

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

203



FROM: Department of Facilities Management

SUBMITTAL DATE:
February 19, 2009

SUBJECT: Adopt Mitigated Negative Declaration, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan, and Addendum No. 1 for the Cajalco Fire Station and Improvements to Western Municipal Water District's Operation Center Project ("the Project")

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Adopt the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (Environmental Assessment No. EA08270003847) and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan for the Project (Attachment A);
2. Adopt Addendum No. 1 to the Mitigated Negative Declaration for Assessment No. EA08270003847 (Attachment B); and
3. Adopt Addendum No. 2 to the Mitigated Negative Declaration for Assessment No. EA08270003847 as described herein; and
4. Approve the Project as described in the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Addendum No. 1 to the Mitigated Negative Declaration for Environmental Assessment No. EA08270003847.

(Continued)

Robert Field, Director
Assistant County Executive Officer

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$ 0	In Current Year Budget:	N/A
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	N/A
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	08/09

SOURCE OF FUNDS:	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve recommended motions and defer subsequent action to the CIP Workshop and fiscal year 09/10 budget hearings.

County Executive Office Signature Jennifer L Sargent

Reviewed by

Christopher Hans

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL
BY:
MICHELLE CLACK
DATE: 4/8/09
Departmental Concurrence

Dep't Recomm.: Consent Policy
Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

BACKGROUND:

As the Lead Agency, the County of Riverside prepared an Initial Study for the proposed Cajalco Fire Station and Improvements to the Western Municipal Water District's (WMWD) Operation Center located in the western portion of Riverside County.

The Project consists of five main components: (1) construction and ongoing operation of a new Heavy Urban Fire Station, which would replace the existing Cajalco Fire Station located at 17650 Cajalco Road, by the Riverside County Fire Department and a new 1,200 square foot (SF) Meeting Room on approximately 2 acres; (2) construction and operation of an approximately 19,000 SF operations building for approximately 90 staff and an approximately 12,600 SF shop building; (3) installation of a 15,000 gallons per day (gpd) package wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), or as an alternative, the construction of a lift station and a 4- to 6-inch diameter force main to one of two WMWD collection systems; (4) removal of a subsurface septic system; and (5) installation of a traffic signal on El Sobrante Road at the entrance to WMWD's Operations Center.

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000-21178.1), an Initial Study was prepared to analyze the proposed project to determine if any potential significant impacts upon the environment would result from construction and implementation of the project.

The analysis contained in the Initial Study demonstrates that the project would not have any significant impacts on the environment with the implementation of the mitigation measure contained in the Initial Study. The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) was prepared and circulated for the mandated 30-day public review and comment period from August 22, 2008 to September 22, 2008.

On September 23, 2008 the State of California Governor's Office of Planning and Research, notified Facilities Management that the IS/MND complies with the requirements of CEQA. Pursuant to CEQA Section 15074, the County shall consider all comments received during the review period prior to adoption of the IS/MND. The comment letters, county responses, and Notice of Determination are included as an attachment.

As a Responsible Agency, The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan), submitted a comment letter to the 2008 IS/MND requesting additional information regarding the Project. As a result of meetings between County, WMWD, and Metropolitan personnel, it was determined that an addendum to the 2008 IS/MND would be the appropriate document to provide the additional information requested by Metropolitan.

Addendum No. 1 to the 2008 MND also evaluates the environmental impacts associated with the proposed modifications to Project: (1) eliminating the chlorine scrubber proposed as part of the Operations Center Improvements component of the Project, (2) eliminating the Cajalco Force Main Alignment and WWTP alternatives, and (3) installing an above ground storage tank (AST) to store diesel fuel at the Cajalco Fire Station.

Addendum No.1 was prepared and processed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA: Public Resources Code Sections 21000 et seq.) and the *State CEQA Guidelines* (California Code of Regulations Sections 15000 et seq.).

Addendum No. 2

On April 2, 2009, a focused survey and pre-construction survey were completed for the burrowing owl and nesting birds. A focused survey was also conducted for the San Miguel Savory plant. Both surveys are further described in Attachment C that is incorporated herein by reference.

The burrowing owl focused survey concluded that no suitable burrows for the burrowing owl were found onsite; therefore, a four-day survey was not required or performed. No active burrows or burrowing owls were observed during the survey. No active nests were found. There was evidence of a nest within a large pine tree along El Sobrante Road, as long as the tree is not removed during construction, no mitigation or minimization effort is recommended. The focused survey for the San Miguel Savory indicated that it was not found on the project site.

The biological surveys conducted above did not result in any new significant environmental effects not already identified in EA No. 08270003847, nor did the surveys identify an increase in the severity of the environmental effects identified in Environmental Assessment No. 08270003847. In addition, no considerably different mitigation measures have been identified and no mitigation measures found infeasible have become feasible.

Pursuant to CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21081.6), the County is required to adopt a reporting or monitoring plan for the mitigation measures identified in the IS/MND to mitigate or avoid significant effect on the environment. The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) contained in the final IS/MND presented to the Board for adoption is designed to ensure compliance during project implementation.

ATTACHMENT C

JEFF W. KIDD BIOLOGICAL CONSULTING

April 5, 2009

Claudia Steiding
County of Riverside
Dept. of Facilities Management
3133 Mission Inn Avenue
Riverside, CA 92507-4138

Subject: Focused San Miguel savory, burrowing owl and preconstruction nesting bird survey on the Cajalco Fire Station and WMWD Operations Center Improvements project.

Dear Claudia,

This report is intended to describe the methods and results of a Pre-construction survey for the burrowing owl and nesting birds. This report also includes the results of a focused survey for the San Miguel Savory (*Satureja chandleri*) plant. Methods followed both those used by the Department of Fish and Game and the County of Riverside per the Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP). All work was conducted by biologist, Nina Jimerson-Kidd of Jeff W. Kidd Biological Consulting. The purpose of this survey is to determine if nesting birds, including, but not limited to burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) occur within the construction limits in order to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, California Department of Fish and Game codes, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and the Western Riverside County MSHCP. This report satisfies the following Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) requirements from EA # 082700387:

Bio-2: Focused survey/pre-construction survey for the burrowing owl,
Bio-3: Focused Survey for the San Miguel Savory , and
Bio-4:Pre-construction survey for nesting birds

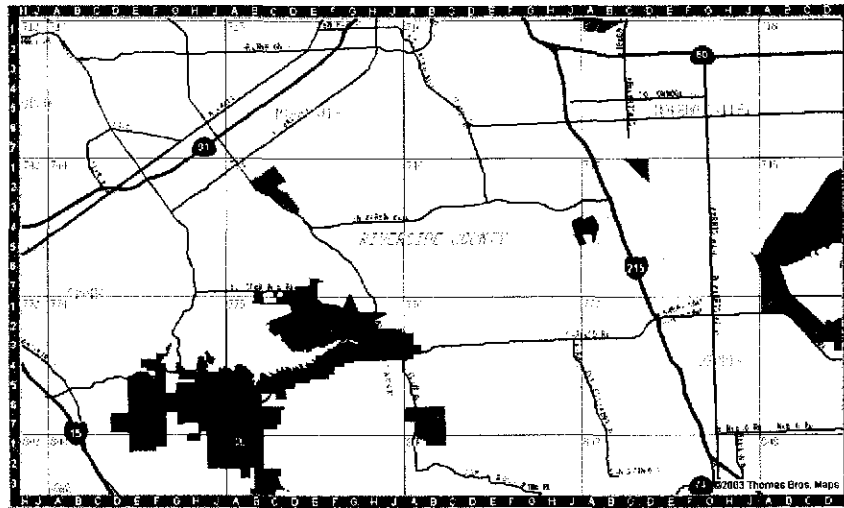
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The County of Riverside is in the final approval stages of construction of a new fire station and an office building for the Western Municipal Water District (WMWD). The project will include four permanent structures (a new fire station, meeting room, operations center and shop building) and additional parking areas. The project is located within Parcel 285-120-030; however our survey included adjacent undeveloped lands within 500 feet of the proposed construction areas.

SITE LOCATION

The subject property is generally located South of Interstate 91, north of Highway 74 and east of Interstate 15 in the Lake Mathews area of unincorporated Riverside County. More specifically it is bounded on the north by El Sobrante Road, and is north of Cajalco Road. The project location can also be described as being in the Steele Peak, CA U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle map in Section 11 of Township 4 South, Range 5 West (Exhibits 1-2). Surrounding land uses include open space in all directions with the exception of the WMWD facility to the south.

Exhibit 1. General Site Location.



METHODS

FOCUSED BURROW AND BURROWING OWL SURVEY

Protocol survey methods followed detailed procedures provided in the Western Riverside County MSHCP Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions dated 3/29/06. Focused burrow (Step II Part A) and burrowing owl surveys (Step II Part B) were conducted to determine if the subject property supports owls or suitable areas for nesting and refuge. Typically four surveys are required if suitable nesting habitat is found onsite. If no suitable burrows are found onsite, a focused survey is not required. Because there were no suitable burrows within the impact area, only a pre-construction survey was conducted as a prudent measure. The site was surveyed by biologist Nina Jimerson-Kidd on April 2, 2009 between 0900 and 1050 hours. Weather was cool (58°F) with 100% clear skies and winds less than 5 miles per hour. The survey methods followed the protocol provided in the Western Riverside County MSHCP Burrowing Owl Survey Instructions dated 3/29/06. This survey involved walking transects across the subject property and all suitable accessible lands directly adjacent to the site. Special attention was paid to burrows, fence posts, mounds, and other sites commonly used by burrowing owls. One hundred percent of the site was surveyed. Additionally, a perimeter of approximately 150 meters was also surveyed.

NESTING BIRD PRE-CONSTRUCTION SURVEY




All trees and shrubs suitable for nesting birds were also surveyed within the project site as well as within 200 feet of the project site where suitable habitat exists and access is allowed. Bird activity was monitored for indications of common nesting behavior such as collecting nesting material, bringing food back to possible nest sites, carrying fecal sacks, and the sound of begging chicks. Also aggressive behavior in adults was noted.

FOCUSED PLANT SURVEY

For the plant survey all undisturbed areas supporting suitable soils and associated habitats were surveyed. Based on a previous site assessment, the soils and habitat indicated a potential for the San Miguel Savory to occur within the project site. This plant is considered rare by the California Native Plant society and thus affords a limited amount of protection under CEQA.

Exhibit 2. Survey area Boundaries



-  Burrowing Owl Survey Limits
-  Nesting bird Survey Limits
-  Pine Tree with possible nesting activity

RESULTS

The site is comprised of non-native grassland that has been repeatedly disked for fuel modification. There is also a large area on the eastern boundary that has been graded. The actual construction limits are nearly void of vegetation with the exception of one juniper (*Juniper californicus*) tree, one elderberry (*Sambucus mexicana*) and some annual wildflowers such as fiddleneck (*Amsinckia menziesii*) and goldfields (*Lasthenia californica*) (Appendix B- Site photos). Surrounding the construction limits are several non-native ornamental trees. Most are Pine (*Pinus* sp.). The site supported rock out crops, however these had been heavily disturbed and the rocks over-turned.

No suitable burrows for the burrowing owl were found onsite; therefore a four-day focused survey was not performed. Instead, as a prudent measure, only a pre-construction survey for the burrowing owl was conducted. Numerous small mammal burrows and gopher mounds were found. These burrows were most likely from kangaroo rats and not large enough to be used by burrowing owls. No active burrows or burrowing owls were observed during the survey. No sign of burrowing owl use (feathers, tracks, whitewash, prey remains, etc.) was found onsite or within the buffer of the site. No active bird nests were observed, however there was evidence that a nest may be active in the largest pine tree within the site (see exhibit 2). A pair of phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*) was observed "trading off" from the tree; however the biologist was unable to locate a nest. This tree is not

expected to be removed for the project. The tree is immediately adjacent to El Sobrante Road- a very heavily traveled bi-way. Any additional noise from construction activity is not likely to disturb any potentially active nest.

The San Miguel Savory was not found on this site. The proposed construction areas are nearly void of vegetation and the less disturbed areas offer marginal growing conditions for this plant. This plant generally is found in volcanic or gabbroic soils and the soils on site are not typically associated with this plant, however there was still a slight potential for occurrence and therefore the surveys recommended in the initial biological assessment (MBA 2008) were warranted as a prudent measure.

CONCLUSIONS

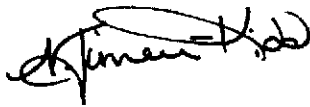
No owls or sign of burrowing owl use was observed within the property or within the immediate surrounding area. Several bird species were observed (Appendix A- Species compendium) within and immediately adjacent to the site. No active nests were found, however there was evidence that a pair of phainopepla (*Phainopepla nitens*) were nesting within the large pine tree along El Sobrante Road. As long as this tree is not removed during construction, no mitigation or minimization effort is recommended. Should this tree need to be removed during construction, a biologist should be contacted within 24 hours prior to removal to verify that the nest is not active.

No sensitive plants were observed on site, particularly within the proposed construction footprint. The results of the focused plant survey are valid for one year.

The results of the preconstruction burrowing owl and nesting bird survey are valid for 30 days. If grubbing and/or grading do not occur prior to May 2, 2009 an additional nesting bird and burrowing owl surveys may be required.

Should you have any questions or concerns about this report or the survey conducted on this site, please do not hesitate to call me at (951) 776-0304.

Sincerely,



Nina Jimerson-Kidd
Wildlife Biologist

Appendix A- Species Compendium

PLANTS

Pinaceae <i>Pinus sp.</i>	Pine Family pine
Apiaceae <i>Daucus pusillus</i>	Carrot Family rattlesnake weed
Apocynaceae <i>*Nerium oleander</i>	Dogbane Family oleander
Asteraceae <i>Artemisia californica</i> <i>*Chamomilla suaveolens</i> <i>Encelia californica</i> <i>Encelia farinosa</i> <i>*Gnaphalium luteo-album</i> <i>Hazardia squarrosa</i> <i>Helianthus gracilentus</i> <i>Lasthenia californica</i> <i>Layia platyglossa</i>	Sunflower Family California sagebrush pineapple weed California bush sunflower brittlebush white cudweed saw-toothed goldenbush slender sunflower coast goldfields tidy-tips
Boraginaceae <i>Amsinckia menziesii</i> <i>Plagiobothrys collinus</i>	Borage Family common fiddleneck California popcorn flower
Brassicaceae <i>Brassica sp.</i> <i>Lepidium nitidum</i>	Mustard Family mustard shining peppergrass
Cactaceae <i>Opuntia parryi</i>	Cactus Family valley cholla
Caprifoliaceae <i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	Honeysuckle Family Mexican elderberry
Convolvulaceae <i>Calystegia macrostegia</i>	Morning-Glory Family western bindweed
Crassulaceae <i>Crassula connata</i>	Stonecrop Family pygmy-weed
Euphorbiaceae <i>Chamaesyce albomarginata</i>	Spurge Family rattlesnake weed
Fabaceae <i>Lotus scoparius</i>	Legume Family deerweed
Fagaceae <i>Quercus berberidifolia</i>	Oak Family scrub oak
Geraniaceae <i>Erodium sp.</i>	Geranium Family filaree

Hydrophyllaceae

Phacelia sp.
Phacelia cicutaria
Phacelia distans
Phacelia minor

Lamiaceae

Salvia apiana
Salvia columbariae

Nyctaginaceae

Mirabilis californica

Onagraceae

Camissonia bistorta

Polemoniaceae

Linanthus liniflorus

Polygonaceae

Eriogonum fasciculatum

Scrophulariaceae

Mimulus aurantiacus
Scrophularia californica

Solanaceae

**Solanum nigrum*

Liliaceae

Dichelostemma capitatum

Poaceae

**Avena fatua*
**Bromus diandrus*
**Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens*

Waterleaf Family

phacelia
caterpillar phacelia
fern-leaf phacelia
wild canterbury-bell

Mint Family

white sage
chia

Four O'Clock Family

California wishbone bush

Evening Primrose Family

California sun cup

Phlox Family

flax-flowered linanthus

Buckwheat Family

California buckwheat

Figwort Family

orange bush monkey-flower
California figwort

Nightshade Family

black nightshade

Lily Family

blue dicks

Grass Family

wild oat
ripgut grass
foxtail chess

BIRDS

Accipitridae

Buteo jamaicensis

Hawks

red-tailed hawk

Phasianidae

Callipepla californica

Pheasants and Quails

California quail

Columbidae

Zenaida macroura

Pigeons and Doves

mourning dove

Trochilidae

Calypte anna

Hummingbirds

Anna's hummingbird

Tyrannidae

Tyrannus verticalis

Tyrant Flycatchers

western kingbird

Corvidae

Jays and Crows

Corvus brachyrhynchos

American crow

Troglodytidae

Salpinctes obsoletus

Wrens

rock wren

Mimidae

Mimus polyglottos

Thrashers

northern mockingbird

Ptilonotidae

Phainopepla nitens

Silky Flycatchers

phainopepla

Sturnidae

**Sturnus vulgaris*

Starlings

European starling

Emberizidae

Pipilo crissalis

Aimophila ruficeps canescens

Zonotrichia leucophrys

Wood Warblers, Tanagers, Buntings, and Blackbirds

California towhee

Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow

white-crowned sparrow

Fringillidae

Carduelis psaltria

Finches

lesser goldfinch

*Indicates non-native

Appendix B. Site Photos

Photo 1. Facing South from eastern boundary



Photo 2. Facing east from SW boundary



Photo 3. Facing west from eastern boundary



Photo 4. Facing North from center of property

