
CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

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W13a

5-17-0506-A1 (SCE)

FEBRUARY 10, 2021

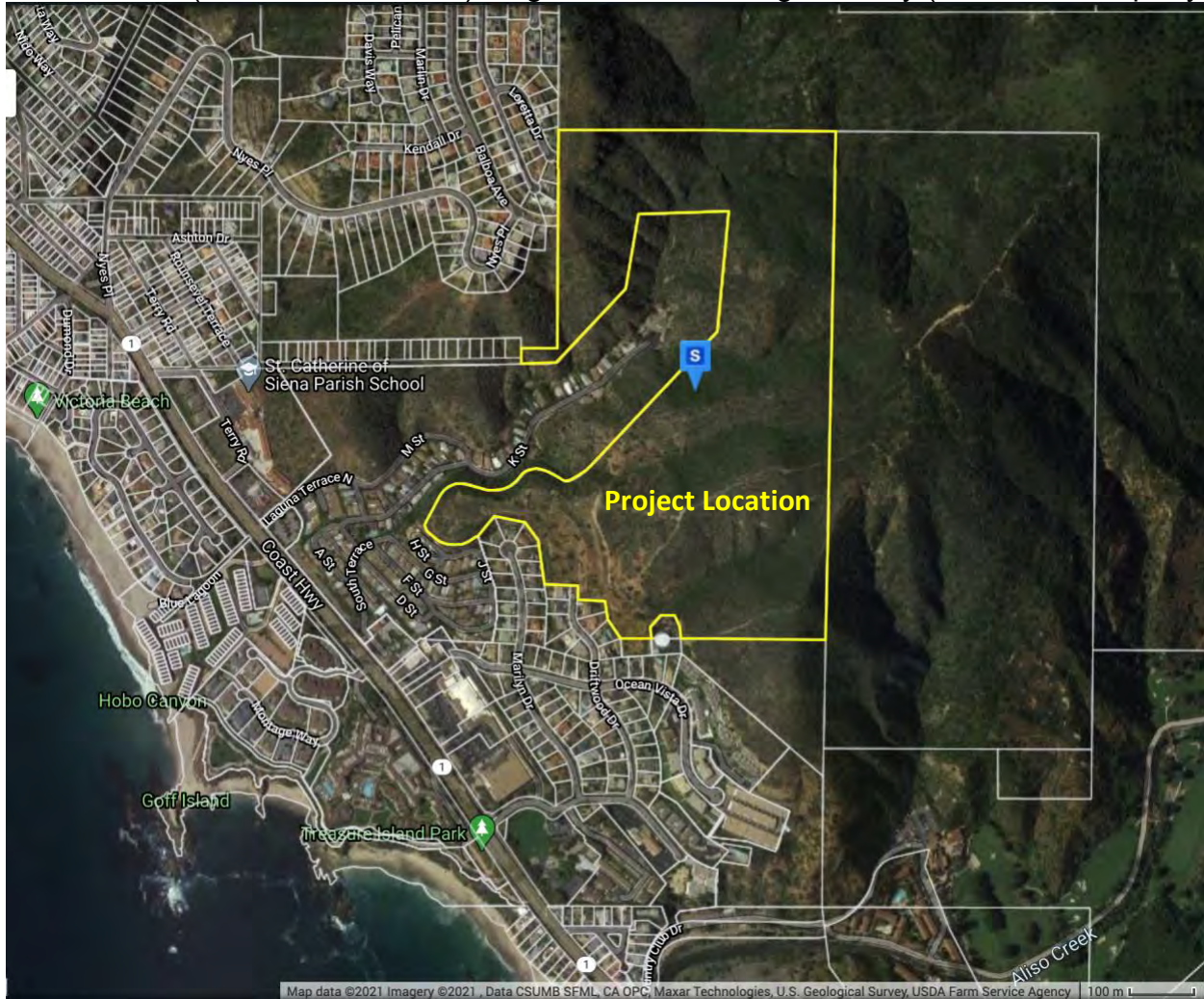
EXHIBITS

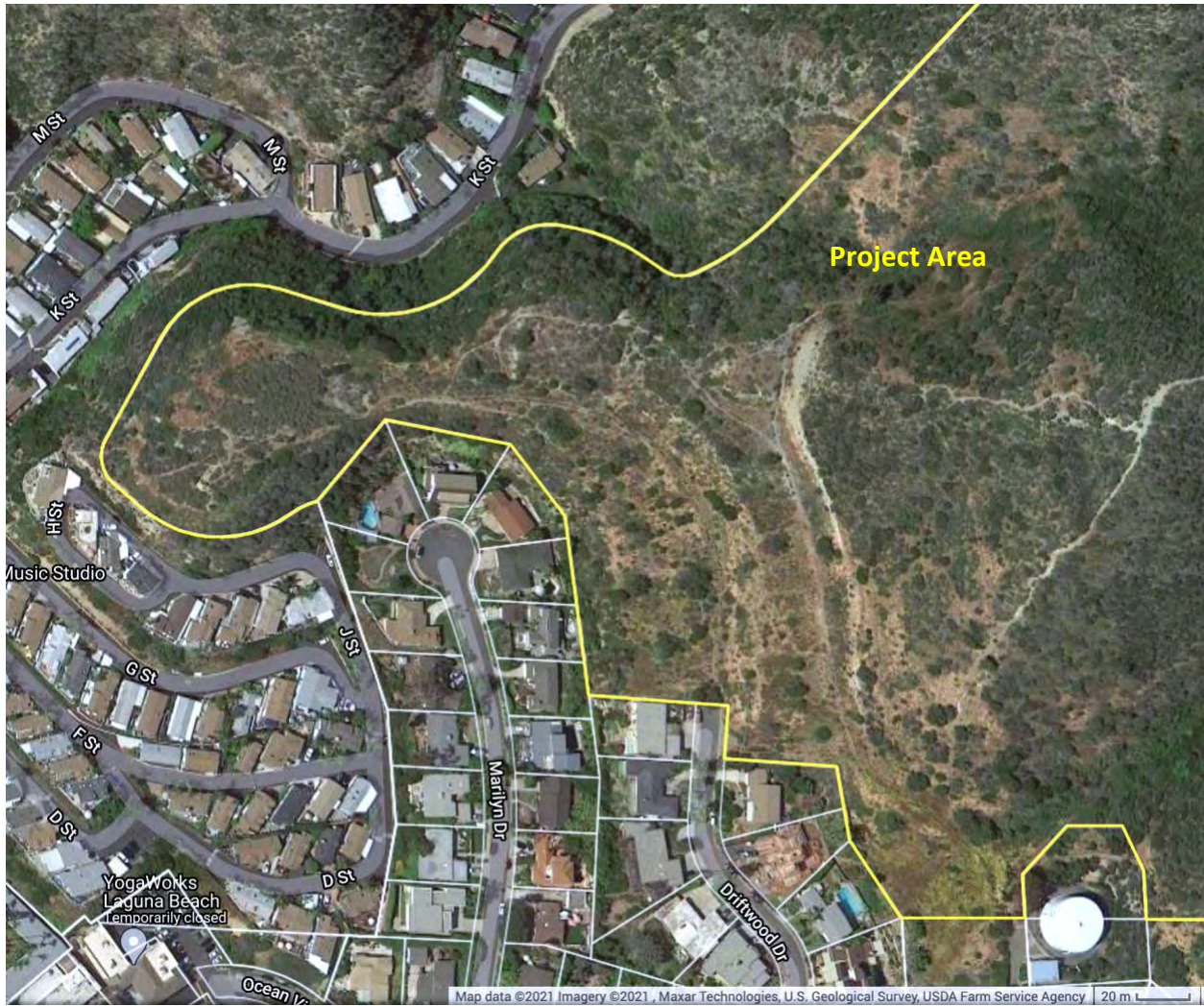
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Exhibit 1 – Project Location

Exhibit 2 – Conceptual Habitat Restoration Plan

Project Location: 2.78-acre undeveloped parcel located at the northern terminus of Driftwood Drive (APN #: 656-191-40), Laguna Beach, Orange County (“Driftwood Property”)





Birds-Eye View: Four subject utility pole sites



Memorandum

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Date: January 27, 2021

To: Paul Yamazaki, SCE

From: Ezekiel Cooley, Senior Biologist

Subject: Conceptual TD1104776 – Idle Line Removal Project Mitigation Recommendations

HELIX Proj. No.: EDS-01.02

This memorandum presents the conceptual mitigation for vegetation management activities that occurred in 2020 within the footprint of the Southern California Edison (SCE) TD1104776 – Idle Line Removal project (project) located in the City of Laguna Beach, Orange County, California.

2020 Maintenance Activities

In January 2020, impacts to native vegetation occurred as a result of fire maintenance performed around four decommissioned power poles that still support telecommunication lines: Pole 1087503E, Pole 1331399E, Pole 1331400E, and Pole 1331729E. The maintenance activity was noted during the February 11, 2020 site visit to conduct a post-construction survey of the above referenced project.

2020 Removal Survey

On July 23, 2020, HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX) biologist Lauren Singleton conducted a forensic survey within the area surrounding four decommissioned power poles (HELIX 2020). Photographs were taken of the poles and surrounding areas from the same vantage point as pre-impact photographs from 2019. The 2020 photographs were compared to the 2019 photographs to evaluate vegetation disturbance. The species and the number of individuals disturbed were recorded, if identifiable. For woody shrubs, the approximate disturbance area was estimated in the field based on evidence of leaf dieback and/or comparison to 2019 photographs. Stumps were also noted, and the species was determined based on comparison to 2019 photographs. The approximate disturbance area was estimated based on stump diameter and/or comparison to 2019 photographs as well as reviewing 2019 and 2020 aerial photographs and identifying missing canopy. For herbaceous cover, the approximate disturbance area was estimated in the field based on senesced individuals and/or comparison to 2019 photographs. Some herbaceous species were identifiable based on remnants observed on the ground. However, most herbaceous species were

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either not present or not identifiable. In such cases, plot data collected in March 2019 was reviewed to determine species that may have been present prior to the impact. The total impacts to native vegetation were estimated to be approximately 0.024 acres, and the impacts per pole are summarized below:

- Pole 1087503E: Total disturbance area totaled 0.016 acres and comprised of two laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*) shrubs, growing directly outside of the Driftwood Property gate.
- Pole 1331399E: Total disturbance area totaled 0.002 acre and comprised of one California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) shrub, 15 California encelia (*Encelia californica*) shrubs, one laurel sumac shrub, one lemonade berry (*Rhus integrifolia*) shrub, and one unknown shrub identified as saw-toothed goldenbush (*Hazardia squarrosa*) based on previous data collection.
- Pole 1331400E: Total disturbance area totaled 0.003 acre comprised of one California encelia shrub and two lemonade berry shrubs.
- Pole 1331729E: Total disturbance area totaled 0.003 acre comprised of one laurel sumac shrub, in addition to the trimming of California sagebrush and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) shrubs.

Mitigation Recommendations

Based on information SCE received from California Coastal Commission Staff HELIX recommends on-site mitigation through replacement planting of the same species that were impacted at a 1:1 ratio, followed by a monitoring and weeding effort around each of the impacted areas (Figures 1-4, *Pole Impact Area*).

Additionally, off-site mitigation, still within the Driftwood Property, is proposed for impacts to native shrub species to be mitigated at a 4:1 ratio for individual species impacted (Table 1, *Native Vegetation Disturbance and Proposed Off-site Mitigation*). These shrub species will be planted in a larger contiguous habitat located on a plateau off-site, within the Driftwood Property, adjacent to Pole 1729013E and Pole 1331729E. This area has been selected due to the presence of existing coastal sage scrub species which will help facilitate native recolonization over time, in addition to providing enhancement opportunities through the removal of non-native vegetation species. The mitigation area proposed for restoration totals 0.163-acre, providing general boundaries for the location of where the required 4:1 ratio, or 0.096 acre, of restoration will take place (Figure 5, *Proposed Mitigation Area*).

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HELIX has considerable institutional knowledge of this site and recognizes the need for adaptive management practices due to heavy human traffic, a lack of a water source on-site for irrigation, and the exposed nature of these proposed mitigation areas. If required, HELIX restoration specialists will propose adaptive management recommendations through coordination/approval of the California Coastal Commission following monitoring site visits.

Table 1
NATIVE VEGETATION DISTURBANCE AND PROPOSED OFF-SITE MITIGATION

Species Name	Common Name	Total Impacted	On-site Mitigation Proposed	Off-Site Mitigation Proposed
<i>Artemisia californica</i>	California sagebrush	2	2	8
<i>Encelia californica</i>	California encelia	16	16	64
<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>	California buckwheat	1	1	4
<i>Hazardia squarrosa</i>	saw-tooth goldenbush	1	1	4
<i>Malosma laurina</i>	laurel sumac	4	4	16
<i>Rhus integrifolia</i>	lemonade berry	1	1	4
TOTAL		25	25	100

Conclusions

HELIX believes that through these proposed mitigation efforts, the impacts to the native vegetation around the four poles will be adequately mitigated through the proposed mitigation. Planting the individual shrub species in a larger area will allow for contiguous coastal sage habitat to establish, as opposed to mitigating in isolated areas around each of the impacted poles. **Further mitigation maintenance and monitoring details will be provided in a future Restoration Plan that will be prepared by HELIX and reviewed and approved by the California Coastal Commission.**

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Attachments:

Figure 1: Pole 1087503E Impact Areas
Figure 2: Pole 1331399E Impact Areas
Figure 3: Pole 1331400E Impact Areas
Figure 4: Pole 1331729E Impact Areas
Figure 5: Proposed Mitigation Map

References:

HELIX Environmental Planning, Inc. (HELIX). 2020. Vegetation Maintenance Summary for the TD11404776-Idle Line Removal Project. August 5.



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Source: Aerial (NearMap, 2019)



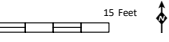
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● Pole Locations

Impact Areas

● Native Vegetation Removals

● Non-Native Vegetation Removals



Source: Aerial (NearMap, 2019)



Pole 1331399E Impact Areas
Figure 2



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Source: Aerial (NearMap, 2019)



Source: Aerial (NearMap, 2019)

Off-Site Mitigation Area
Pole Locations

