensis*	Bindweed
CORNACEAE	*Cornus* sp.	Dogwood
EQUISETACEAE	*Equisetum* sp.	Horsetail
EUPHORBIACEAE	**Euphorbia maculata*	spotted spurge

Family	Scientific Name[1]	Common Name
	**Ricinus communis*	Castor bean
FABACEAE	*Acmispon glaber*	Deerweed
	**Melilotus albus*	white sweetclover
	*cf *Robinia pseudoacacia*	black locust
FAGACEAE	*Quercus agrifolia*	coast live oak
GERANIACEAE	**Erodium botrys*	broad-leaved filaree
	**Erodium cicutarium*	redstem filaree
JUGLANDACEAE	*Juglans* sp.	Walnut
LAMIACEAE	*Salvia spathacea*	hummingbird sage
MALVACEAE	*Malocothamnus fasciculatus*	chaparral mallow
	**Malva parviflora*	Cheeseweed
MORACEAE	**Ficus carica*	edible fig
MYRTACEAE	**Eucalyptus globulus*	blue gum eucalyptus
	**Eucalyptus camaldulensis*	weeping red gum
OLEACEAE	*Fraxinus latifolia*	Oregon ash
	**Olea europaea*	Olive
ONAGRACEAE	*Clarkia purpurea*	winecup clarkia
	Epilobium ciliatum	Willowherb
PLANTAGINACEAE	**Plantago lanceolate*	english plantain
	Veronica anagallis-aquatica	water speedwell
PLATANACEAE	*Platanus racemosa*	western (California) sycamore
POLYGONACEAE	**Polygonum aviculare*	Knotweed
PORTULACACEAE	**Portulaca oleracea*	Purslane
RANUNCULACEAE	*Clematis* sp.	virgin's bower
ROSACEAE	*Heteromeles arbutifolia*	Toyon
	Rosa californica	California rose
	Rubus ursinus	California blackberry
SALICACEAE	*Salix lasiolepis*	arroyo willow
SAPINDACEAE	**Cupaniopsis anacardioides*	Carrotwood
SOLANACEAE	*Datura* cf. *wrightii*	jimson weed
ZYGOPHYLLACEAE	**Tribulus terrestris*	puncture vine
AGAVACEAE	**Yucca* cf. *elephantipes*	giant yucca
Plants: Monocots		
ARECACEAE	**Phoenix canariensis*	Canary Island palm
	**Washingtonia robusta*	Mexican fan palm
CYPERACEAE	*Cyperus eragrostis*	umbrella sedge
	Schoenoplectus californicus	southern bulrush
	Schoenoplectus pungens var. *longispicatus*	common three-square bulrush
JUNCACEAE	*Juncus* sp.	rush
POACEAE	**Arundo donax*	giant reed
	**Avena fatua*	wild oat
	**Bromus diandrus*	ripgut brome
	**Cynodon dactylon*	bermudagrass
	**Hordeum murinum*	Foxtail
	Elymus condensatus	giant wild-rye
	**Pennisetum setaceum*	crimson fountain grass
	**Polypogon monspeliensis*	rabbitsfoot grass
	**Stipa miliacea* var. *miliacea*	smilo grass
TYPHACEAE	*Typha latifolia*	broad-leaved cattail
Animals: Mammals		
CRICETIDAE	*Neotoma macrotis macrotis*	San Diego big-eared woodrat

Family	Scientific Name[1]	Common Name
Animals: Reptiles		
PHRYNOSOMATIDAE	*Uta stansburiana*	side-blotched lizard
	Sceloporus occidentalis	western fence lizard
Animals: Birds		
CATHARTIDAE	*Cathartes aura*	turkey vulture
COLUMBIDAE	**Columba livia*	rock pigeon
TROCHILIDAE	*Calypte anna*	Anna's hummingbird
PICIDAE	*Melanerpes formicivorus*	acorn woodpecker
TYRANNIDAE	*Sayornis nigricans*	black phoebe
	Sayornis saya	Say's phoebe
CORVIDAE	*Aphelocoma californica*	western scrub-jay
	Corvus brachyrhynchos	American crow
PARIDAE	*†Baeolophus inornatus*	oak titmouse
AEGITHALIDAE	*Psaltriparus minimus*	Bushtit
TROGLODYTIDAE	*Troglodytes aedon*	house wren
POLIOPTILIDAE	*Polioptila caerulea*	blue-gray gnatcatcher
REGULIDAE	*Regulus calendula*	ruby-crowned kinglet
SYLVIIDAE	*Chamaea fasciata*	Wrentit
MIMIDAE	*Toxostoma redivivum*	California thrasher
PARULIDAE	*Oreothlypis celata*	orange-crowned warbler
	Setophaga coronata	yellow-rumped warbler
	Setophaga townsendi	Townsend's warbler
EMBERIZIDAE	*Pipilo maculatus*	spotted towhee
	Melozone crissalis	California towhee
	Melospiza melodia	song sparrow
	Zonotrichia leucophrys	white-crowned sparrow
FRINGILLIDAE	*Haemorhous mexicanus*	house finch
	Spinus psaltria	lesser goldfinch

[1] Codes are defined as follows:
†= special status species,
* = non-native species,
sp. = identified only to genus,
cf= compares favorably with

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Appendix D Photographs of the BSA

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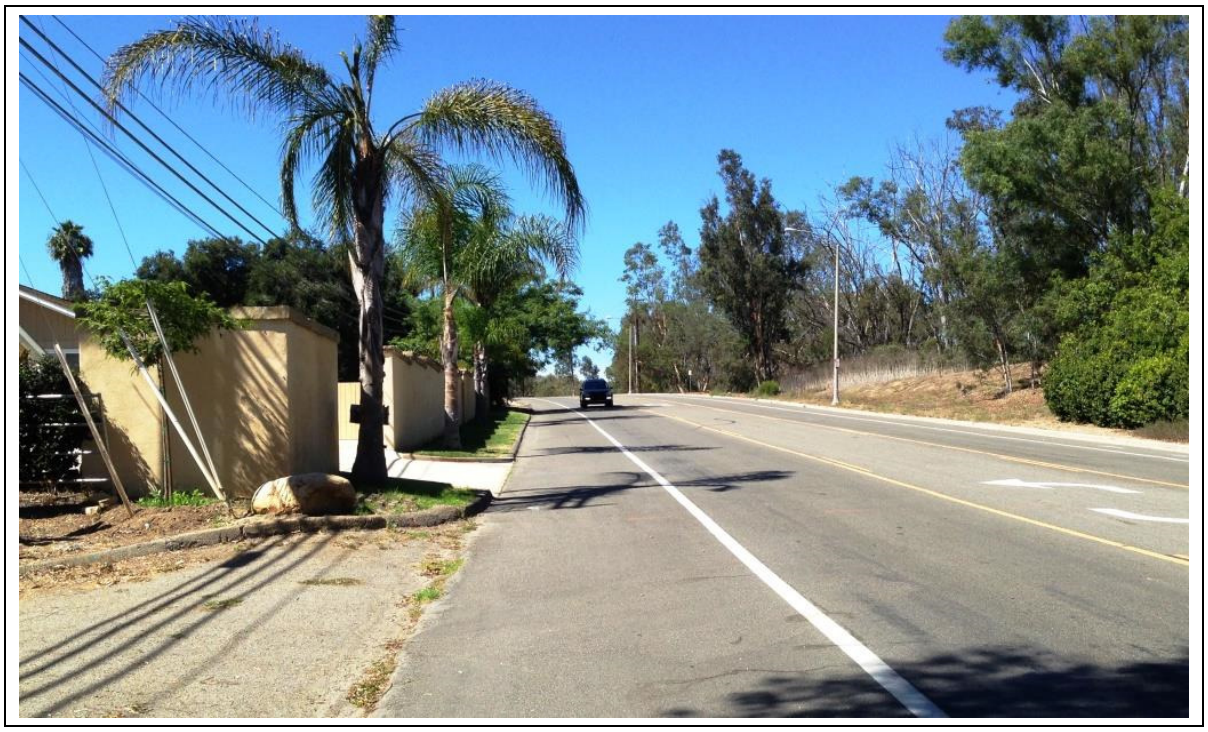
LAS POSITAS MULTI-USE PATH PROJECT
SITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Photograph No. 1

Facing east at the northwest terminus of the project at Calle de Los Amigos and Modoc Road.



Photograph No. 2

Typical conditions along Modoc Road. Residential development and planted trees.

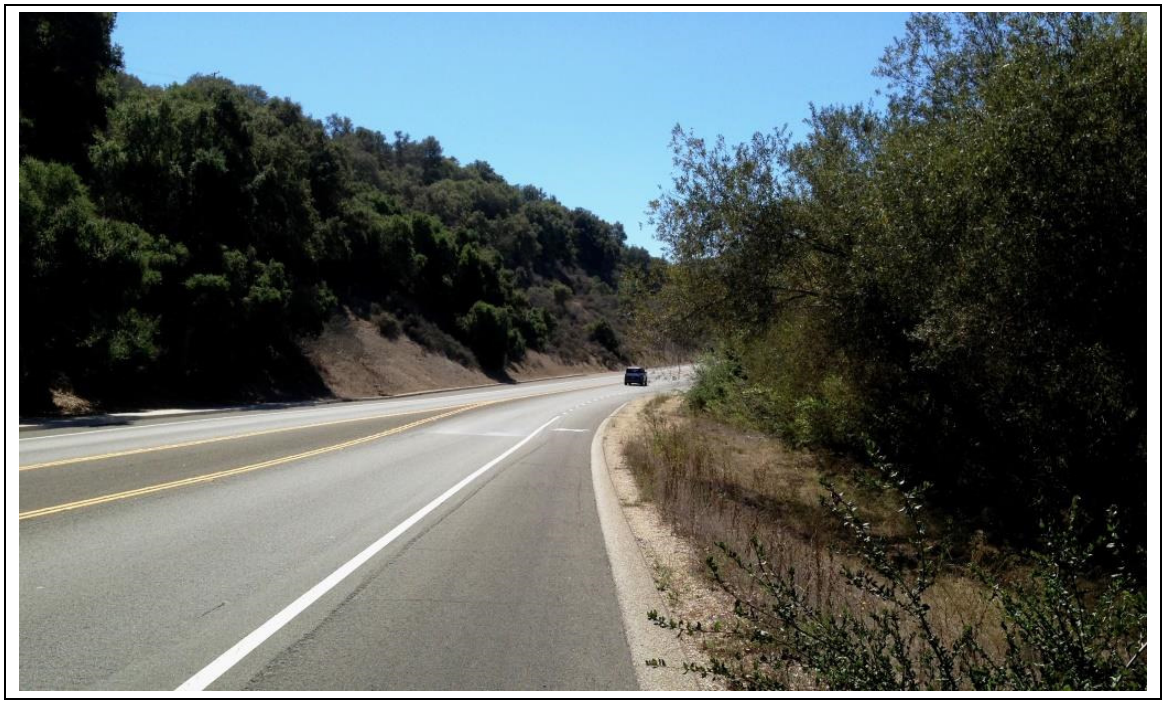
Amec Foster Wheeler Project No. 1555100023	Prepared By: John Green and Nick Ricono	amec foster wheeler

Photograph No. 3

Facing west, showing eucalyptus dominated area adjacent to the pullout at the southwest corner of Las Positas and Modoc Roads.

Photograph No. 4

Wetlands within willow and ash riparian canopy of Las Positas Creek.



Photograph No. 5

Looking south along Las Positas Road. Willow riparian in Las Positas Creek on the right (west) and coast live oak woodland slopes on the left (east).

Photograph No. 6

Facing north at the Veronica Springs Rd. and Las Positas Rd. intersection. Residential development visible along the western edge of Las Positas Rd. and the channelized portion of Las Positas Creek visible in the lower left corner.

Photograph No. 7

Facing southwest, looking at roadside wetlands along the eastern edge of Las Positas Rd.

Photograph No. 8

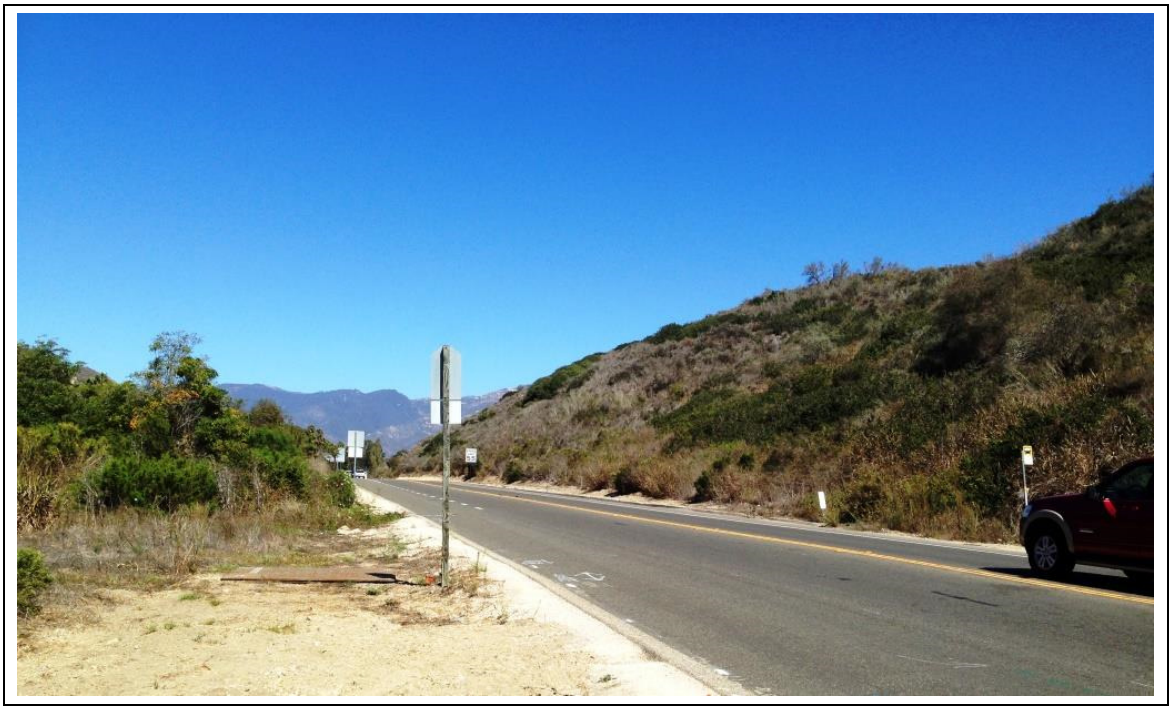
Facing southwest, showing the wetland habitat and willow riparian community within perennial waters of Arroyo Burro Creek.

Photograph No. 9

View from Las Pasitas Rd. northwest, showing the coastal sage scrub and chaparral communities between Las Positas Road (at right edge of photo) and the Arroyo Burro Creek willow riparian community (background).

Photograph No. 10

Looking south along Las Positas Rd. from the entrance to Elings Park.



Photograph No. 11

Looking north along Las Positas Rd. View includes ruderal roadside vegetation and native chaparral/coastal sage scrub.

Photograph No. 12

Looking southwest towards the south end of the BSA, the corner of Las Positas Rd. and Cliff Dr.

Appendix E Official USFWS Species List

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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
2493 PORTOLA ROAD, SUITE B
VENTURA, CA 93003
PHONE: (805)644-1766 FAX: (805)644-3958

Consultation Code: 08EVEN00-2016-SLI-0045 October 28, 2015
Event Code: 08EVEN00-2016-E-00098
Project Name: Las Positas Road Multi-Use Path

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location, and/or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed list identifies species listed as threatened and endangered, species proposed for listing as threatened or endangered, designated and proposed critical habitat, and species that are candidates for listing that may occur within the boundary of the area you have indicated using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Information Planning and Conservation System (IPaC). The species list fulfills the requirements under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the species list should be verified after 90 days. We recommend that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists following the same process you used to receive the enclosed list. Please include the Consultation Tracking Number in the header of this letter with any correspondence about the species list.

Due to staff shortages and excessive workload, we are unable to provide an official list more specific to your area. Numerous other sources of information are available for you to narrow the list to the habitats and conditions of the site in which you are interested. For example, we recommend conducting a biological site assessment or surveys for plants and animals that could help refine the list.

If a Federal agency is involved in the project, that agency has the responsibility to review its proposed activities and determine whether any listed species may be affected. If the project is a major construction project*, the Federal agency has the responsibility to prepare a biological assessment to make a determination of the effects of the action on the listed species or critical habitat. If the Federal agency determines that a listed species or critical habitat is likely to be adversely affected, it should request, in writing through our office, formal consultation pursuant to section 7 of the Act. Informal consultation may be used to exchange information and resolve

conflicts with respect to threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat prior to a written request for formal consultation. During this review process, the Federal agency may engage in planning efforts but may not make any irreversible commitment of resources. Such a commitment could constitute a violation of section 7(d) of the Act.

Federal agencies are required to confer with the Service, pursuant to section 7(a)(4) of the Act, when an agency action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat (50 CFR 402.10(a)). A request for formal conference must be in writing and should include the same information that would be provided for a request for formal consultation. Conferences can also include discussions between the Service and the Federal agency to identify and resolve potential conflicts between an action and proposed species or proposed critical habitat early in the decision-making process. The Service recommends ways to minimize or avoid adverse effects of the action. These recommendations are advisory because the jeopardy prohibition of section 7(a)(2) of the Act does not apply until the species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated. The conference process fulfills the need to inform Federal agencies of possible steps that an agency might take at an early stage to adjust its actions to avoid jeopardizing a proposed species.

When a proposed species or proposed critical habitat may be affected by an action, the lead Federal agency may elect to enter into formal conference with the Service even if the action is not likely to jeopardize or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat. If the proposed species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated after completion of the conference, the Federal agency may ask the Service, in writing, to confirm the conference as a formal consultation. If the Service reviews the proposed action and finds that no significant changes in the action as planned or in the information used during the conference have occurred, the Service will confirm the conference as a formal consultation on the project and no further section 7 consultation will be necessary. Use of the formal conference process in this manner can prevent delays in the event the proposed species is listed or the proposed critical habitat is designated during project development or implementation.

Candidate species are those species presently under review by the Service for consideration for Federal listing. Candidate species should be considered in the planning process because they may become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion. Preparation of a biological assessment, as described in section 7(c) of the Act, is not required for candidate species. If early evaluation of your project indicates that it is likely to affect a candidate species, you may wish to request technical assistance from this office.

Only listed species receive protection under the Act. However, sensitive species should be considered in the planning process in the event they become listed or proposed for listing prior to project completion. We recommend that you review information in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Diversity Data Base. You can contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at (916) 324-3812 for information on other sensitive species that may occur in this area.

[*A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)

(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.]

Attachment

United States Department of Interior
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project name: Las Positas Road Multi-Use Path

Official Species List

Provided by:

Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
2493 PORTOLA ROAD, SUITE B
VENTURA, CA 93003
(805) 644-1766

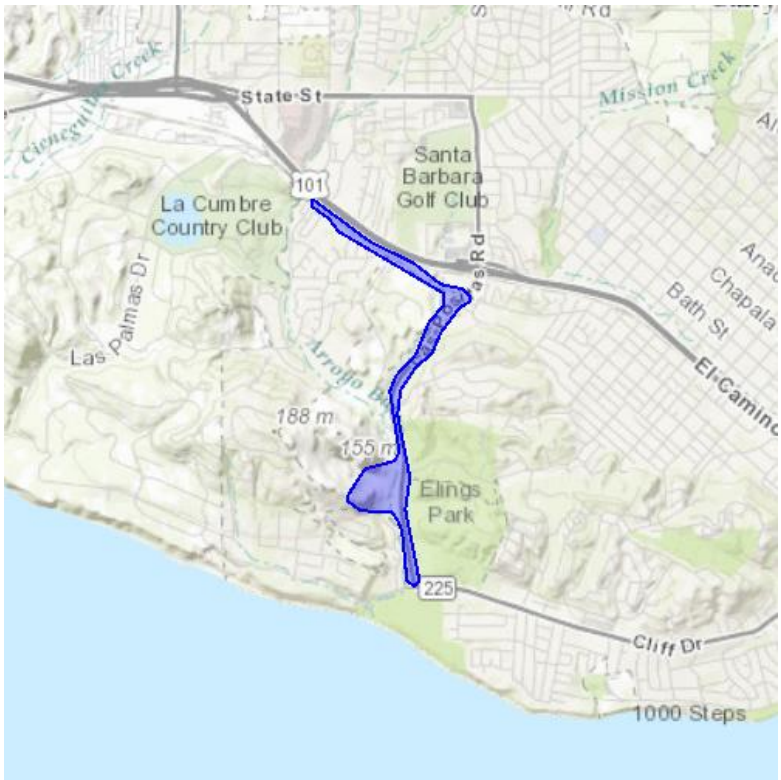
Consultation Code: 08EVEN00-2016-SLI-0045
Event Code: 08EVEN00-2016-E-00098

Project Type: RECREATION CONSTRUCTION / MAINTENANCE

Project Name: Las Positas Road Multi-Use Path
Project Description: Proposed singular multi-use path along Las Positas Road from Cliff Drive north to Modoc Road and west along Modoc Road to the Santa Barbara city limits near Las Palmas Drive. Rough drawing attached.

Please Note: The FWS office may have modified the Project Name and/or Project Description, so it may be different from what was submitted in your previous request. If the Consultation Code matches, the FWS considers this to be the same project. Contact the office in the 'Provided by' section of your previous Official Species list if you have any questions or concerns.

Project Location Map:



Project Coordinates: The coordinates are too numerous to display here.

Project Counties: Santa Barbara, CA

Endangered Species Act Species List

There are a total of 12 threatened or endangered species on your species list. Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species. Critical habitats listed under the **Has Critical Habitat** column may or may not lie within your project area. See the **Critical habitats within your project area** section further below for critical habitat that lies within your project. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

Amphibians	**Status**	**Has Critical Habitat**	**Condition(s)**
California red-legged frog *(Rana draytonii)* Population: Entire	Threatened	Final designated	
Birds			
California Least tern *(Sterna antillarum browni)*	Endangered		
California condor *(Gymnogyps californianus)* Population: Entire, except where listed as an experimental population	Endangered	Final designated	
Least Bell's vireo *(Vireo bellii pusillus)* Population: Entire	Endangered	Final designated	
Marbled murrelet *(Brachyramphus marmoratus)* Population: CA, OR, WA	Threatened	Final designated	
Southwestern Willow flycatcher *(Empidonax traillii extimus)* Population: Entire	Endangered	Final designated	

western snowy plover *(Charadrius nivosus ssp. nivosus)* Population: Pacific coastal pop.	Threatened	Final designated	
Crustaceans			
Vernal Pool fairy shrimp *(Branchinecta lynchi)* Population: Entire	Threatened	Final designated	
Fishes			
Tidewater goby *(Eucyclogobius newberryi)* Population: Entire	Endangered	Final designated	
Flowering Plants			
Gambel's watercress *(Rorippa gambellii)*	Endangered		
Marsh Sandwort *(Arenaria paludicola)*	Endangered		
Salt Marsh bird's-beak *(Cordylanthus maritimus ssp. maritimus)*	Endangered		

Critical habitats that lie within your project area

There are no critical habitats within your project area.

Appendix F JD Waters on Plan Set

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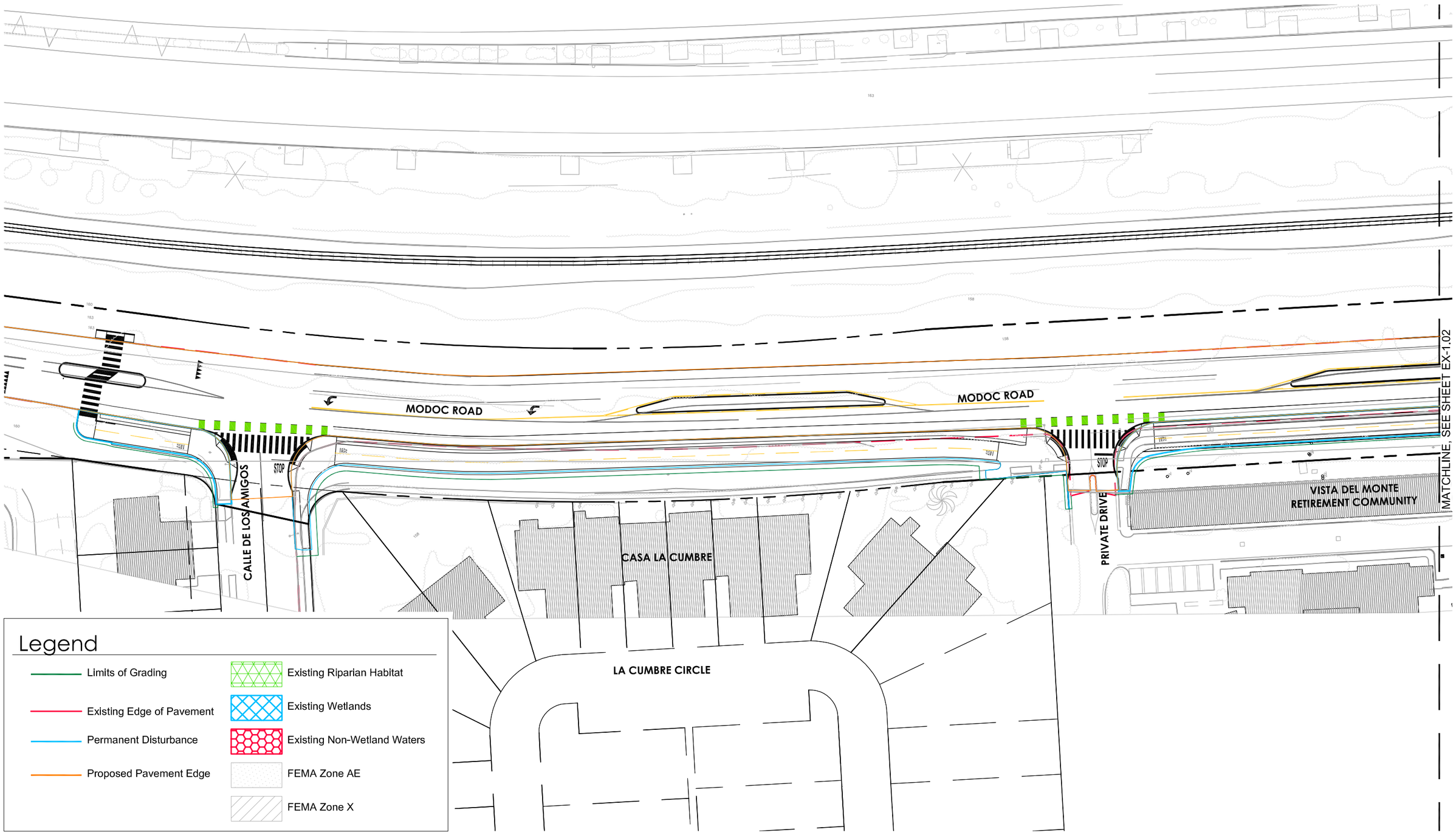

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Schematic Trail Layout

May 2016

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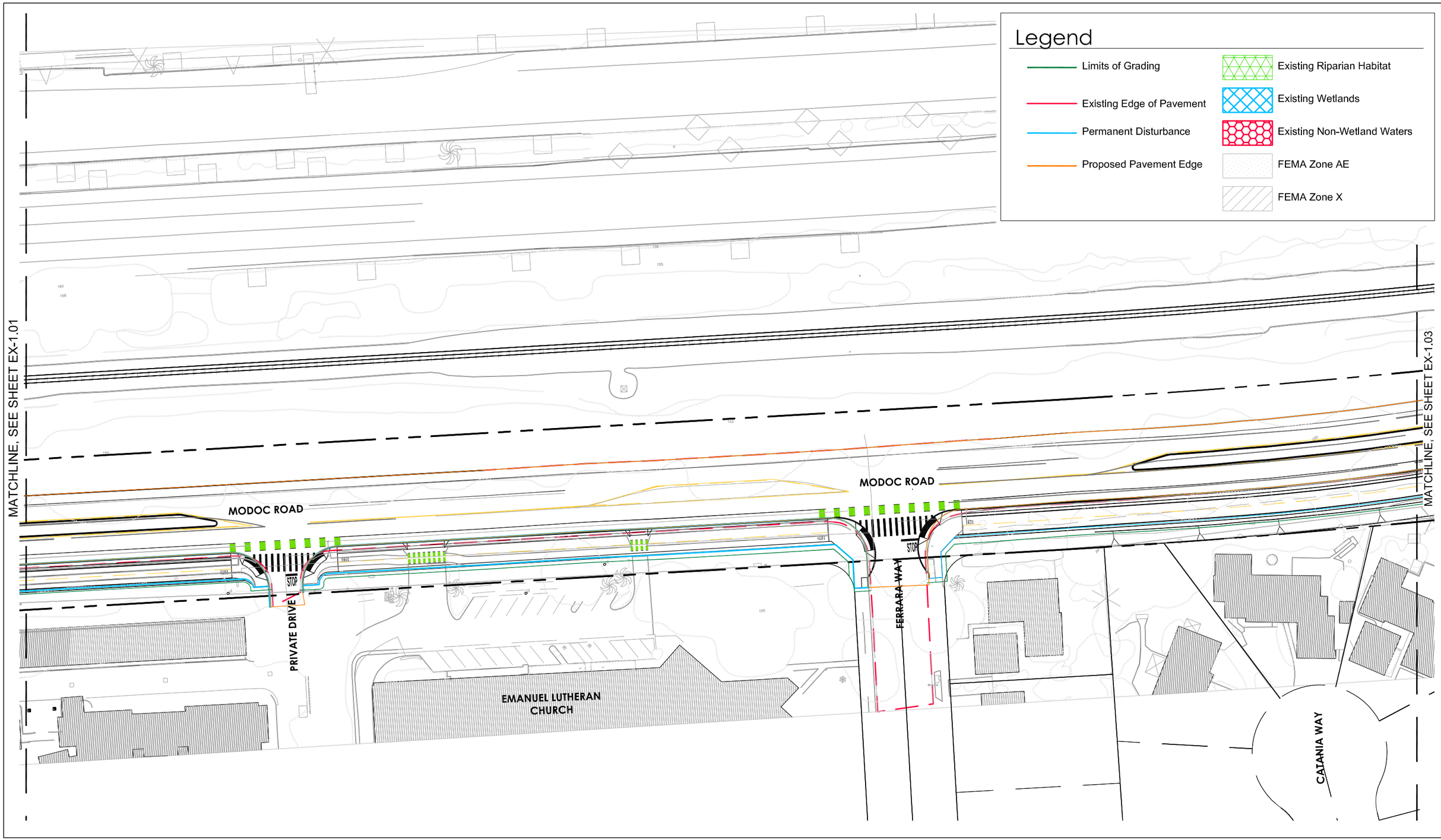

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Schematic Trail Layout

May 2016

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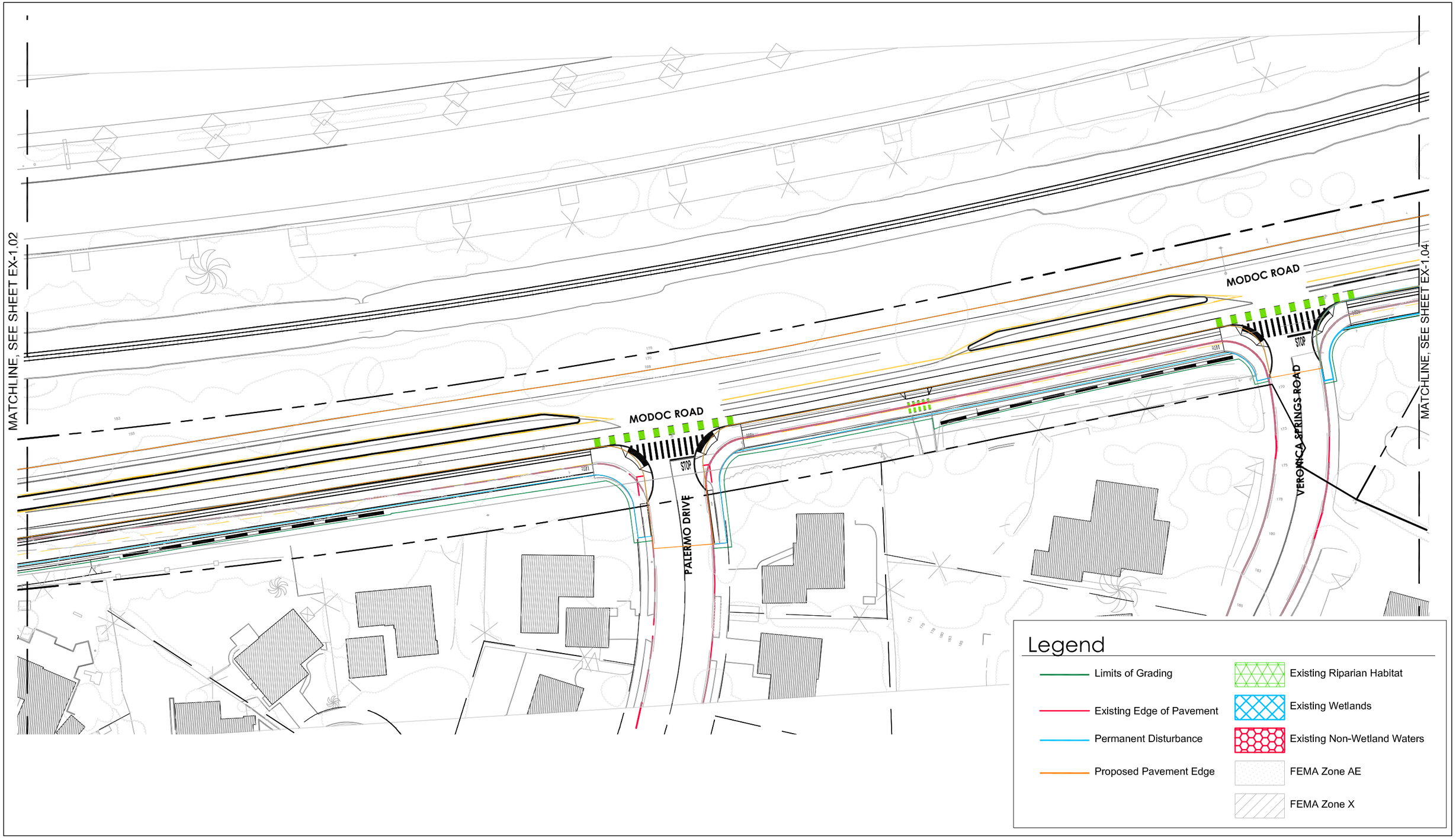

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Schematic Trail Layout

May 2016

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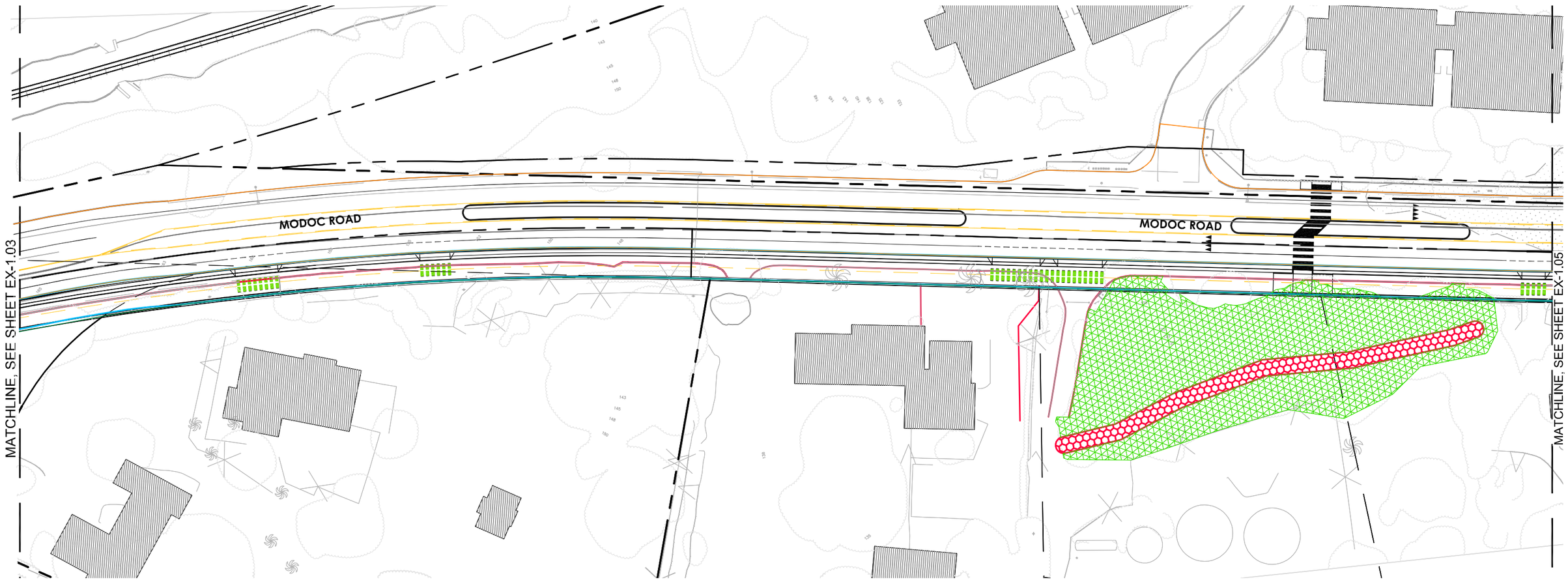

Legend

- Limits of Grading
- Existing Edge of Pavement
- Permanent Disturbance
- Proposed Pavement Edge
- Existing Riparian Habitat
- Existing Wetlands
- Existing Non-Wetland Waters
- FEMA Zone AE
- FEMA Zone X

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Schematic Trail Layout

May 2016

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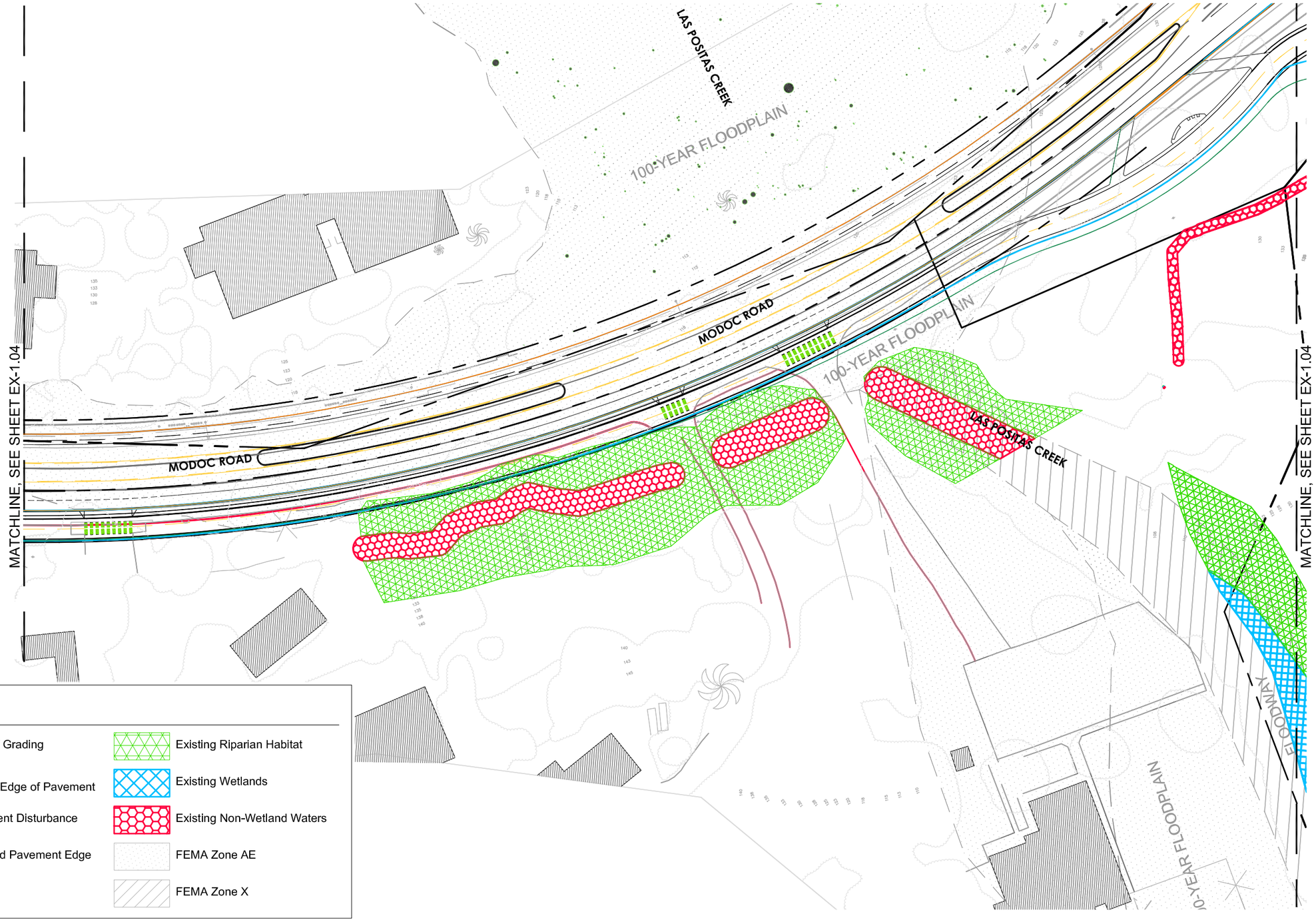

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Schematic Trail Layout

May 2016

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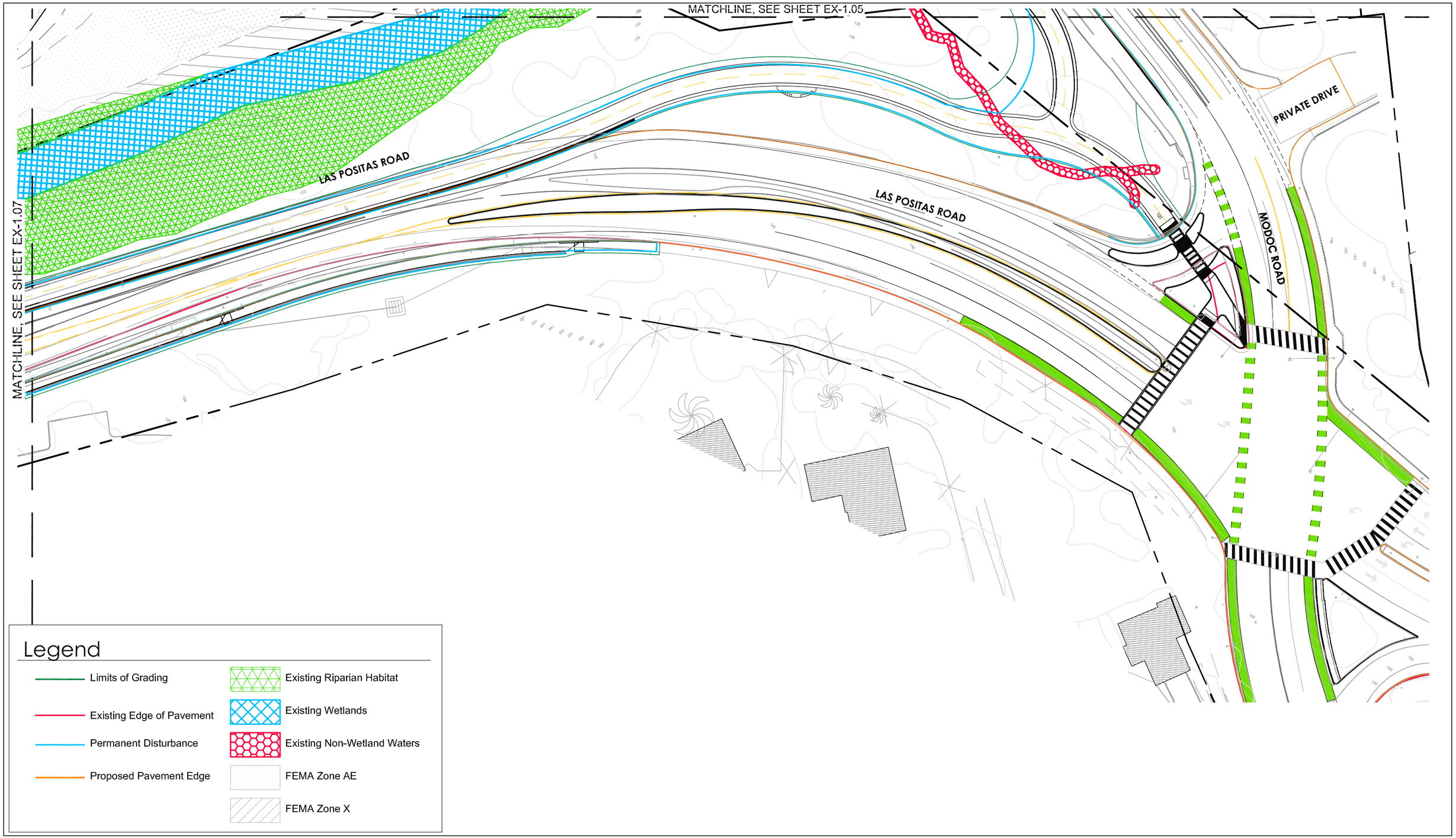

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Schematic Trail Layout

May 2016

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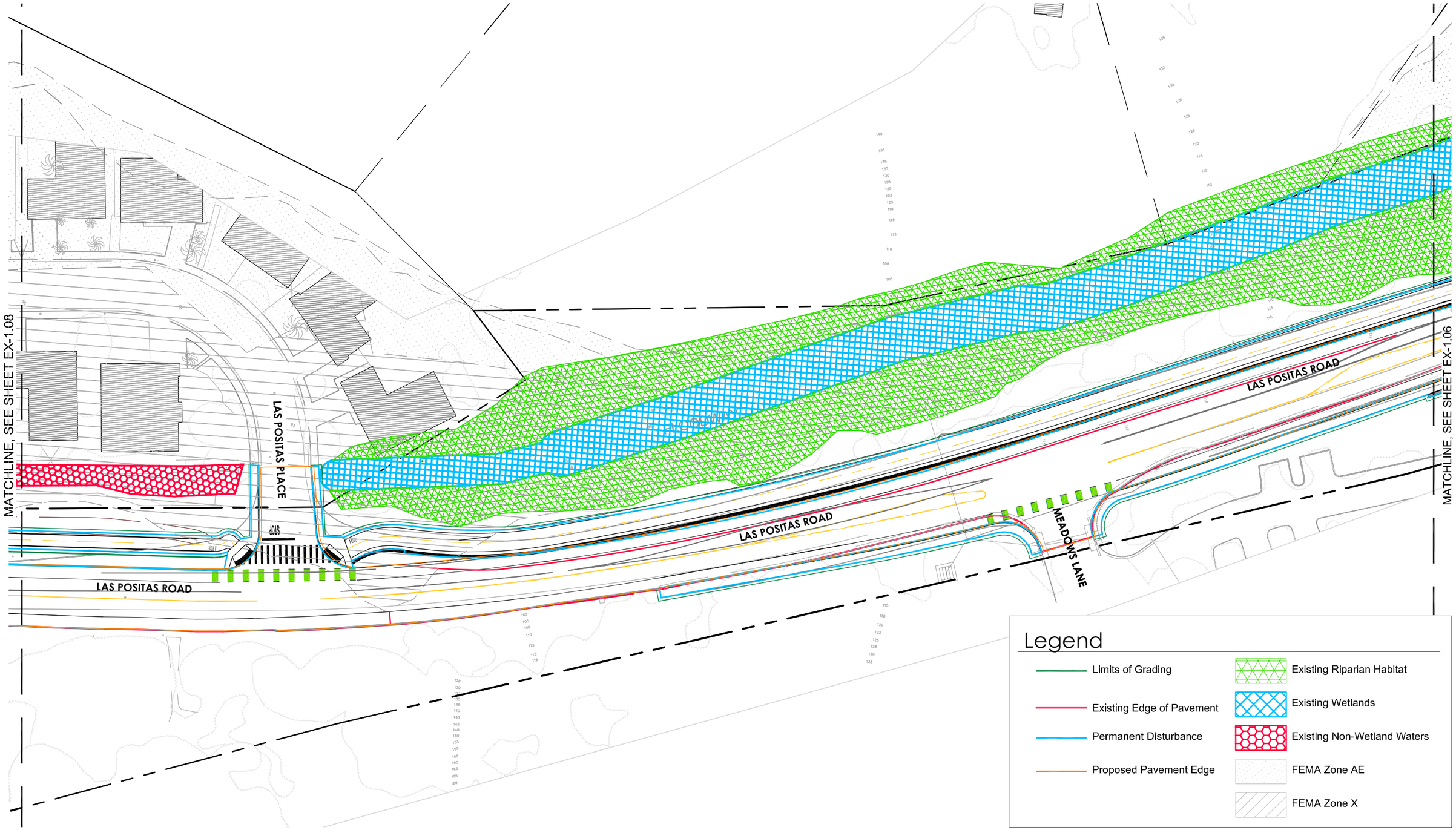

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Schematic Trail Layout

May 2016

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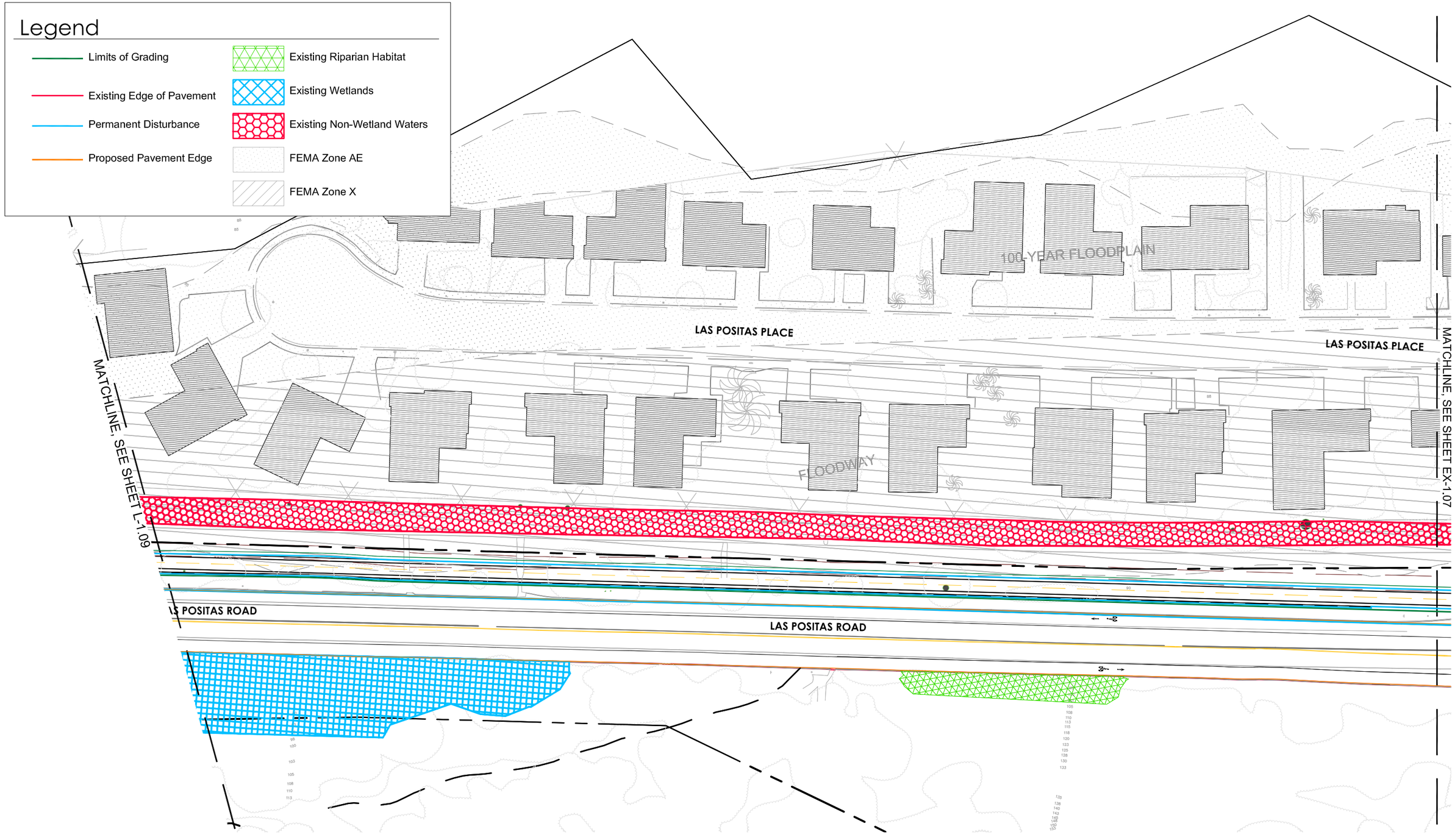

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Schematic Trail Layout

May 2016

EX-1.08

VERONICA PLACE

VERONICA PLACE

100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

FLOODWAY

LAS POSITAS ROAD

LAS POSITAS ROAD

LAS

MATCHLINE, SEE SHEET EX-1.08

MATCHLINE, SEE SHEET EX-1.10

Legend

- Limits of Grading
- Existing Edge of Pavement
- Permanent Disturbance
- Proposed Pavement Edge
- Existing Riparian Habitat
- Existing Wetlands
- Existing Non-Wetland Waters
- FEMA Zone AE
- FEMA Zone X

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Schematic Trail Layout

May 2016

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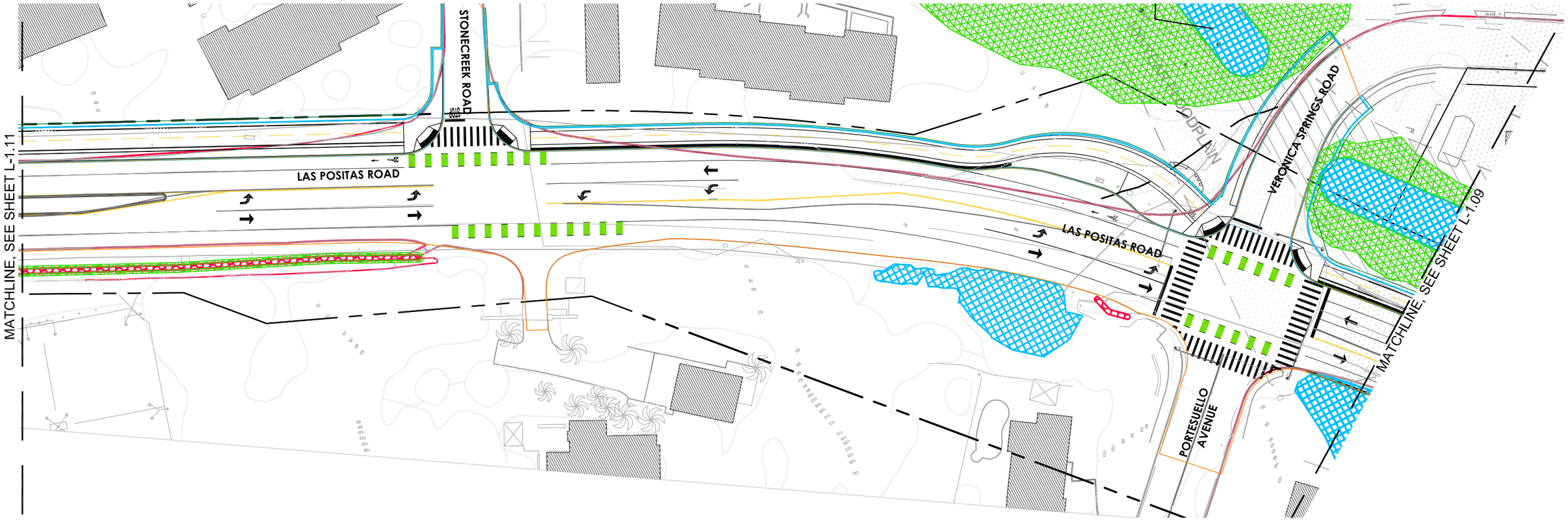

Legend

- Limits of Grading
- Existing Edge of Pavement
- Permanent Disturbance
- Proposed Pavement Edge
- Existing Riparian Habitat
- Existing Wetlands
- Existing Non-Wetland Waters
- FEMA Zone AE
- FEMA Zone X

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Schematic Trail Layout

May 2016

EX-1.10

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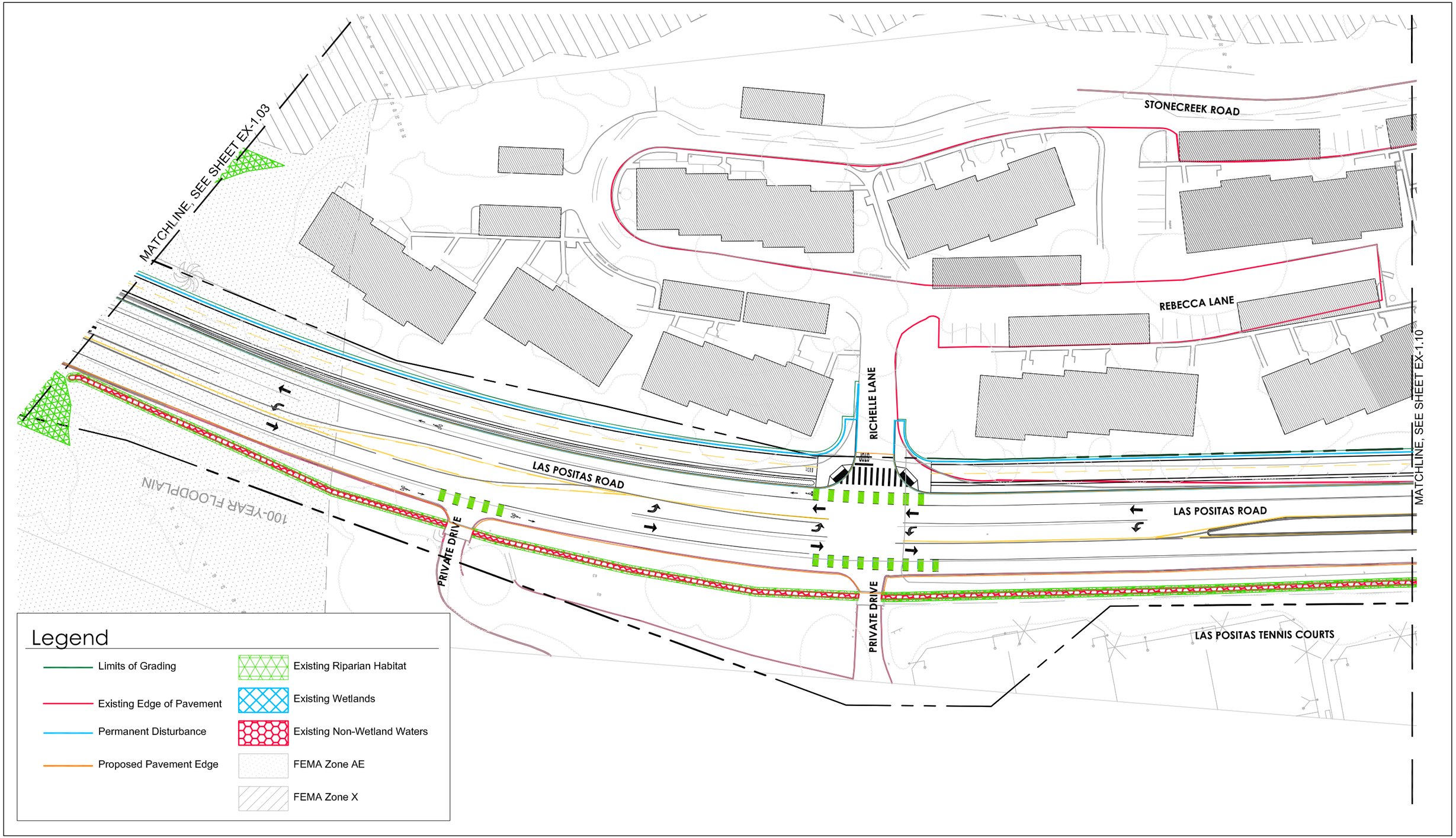

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Schematic Trail Layout

May 2016

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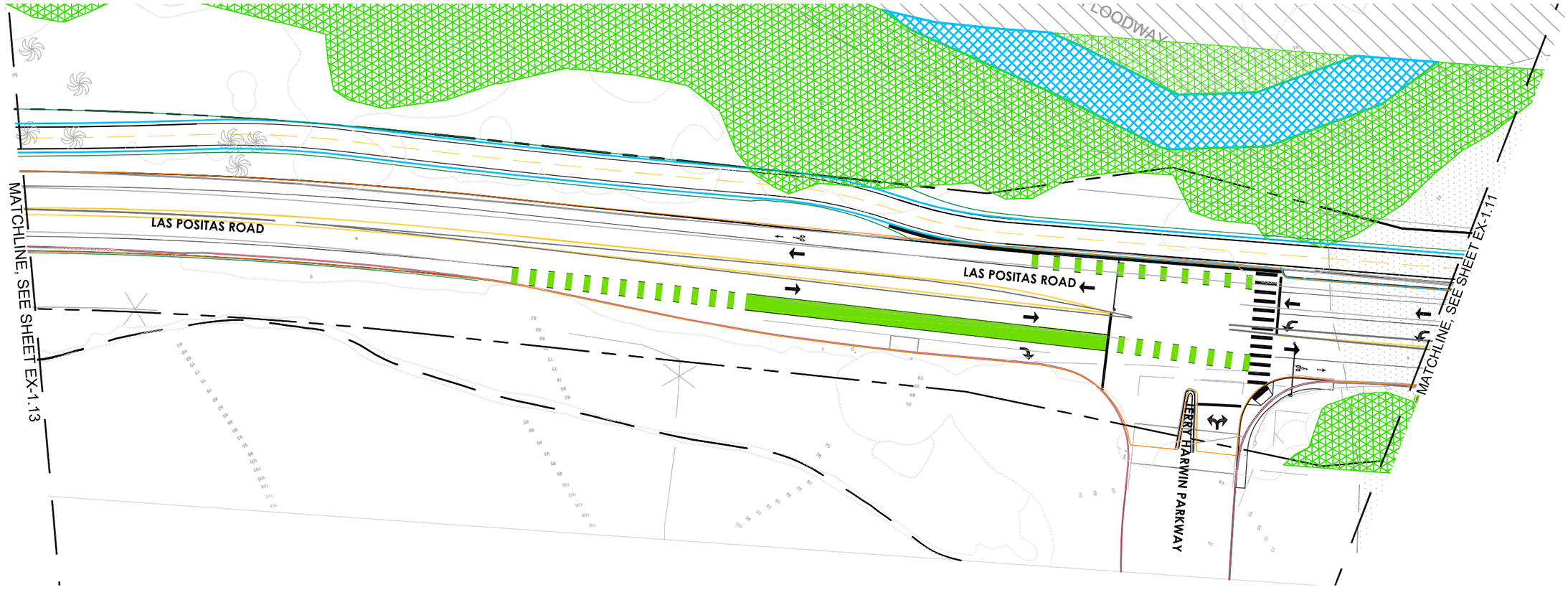

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- Limits of Grading
- Existing Edge of Pavement
- Permanent Disturbance
- Proposed Pavement Edge
- Existing Riparian Habitat
- Existing Wetlands
- Existing Non-Wetland Waters
- FEMA Zone AE
- FEMA Zone X

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Schematic Trail Layout

May 2016

EX-1.12

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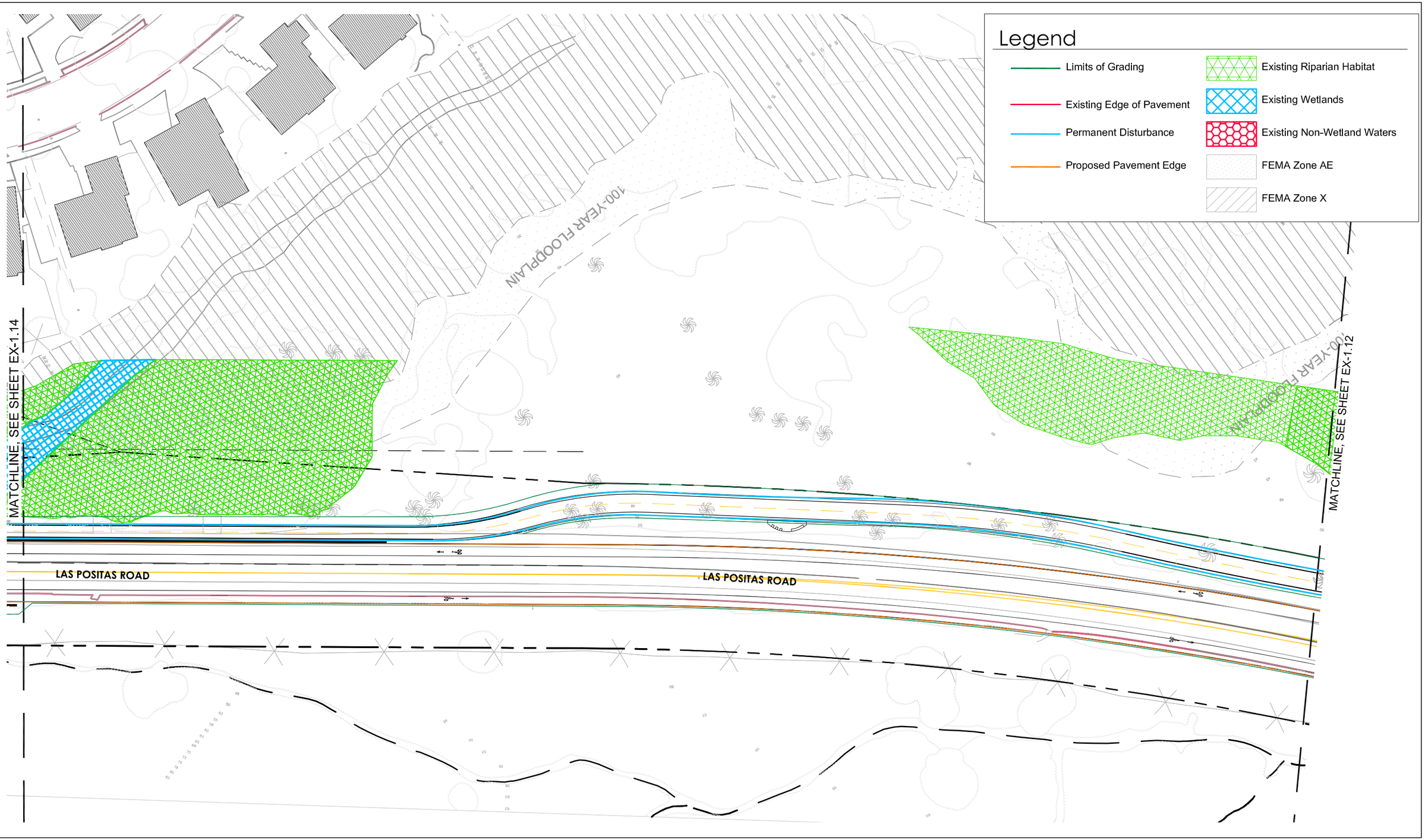

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Schematic Trail Layout

May 2016

EX-1.13

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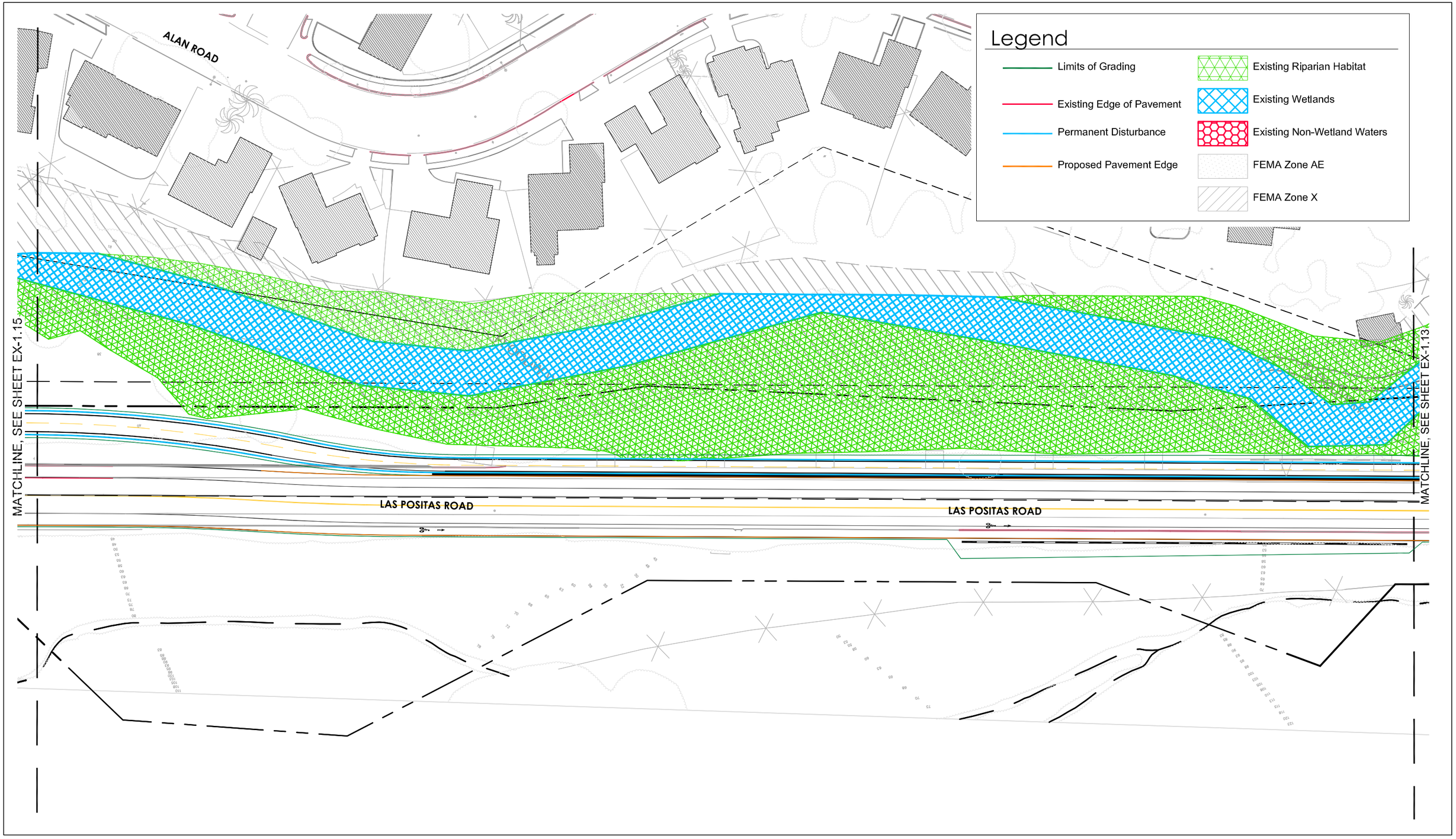

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Schematic Trail Layout

May 2016

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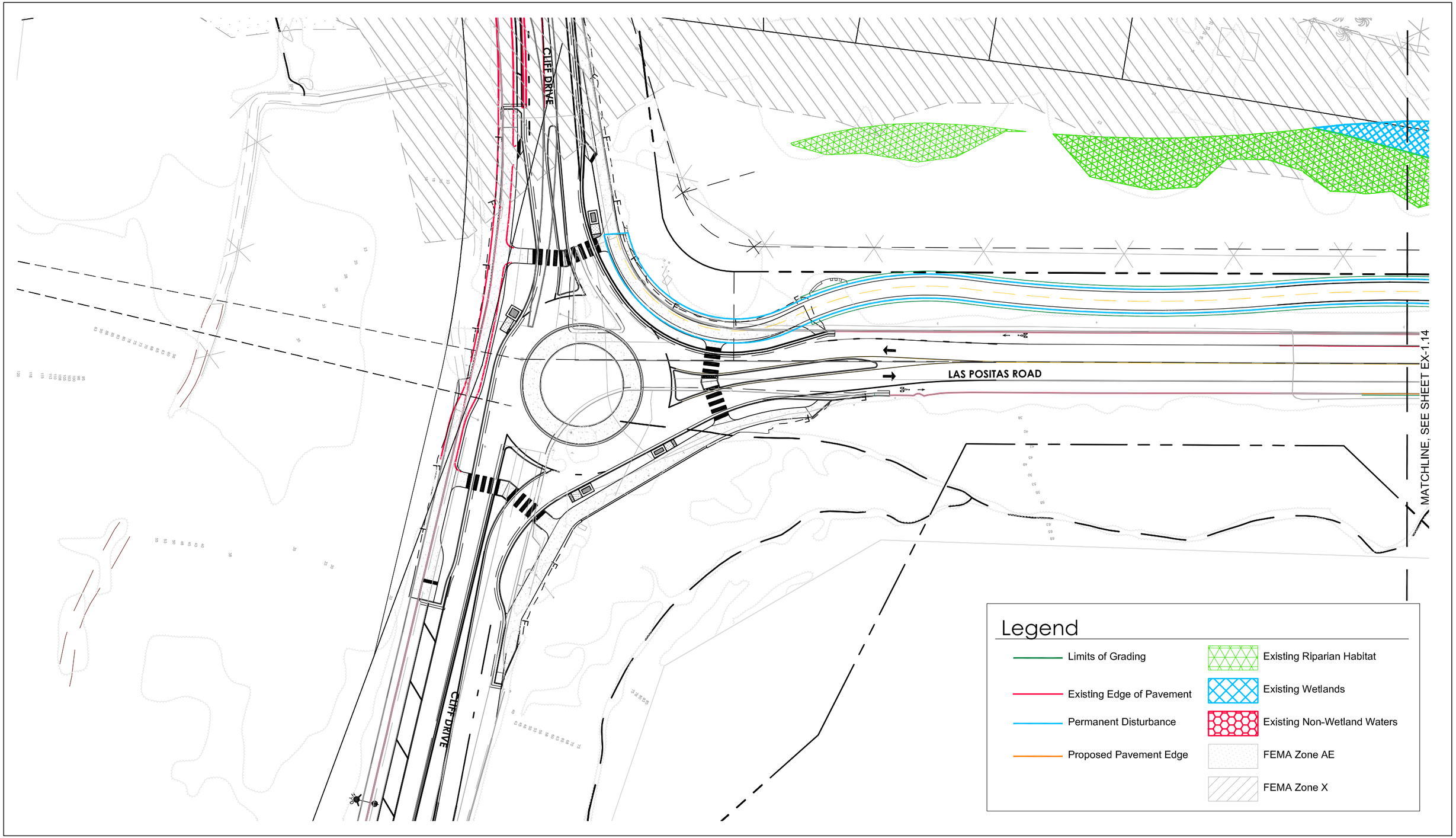

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Schematic Trail Layout

May 2016

EX-1.15

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