



## LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL JOINT POWERS AGENCY

### A G E N D A

#### SPECIAL MEETING

Seaside Council Chamber

440 Harcourt Avenue

Thursday, March 30, 2023

6:00 PM

---

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** To make a public comment, the following options are available:

- Before the Meeting via Email: Written comments can be emailed to [CityClerk@ci.seaside.ca.us](mailto:CityClerk@ci.seaside.ca.us). Include the following subject line: "Public Comment Item #" (insert the agenda item number relevant to your comment). Written comments must be received at least 2 hours prior to the meeting. All submitted comments will be provided to the City Council or the Board for consideration.
- During the Meeting via Oral Comments: When the Chair calls for public comment, attendees can queue to speak with the "Raise Hand" feature. On the Zoom application, click the "Raise Hand" button. On the phone, press \*9. The Clerk will call speaker names and unmute speaker microphones. You will have up to 3 minutes to provide your comments, with time set by the discretion of the Mayor.

### **VIRTUAL MEETING ACCESS**

This meeting can be watched via the City of Seaside YouTube channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1Cu7854Ohtjpr\\_XV1tDvRg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1Cu7854Ohtjpr_XV1tDvRg)

Or by joining the Zoom webinar link: <https://ci-seaside-ca-us.zoom.us/j/85481855565>

Or call in phone number: 669-900-9128

Zoom Meeting ID: 854 8185 5565

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

#### **2. ROLL CALL – ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Gino Garcia (Council Member, City of Monterey)

Dave Pacheco (Mayor Pro Tem, City of Seaside)

Kevin Raskoff (Vice President, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, Ward 3)

#### **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

*Members of the public wishing to address the Authority on matters within the jurisdiction of the Authorities, but not on this agenda, may do so during the Public Comment period for up to three (3) minutes. Public Comments for "Presentations" on*

*this agenda are also taken at this time; comments on specific agenda items are heard under that item. For the public record, please state your name.*

**4. BUSINESS ITEMS**

**A. ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE AUTHORITY**

**RECOMMENDATION:** Nominate and elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair for the Authority Board (Not a projected per CEQA).

**B. ADOPT THE LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK TRAIL AND MAINTENANCE STRATEGY PROJECT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM, AND ADOPT THE LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK TRAIL AND MAINTENANCE STRATEGY**

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Joint Powers Agency (JPA) adopt the attached Resolutions adopting the Laguna Grande Regional Park (LGRP) Trail and Maintenance Strategy Project Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and Strategy Document.

**C. AMEND THE BUDGET FOR THE LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK TRAIL AND MAINTENANCE STRATEGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Joint Powers Agency (JPA) adopt a Resolution amending the budget for the Laguna Grande Regional Park (LGRP) Trail and Maintenance Strategy and associated environmental review.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:  
TBD

---

The Laguna Grande Regional Joint Powers Authority is committed to providing accessible facilities and accommodating people with disabilities in all of its services programs and activities. If special considerations are needed by any person to fully participate in this meeting, contact the Seaside City Clerk at 899-6707 no fewer than two business days prior to the meeting to allow reasonable arrangements. The City Council chamber is equipped with a portable microphone and assisted listening devices are available at all meetings. Agenda-related writings or documents provided during public meetings are available for public inspection during the meeting or from the office of the City Clerk. This agenda is posted in compliance with California Government Code Section 54954.2(a) or Section 54956.



## LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL JOINT POWERS AGENCY

---

### AGENDA REPORT

**ITEM:** 4.A.  
**TO:** Agency Members  
**FROM:** Dominique Davis, City Clerk  
**DATE:** March 30, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE AUTHORITY

#### PURPOSE & RECOMMENDATION

Nominate and elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair for the Authority Board (Not a projected per CEQA).

#### BACKGROUND

Under Section 2 of the Joint Powers Authority Agreement, "The representatives shall elect a Chair and a Vice-Chair who shall serve a term of one year."

Currently there is no named Chair, so it is necessary to establish this as the first order of business of the Authority.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

The Laguna Grande Regional Joint Powers Agency determined that the proposed action is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)(CCR, Title 14, Chapter 3 ("CEQA Guidelines), Article 20, Section 15378). In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 includes the general rule that CEQA applies only to activities which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.

Because the proposed action and this matter have no potential to cause any effect on the environment, or because it falls within a category of activities excluded as projects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378, this matter is not a project. Because the matter does not cause a direct or any reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change on or in the environment, this matter is not a project. Any subsequent discretionary projects resulting from this action will be assessed for CEQA applicability.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- 1. Election of Officers Standard of Procedure
-



## **Seaside Boards, Commissions and Committees Election of Officers Standard of Procedure**

1. The Committee Chair or, if there is no Chair, the person who called the meeting to order, will ask for nominations for the office of Chair.
2. Any member of the Committee may nominate himself/herself or any other member of the Committee; no second is required.
3. Once nominations are complete, the Chair will close nominations.
4. Announce the slate of nominees.
5. Ask for a vote on the nominees in the order of nomination.

Each voting member of the Committee shall have one vote. The nominee receiving votes from a majority of the members in attendance shall be declared the winner.

If no member receives a majority, the process shall be repeated, except in the event of a tie between the top two vote-getters, in which case a run-off shall be held. The winner shall assume the office of Chair immediately.

Using the same procedure, the new Chair shall secure the election of a Vice Chair.



## LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL JOINT POWERS AGENCY

---

### AGENDA REPORT

**ITEM #:** 4B

**TO:** Agency Members

**FROM:** Chris Schmidt, Associate Planner, City of Monterey

**DATE:** March 30, 2023

**SUBJECT:** ADOPT THE LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK TRAIL AND MAINTENANCE STRATEGY PROJECT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM, AND ADOPT THE LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK TRAIL AND MAINTENANCE STRATEGY.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the Joint Powers Agency (JPA) adopt the attached Resolutions adopting the Laguna Grande Regional Park (LGRP) Trail and Maintenance Strategy Project Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and Strategy Document.

#### POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The California Environmental Quality Act requires state and local government agencies to inform decision makers and the public about the potential environmental impacts of proposed projects and to reduce those environmental impacts to the extent feasible.

#### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:

The JPA awarded \$109,965 to BFS Landscape Architects to prepare the LGRP Trail and Maintenance Strategy and environmental review document for the project. The JPA will be considering a budget amendment (\$18,600) on March 30, 2023 to address the unanticipated issues discovered during the project's environmental review. In addition, the Cities of Monterey and Seaside, and Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District (MPRPD) staff time has been spent on the project. Project permits and implementation costs are not yet funded. Initial cost estimates for implementation of the project scope (including invasive species removal, tree maintenance, trail repairs, landscape maintenance, and seasonal trail development) are expected to exceed \$1,000,000. Actual costs will likely exceed this value.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:**

The proposed project is located in both the cities of Monterey and Seaside and includes ownership by the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, cities of Monterey and Seaside and private owners. The JPA adopted Resolution 2021-01 allowing Monterey to manage the project and environmental review. Both cities and MPRPD will need to certify the environmental document.

A Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration was posted according to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15072 and a Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) were circulated for public review for the required 30 day public review period, from January 18, 2023 to February 17, 2023 (CEQA Guidelines Section 15073), during which time all related documents were made available at the Monterey City Hall Planning Office and on the City's website (Attachment 1).

The IS/MND identifies that the project could result in potentially significant environmental impacts associated with air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, tribal cultural resources, and mandatory findings of significance. Mitigation Measures have been required that will reduce the potential impacts to a less-than-significant level. These mitigation measures are discussed in this report (See Analysis Section).

No comment letters were received during the public review period. There is no evidence before the JPA indicating that the proposed project could cause significant adverse environmental effects which have not already been considered, analyzed, and mitigated in the IS/MND.

Further, the Mitigated Negative Declaration was circulated with the Initial Study. Once adopted by the JPA, Monterey and Seaside City Councils, and MPRPD board, a Notice of Determination will be filed according to CEQA requirements.

The JPA has prepared a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) (Exhibit B to Attachment 1) that will be implemented to ensure compliance with mitigation measures and critical timing of these measures. City or Park District staff will complete the last column of the MMRP to verify that the mitigation measure has been completed.

## **ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

The JPA could decide not to adopt the mitigated negative declaration. The JPA could conclude that a mitigation measure in a mitigated negative declaration is infeasible or otherwise undesirable. It may adopt a substitute measure of equal or greater efficacy without recirculating the document if the substitution is considered at a public meeting and the JPA makes a written finding that the measure is of equal or greater efficacy and will not itself cause any potential significant effect on the environment. (City Attorneys' Dep't, League of Cal. Cities, *The Municipal Law Handbook* (Cont. Ed. Bar 2022, §11.35.)

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **Background**

On December 2, 2019, the Laguna Grande Regional Park JPA approved the release of a Request for Proposal for two projects - new park plan and trail maintenance strategy. The JPA discussed the desire to have an entire park plan updated but also emphasized that a trail maintenance strategy was its highest priority at that time. Key considerations would be cost and

relationship to regional projects such as the Fort Ord Regional Trail and Greenway project (FORTAG).

Staff met with the two city managers (Monterey and Seaside) City Managers and General Manager of MPRPD and determined there is inadequate funding to pay for the parks plan at this time and recommended that JPA move forward with only the Trail Maintenance Strategy. The proposed Trail Maintenance Strategy included the following key steps:

1. Inventory existing trail network and biotic communities
2. Prepare a draft trail maintenance strategy and vegetation management recommendations
3. Review maintenance strategy with stakeholders such as the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Coastal Commission and Regional Water Quality Control Board and interested parties such as the Audubon Society and residents
4. Revise the maintenance strategy based on public and stakeholders' input
5. Present maintenance strategy to the JPA and finalize the project description
6. Prepare the required environmental document
7. Present maintenance strategy and environmental document to the JPA for certification

As part of the planning process, public and stakeholders requested that the strategy focus on a number of goals and implementation items (see Project Description section).

If the document is certified by the JPA, the JPA would then need to authorize funding and pursuance of permits for the project from various resource agencies such as the Regional Water Quality Control Board, etc. Work could commence after all permits are obtained.

### **Project Description**

The proposed project involved updates to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail Maintenance Strategy by way of maintenance and enhancement of the existing trail system. The purpose was to provide the JPA with a clear set of priorities and means for maintaining the trails and vegetation throughout the park. The project will implement maintenance strategies to create a more accessible, safe, and long-lasting park for the surrounding community and region.

The following are some of the key items the project includes:

- Seasonal Trail Development
- Vegetation Clearing
- Trail Maintenance and Improvements
- Accessibility Improvements
- Invasive Species Removal and Restoration Planting
- Lighting

The project provides direction to meet the regulations for maintenance of sensitive habitats and around bodies of water set forth by the state and federal government agencies. The stated goals of the project are:

1. Address Encampment, Health and Safety Concerns;
2. Improve Personal Safety; and
3. Maintain and Improve Quality of Natural Resources

Figure 1. Project Location

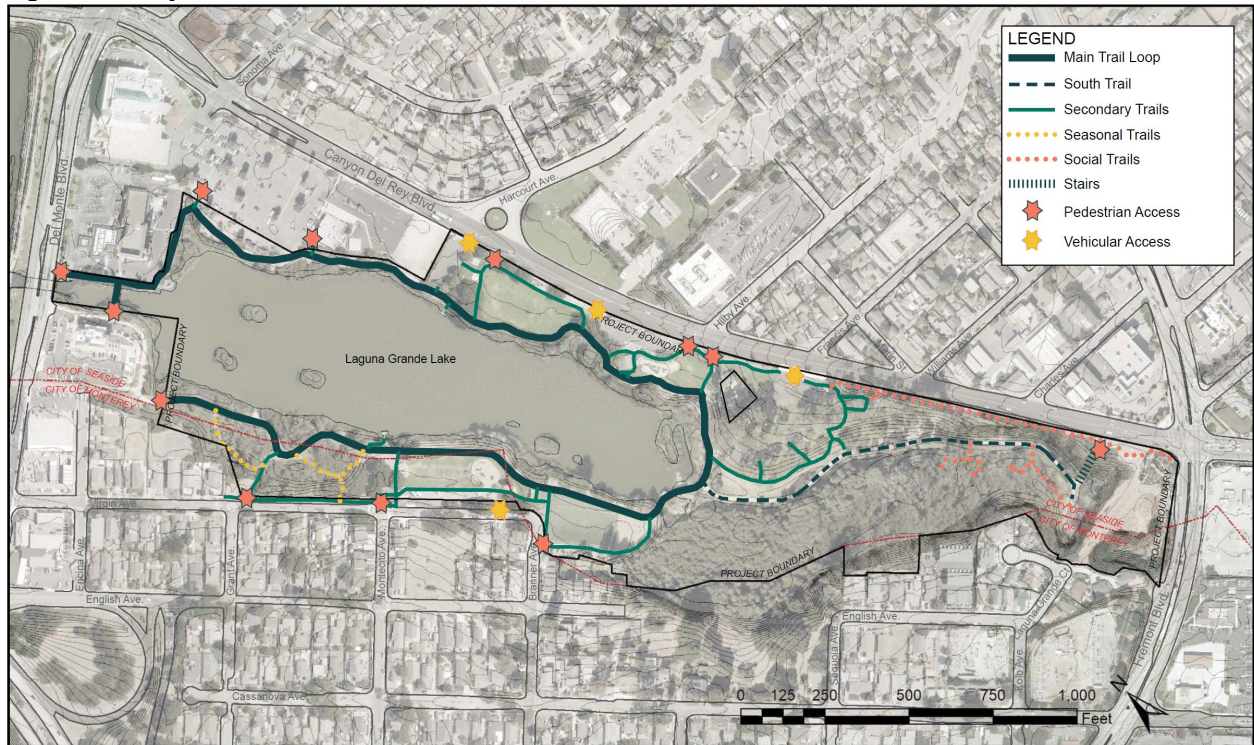


Figure 2. Proposed project (North)

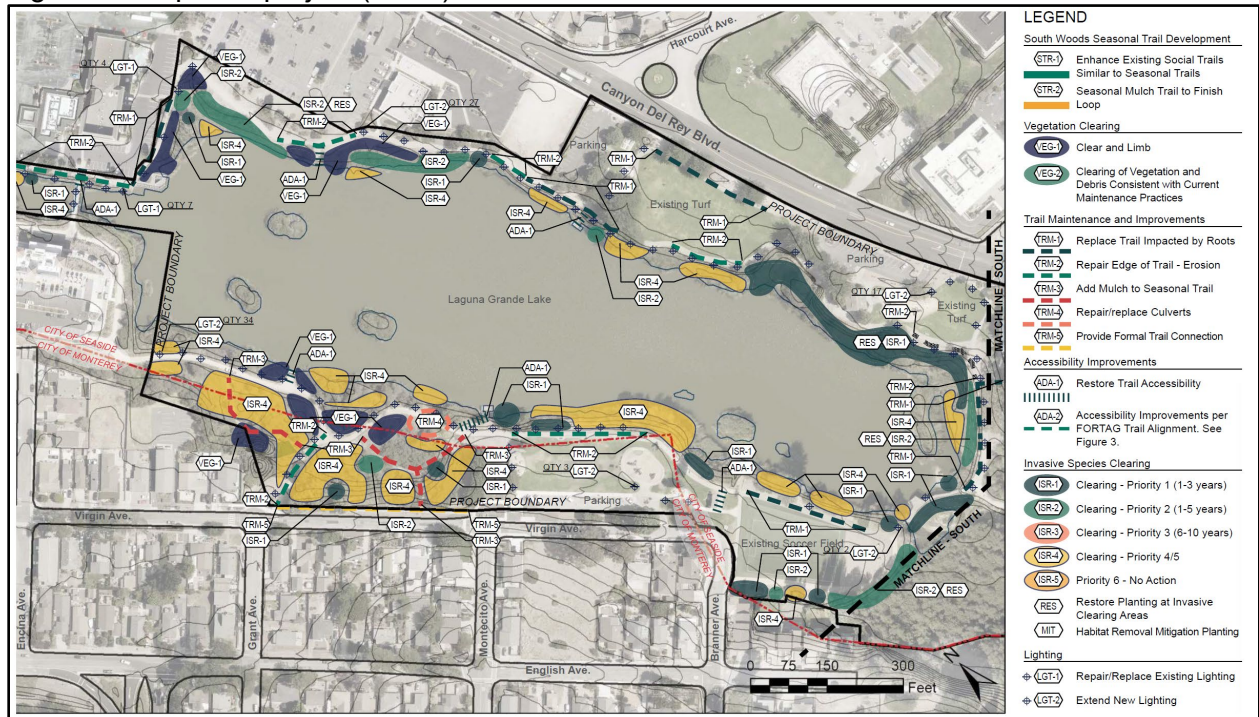
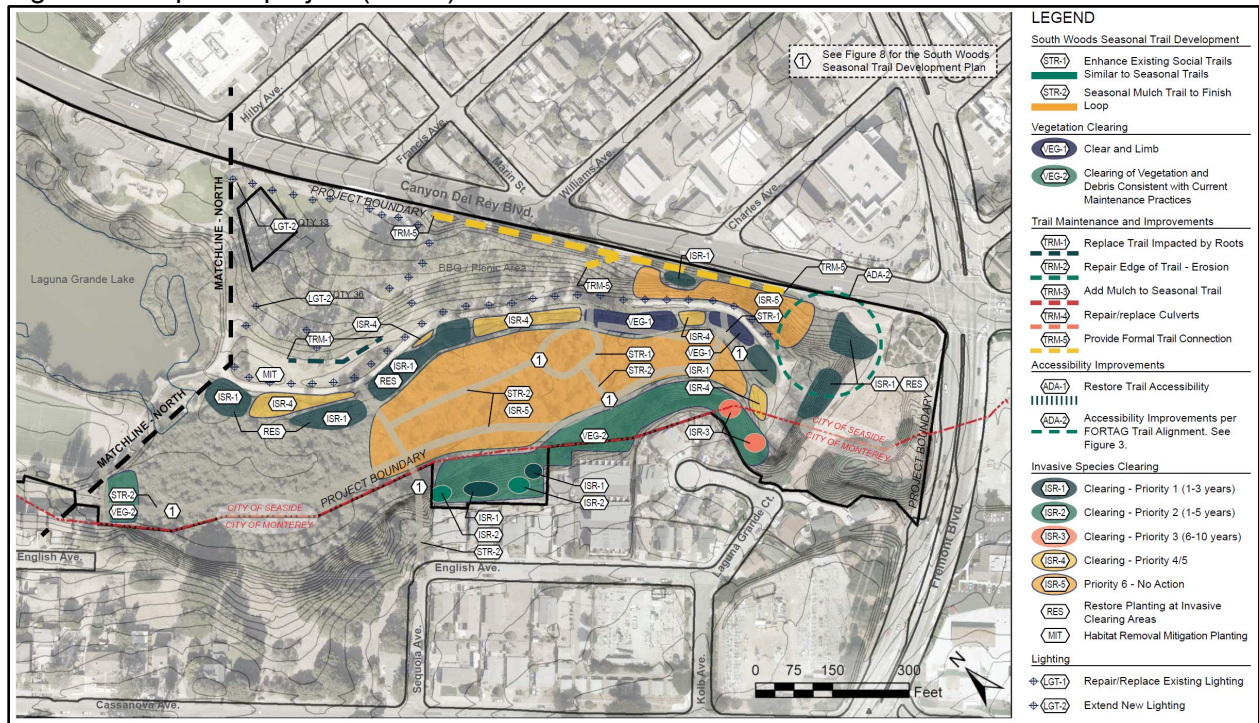


Figure 3. Proposed project (South)



## Analysis

Unless exempted, CEQA requires environmental review of discretionary projects proposed to be carried out or approved by public agencies. (Public Resources Code section 21080.) If a proposed activity is a project and is not exempt from CEQA, the lead government agency ordinarily must prepare an “initial study” to determine whether the project will have a significant effect on the environment. (City Attorneys’ Dep’t, League of Cal. Cities, *The Municipal Law Handbook* (Cont. Ed. Bar 2022 §11.26.) When the initial study identifies potentially significant impacts, but the revisions made to the project before public review of the negative declaration clearly reduces impacts to a level of insignificance, a mitigated negative declaration is prepared.

The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (ISMND) identifies significant impacts to biological resources, cultural resources, noise, tribal cultural resources, and mandatory findings of significance. The following mitigation measures are proposed to reduce the impact to less than significant:

## Mitigation Measures

### Air Quality

AQ-1 All construction equipment will be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer’s specifications and will be checked by a certified visible emissions evaluator. All non-road diesel construction equipment will, at a minimum, meet Tier 3 emission standards listed in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Part 89, Subpart B, §89.112. Further, where feasible, construction equipment will use alternative fuels such as compressed natural gas, propane, electricity or biodiesel.

### *Biological Resources*

BIO-1 Prior to ground disturbance, a qualified biologist shall conduct a training session for all construction personnel. At a minimum, the training shall include a description of special-status species potentially occurring in the project vicinity, including, but not limited to, California red-legged frog, Coast Range newt, western pond turtle, burrowing owl, tricolored blackbird, American badger, Monterey dusky-footed woodrat, Monterey shrew, special-status bats, and nesting birds and raptors. Their habitats, general measures that are being implemented to conserve species as they relate to the project, and the boundaries within which disturbance activities will occur will be explained. Informational handouts with photographs clearly illustrating the species' appearances shall be used in the training session. All new construction personnel shall undergo this mandatory environmental awareness training.

The qualified biologist will train biological monitors selected from the construction crew by the construction contractor (typically the project foreman). Before the start of work each day, the monitor will check for animals under any equipment such as vehicles and stored pipes within active disturbance areas. The monitor will also check all excavated steep-walled holes or trenches greater than one foot deep for trapped animals. If a special-status species is observed within an active disturbance area, the qualified biologist will be notified immediately and all work within 50 feet of the individual will be halted and all equipment turned off until the individual has left the disturbance area.

The Lead Agency shall document evidence of completion of this training prior to ground disturbance.

BIO-2 A qualified biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys following the guidance documented in the *Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the California Red-legged Frog* (USFWS 2005) no more than two weeks (14 days) prior to the start of disturbance activities. The invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints will be surveyed for potential migratory and/or upland activity. The qualified biologist shall prepare a report documenting the results of the preconstruction surveys for submittal to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority prior to ground disturbance.

If California red-legged frog is found, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority will coordinate with the USFWS and/or CDFW to determine the appropriate course of action per the requirements of FESA and/or CESA (e.g., obtaining Incidental Take Permits) and implement the permit requirements prior to ground disturbance.

BIO-3 The following measures from the USFWS *Programmatic Biological Opinion for Issuance of Permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, including Authorizations Under 22 Nationwide Permits, for Projects that May Affect the Threatened California Red-legged Frog in Nine San Francisco Bay Area Counties, California* (USFWS 2014) shall be implemented:

- a. Plans shall delineate a 100-foot boundary from the outer edge of riparian vegetation along the lake and drainages.
- b. A qualified biologist shall be on site during all activities within 100 feet from the outer edge of riparian vegetation along the lake or drainage that where California red-legged frog may be encountered.
- c. To the extent possible, all ground-disturbing work within 100 feet from the outer edge of riparian vegetation along the lake and drainage shall be avoided between November 1 and March 31, the time period when California red-legged frogs are most likely to be moving through upland areas.

- d. All ground-disturbing work within 100 feet from the outer edge of riparian vegetation should be accomplished during the dry season, with no disturbance activities occurring during rain events or within 24 hours following a rain event.
- e. Prior to disturbance activities, exclusionary fencing shall be placed to keep construction vehicles and personnel from impacting potentially jurisdictional waters and riparian/wetland habitat outside of work areas. A biological monitor shall supervise the installation of exclusionary fencing and monitor at least once per week until disturbance activities are complete to ensure that the protective exclusionary fencing remains intact. Exclusion fencing material shall be selected to avoid accidental entrapment of wildlife species, such as fencing with a smaller gauge or no gaps at all (e.g., Animex™ fencing).
- f. To minimize harassment, injury, death, and harm in the form of temporary habitat disturbances, all project-related vehicle traffic shall be restricted to established roads, disturbance areas, equipment staging, storage, parking, and stockpile areas.
- g. If a California red-legged frog is encountered, all activities which have the potential to result in the harassment, injury, or death of the individual shall be immediately halted. A qualified biologist shall then assess the situation and select a course of action that shall avoid or minimize adverse effects to the animal.
- h. Uneaten human food and trash attracts crows, ravens, coyotes, and other predators of the California red-legged frog. A litter control program shall be instituted at each project site. All workers shall ensure their food scraps, paper wrappers, food containers, cans, bottles, and other trash are deposited in covered or closed trash containers. The trash containers shall be removed from the project site at the end of each working day.
- i. Loss of soil from run-off or erosion shall be prevented with straw bales, straw wattles, or similar means provided they do not entangle, block escape or dispersal routes of the California red-legged frog.
- j. No insecticides or herbicides shall be used at the project site during construction or long-term operational maintenance where there is the potential for these chemical agents to enter the river, or uplands that contain potential habitat for the California red-legged frog.
- k. For on-site storage of pipes, conduits, and other materials that could provide shelter for special-status species, an open-top trailer shall be used to elevate the materials above ground. This is intended to reduce the potential for animals to climb into the conduits and other materials.
- l. To the maximum extent possible, night-time construction shall be minimized or avoided because dusk and dawn are often the times when the California red-legged frog is most actively moving and foraging.
- m. Plastic monofilament netting (erosion control matting), loosely woven netting, or similar material in any form shall not be used at the project site because California red-legged frogs can become entangled and trapped in them. Materials utilizing fixed weaves (strands cannot move), polypropylene, polymer, or other synthetic materials shall not be used.
- n. Trenches or pits one foot or deeper that are going to be left unfilled for more than 48 hours shall be securely covered with boards or other material to prevent the California red-legged frog from falling into them.

BIO-4 To avoid/minimize impacts to burrowing owls potentially occurring within invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints, a biologist qualified in ornithology shall conduct surveys for burrowing owl. The approved biologist shall conduct a two-visit (i.e., morning and evening) presence/absence survey at areas of suitable habitat on and adjacent to the invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints no less than 14 days prior to the start of construction or ground disturbance activities. Surveys shall be conducted according to the methods for take avoidance described in the *Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines* (California Burrowing Owl Consortium 1993) and the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFW 2012). If no burrowing owls are found, a letter report confirming absence will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.

BIO-5 To avoid impacts to nesting birds during the nesting season (January 15 through September 15), all disturbance activities should be conducted between September 16 and January 14, which is outside of the bird nesting season. If project-related work is scheduled during the nesting season (February 15 to August 30 for small bird species such as passerines; January 15 to September 15 for owls; and February 15 to September 15 for other raptors), a qualified biologist shall conduct nesting bird surveys.

- a. Two surveys for active bird nests will occur within 14 days prior to start of disturbance activities, with the final survey conducted within 48 hours prior to disturbance. Appropriate minimum survey radii surrounding each work area are typically 250 feet for passerines, 500 feet for smaller raptors, and 1,000 feet for larger raptors. Surveys will be conducted at the appropriate times of day to observe nesting activities. Locations off the site to which access is not available may be surveyed from within the site or from public areas. If no nesting birds are found, a letter report confirming absence will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.
- b. If the qualified biologist documents active nests within the invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints or in nearby surrounding areas, an appropriate buffer between each nest and active disturbance area shall be established. The buffer shall be clearly marked and maintained until the young have fledged and are foraging independently. Prior to ground disturbance, the qualified biologist shall conduct baseline monitoring of each nest to characterize "normal" bird behavior and establish a buffer distance, which allows the birds to exhibit normal behavior. The qualified biologist shall monitor the nesting birds daily during disturbance activities and increase the buffer if birds show signs of unusual or distressed behavior (e.g., defensive flights and vocalizations, standing up from a brooding position, and/or flying away from the nest). If buffer establishment is not possible, the qualified biologist or construction foreman shall have the authority to cease all work in the area until the young have fledged and the nest is no longer active. Once the absence of nesting birds has been confirmed, a letter report will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority.

BIO-6 Not more than 14 days prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities, a qualified wildlife biologist shall conduct surveys of the grassland habitat within or adjacent to invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints to identify any potential American badger burrows/dens. If the survey results are negative (i.e., no badger dens observed), a letter report confirming absence will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.

If the results are positive (badger dens are observed), the qualified biologist shall determine if the dens are active by installing a game camera for three days and three nights to determine if the den is in use.

- a. If the biologist determines that a den may be active, coordination with the CDFW shall be undertaken to develop a suitable strategy to avoid impacts to American badger. The strategy may include the following: the biologist shall install a one-way door in the den opening and continue use of the game camera. Once the camera captures the individual exiting the one-way door, the den can be excavated with hand tools to prevent badgers from reusing them. If the biologist determines that the den is a maternity den, disturbance activities shall be delayed during the maternity season (February to August), or until the badgers leave the den on their own accord or the biologist determines that the den is no longer in use.
- b. If the game camera does not capture an individual entering/exiting the den, the den can be excavated with hand tools to prevent badgers from reusing them.

BIO-7 A qualified biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys for woodrat nests within invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints. All woodrat nests shall be flagged for avoidance of direct impacts where feasible. If impacts cannot be avoided, woodrat nests shall be dismantled no more than three days prior to dismantling so that the occupants do not attempt to rebuild. Nests are to be slowly dismantled by hand in order to allow the occupants to disperse.

BIO-8 Approximately 14 days prior to tree removal or disturbance activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct a habitat assessment for bats and potential roosting sites in trees to be removed and in trees within 50 feet of invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints. These surveys shall include a visual inspection of potential roosting features (bats need not be present) and a search for presence of guano within the project site, access routes, and 50 feet around these areas. Cavities, crevices, exfoliating bark, and bark fissures that could provide suitable potential nest or roost habitat for bats shall be surveyed. Assumptions can be made on what species is present due to observed visual characteristics along with habitat use, or the bats can be identified to the species level with the use of a bat echolocation detector such as an "Anabat" unit. Potential roosting features found during the survey shall be flagged or marked.

If no roosting sites or bats are found, a letter report confirming absence shall be prepared and submitted to Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.

If bats or roosting sites are found, bats shall not be disturbed without specific notice to and consultation with CDFW.

If bats are found roosting outside of the nursery season (May 1 through October 1), CDFW shall be consulted prior to any eviction or other action. If avoidance or postponement is not feasible, a Bat Eviction Plan will be submitted to CDFW for written approval prior to project implementation. A request to evict bats from a roost includes details for excluding bats from the roost site and monitoring to ensure that all bats have exited the roost prior to the start of activity and are unable to re-enter the roost until activity is completed. Any bat eviction shall be timed to avoid lactation and young-rearing. If bats are found roosting during the nursery season, they shall be monitored to determine if the roost site is a maternal roost. This could occur by either visual inspection of the roost bat pups, if possible, or by monitoring the roost after the adults leave for the night to listen for bat pups. Because bat pups cannot leave the roost until they are mature enough, eviction of a maternal roost cannot occur during the nursery season. Therefore, if a maternal roost is present, a 50-foot buffer zone (or different size if determined in consultation with the CDFW) shall be established around the roosting site within which no activities including tree removal or structure disturbance shall occur until after the nursery season.

BIO-9 Arroyo willow woodland, California bulrush marsh, wetlands or estuarine habitat within 25 feet of invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints will be protected from disturbance. Prior to activities adjacent to arroyo willow woodland, California bulrush marsh, wetlands or estuarine habitat, a qualified botanist will erect environmentally sensitive area fencing around areas near the invasive removal, maintenance or improvement area to identify and protect sensitive plant communities or Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas. The location of the fencing will be marked in the field with stakes and flagging. Vegetation clearing activities, vehicle operation, material and equipment storage, and other surface-disturbing activities will be prohibited within the fenced environmentally sensitive area.

BIO-10 If avoidance cannot be accommodated within invasive removal, maintenance or improvement plans, then the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority shall be responsible for ensuring the implementation of a restoration plan. The restoration plan shall be designed by a qualified biologist and shall include the following:

- a. Prior to implementation of invasive removal, maintenance, or improvement activities, the location and extent of the areas to be restored will be clearly delineated and mapped. A plant palette shall be determined, with preference to plant species endemic to coastal Monterey County. The plant palette used for restoration will be reviewed and approved by the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority.
- b. The restoration plan will include seed collection and transplantation/preservation or restoration/preservation guidelines. Maintenance activities may include, but not be limited to, watering during the plant establishment period, supplemental seed planting as needed, and removal of non-native invasive plants. Monitoring will occur for a minimum of five years after mitigation area installation to verify that restoration activities have been successful and will include, at a minimum, quarterly monitoring reports for the first year and annual reports for the remaining four years.
- c. The abundance of annual plants naturally varies from year to year depending on multiple factors including disturbance and rainfall. The performance standard for successful mitigation will be a minimum 2:1 replacement ratio (i.e. two plants observed in the restoration area for each plant lost from the impact area) during at least one spring occurring in year 3, 4, or 5 after installation. The plan will contain options for corrective action and extended maintenance/monitoring if the performance standard is not achieved during the 5-year monitoring period.
- d. During each monitoring effort undertaken in the restoration area, a qualified biologist will conduct a comparison of spring survey conditions from the previous year(s) and prepare a written report for the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. If adaptive management (corrective measures) are warranted, a description and recommendation will be included in the annual report.

BIO-11 Prior to disturbance in or within 25 feet adjacent to wetlands, a qualified biologist will prepare a wetland delineation to determine the extent of potential wetlands and waterways regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. If the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers claims jurisdiction, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority will retain a qualified biologist to obtain a Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permit. If the impacts to the drainage features do not qualify for a Nationwide Permit, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority shall proceed with the qualified biologist in obtaining an Individual Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority will also retain a qualified biologist to coordinate with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to obtain a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification. If necessary, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority will also retain a qualified biologist to coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

To compensate for temporary and/or permanent impacts to jurisdictional features that would be impacted as a result of the proposed project, mitigation shall be provided as required by the regulatory permits. Mitigation would be provided through one of the following mechanisms:

- i. A Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring Plan shall be developed that will outline mitigation and monitoring obligations for temporary impacts to wetlands and other waters as a result of disturbance activities. The Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring Plan would include thresholds of success, monitoring and reporting requirements, and site-specific plans to compensate for wetland losses resulting from the project. The Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring Plan shall be submitted to the appropriate regulatory agencies for review and approval during the permit application process; Or,
- ii. To compensate for permanent impacts, the purchase and/or dedication of land to provide suitable wetland restoration or creation shall ensure a no net loss of wetland values or functions. If restoration is available and feasible, a minimum 1:1 mitigation to impact ratio would apply to projects for which mitigation is provided in advance.

BIO-12 Per section 8.54.060 of the Seaside City Ordinance, the zoning administrator, or his designee (a qualified forester or arborist) will prepare a report on trees based on the applicant's plans and a site inspection of the land. Implementation of specific protections for preserved trees during disturbance activities will be followed; and replacement plantings for damaged or removed trees will be installed.

### *Cultural Resources*

CR-1 If any archeological, prehistoric, or historic subsurface resources, including tribal cultural resources, are discovered during ground-disturbing (including tree and vegetation removal, path widening):

- a. All work within 50- meter (165 feet) shall be halted and a qualified archaeologist shall be consulted to assess the significance of the finding according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.
- b. If any find is determined to be significant, representatives from the City of Monterey Recreation Department and the archaeologist shall meet to determine the appropriate avoidance measures or other appropriate mitigation.
- c. All significant prehistoric cultural materials and or tribal cultural resources recovered shall be; returned to Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the area.
- d. In considering any suggested mitigation proposed by the consulting archaeologist to mitigate impacts to historical resources or unique archaeological resources, the City shall determine whether avoidance is necessary and feasible in light of factors such as the nature of the find, proposed project design, costs, and other considerations.
- e. If avoidance is infeasible, other appropriate measures (e.g., data recovery) would be implemented.
- f. Work may proceed on other parts of the project site while mitigation for historical resources or unique archaeological resources is being carried out.

CR-2 California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and the CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e) contain the mandated procedures of conduct following the discovery of human remains. According to the provisions in CEQA, if human remains are encountered at the site, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery shall cease and necessary steps to ensure the integrity of the immediate area shall be taken. The Monterey County Coroner shall be notified immediately. The Coroner shall then determine whether the remains are Native American. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours, who would, in turn, notify the person the Native American Heritage Commission identifies as the Most Likely Descendant of any human remains. Further actions shall be determined, in part, by the desires of the Most Likely Descendant. The Most Likely Descendant has 48 hours to make recommendations regarding the disposition of the remains following notification from the Native American Heritage Commission of the discovery. If the Most Likely Descendant does not make recommendations within 48 hours, the owner shall, with appropriate dignity, reinter the remains in an area of the property secure from further disturbance. Alternatively, if the owner does not accept the Most Likely Descendant's recommendations, the owner or the descendent may request mediation by the Native American Heritage Commission.

### *Geology and Soils*

GEO-1 All construction personnel must receive paleontological resources awareness training that includes information on the possibility of encountering fossils during construction; the types of fossils likely to be seen, based on past finds in the project area; and proper procedures in the event fossils are encountered. Worker training shall be prepared and presented by a qualified paleontologist. The Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority shall document evidence of completion of this training prior to ground disturbance

GEO-2 If vertebrae fossils are discovered during construction, all work within 50 feet of the discovery shall stop immediately until a qualified professional paleontologist can assess the nature and importance of the find and recommend appropriate treatment. Treatment may include avoidance, if feasible, preservation in place, or preparation and recovery of fossil materials so that they can be housed in an appropriate museum or university collection and may also include preparation of a report for publication describing the finds.

*Tribal Cultural Resources*

TCR-1 The Laguna Grande Regional Park JPA will notify the KaKoon Ta Ruk Band of Ohlone-Costanoan Indians of the Big Sur Rancheria two-weeks prior to any earth-moving activity and the Tribe's cultural resource specialist(s) will be allowed onsite for monitoring. Appropriate safety protocols shall be adhered to by all people on-site during the project or site access may be revoked. The Tribe's treatment protocol should be implemented.

These mitigation measures are incorporated into the attached Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program.

In conclusion, staff recommends that the JPA adopt resolutions adopting the Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Maintenance Strategy Project Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, and adopting the Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Maintenance Strategy Plan.

- Attachments:
1. Resolution Adopting adopting the Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Maintenance Strategy Project Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program  
Exhibit A: Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration  
Exhibit B: Mitigation Monitoring Chart
  2. Resolution adopting the Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Maintenance Strategy Plan  
Exhibit A: Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Maintenance Strategy Plan

e: Nisha Patel, Public Works Director, City of Seaside  
Dominique Davis, City Clerk, City of Seaside  
Dan Meewis, City of Seaside  
Dave Fortune, City of Seaside  
Rafael Payan, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District

Cris Sarabia, California Native Plant Society  
Michael Zeller, Transportation Agency for Monterey County  
Laguna Grande Neighborhood Association  
North Fremont Business Association  
Casanova Oak Knoll Neighborhood Association

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK  
JOINT POWERS AGENCY**

**ADOPTING THE LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK TRAIL AND VEGETATION  
MAINTENANCE STRATEGY PROJECT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND  
MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency approved the release of a Request for Proposal for trail maintenance strategy;

WHEREAS, the JPA awarded a contract to BFS Landscape Architects to create the Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy;

WHEREAS, the Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy project includes key items, including seasonal trail development, vegetation clearing, trail maintenance and improvements, accessibility improvements, invasive species removal and restoration planting and new and replacement lighting;

WHEREAS, the proposed project is located in both the cities of Monterey and Seaside and includes ownership by the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, cities of Monterey and Seaside, and private property owners. The JPA, cities and the parks district will need to certify the environmental document;

WHEREAS, a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration was posted according to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15072 and a Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) were circulated for public review for the required 30 day public review period, from January 18, 2023 to February 17, 2023 (CEQA Section 15073), during which time all related documents were made available at the Monterey City Hall Planning Office and on the City's website (Exhibit A);

WHEREAS, the IS/MND discloses that the project could result in potentially significant environmental impacts associated with air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, tribal cultural resources, and mandatory findings of significance. Mitigation Measures have been required that will reduce the potential impacts to a less-than-significant level;

WHEREAS, no comment letters were received during the public review period. There is no evidence before the JPA indicating that the proposed project could cause significant adverse environmental effects which have not already been considered, analyzed, and mitigated in the IS/MND;

WHEREAS, a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) (Exhibit B) has been prepared that will be implemented to ensure compliance with mitigation measures and critical timing of these measures;

WHEREAS, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency, at a properly noticed public hearing on March 30th, 2023, carefully considered all of the information presented to it, including the agenda report and information submitted at the public hearing by interested

persons; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency that it hereby adopts a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy project, attached hereto as Exhibits A and B based on the following finding:

1. On March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency held a duly noticed public hearing, carefully considered all of the information presented to it, took public testimony to consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration, and exercised its independent judgement in determining that the conclusions reaching in the Mitigated Negative Declaration are correct and supported by substantial evidence, and finds that the Mitigated Negative Declaration complies with all requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE LAGUNA GRANDE PARK JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023, with the following vote:

AYES:	_____	AGENCY MEMBERS:
NOES:	_____	AGENCY MEMBERS:
ABSENT:	_____	AGENCY MEMBERS:
ABSTAIN:	_____	AGENCY MEMBERS:

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_

Board Chair

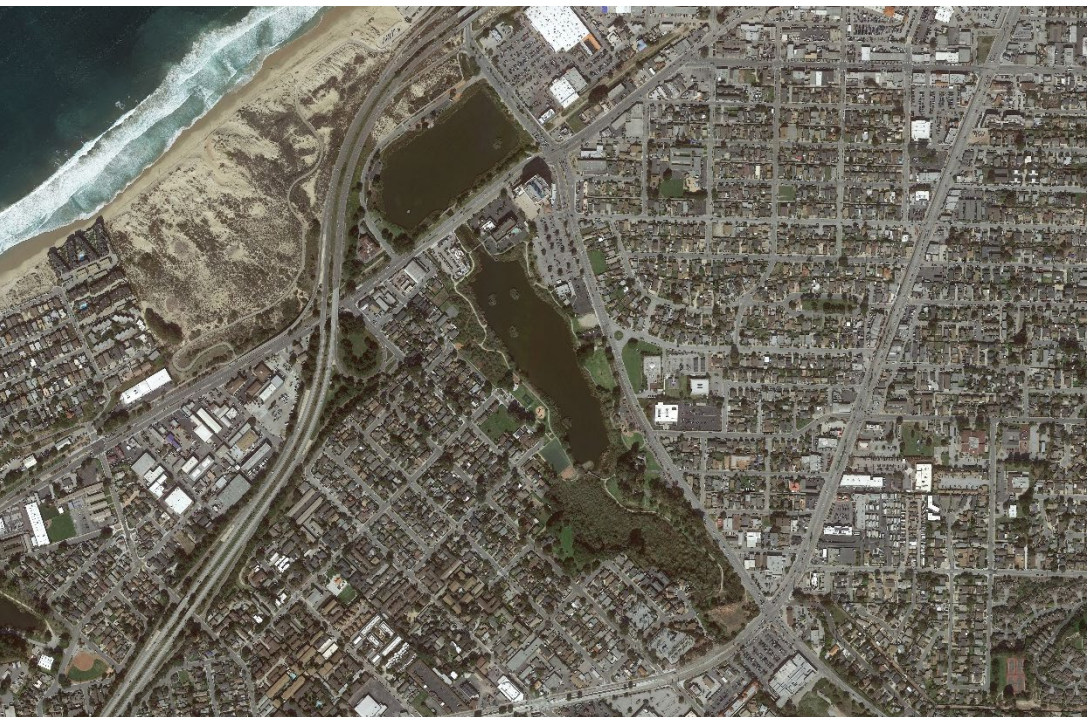
\_\_\_\_\_

Dominique L. Davis, Agency Clerk

Mitigated Negative Declaration

# Laguna Grande Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy

January 2023



Prepared by  
**EMC Planning Group**



**MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

**LAGUNA GRANDE TRAIL AND VEGETATION  
MAINTENANCE STRATEGY**

**PREPARED FOR**

**BFS Landscape Architects**

Elizabeth Matz, Associate Principal

425 Pacific Street #201

Monterey, CA 93940

Tel 831.646.1388

beth@bfsla.com

**PREPARED BY**

**EMC Planning Group Inc.**

601 Abrego Street

Monterey, CA 93940

Tel 831.649.1799

Fax 831.649.8399

Polaris Kinison Brown

kinisonbrown@emcplanning.com

www.emcplanning.com

January 2023

This document was produced on recycled paper.





**PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**  
**In Compliance with the**  
**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

Project Name	Laguna Grande Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy
Lead Agency	Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency (JPA)
Project Proponent	Laguna Grande Regional Park JPA
Project Location	401 Virgin Ave, Monterey, CA 93940
Project Description	<p>The proposed project involves updates to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail Maintenance Strategy. The purpose is to provide the JPA with a clear set of priorities and means for maintaining the trails and vegetation throughout the park. The project will implement maintenance strategies to create a more accessible, safe, and vibrant park for the surrounding community and region.</p>
Public Review Period	January 18, 2023 to February 17, 2023
Written Comments To	<p>Chris Schmidt, Senior Associate Planner City of Monterey, Planning Office 570 Pacific Street, Monterey, CA 93940 schmidt@monterey.org</p>
Proposed Findings	<p>The Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency is the custodian of the documents and other material that constitute the record of proceedings upon which this decision is based.</p> <p>The initial study indicates that the proposed project has the potential to result in significant adverse environmental impacts. However, the mitigation measures identified in the initial study would reduce the impacts to a less than significant level. There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the lead agency Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency that the project, with mitigation measures incorporated, may have a significant effect on the environment. See the following project-specific mitigation measures:</p>

## Mitigation Measures

### *Air Quality*

- AQ-1 All construction equipment will be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer's specifications and will be checked by a certified visible emissions evaluator. All non-road diesel construction equipment will, at a minimum, meet Tier 3 emission standards listed in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Part 89, Subpart B, §89.112. Further, where feasible, construction equipment will use alternative fuels such as compressed natural gas, propane, electricity or biodiesel.

### *Biological Resources*

- BIO-1 Prior to ground disturbance, a qualified biologist shall conduct a training session for all construction personnel. At a minimum, the training shall include a description of special-status species potentially occurring in the project vicinity, including, but not limited to, California red-legged frog, Coast Range newt, western pond turtle, burrowing owl, tricolored blackbird, American badger, Monterey dusky-footed woodrat, Monterey shrew, special-status bats, and nesting birds and raptors. Their habitats, general measures that are being implemented to conserve species as they relate to the project, and the boundaries within which disturbance activities will occur will be explained. Informational handouts with photographs clearly illustrating the species' appearances shall be used in the training session. All new construction personnel shall undergo this mandatory environmental awareness training.

The qualified biologist will train biological monitors selected from the construction crew by the construction contractor (typically the project foreman). Before the start of work each day, the monitor will check for animals under any equipment such as vehicles and stored pipes within active disturbance areas. The monitor will also check all excavated steep-walled holes or trenches greater than one foot deep for trapped animals. If a special-status species is observed within an active disturbance area, the qualified biologist will be notified immediately and all work within 50 feet of the individual will be halted and all equipment turned off until the individual has left the disturbance area.

The Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority shall document evidence of completion of this training prior to ground disturbance.

- BIO-2 A qualified biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys following the guidance documented in the *Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the California Red-legged Frog* (USFWS 2005) no more than two weeks (14 days) prior to the start of disturbance activities. The invasive removal, maintenance or

improvement footprints will be surveyed for potential migratory and/or upland activity. The qualified biologist shall prepare a report documenting the results of the preconstruction surveys for submittal to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority prior to ground disturbance.

If California red-legged frog is found, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority will coordinate with the USFWS and/or CDFW to determine the appropriate course of action per the requirements of FESA and/or CESA (e.g., obtaining Incidental Take Permits) and implement the permit requirements prior to ground disturbance.

BIO-3 The following measures from the USFWS *Programmatic Biological Opinion for Issuance of Permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, including Authorizations Under 22 Nationwide Permits, for Projects that May Affect the Threatened California Red-legged Frog in Nine San Francisco Bay Area Counties, California* (USFWS 2014) shall be implemented:

- a. Plans shall delineate a 100-foot boundary from the outer edge of riparian vegetation along the lake and drainages.
- b. A qualified biologist shall be on site during all activities within 100 feet from the outer edge of riparian vegetation along the lake or drainage that where California red-legged frog may be encountered.
- c. To the extent possible, all ground-disturbing work within 100 feet from the outer edge of riparian vegetation along the lake and drainage shall be avoided between November 1 and March 31, the time period when California red-legged frogs are most likely to be moving through upland areas.
- d. All ground-disturbing work within 100 feet from the outer edge of riparian vegetation should be accomplished during the dry season, with no disturbance activities occurring during rain events or within 24 hours following a rain event.
- e. Prior to disturbance activities, exclusionary fencing shall be placed to keep construction vehicles and personnel from impacting potentially jurisdictional waters and riparian/wetland habitat outside of work areas. A biological monitor shall supervise the installation of exclusionary fencing and monitor at least once per week until disturbance activities are complete to ensure that the protective exclusionary fencing remains intact. Exclusion

fencing material shall be selected to avoid accidental entrapment of wildlife species, such as fencing with a smaller gauge or no gaps at all (e.g., Animex™ fencing).

- f. To minimize harassment, injury, death, and harm in the form of temporary habitat disturbances, all project-related vehicle traffic shall be restricted to established roads, disturbance areas, equipment staging, storage, parking, and stockpile areas.
- g. If a California red-legged frog is encountered, all activities which have the potential to result in the harassment, injury, or death of the individual shall be immediately halted. A qualified biologist shall then assess the situation and select a course of action that shall avoid or minimize adverse effects to the animal.
- h. Uneaten human food and trash attracts crows, ravens, coyotes, and other predators of the California red-legged frog. A litter control program shall be instituted at each project site. All workers shall ensure their food scraps, paper wrappers, food containers, cans, bottles, and other trash are deposited in covered or closed trash containers. The trash containers shall be removed from the project site at the end of each working day.
- i. Loss of soil from run-off or erosion shall be prevented with straw bales, straw wattles, or similar means provided they do not entangle, block escape or dispersal routes of the California red-legged frog.
- j. No insecticides or herbicides shall be used at the project site during construction or long-term operational maintenance where there is the potential for these chemical agents to enter the river, or uplands that contain potential habitat for the California red-legged frog.
- k. For on-site storage of pipes, conduits, and other materials that could provide shelter for special-status species, an open-top trailer shall be used to elevate the materials above ground. This is intended to reduce the potential for animals to climb into the conduits and other materials.
- l. To the maximum extent possible, night-time construction shall be minimized or avoided because dusk and dawn are often the times when the California red-legged frog is most actively moving and foraging.

- m. Plastic monofilament netting (erosion control matting), loosely woven netting, or similar material in any form shall not be used at the project site because California red-legged frogs can become entangled and trapped in them. Materials utilizing fixed weaves (strands cannot move), polypropylene, polymer, or other synthetic materials shall not be used.
- n. Trenches or pits one foot or deeper that are going to be left unfilled for more than 48 hours shall be securely covered with boards or other material to prevent the California red-legged frog from falling into them.

BIO-4 To avoid/minimize impacts to burrowing owls potentially occurring within invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints, a biologist qualified in ornithology shall conduct surveys for burrowing owl. The approved biologist shall conduct a two-visit (i.e., morning and evening) presence/absence survey at areas of suitable habitat on and adjacent to the invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints no less than 14 days prior to the start of construction or ground disturbance activities. Surveys shall be conducted according to the methods for take avoidance described in the *Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines* (California Burrowing Owl Consortium 1993) and the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFW 2012). If no burrowing owls are found, a letter report confirming absence will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.

BIO-5 To avoid impacts to nesting birds during the nesting season (January 15 through September 15), all disturbance activities should be conducted between September 16 and January 14, which is outside of the bird nesting season. If project-related work is scheduled during the nesting season (February 15 to August 30 for small bird species such as passerines; January 15 to September 15 for owls; and February 15 to September 15 for other raptors), a qualified biologist shall conduct nesting bird surveys.

- a. Two surveys for active bird nests will occur within 14 days prior to start of disturbance activities, with the final survey conducted within 48 hours prior to disturbance. Appropriate minimum survey radii surrounding each work area are typically 250 feet for passerines, 500 feet for smaller raptors, and 1,000 feet for larger raptors. Surveys will be conducted at the appropriate times of day to observe nesting activities. Locations off the site to which access is not available may be surveyed from within the site or from public areas. If no nesting birds are found, a letter report confirming absence will

be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.

- b. If the qualified biologist documents active nests within the invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints or in nearby surrounding areas, an appropriate buffer between each nest and active disturbance area shall be established. The buffer shall be clearly marked and maintained until the young have fledged and are foraging independently. Prior to ground disturbance, the qualified biologist shall conduct baseline monitoring of each nest to characterize “normal” bird behavior and establish a buffer distance, which allows the birds to exhibit normal behavior. The qualified biologist shall monitor the nesting birds daily during disturbance activities and increase the buffer if birds show signs of unusual or distressed behavior (e.g., defensive flights and vocalizations, standing up from a brooding position, and/or flying away from the nest). If buffer establishment is not possible, the qualified biologist or construction foreman shall have the authority to cease all work in the area until the young have fledged and the nest is no longer active. Once the absence of nesting birds has been confirmed, a letter report will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority.

BIO-6 Not more than 14 days prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities, a qualified wildlife biologist shall conduct surveys of the grassland habitat within or adjacent to invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints to identify any potential American badger burrows/dens. If the survey results are negative (i.e., no badger dens observed), a letter report confirming absence will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.

If the results are positive (badger dens are observed), the qualified biologist shall determine if the dens are active by installing a game camera for three days and three nights to determine if the den is in use.

- a. If the biologist determines that a den may be active, coordination with the CDFW shall be undertaken to develop a suitable strategy to avoid impacts to American badger. The strategy may include the following: the biologist shall install a one-way door in the den opening and continue use of the game camera. Once the camera captures the individual exiting the one-way door, the den can be excavated with hand tools to prevent badgers from reusing them. If the biologist determines that the den is a maternity den, disturbance activities shall be delayed during the maternity season

(February to August), or until the badgers leave the den on their own accord or the biologist determines that the den is no longer in use.

- b. If the game camera does not capture an individual entering/exiting the den, the den can be excavated with hand tools to prevent badgers from reusing them.

BIO-7 A qualified biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys for woodrat nests within invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints. All woodrat nests shall be flagged for avoidance of direct impacts where feasible. If impacts cannot be avoided, woodrat nests shall be dismantled no more than three days prior to dismantling so that the occupants do not attempt to rebuild. Nests are to be slowly dismantled by hand in order to allow the occupants to disperse.

BIO-8 Approximately 14 days prior to tree removal or disturbance activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct a habitat assessment for bats and potential roosting sites in trees to be removed and in trees within 50 feet of invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints. These surveys shall include a visual inspection of potential roosting features (bats need not be present) and a search for presence of guano within the project site, access routes, and 50 feet around these areas. Cavities, crevices, exfoliating bark, and bark fissures that could provide suitable potential nest or roost habitat for bats shall be surveyed. Assumptions can be made on what species is present due to observed visual characteristics along with habitat use, or the bats can be identified to the species level with the use of a bat echolocation detector such as an "Anabat" unit. Potential roosting features found during the survey shall be flagged or marked.

If no roosting sites or bats are found, a letter report confirming absence shall be prepared and submitted to Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.

If bats or roosting sites are found, bats shall not be disturbed without specific notice to and consultation with CDFW.

If bats are found roosting outside of the nursery season (May 1 through October 1), CDFW shall be consulted prior to any eviction or other action. If avoidance or postponement is not feasible, a Bat Eviction Plan will be submitted to CDFW for written approval prior to project implementation. A request to evict bats from a roost includes details for excluding bats from the roost site and monitoring to ensure that all bats have exited the roost prior to the start of activity and are unable to re-enter the roost until activity is completed. Any bat eviction shall be timed to avoid lactation and young-rearing. If bats are found roosting during the

nursery season, they shall be monitored to determine if the roost site is a maternal roost. This could occur by either visual inspection of the roost bat pups, if possible, or by monitoring the roost after the adults leave for the night to listen for bat pups. Because bat pups cannot leave the roost until they are mature enough, eviction of a maternal roost cannot occur during the nursery season. Therefore, if a maternal roost is present, a 50-foot buffer zone (or different size if determined in consultation with the CDFW) shall be established around the roosting site within which no activities including tree removal or structure disturbance shall occur until after the nursery season.

BIO-9 Arroyo willow woodland, California bulrush marsh, wetlands or estuarine habitat within 25 feet of invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints will be protected from disturbance. Prior to activities adjacent to arroyo willow woodland, California bulrush marsh, wetlands or estuarine habitat, a qualified botanist will erect environmentally sensitive area fencing around areas near the invasive removal, maintenance or improvement area to identify and protect sensitive plant communities or Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas. The location of the fencing will be marked in the field with stakes and flagging. Vegetation clearing activities, vehicle operation, material and equipment storage, and other surface-disturbing activities will be prohibited within the fenced environmentally sensitive area.

BIO-10 If avoidance cannot be accommodated within invasive removal, maintenance or improvement plans, then the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority shall be responsible for ensuring the implementation of a restoration plan. The restoration plan shall be designed by a qualified biologist and shall include the following:

- a. Prior to implementation of invasive removal, maintenance, or improvement activities, the location and extent of the areas to be restored will be clearly delineated and mapped. A plant palette shall be determined, with preference to plant species endemic to coastal Monterey County. The plant palette used for restoration will be reviewed and approved by the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority.
- b. The restoration plan will include seed collection and transplantation/preservation or restoration/preservation guidelines. Maintenance activities may include, but not be limited to, watering during the plant establishment period, supplemental seed planting as needed, and removal of non-native invasive plants. Monitoring will occur for a minimum of five years after mitigation area installation to verify that

restoration activities have been successful and will include, at a minimum, quarterly monitoring reports for the first year and annual reports for the remaining four years.

- c. The abundance of annual plants naturally varies from year to year depending on multiple factors including disturbance and rainfall. The performance standard for successful mitigation will be a minimum 2:1 replacement ratio (i.e. two plants observed in the restoration area for each plant lost from the impact area) during at least one spring occurring in year 3, 4, or 5 after installation. The plan will contain options for corrective action and extended maintenance/monitoring if the performance standard is not achieved during the 5-year monitoring period.
- d. During each monitoring effort undertaken in the restoration area, a qualified biologist will conduct a comparison of spring survey conditions from the previous year(s) and prepare a written report for the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. If adaptive management (corrective measures) are warranted, a description and recommendation will be included in the annual report.

BIO-11 Prior to disturbance in or within 25 feet adjacent to wetlands, a qualified biologist will prepare a wetland delineation to determine the extent of potential wetlands and waterways regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. If the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers claims jurisdiction, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority will retain a qualified biologist to obtain a Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permit. If the impacts to the drainage features do not qualify for a Nationwide Permit, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority shall proceed with the qualified biologist in obtaining an Individual Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority will also retain a qualified biologist to coordinate with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to obtain a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification. If necessary, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority will also retain a qualified biologist to coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

To compensate for temporary and/or permanent impacts to jurisdictional features that would be impacted as a result of the proposed project, mitigation shall be provided as required by the regulatory permits. Mitigation would be provided through one of the following mechanisms:

- i. A Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring Plan shall be developed that will outline mitigation and monitoring obligations for temporary impacts to wetlands and other waters as a result of disturbance activities. The Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring Plan would include thresholds of success, monitoring and reporting requirements, and site-specific plans to compensate for wetland losses resulting from the project. The Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring Plan shall be submitted to the appropriate regulatory agencies for review and approval during the permit application process.

Or

- ii. To compensate for permanent impacts, the purchase and/or dedication of land to provide suitable wetland restoration or creation shall ensure a no net loss of wetland values or functions. If restoration is available and feasible, a minimum 1:1 mitigation to impact ratio would apply to projects for which mitigation is provided in advance.

BIO-12 Per section 8.54.060 of the Seaside City Ordinance, the zoning administrator, or his designee (a qualified forester or arborist) will prepare a report on trees based on the applicant's plans and a site inspection of the land. Implementation of specific protections for preserved trees during disturbance activities will be followed; and replacement plantings for damaged or removed trees will be installed.

*Cultural Resources*

CR-1 If any archeological, prehistoric, or historic subsurface resources, including tribal cultural resources, are discovered during ground-disturbing (including tree and vegetation removal, path widening):

- a. All work within 50- meter (165 feet) shall be halted and a qualified archaeologist shall be consulted to assess the significance of the finding according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.

- b. If any find is determined to be significant, representatives from the City of Monterey Recreation Department and the archaeologist shall meet to determine the appropriate avoidance measures or other appropriate mitigation.
- c. All significant prehistoric cultural materials and or tribal cultural resources recovered shall be; returned to Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the area.
- d. In considering any suggested mitigation proposed by the consulting archaeologist to mitigate impacts to historical resources or unique archaeological resources, the City shall determine whether avoidance is necessary and feasible in light of factors such as the nature of the find, proposed project design, costs, and other considerations.
- e. If avoidance is infeasible, other appropriate measures (e.g., data recovery) would be implemented.
- f. Work may proceed on other parts of the project site while mitigation for historical resources or unique archaeological resources is being carried out.

CR-2 California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and the CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e) contain the mandated procedures of conduct following the discovery of human remains. According to the provisions in CEQA, if human remains are encountered at the site, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery shall cease and necessary steps to ensure the integrity of the immediate area shall be taken. The Monterey County Coroner shall be notified immediately. The Coroner shall then determine whether the remains are Native American. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours, who would, in turn, notify the person the Native American Heritage Commission identifies as the Most Likely Descendant of any human remains. Further actions shall be determined, in part, by the desires of the Most Likely Descendant. The Most Likely Descendant has 48 hours to make recommendations regarding the disposition of the remains following notification from the Native American Heritage Commission of the discovery. If the Most Likely Descendant does not make recommendations within 48 hours, the owner shall, with appropriate dignity, reinter the remains in an area of the property secure from further disturbance. Alternatively, if the owner does not accept the Most Likely Descendant's recommendations, the owner or the descendent may request mediation by the Native American Heritage Commission.

*Geology and Soils*

- GEO-1 All construction personnel must receive paleontological resources awareness training that includes information on the possibility of encountering fossils during construction; the types of fossils likely to be seen, based on past finds in the project area; and proper procedures in the event fossils are encountered. Worker training shall be prepared and presented by a qualified paleontologist. The Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority shall document evidence of completion of this training prior to ground disturbance
- GEO-2 If vertebrae fossils are discovered during construction, all work within 50 feet of the discovery shall stop immediately until a qualified professional paleontologist can assess the nature and importance of the find and recommend appropriate treatment. Treatment may include avoidance, if feasible, preservation in place, or preparation and recovery of fossil materials so that they can be housed in an appropriate museum or university collection and may also include preparation of a report for publication describing the finds.

*Tribal Cultural Resources*

- TCR-1 The Laguna Grande Regional Park JPA will notify the KaKoon Ta Ruk Band of Ohlone-Costanoan Indians of the Big Sur Rancheria two-weeks prior to any earth-moving activity and the Tribe's cultural resource specialist(s) will be allowed onsite for monitoring. Appropriate safety protocols shall be adhered to by all people on-site during the project or site access may be revoked. The Tribe's treatment protocol should be implemented.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

- A. BACKGROUND..... 1
- B. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED..... 15
- C. DETERMINATION..... 16
- D. EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS ..... 17
  - 1. Aesthetics ..... 18
  - 2. Agriculture and Forest Resources..... 20
  - 3. Air Quality..... 22
  - 4. Biological Resources ..... 25
  - 5. Cultural Resources ..... 50
  - 6. Energy..... 53
  - 7. Geology and Soils ..... 54
  - 8. Greenhouse Gas Emissions ..... 58
  - 9. Hazards and Hazardous Materials..... 59
  - 10. Hydrology and Water Quality ..... 61
  - 11. Land Use and Planning ..... 64
  - 12. Mineral Resources..... 65
  - 13. Noise..... 66
  - 14. Population and Housing..... 68
  - 15. Public Services..... 69
  - 16. Recreation ..... 70
  - 17. Transportation..... 71
  - 18. Tribal Cultural Resources ..... 72
  - 19. Utilities and Services Systems..... 74
  - 20. Wildfire ..... 76
  - 21. Mandatory Findings of Significance..... 77
- E. SOURCES..... 79

**Appendices**

Appendix A Draft – Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy  
Appendix B Special-Status Species in the Project Vicinity

**Figures**

Figure 1 Location Map ..... 5  
Figure 2 Aerial Photograph..... 7  
Figure 3 Site Photographs ..... 9  
Figure 4 Overall Site Plan - North..... 11  
Figure 5 Overall Site Plan - South ..... 13  
Figure 6 Special-Status Species Known to Occur in the Project Vicinity..... 29  
Figure 7 National Wetlands Inventory..... 45

**Tables**

Table 1 North Central Coast Air Basin Attainment Status ..... 23

## A. BACKGROUND

Project Title	Laguna Grande Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy
Lead Agency Contact Person and Phone Number	Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency 831-646-3910
Date Prepared	December 5, 2022
Study Prepared by	EMC Planning Group Inc. 601 Abrego Street Monterey, CA 93940
Project Location	401 Virgin Ave, Monterey, CA 93940
Project Sponsor Name and Address	Chris Schmidt Joint Powers Authority of Monterey (Monterey Representative) schmidt@monterey.org
Local Coastal Program/General Plan Designation	City of Seaside: Coastal Parks and Open Space (CPOS) City of Monterey: Parks and Open Space
Zoning	City of Seaside: Coastal Parks and Open Space (CPOS) City of Monterey: Open Space

The Laguna Grande Regional Park (“park”) is largely comprised of an emergent wetland with a system of trails for the public use. The park consists of approximately 13.3 acres; 80.5 percent (10.7 acres) of which is located within the City of Seaside and 19.5 percent (2.6 acres) located within the City of Monterey. The entire park, with the exception of a small portion adjacent to Canyon Del Rey Boulevard, is located within the Coastal Zone. It’s nestled between Del Monte Boulevard to the north, Canyon Del Rey Boulevard to the east, and Fremont Boulevard and the City of Del Rey Oaks to the south. The park is located south of State Route 1, approximately one-half mile north of the Monterey Regional Airport, and five miles southwest of the California State University Monterey Bay campus. The park is surrounded by urban development on all sides, with commercial to the north, residential to the east, commercial and residential to the south, and residential to the west.

[Figure 1, Location Map](#), shows the location of the project and [Figure 2, Aerial Photograph](#), illustrates the park and its surroundings.

Laguna Grande Regional Park is managed separately by their respective owners and operators, Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD), City of Seaside, and City of Monterey. The portion of the park within the City of Seaside is completely within the coastal zone and is guided by the policies and implementation contained in the *City of Seaside Local Coastal Program* (“LCP”).

## Background

Laguna Grande Lake was once a flowing estuary called the Canyon Del Rey Creek, collecting runoff from the 16.8 square mile Canyon Del Rey watershed and flowing into the Monterey Bay. Laguna Grande Lake and Roberts Lake, which existed as a single body of water, were separated in the 1880s by the Southern Pacific Railroad. Over time, the surrounding landscape developed and populations grew, the creek, the wetlands and estuary slowly filled and eventually were cut off from the bay. Slowly landfill operations filled in the marsh areas and edges of the lakes transforming this body of water into its current state.

In 1950, the County of Monterey established Laguna Grande Regional Park. In 1976, the cities of Seaside and Monterey and MRPD formed the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency (JPA) to coordinate the development and maintenance of the park.

Several plans have previously been prepared and adopted for the area. In 1976, the JPA adopted Seaside’s 1975 conceptual plan (Laguna Grande Redevelopment General Conceptual Plan) as its first step in preparation of a master plan for the park. In 1978, the *Laguna Grande Regional Park Master Plan and EIR Addendum* (Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency) (master plan) was prepared for Laguna Grande jointly by the cities of Monterey and Seaside and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District. However, the master plan was never fully implemented. The northern end of the park was built out with playgrounds, fields and park facilities. The south end of the park, meant to become an extension of the lake, was not completed due to lack of funds.

## Description of Project

### *Project Summary*

The proposed project involves updates to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail Maintenance Strategy ([Appendix A](#)) by way of maintenance and enhancement of the existing trail system. The purpose is to provide the JPA with a clear set of priorities and means for maintaining the trails and vegetation throughout the park. The project will implement maintenance strategies to create a more accessible, safe, and long-lasting park for the surrounding community and region.

The following are some of the key items the project will include:

#### **Seasonal Trail Development**

- Provide eight-foot-wide seasonal mulch trails through southern riparian woodland with seasonal foot bridges for creek crossing; and
- Mitigate habitat removal with invasive removal and restoration planting.

### **Vegetation Clearing**

- Clearing and limbing around trail curves and corners as well as around illegal camp sites to improve access for monitoring and cleaning; and
- Clearing at docks.

### **Trail Maintenance and Improvements**

- Replace sections of trail impacted by root damage or erosion and repair/replace culverts under trails;
- Add mulch seasonally to portions of seasonal trail that are degraded; and
- Provide formal trail connection to Fremont Boulevard and along Virgin Street.

### **Accessibility Improvements**

- Restore accessibility to north bridge and install accessible paths to docks to make compliant with local building codes;
- Repair areas with trip hazards; and
- Provide trail connection with anticipated Fort Ord Trail and Greenway Project (FORTAG) segment that will travel through the park utilizing the existing trail and provide access to trail users from Del Monte Boulevard to the north and from the corner of Fremont Street and canyon Del Rey to the south.

### **Invasive Species Removal and Restoration Planting**

- Restore native plantings where invasives are fully removed; and
- Create new native habitat along southern gravel trail.

### **Lighting**

- Repair or replace existing lighting; and
- Extend new lighting along the southern gravel trail.

Figure 3, [Site Photographs](#), provides a visual of the existing conditions at the park. [Figure 4, Overall Site Plan - North](#), and [Figure 5, Overall Site Plan – South](#), include the proposed project’s site plan for the north and south sides of the property.

### ***Project Goals***

The project provides direction to meet the regulations for maintenance of sensitive habitats and around bodies of water set forth by the state and federal government agencies.

The stated goals of the project are:

1. Address Encampment, Health and Safety Concerns;
2. Improve Personal Safety; and
3. Maintain and Improve Quality of Natural Resources.

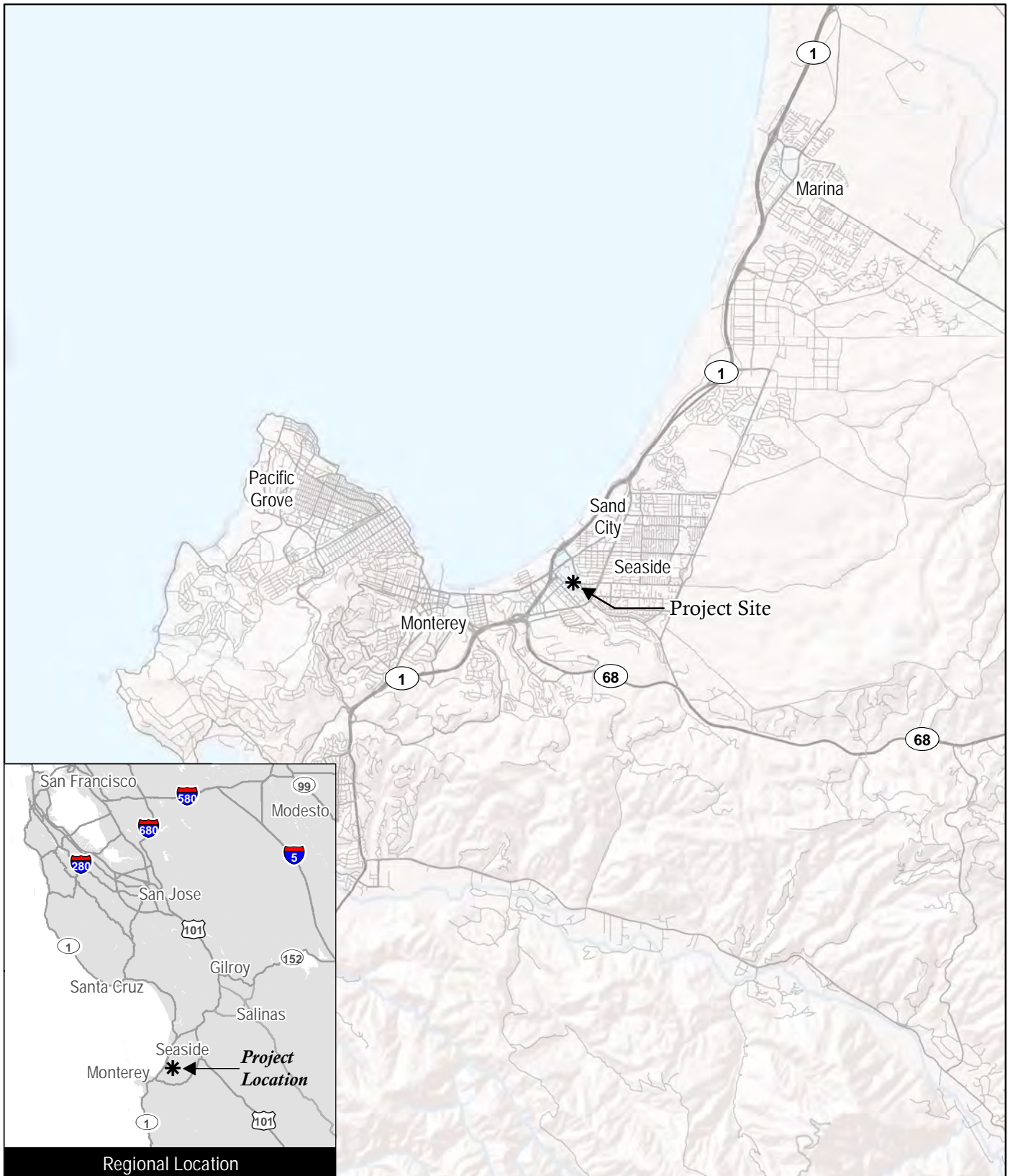
## Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required

- City of Monterey;
- City of Seaside;
- Regional Water Quality Control Board; and
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

## Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

The tribe KaKoon Ta Ruk band of Ohlone-Costanoan Indians of the Big Sur Rancheria (“Tribe”) requested consultation. The Tribe did not provide its treatment protocol for environmental review. The JPA concluded the consultation process without incorporating additional mitigation measures recommended by the Tribe.

*Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission’s Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.*

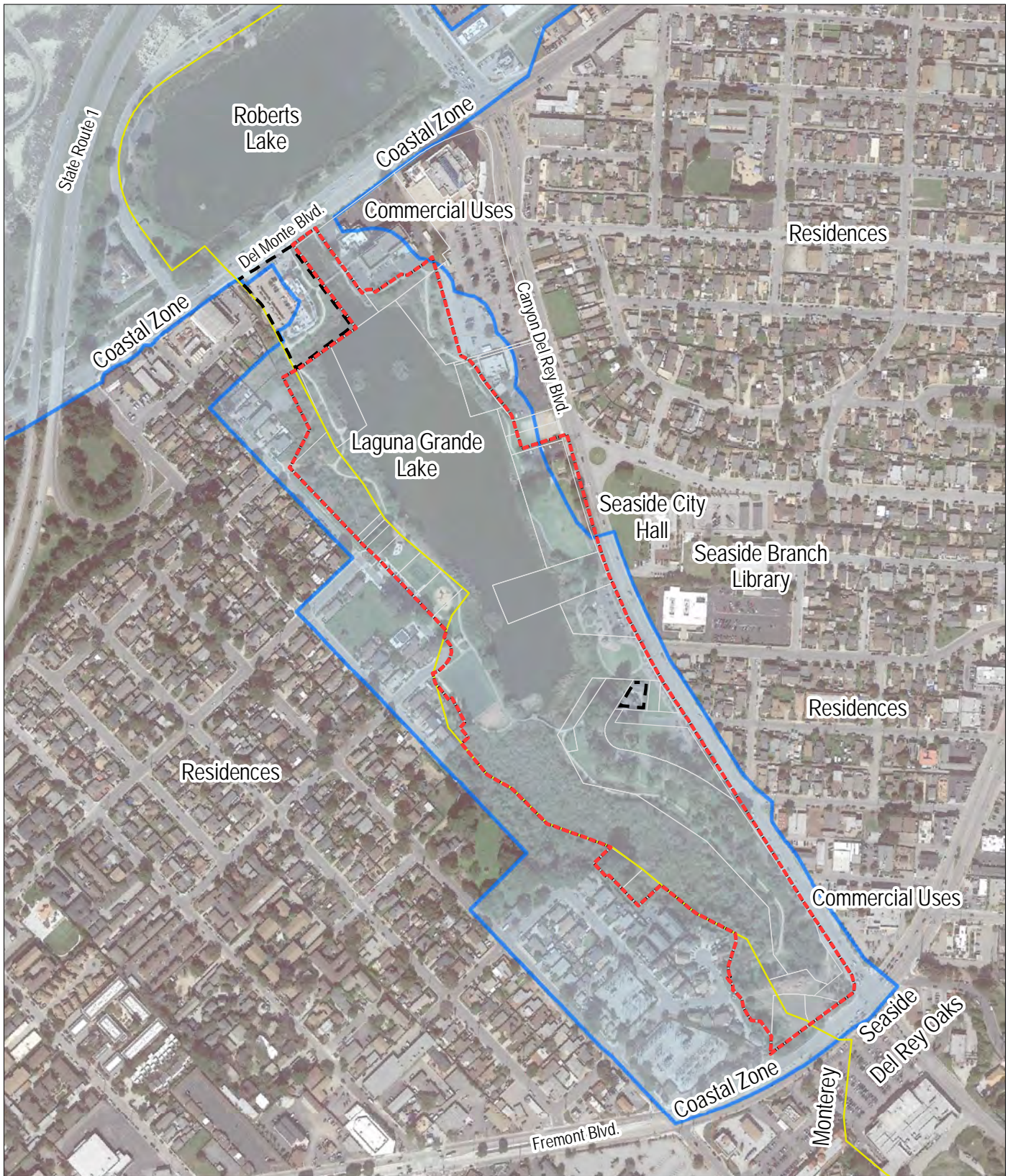


Source: ESRI 2014

Figure 1  
**Location Map**



*This side intentionally left blank.*



Source: Monterey County GIS 2022, Google Earth 2022



- Laguna Grande Park Boundary
- Parcels Not Included in Project
- City Boundary
- Parcels
- Coastal Zone



Figure 2  
**Aerial Photograph**

**Laguna Grande Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy – Initial Study**

*This side intentionally left blank.*



① On the northeast side of the project site facing southwest across Laguna Grande Lake.



② On the southside of the project site facing southwest.



Project Site

Source: Google Earth 2022  
 Photographs: EMC Planning Group 2021,  
 Laguna Grande Reginal Park  
 Joint Powers Authority 2022

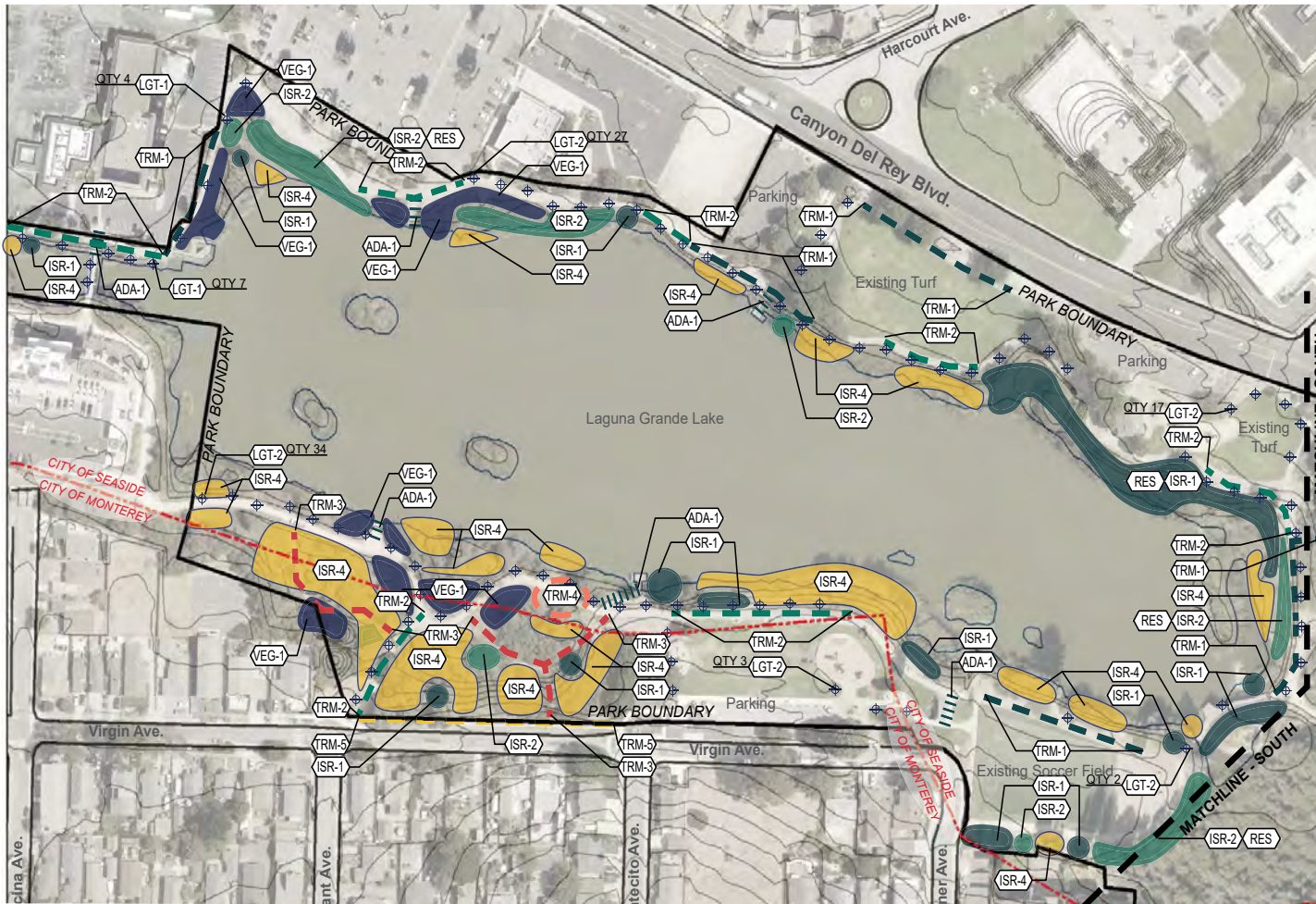


③ On Branner Avenue facing the park's soccer field.



④ On the north side of the project site facing south across Laguna Grande Lake.

*This side intentionally left blank.*



**LEGEND**

**South Woods Seasonal Trail Development**

- ⬭(STR-1) Enhance Existing Social Trails Similar to Seasonal Trails
- ⬭(STR-2) Seasonal Mulch Trail to Finish Loop

**Vegetation Clearing**

- ⬭(VEG-1) Clear and Limb
- ⬭(VEG-2) Clearing of Vegetation and Debris Consistent with Current Maintenance Practices

**Trail Maintenance and Improvements**

- ⬭(TRM-1) Replace Trail Impacted by Roots
- ⬭(TRM-2) Repair Edge of Trail - Erosion
- ⬭(TRM-3) Add Mulch to Seasonal Trail
- ⬭(TRM-4) Repair/replace Culverts
- ⬭(TRM-5) Provide Formal Trail Connection

**Accessibility Improvements**

- ⬭(ADA-1) Restore Trail Accessibility
- ⬭(ADA-2) Accessibility Improvements per FORTAG Trail Alignment. See Figure 3.

**Invasive Species Clearing**

- ⬭(ISR-1) Clearing - Priority 1 (1-3 years)
- ⬭(ISR-2) Clearing - Priority 2 (1-5 years)
- ⬭(ISR-3) Clearing - Priority 3 (6-10 years)
- ⬭(ISR-4) Clearing - Priority 4/5
- ⬭(ISR-5) Priority 6 - No Action
- ⬭(RES) Restore Planting at Invasive Clearing Areas
- ⬭(MIT) Habitat Removal Mitigation Planting

**Lighting**

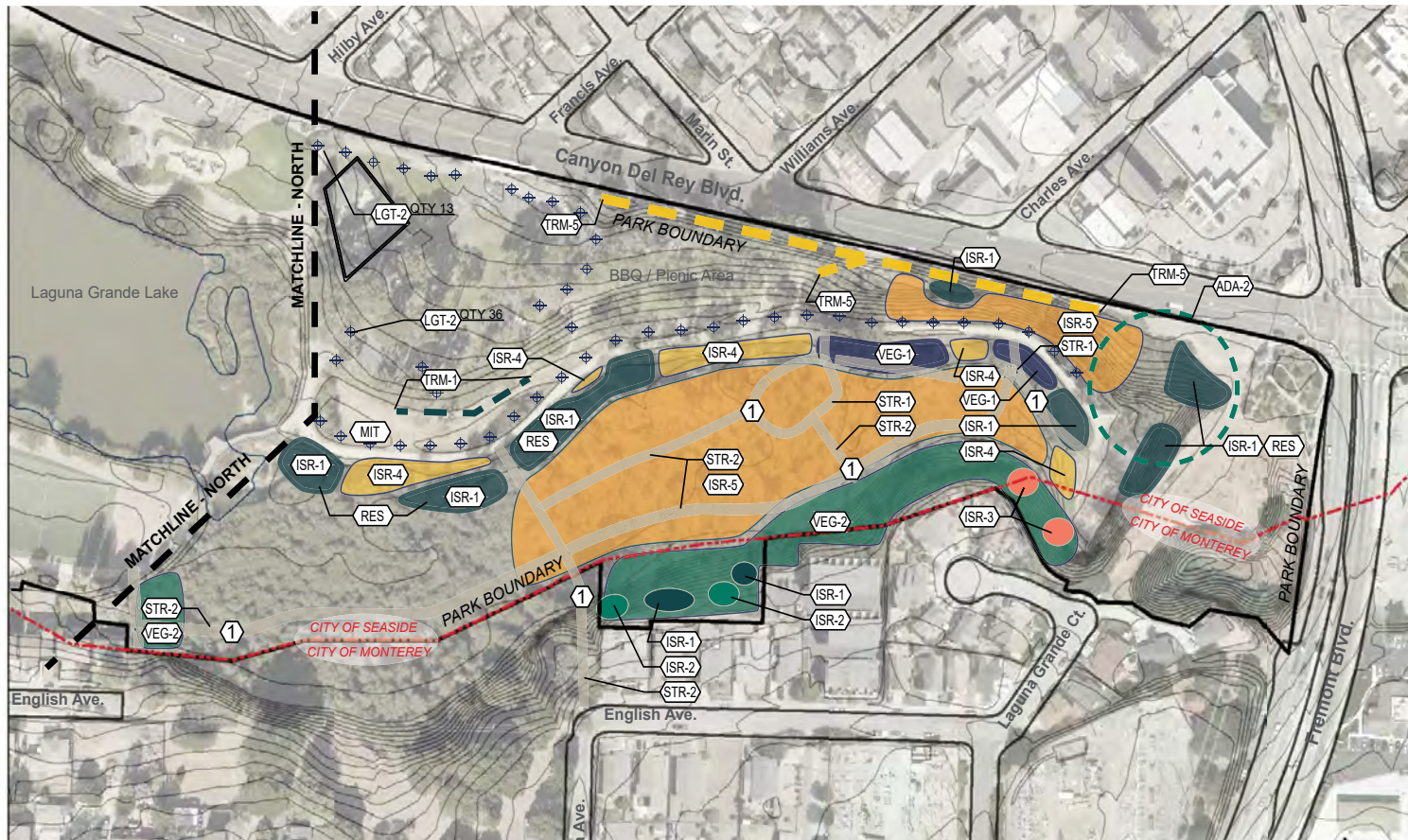
- ⬭(LGT-1) Repair/Replace Existing Lighting
- ⬭(LGT-2) Extend New Lighting

Source: Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority 2022



Figure 4  
Overall Site Plan - North

*This side intentionally left blank.*



**LEGEND**

**South Woods Seasonal Trail Development**

- Enhance Existing Social Trails Similar to Seasonal Trails
- Seasonal Mulch Trail to Finish Loop

**Vegetation Clearing**

- Clear and Limb
- Clearing of Vegetation and Debris Consistent with Current Maintenance Practices

**Trail Maintenance and Improvements**

- Replace Trail Impacted by Roots
- Repair Edge of Trail - Erosion
- Add Mulch to Seasonal Trail
- Repair/replace Culverts
- Provide Formal Trail Connection

**Accessibility Improvements**

- Restore Trail Accessibility
- Accessibility Improvements per FORTAG Trail Alignment. See Figure 3.

**Invasive Species Clearing**

- Clearing - Priority 1 (1-3 years)
- Clearing - Priority 2 (1-5 years)
- Clearing - Priority 3 (6-10 years)
- Clearing - Priority 4/5
- Priority 6 - No Action
- Restore Planting at Invasive Clearing Areas
- Habitat Removal Mitigation Planting

**Lighting**

- Repair/Replace Existing Lighting
- Extend New Lighting

Source: Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority 2022



Figure 5  
**Overall Site Plan - South**  
Laguna Grande Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy – Initial Study

*This side intentionally left blank.*

## B. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions      | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources               | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning             | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources             | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing            | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

## C. DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect (1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and (2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (1) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (2) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

---

Name and Title

---

Date

## D. EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

### Notes

1. All answers take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
2. Once it has been determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
3. “Negative Declaration: Less-Than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less-Than-Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less-than-significant level (mitigation measures from section XVII, “Earlier Analyses,” may be cross-referenced).
4. Earlier analyses are used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. [Section 15063(c)(3)(D)] In this case, a brief discussion would identify the following:
  - a. “Earlier Analysis Used” identifies and states where such document is available for review.
  - b. “Impact Adequately Addressed” identifies which effects from the checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and states whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c. “Mitigation Measures”—For effects that are “Less-Than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated,” mitigation measures are described which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
5. Checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances, etc.) are incorporated. Each reference to a previously prepared or outside document, where appropriate, includes a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
6. “Supporting Information Sources”—A source list is attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted are cited in the discussion.
7. The explanation of each issue identifies:
  - a. The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b. The mitigation measure identified, if any to reduce the impact to less than significant.

# 1. AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099 (Modernization of Transportation Analysis for Transit-Oriented Infill Projects), would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Comments:

- a. The proposed project includes the maintenance and enhancement of the existing trail system at the Laguna Grande Regional Park. The Laguna Grande Regional Park is identified within the City of Seaside’s LCP and the City of Monterey General Plan as a visual resource. The following policy from the LCP applies to the project:

Policy NCR-LG 2.1.B – Management of Visual Resources

- i. Coordinate with the Regional Park District to provide viewshed improvements to areas identified on Figure 2-4 as a component of Coastal Visitor-Serving Commercial land use development and park improvements proposed for Laguna Grande.
- ii. The City shall develop Gateway Guidelines for the Fremont Corridor adjacent to Laguna Grande Park.

The following policy from the City of Monterey General Plan applies to the project:

Policy d.3.

Coordinate with the City of Seaside to assure that Roberts Lake and Laguna Grande remain as marsh habitat and scenic resources for both Seaside and Monterey.

The proposed project complies with Policy NCR-LG 2.1.Bi through its intent on enhancing and preserving the park and its trails and clearing invasive species vegetation that has overgrown and blocked views of the Laguna Grande Lake. The scenic resource (i.e., Laguna Grande Regional Park) would benefit from implementation of the proposed project occurring. The proposed project complies with Policy d.3 as it is a collaborative effort to maintain and enhance the existing habitat and scenic resources for both Seaside and Monterey.

- b. The nearest state scenic highway is the eligible portion of State Route 1 located approximately 0.17 miles west of the site (it is eligible from the intersection of Fremont Boulevard going north and the official state designated portion of State Route 1 is from this intersection going south). The official state designated portion of State Route 1 is located approximately one mile southwest of the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not damage scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway.
- c. The project site is within an urbanized area on the border of the cities of Seaside and Monterey. The proposed project involves the maintenance and enhancement of the existing trail system within Laguna Grande Regional Park and would have no conflicts with the zoning of the project site or other regulations governing scenic quality. The proposed project would be in compliance, and beneficial, to the regulations governing scenic quality in the area because the purpose of the project is to preserve and enhance the scenic quality of the Laguna Grande Regional Park.
- d. The proposed project includes repairing existing lighting and extending new lighting in areas where the park trail has no ambient street lighting. However, the lighting involved with the project would be minimal and is meant for the safety of trail users. There would be no glare concerns with this project.

Although the project would create new sources of light, these sources would be minor and down-casted for the safety of the public using the trails and, therefore, would not significantly affect day or nighttime views in the area.

## 2. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts on agricultural resources are significant environmental effects and in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state’s inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Comments:

- a. The project site does not contain any prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance, as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency. Therefore, the project would not convert these farmlands to nonagricultural use.

- b. The project site does not include any farmlands, therefore, there are no conflicts with Williamson Act contracts. The project site is zoned Coastal Parks and Open Space (CPOS) (City of Seaside) and Open Space (City of Monterey) and, therefore, the project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use.
- c. The project site is zoned Coastal Parks and Open Space (CPOS) (City of Seaside) and Open Space (City of Monterey). There are also no forest lands or timberland zones within the City of Seaside; therefore, the project would not conflict with the existing zoning of forest lands or timberlands.
- d. The project site is zoned Coastal Parks and Open Space (CPOS) (City of Seaside) and Open Space (City of Monterey). Therefore, the proposed project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.
- e. The project site is zoned Coastal Parks and Open Space (CPOS) (City of Seaside) and Open Space (City of Monterey) and would not involve other changes in the existing environment which result in the conversion of Farmland to nonagricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

### 3. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in other emissions, such as those leading to odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### Comments:

- a. The project site is located in the North Central Coast Air Basin (hereinafter “air basin”), which is under the jurisdiction of the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (hereinafter “air district”). Regional air districts must prepare air quality plans specifying how state air quality standards will be met. The air district’s currently adopted plan is *2012-2015 Air Quality Management Plan*. The air district specifies air quality management plan consistency for population-related projects only. The proposed project involves improvements to the Laguna Grande Regional Park, which would not result in an increase in population. Therefore, the project would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of the applicable air quality plan.
- b. The air district is responsible for monitoring air quality in the air basin, which is designated, under state criteria, as a nonattainment area for ozone and suspended particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>). Under federal criteria, the air basin is at attainment (8-hour standard) for ozone and particulates. [Table 1, North Central Coast Air Basin Attainment Status](#), presents a summary of attainment status with federal and state standards.

**Table 1 North Central Coast Air Basin Attainment Status**

<b>Pollutant</b>	<b>California Standards</b>	<b>National Standards</b>
O <sub>3</sub>	Non-attainment	Attainment
PM <sub>10</sub>	Non-attainment	Attainment
PM <sub>2.5</sub>	Attainment	Attainment
CO	Unclassified (San Benito County)	Attainment
NO <sub>2</sub>	Attainment	Attainment
SO <sub>2</sub>	Attainment	Attainment
Pb	Attainment	Attainment

SOURCE: Monterey Bay Air Resources District 2017

As identified in Table 1, with respect to national standards, the air basin has achieved attainment.

The air district has developed criteria pollutant emissions thresholds, which are used to determine whether or not a proposed project would violate an air quality standard or contribute to an existing violation during operations and/or construction. A significant environmental impact would occur if the proposed project would generate emissions that would exceed state thresholds for criteria air pollutants.

***Operational Impacts***

Based on the air district’s CEQA Air Quality Guidelines (hereinafter “air district CEQA Guidelines”), a project would have a significant operational air quality impact if it would:

- Emit 137 pounds per day or more of direct and indirect volatile organic compounds (VOC);
- Emit 137 pounds per day or more of direct and indirect nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>);
- Directly emit 550 pounds per day or more of carbon monoxide (CO);
- Emit 82 pounds per day or more of suspended particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) on-site and from vehicle travel on unpaved roads off-site; or
- Directly emit 150 pounds per day or more of sulfur oxides (SO<sub>x</sub>).

The proposed project involves maintenance of the Laguna Grande Regional Park. During operations, the only energy demand would be the electricity used for the existing and proposed lighting sources along the park trails. This planned source of energy demand would replace the existing source of energy demand from the lights and create new sources of energy through the extension of new lighting on park trails that have no ambient street light. Air emissions from this electricity generation would not significantly increase relative to existing baseline conditions. Therefore, the project would not contribute to cumulative operational air emissions in the air basin and would have no cumulative impact.

### ***Construction Impacts***

Pursuant to the air district's CEQA Guidelines, if activities disturb more than 2.2 acres then dust control measures are needed. As a park maintenance project, the amount of surface disturbance that would occur on any given day would be minimal and less than 2.2 acres. Therefore, fugitive dust emissions impacts would be less than significant.

However, it is recommended that hand tools are used where possible and mechanical equipment greater than 50 horsepower must meet the Environmental Protection Agency's Tier 3 engines. Further, the use of electric equipment should be minimized as much as possible.

- c. According to the air district CEQA Guidelines, a sensitive receptor is generally defined as any residence including private homes, condominiums, apartments, and living quarters; education resources such as preschools and kindergarten through grade twelve (K-12) schools; daycare centers; and health care facilities such as hospitals or retirement and nursing homes.

The proposed project involves minimal construction activities as it is all maintenance and enhancement of the existing trail system. However, the project site is surrounded by residences to the west and east.

The project would not require intensive use of diesel-powered construction equipment that would generate significant diesel exhaust containing toxic air contaminants. Further, dust emissions should be minimal as described in "b" above. Nevertheless, the adjacent sensitive receptors could be exposed to pollutant concentrations that could conservatively be considered potentially significant. The Joint Powers Authority will implement the following measure to reduce this impact to a less-than-significant level.

### ***Mitigation Measure***

- AQ-1 All construction equipment will be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer's specifications and will be checked by a certified visible emissions evaluator. All non-road diesel construction equipment will, at a minimum, meet Tier 3 emission standards listed in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Part 89, Subpart B, §89.112. Further, where feasible, construction equipment will use alternative fuels such as compressed natural gas, propane, electricity or biodiesel.
- d. The proposed project, as a maintenance and enhancement project of the existing Laguna Grande Regional Park's trail system, would not produce new odors during operation. The minimal activities that would occur during the implementation phase would not involve demolition or substantial grading activities that could temporarily generate objectionable odors.

## 4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.), through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Comments:

This section is based on reconnaissance-level biological field surveys and focused plant surveys conducted by EMC Planning Group biologist Patrick Furtado, M.S., on May 18, May 24, and June 15, 2021, to document existing plant communities/wildlife habitats and evaluate the potential for special-status species to occur on the project site. Biological resources were documented in field notes, including species observed, dominant plant communities, significant wildlife habitat characteristics, and riparian and wetland habitat. Qualitative estimations of plant cover, structure, and spatial changes in species composition were used to determine plant

communities and wildlife habitats. Habitat quality and disturbance levels were also described. The results of the focused plant surveys are included in the *Laguna Grande Regional Park Vegetation Mapping and Focused Plant Survey Results* [Appendix A of the *Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy* (“Maintenance Strategy”), which is [Appendix A](#) of this initial study) BFS 2022].

Prior to conducting the surveys, Mr. Furtado reviewed aerial photographs, natural resource database mapping and reports, and other relevant scientific literature. This included searching the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Endangered Species Database (USFWS 2021), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CDFW 2021), and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CNPS 2021) to identify special-status plants, wildlife, and habitats known to occur in the vicinity of the project site. Special-status species in this report are those listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Rare, or as Candidates for listing by the USFWS and/or CDFW; as Species of Special Concern or Fully Protected species by the CDFW; or as Rare Plant Rank 1B or 2B species by the CNPS.

Critical habitat is a designation used by the USFWS for specific geographic areas that contain features essential to the conservation of an endangered or threatened species and that may require special management and protection. The project site is not within a critical habitat area.

The *Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy* (“Maintenance Strategy”, BFS 2022) includes three major goals, one of which is to maintain and improve the quality of natural resources through the preservation and protection of existing habitat, removal of invasive vegetation, and the mitigation of habitat disturbance as a result of vegetation removal. Appendix B of the Maintenance Strategy identifies specific guidelines for invasive, non-native plant removal/control.

Laguna Grande Regional Park contains over 13 acres of native plant and wildlife habitat and is a refuge for over 200 species of migratory and resident birds. Three dominant habitat types were identified during the reconnaissance-level biological survey of the project site: arroyo willow woodland, California bulrush marsh, and ruderal/weedy vegetation. These habitats are described in detail below and are shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the focused plant survey report in Appendix A of the Maintenance Strategy ([Appendix A](#) of this initial study).

**Arroyo Willow Woodland.** The most extensive plant community at Laguna Grande Park is the arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) riparian woodland. This native plant community grows in discontinuous patches along the shoreline of the lake and forms a dense and wide woodland along Canyon del Rey Creek south of the lake. Other riparian tree species found with arroyo willow are box elder (*Acer negundo*), black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), and Pacific willow (*Salix lasiandra*). Abundant soil moisture allows the growth of a well-developed understory composed of native shrubs including California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), and creek dogwood (*Cornus sericea*). Ground cover consists of mugwort (*Artemisia douglasiana*), hedge nettle (*Stachys bullata*), and giant horsetail (*Equisetum telmateia* var. *braunii*). Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) grow on the drier edge of the riparian corridor.

The park has perhaps the largest extent of native arroyo willow woodland in the local urban landscape and each spring and summer the wetland provides home to hundreds of nesting birds such as downy woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens*), chestnut-backed chickadee (*Poecile rufescens*), Swainson's thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*), Hutton's vireo (*Vireo huttoni*), orange-crowned warbler (*Leiothlypis celata*), and Wilson's warbler (*Cardellina pusilla*) (Roberson 2002).

The arroyo willow woodland riparian vegetation is dense and structurally complex making this community exceptionally diverse. Bird diversity is especially high and includes visiting species from the American tropics. These birds are known as Neotropical migrants and include stunningly attractive species such as Townsend's warbler (*Setophaga townsendi*) and yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*). Abundant riparian food and cover allow them to nest successfully before returning to their winter accommodations in the tropics.

The riparian habitat makes Laguna Grande Park one of the top bird watching hotspots on the Central Coast. In fact, clumps of willow growing at creek and river mouths along the Central Coast are a specialized habitat known as "vagrant traps." Clumps of willow attract misoriented migrating birds in the spring and fall. These "vagrants" are sometimes thousands of miles from their regular migration corridors and offer rare bird observations (Roberson 2002).

The freshwater lake ringed by the arroyo willow woodland also provides excellent resting and foraging habitat to numerous waterfowl including Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), bufflehead (*Bucephala albeola*), ruddy duck (*Oxyura jamaicensis*), double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), and pied-billed grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*).

**California Bulrush Marsh.** California bulrush (*Schoenoplectus californicus*) grows in patches, often alternating with willow, along the lake shoreline. Also commonly called tule, bulrush is dominant in the herbaceous layer with other associated wetland plants such as broad-leaved cattail (*Typha latifolia*), Pacific silverweed (*Potentilla anserina*), fat hen (*Atriplex prostrata*), fleshy jaumea (*Jaumea carnosa*), willow herb (*Epilobium ciliatum*), Pacific oenanthe (*Oenanthe sarmentosa*), and curly dock (*Rumex crispus*). Emergent trees and shrubs may be present at low cover including arroyo willow, pacific willow, creek dogwood, California blackberry, and poison oak.

This marsh habitat supports a wealth of bird and other wildlife such as red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), sora (*Porzana carolina*), Virginia rail (*Rallus limicola*), green heron (*Butorides virescens*), black-crowned night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), marsh wren (*Cistothorus palustris*), and the strikingly beautiful common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). The emergent marsh vegetation provides food, nest sites, and materials.

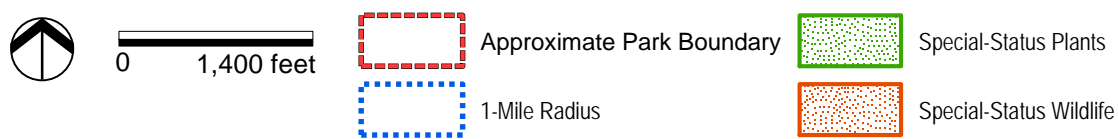
**Ruderal Vegetation.** Areas of ruderal vegetation are found in pockets on the west side of Laguna Grande Lake and in the southernmost area of the park near Fremont Street. Ruderal refers to disturbed habitat and is characterized by weedy, non-native grasses such as ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), wild oats (*Avena fatua*), and foxtail barley (*Hordeum murinum*). These grasses are mostly introduced from Europe and are highly adapted to the Mediterranean climate of California. Other invasive plant species are also dominant here and include Italian thistle (*Carduus*

*pycnocephalus*), wild radish (*Raphanus sativus*), fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*), French broom (*Genista monspessulana*), poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), wild mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), and bristly ox-tongue (*Helminthotheca echioides*).

- a. **Special-Status Species.** Special-status species are those listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Rare, or as Candidates for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or CDFW under the state and/or federal Endangered Species Acts. The special-status designation also includes CDFW Species of Special Concern and Fully Protected species, California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rare Plant Rank 1B and 2B species, and other locally rare species that meet the criteria for listing as described in Section 15380 of CEQA Guidelines. Special-status species are generally rare, restricted in distribution, declining throughout their range, or have a critical, vulnerable stage in their life cycle that warrants monitoring.

A search of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) was conducted for the target Seaside USGS quadrangle, and eight surrounding quadrangles (Monterey OE N, Marina, Salinas, Monterey, Spreckels, Soberanes Point, Mount Carmel, and Carmel Valley) to generate a list of potentially occurring special-status wildlife species in the project vicinity (CDFW 2021). Records of occurrence for special-status plants were also reviewed for those twelve USGS quadrangles in the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CNPS 2021). A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Endangered Species Program threatened and endangered species list was generated for San Benito County (USFWS 2021). [Appendix B, Special-Status Species in the Project Vicinity](#), presents tables with CNDDDB results, which lists special-status species documented within the project vicinity, their listing status and suitable habitat description, and their potential to occur on the site. [Figure 6, Special-Status Species Known to Occur in the Project Vicinity](#), presents a map with CNDDDB results.

**Special-Status Plant Species.** Of the special-status plant species known to occur in the project vicinity identified in [Appendix B](#), the following species have the potential to occur on the project site: arcuate bush-mallow (*Malacothamnus arcuatus*), bent-flowered fiddleneck (*Amsinckia lunaris*), blue coast gilia (*Gilia capitata* ssp. *chamissonis*), Choris' popcorn-flower (*Plagiobothrys chorisianus* var. *chorisianus*), coast triquetrella (*Triquetrella californica*), Diablo helianthella (*Helianthella castanea*), fragrant fritillary (*Fritillaria liliacea*), Franciscan thistle (*Cirsium andrensi*), Hickman's cinquefoil (*Potentilla hickmanii*), Kellogg's horkelia (*Horkelia cuneata* ssp. *sericea*), pappose tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *parryi*), perennial goldfields (*Lasthenia californica* ssp. *macrantha*), rose leptosiphon (*Leptosiphon rosaceus*), San Francisco Bay spineflower (*Chorizanthe cuspidata* var. *cuspidata*), San Francisco campion (*Silene verecunda* ssp. *verecunda*), San Francisco owl's-clover (*Triphysaria floribunda*), and western leatherwood (*Dirca occidentalis*).



Source: ESRI 2021, CDFW CNDDDB 2021

Figure 6  
Special-Status Species Known to Occur in the Project Vicinity

Laguna Grande Trail Maintenance CEQA



*This side intentionally left blank.*

EMC Planning Group associate biologist Patrick Furtado completed focused plant surveys for special-status plant species on May 24, 2021 and June 15, 2021 in accordance with current California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW 2009) and California Native Plant Society (CNPS 2001) rare plant survey protocols. According to the United States Drought Monitor, the project site is located in an area experiencing severe drought conditions at the time of surveys (National Drought Mitigation Center 2021).

Mr. Furtado also visited nearby special-status plant reference populations for seaside bird's beak (*Cordylanthus rigidus* ssp. *littoralis*), Monterey spineflower (*Chorizanthe pungens* var. *pungens*), Monterey gilia (*Gilia tenuiflora* ssp. *arenaria*), Yadon's rein orchid (*Piperia yadonii*), and sand-loving wallflower (*Erysimum ammophilum*) to determine that these plant species were identifiable at the time of the surveys.

All suitable habitats for special-status plant species within the Laguna Grande Park survey area were systematically surveyed and plant species observed were recorded in field notes. Plant species were identified in the field or collected for subsequent identification using plant keys contained in *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California* (Baldwin et. al 2012). Taxonomy follows the *Jepson Flora Project* (2022) for scientific and common names.

No special-status plant species were observed within the Laguna Grande Regional Park survey area. Appendix A of the Maintenance Strategy presents the results of the focused plant survey, including maps and a list of all plant species that were observed at the park during the focused plant surveys (the Maintenance Strategy is [Appendix A](#) of this initial study). Survey results are generally considered valid for five years.

**Special-Status Wildlife Species.** Wildlife species identified with the potential to occur on the project site include:

- California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*);
- Coast Range newt (*Taricha torosa*);
- Western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*);
- Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*);
- Tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*);
- American badger (*Taxidea taxus*);
- Monterey dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes luciana*);
- Monterey shrew (*Sorex ornatus salarius*);
- Hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*); and
- Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*).

**Special-Status Amphibians and Reptiles.** The following special-status amphibian and reptile species occur in the project vicinity and were assessed for the potential to occur on the project site: California red-legged frog, Coast Range newt, and Western pond turtle.

*California Red-legged Frog.* A federally-listed threatened species and California Species of Special Concern, California red-legged frog occurs in lowlands and foothills primarily in perennial or ephemeral ponds, pools, and streams where water remains long enough (14-28 weeks) for breeding and metamorphosis of tadpoles. Specific breeding sites include streams, creeks, ponds, marshes, sag ponds, deep pools, backwater areas, dune ponds, lagoons, and estuaries. California red-legged frog may disperse from their aquatic breeding habitats to upland habitats during the dry season. They prefer upland habitats that provide moisture to prevent desiccation and protection from predators, including downed logs, woody vegetation, boulders, moist leaf litter, or other refugia during the dry season. In areas where upland habitats do not contain structure, they take refuge in burrows. However, if there is sufficient water at their breeding location, they may remain in aquatic habitats year-round instead of moving to adjacent uplands.

During wet seasons, frogs can move long distances between habitats, traversing upland areas or ephemeral drainages. Dispersal distances are typically less than 0.3 mile, with a few individuals moving 1.2-2.2 miles. Seeps and springs in open grasslands can function as foraging habitat or refugia for wandering frogs.

CNDDDB records indicate that the closest known occurrence of California red-legged frog is approximately 2.5 miles south of the project site (Occurrence No. 939, CNDDDB 2021). There are no known occurrences within the project area lake or drainages, however breeding and upland habitat is potentially present. If impacts to California red-legged frog occur, they could be significant. Implementation of mitigation measures BIO-1, BIO-2 and BIO-3 would reduce this potential, significant impact to California red-legged frog to a less-than-significant level.

### ***Mitigation Measures***

BIO-1 Prior to ground disturbance, a qualified biologist shall conduct a training session for all construction personnel. At a minimum, the training shall include a description of special-status species potentially occurring in the project vicinity, including, but not limited to, California red-legged frog, Coast Range newt, western pond turtle, burrowing owl, tricolored blackbird, American badger, Monterey dusky-footed woodrat, Monterey shrew, special-status bats, and nesting birds and raptors. Their habitats, general measures that are being implemented to conserve species as they relate to the project, and the boundaries within which disturbance activities will occur will be explained. Informational handouts with photographs clearly illustrating the species' appearances shall be used in the training session. All new construction personnel shall undergo this mandatory environmental awareness training.

The qualified biologist will train biological monitors selected from the construction crew by the construction contractor (typically the project foreman). Before the start of work each day, the monitor will check for animals under any equipment such as vehicles and stored pipes within active disturbance areas. The monitor will also check all excavated

steep-walled holes or trenches greater than one foot deep for trapped animals. If a special-status species is observed within an active disturbance area, the qualified biologist will be notified immediately and all work within 50 feet of the individual will be halted and all equipment turned off until the individual has left the disturbance area.

The Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority shall document evidence of completion of this training prior to ground disturbance.

BIO-2 A qualified biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys following the guidance documented in the *Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the California Red-legged Frog* (USFWS 2005) no more than two weeks (14 days) prior to the start of disturbance activities. The invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints will be surveyed for potential migratory and/or upland activity. The qualified biologist shall prepare a report documenting the results of the preconstruction surveys for submittal to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority prior to ground disturbance.

If California red-legged frog is found, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority will coordinate with the USFWS and/or CDFW to determine the appropriate course of action per the requirements of FESA and/or CESA (e.g., obtaining Incidental Take Permits) and implement the permit requirements prior to ground disturbance.

BIO-3 The following measures from the USFWS *Programmatic Biological Opinion for Issuance of Permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, including Authorizations Under 22 Nationwide Permits, for Projects that May Affect the Threatened California Red-legged Frog in Nine San Francisco Bay Area Counties, California* (USFWS 2014) shall be implemented:

- a. Plans shall delineate a 100-foot boundary from the outer edge of riparian vegetation along the lake and drainages.
- b. A qualified biologist shall be on site during all activities within 100 feet from the outer edge of riparian vegetation along the lake or drainage that where California red-legged frog may be encountered.
- c. To the extent possible, all ground-disturbing work within 100 feet from the outer edge of riparian vegetation along the lake and drainage shall be avoided between November 1 and March 31, the time period when California red-legged frogs are most likely to be moving through upland areas.
- d. All ground-disturbing work within 100 feet from the outer edge of riparian vegetation should be accomplished during the dry season, with no disturbance activities occurring during rain events or within 24 hours following a rain event.
- e. Prior to disturbance activities, exclusionary fencing shall be placed to keep construction vehicles and personnel from impacting potentially jurisdictional waters and riparian/wetland habitat outside of work areas. A biological monitor shall supervise the installation of exclusionary fencing and monitor at least once per week

until disturbance activities are complete to ensure that the protective exclusionary fencing remains intact. Exclusion fencing material shall be selected to avoid accidental entrapment of wildlife species, such as fencing with a smaller gauge or no gaps at all (e.g., Animex™ fencing).

- f. To minimize harassment, injury, death, and harm in the form of temporary habitat disturbances, all project-related vehicle traffic shall be restricted to established roads, disturbance areas, equipment staging, storage, parking, and stockpile areas.
- g. If a California red-legged frog is encountered, all activities which have the potential to result in the harassment, injury, or death of the individual shall be immediately halted. A qualified biologist shall then assess the situation and select a course of action that shall avoid or minimize adverse effects to the animal.
- h. Uneaten human food and trash attracts crows, ravens, coyotes, and other predators of the California red-legged frog. A litter control program shall be instituted at each project site. All workers shall ensure their food scraps, paper wrappers, food containers, cans, bottles, and other trash are deposited in covered or closed trash containers. The trash containers shall be removed from the project site at the end of each working day.
- i. Loss of soil from run-off or erosion shall be prevented with straw bales, straw wattles, or similar means provided they do not entangle, block escape or dispersal routes of the California red-legged frog.
- j. No insecticides or herbicides shall be used at the project site during construction or long-term operational maintenance where there is the potential for these chemical agents to enter the river, or uplands that contain potential habitat for the California red-legged frog.
- k. For on-site storage of pipes, conduits, and other materials that could provide shelter for special-status species, an open-top trailer shall be used to elevate the materials above ground. This is intended to reduce the potential for animals to climb into the conduits and other materials.
- l. To the maximum extent possible, night-time construction shall be minimized or avoided because dusk and dawn are often the times when the California red-legged frog is most actively moving and foraging.
- m. Plastic monofilament netting (erosion control matting), loosely woven netting, or similar material in any form shall not be used at the project site because California red-legged frogs can become entangled and trapped in them. Materials utilizing fixed weaves (strands cannot move), polypropylene, polymer, or other synthetic materials shall not be used.

- n. Trenches or pits one foot or deeper that are going to be left unfilled for more than 48 hours shall be securely covered with boards or other material to prevent the California red-legged frog from falling into them.

*Coast Range Newt.* Coast Range newt is a California Species of Special Concern. This species is endemic to California and distributed along the coast and coast range mountains from central Mendocino County south to San Diego County. It is found from sea level to at least 1,280 meters on Mt. Hamilton in Santa Clara County. Coast Range newt burrows in or uses soil, fallen logs, or debris for cover. Central California localities are found in wet forests, oak forests, chaparral, and rolling grasslands. It will occupy upland habitats when not breeding. During reproduction, Coast Range newts will migrate to intermittent streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds where they lay eggs in shallow water attached to submerged rocks or twigs. CNDDDB records indicate one occurrence of Coast Range newt approximately six miles southwest of the project site (Occurrence No. 70, CNDDDB 2021). There are no known occurrences within the project area lake or drainages, however breeding and upland habitat is potentially present. Mitigation measure BIO-1, presented above, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the site for all personnel, and BIO-2 and BIO-3, which require preconstruction surveys and measures for the protection of California red-legged frog, would also protect Coast Range newt, if present. Implementation of these measures would reduce the potential, significant impact to Coast Range newt to a less-than-significant level and no additional measures are recommended.

*Western Pond Turtle.* Western pond turtle is a California Species of Special Concern. It is uncommon to common in suitable aquatic habitat throughout California including freshwater marshes, stock ponds, lakes, rivers, and streams. This species is considered omnivorous. Aquatic plant material, including pond lilies, beetles and a variety of aquatic invertebrates as well as fishes, frogs, and even carrion have been reported among their food. Pond turtles require basking sites such as partially submerged logs, rocks, mats of floating vegetation, or open mud banks. Turtles slip from basking sites to underwater retreats at the approach of humans or potential predators.

CNDDDB records indicate one occurrence of western pond turtle approximately 3.5 miles southwest of the project site (Occurrence No. 1014, CNDDDB 2021). There are no known occurrences within the lake or drainages, however breeding and upland habitat is potentially present. Mitigation measure BIO-1, presented above, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the site for all personnel, and BIO-2 and BIO-3, which require preconstruction surveys and measures for the protection of California red-legged frog, would also protect western pond turtle, if present. Implementation of these measures would reduce the potential, significant impact to western pond turtle to a less-than-significant level and no additional measures are recommended.

**Special-Status Birds.** The following special-status bird species occur in the project vicinity and were assessed for the potential to occur on the project site: burrowing owl, tricolored blackbird, and protected nesting birds and raptors.

*Burrowing Owl.* Burrowing owl is a California Species of Special Concern. Burrowing owls live and breed in burrows in the ground, especially in abandoned California ground squirrel burrows. Optimal habitat conditions include large open, dry and nearly level grasslands or prairies with short to moderate vegetation height and cover, areas of bare ground, and populations of burrowing mammals. A general, non-specific record for this species has been recorded approximately 900 feet north and west of the project site (Occurrence No. 574, CNDDDB 2021). The project site’s non-native grassland provides marginally suitable foraging habitat for burrowing owl, and a few scattered small mammal burrows on the site could be utilized for nesting habitat, but burrowing owl has low potential to occur on the site. If burrowing owl is present on or adjacent to invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints, disturbance activities could result in the loss or disturbance of individual animals. This would be a significant adverse environmental impact. Implementation of mitigation measures BIO-1, presented earlier, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the site for all personnel, and BIO-4 would reduce this potentially significant impact to less than significant.

***Mitigation Measure***

BIO-4 To avoid/minimize impacts to burrowing owls potentially occurring within invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints, a biologist qualified in ornithology shall conduct surveys for burrowing owl. The approved biologist shall conduct a two-visit (i.e., morning and evening) presence/absence survey at areas of suitable habitat on and adjacent to the invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints no less than 14 days prior to the start of construction or ground disturbance activities. Surveys shall be conducted according to the methods for take avoidance described in the *Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines* (California Burrowing Owl Consortium 1993) and the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFW 2012). If no burrowing owls are found, a letter report confirming absence will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.

Because burrowing owls occupy habitat year-round, seasonal no-disturbance buffers, as outlined in the *Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines* (CBOC 1993) and the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFW 2012), shall be in place around occupied habitat prior to and during any ground disturbance activities. The following table includes buffer areas based on the time of year and level of disturbance (CDFW 2012), unless a qualified biologist approved by the CDFW verifies through non-invasive measures that either: 1) birds have not begun egg laying and incubation; or 2) that juveniles from the occupied burrows are foraging independently and are capable of independent survival.

Location	Time of Year	Level of Disturbance Buffers (meters)		
		Low	Med	High
Nesting Sites	April 1 – Aug 15	200 m	500 m	500 m
Nesting Sites	Aug 16 – Oct 15	200 m	200 m	500 m
Nesting Sites	Oct 16 – Mar 31	50 m	100 m	500 m

If burrowing owl is found and avoidance is not possible, burrow exclusion may be conducted by qualified biologists only during the non-breeding season, before breeding behavior is exhibited and after the burrow is confirmed empty through non-invasive methods, such as surveillance. Occupied burrows shall be replaced with artificial burrows at a ratio of one collapsed burrow to one constructed artificial burrow (1:1). Evicted burrowing owls may attempt to colonize or re-colonize an area that would be impacted, thus ongoing surveillance during project activities shall be conducted at a rate sufficient to detect burrowing owls if they return.

If surveys locate occupied burrows in or near invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints, consultation with the CDFW shall occur to interpret survey results and develop a project-specific avoidance and minimization approach. Once the absence of burrowing owl has been confirmed or a plan is in place to avoid or minimize impacts, a letter report will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority.

*Protected Nesting Birds.* Protected nesting birds have the potential to nest in buildings or structures, on open ground, or in any type of vegetation, including trees, during the nesting bird season (January 15 through September 15). The project site contains a variety of potential habitats for nesting birds. Ground disturbance can impact nesting birds protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code, should nesting birds be present during disturbance activities. If protected bird species are nesting adjacent to the invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints during the bird nesting season, then noise-generating activities could result in the loss of fertile eggs, nestlings, or otherwise lead to the abandonment of nests. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1, presented above, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the site for all personnel, and BIO-5 would reduce potential, significant impacts to nesting birds to less than significant.

### ***Mitigation Measure***

- BIO-5 To avoid impacts to nesting birds during the nesting season (January 15 through September 15), all disturbance activities should be conducted between September 16 and January 14, which is outside of the bird nesting season. If project-related work is scheduled during the nesting season (February 15 to August 30 for small bird species such as passerines; January 15 to September 15 for owls; and February 15 to September 15 for other raptors), a qualified biologist shall conduct nesting bird surveys.
- a. Two surveys for active bird nests will occur within 14 days prior to start of disturbance activities, with the final survey conducted within 48 hours prior to disturbance. Appropriate minimum survey radii surrounding each work area are typically 250 feet for passerines, 500 feet for smaller raptors, and 1,000 feet for larger raptors. Surveys will be conducted at the appropriate times of day to observe nesting activities. Locations off the site to which access is not available may be surveyed from within the site or from public areas. If no nesting birds are found, a letter

report confirming absence will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.

- b. If the qualified biologist documents active nests within the invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints or in nearby surrounding areas, an appropriate buffer between each nest and active disturbance area shall be established. The buffer shall be clearly marked and maintained until the young have fledged and are foraging independently. Prior to ground disturbance, the qualified biologist shall conduct baseline monitoring of each nest to characterize “normal” bird behavior and establish a buffer distance, which allows the birds to exhibit normal behavior. The qualified biologist shall monitor the nesting birds daily during disturbance activities and increase the buffer if birds show signs of unusual or distressed behavior (e.g., defensive flights and vocalizations, standing up from a brooding position, and/or flying away from the nest). If buffer establishment is not possible, the qualified biologist or construction foreman shall have the authority to cease all work in the area until the young have fledged and the nest is no longer active. Once the absence of nesting birds has been confirmed, a letter report will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority.

*Tricolored Blackbird.* Tricolored blackbird is a California Species of Special Concern found mostly throughout the Central Valley and San Francisco Bay Delta regions. Tricolored blackbirds forage in annual grasslands; wet and dry vernal pools and other seasonal wetlands; and croplands. They also forage occasionally in riparian scrub habitats and along marsh borders. Tricolored blackbirds’ nest near freshwater marshes. There are CNDDB records indicating tricolored blackbird activity within five miles of the project site, and riparian and wetland vegetation along the lake and drainage may support this species. Measures recommended for the protection of nesting birds (above) are anticipated to determine if tricolored blackbirds are present and provide protection during disturbance activities, if needed.

### **Special-Status Mammals**

The following special-status mammal species occur in the project vicinity and were assessed for the potential to occur on the project site: American badger, Monterey dusky-footed woodrat, hoary bat, and Townsend’s big-eared bat.

*American Badger.* American badger is a California Species of Special Concern. It is an uncommon, permanent resident found throughout most of the state, except in the northern North Coast area. This large member of the weasel family uses most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats with friable soils suitable for burrows. Prey species include fossorial rodents such as rats, mice, chipmunks, ground squirrels, and pocket gophers. Badger diet shifts seasonally depending on the availability of prey and may also include reptiles, insects, earthworms, eggs, birds, and carrion. Mixed oak woodland, coastal scrub, and grassland habitats provide cover, drier soils for burrowing, and prey resources for this species. A historic record for American badger was recorded

approximately 700 feet east of the project site (Occurrence No. 171, CDFW 2021), and a more recent (1992) observation was recorded approximately 2.3 miles east of the project site (Occurrence No. 241, CDFW 2021). Open grassland areas and openings along trails provide suitable habitat for the American badger. American badgers are known to occur in the region and could den and forage on the project site. Ground disturbance could result in impacts to this species from direct mortality or injury. Loss or harm to American badger is considered a significant adverse impact. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1, presented above, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the site for all personnel, and BIO-6 would reduce potential, significant impacts to American badger to less than significant.

### ***Mitigation Measure***

BIO-6 Not more than 14 days prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities, a qualified wildlife biologist shall conduct surveys of the grassland habitat within or adjacent to invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints to identify any potential American badger burrows/dens. If the survey results are negative (i.e., no badger dens observed), a letter report confirming absence will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.

If the results are positive (badger dens are observed), the qualified biologist shall determine if the dens are active by installing a game camera for three days and three nights to determine if the den is in use.

- a. If the biologist determines that a den may be active, coordination with the CDFW shall be undertaken to develop a suitable strategy to avoid impacts to American badger. The strategy may include the following: the biologist shall install a one-way door in the den opening and continue use of the game camera. Once the camera captures the individual exiting the one-way door, the den can be excavated with hand tools to prevent badgers from reusing them. If the biologist determines that the den is a maternity den, disturbance activities shall be delayed during the maternity season (February to August), or until the badgers leave the den on their own accord or the biologist determines that the den is no longer in use.
- b. If the game camera does not capture an individual entering/exiting the den, the den can be excavated with hand tools to prevent badgers from reusing them.

After dens have been excavated and the absence of American badger confirmed, a letter report will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority.

*Monterey Dusky-Footed Woodrat.* The Monterey dusky-footed woodrat is a California species of Special Concern typically found within dens chaparral or oak woodland habitats with moderately dense understory growth and abundant dead wood for nest construction. Monterey dusky-footed woodrat is known to occur in the project vicinity and woodland and riparian habitat at the project site is considered potential habitat. Removal or

disturbance of habitat during nesting season is considered a significant impact. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1, presented above, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the site for all personnel, and BIO-7 would reduce potential, significant impacts to Monterey dusky-footed woodrat to less than significant.

### ***Mitigation Measure***

BIO-7 A qualified biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys for woodrat nests within invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints. All woodrat nests shall be flagged for avoidance of direct impacts where feasible. If impacts cannot be avoided, woodrat nests shall be dismantled no more than three days prior to dismantling so that the occupants do not attempt to rebuild. Nests are to be slowly dismantled by hand in order to allow the occupants to disperse.

*Monterey Shrew.* The Monterey shrew is a California species of Special Concern. This species is an endemic subspecies of shrew occurring only on the Monterey Peninsula. Preferred habitats include riparian areas and other moist microclimates with available insect prey. Little is known about this species, since it is difficult to locate and does not survive well in traps due to very high metabolic rates. A general observation of this species has been recorded to include the project site; however, the record is from 1919 and the current distribution of Monterey shrew in the area is unknown (Occurrence No. 3, CDFW 2021). Riparian and woodland habitats within the project area could support this species, if present. Disturbance activities at the project site could result in the loss of individuals on or adjacent to the project site. Mitigation measure BIO-1, presented above, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the site for all personnel, and BIO-2 and BIO-3, which require preconstruction surveys and measures for the protection of California red-legged frog would also protect Monterey shrew, if present. Implementation of these measures would reduce the potential, significant impact to Monterey shrew to a less-than-significant level and no additional measures are recommended.

*Special-Status Bats.* Trees and/or buildings or structures on or adjacent to the project site could provide roosting habitat for state-listed species of special concern hoary bat and Townsend's big-eared bat. Hoary bat is a solitary species that generally prefers dense foliage of medium to large trees. Townsend's big-eared bat prefers roosting and nesting found in caves, tunnels, mines, and buildings. These species have been identified as occurring within 1.2 and seven miles to the west and east of the project site, however little is known about their distribution in the project vicinity (CNDDB 2021). Activities at the project site could result in the disturbance of roost and natal sites occupied by special-status bats on or adjacent to invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints, if present. Implementation of mitigation measures BIO-1, presented earlier, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the site for all personnel, and BIO-8 would reduce this potential, significant impact to special-status bats to a less-than-significant level.

### *Mitigation Measure*

BIO-8 Approximately 14 days prior to tree removal or disturbance activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct a habitat assessment for bats and potential roosting sites in trees to be removed and in trees within 50 feet of invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints. These surveys shall include a visual inspection of potential roosting features (bats need not be present) and a search for presence of guano within the project site, access routes, and 50 feet around these areas. Cavities, crevices, exfoliating bark, and bark fissures that could provide suitable potential nest or roost habitat for bats shall be surveyed. Assumptions can be made on what species is present due to observed visual characteristics along with habitat use, or the bats can be identified to the species level with the use of a bat echolocation detector such as an “Anabat” unit. Potential roosting features found during the survey shall be flagged or marked.

If no roosting sites or bats are found, a letter report confirming absence shall be prepared and submitted to Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.

If bats or roosting sites are found, bats shall not be disturbed without specific notice to and consultation with CDFW.

If bats are found roosting outside of the nursery season (May 1 through October 1), CDFW shall be consulted prior to any eviction or other action. If avoidance or postponement is not feasible, a Bat Eviction Plan will be submitted to CDFW for written approval prior to project implementation. A request to evict bats from a roost includes details for excluding bats from the roost site and monitoring to ensure that all bats have exited the roost prior to the start of activity and are unable to re-enter the roost until activity is completed. Any bat eviction shall be timed to avoid lactation and young-rearing. If bats are found roosting during the nursery season, they shall be monitored to determine if the roost site is a maternal roost. This could occur by either visual inspection of the roost bat pups, if possible, or by monitoring the roost after the adults leave for the night to listen for bat pups. Because bat pups cannot leave the roost until they are mature enough, eviction of a maternal roost cannot occur during the nursery season. Therefore, if a maternal roost is present, a 50-foot buffer zone (or different size if determined in consultation with the CDFW) shall be established around the roosting site within which no activities including tree removal or structure disturbance shall occur until after the nursery season.

- b. **Riparian Habitat or Sensitive Natural Communities.** The Laguna Grande Lake was originally part of a larger estuary flowing into the Pacific Ocean. As areas adjacent to the estuary were filled and developed, Laguna Grande Lake was isolated from the ocean. Riparian and wetland habitats, including arroyo willow woodland and California bulrush marsh, can be found throughout the park (see Figures 1 and 2 of the focused plant survey report in Appendix A of the Maintenance Strategy, which is [Appendix A](#) of this initial study). Natural Communities are California vegetation types ranked by their rarity and threat by CDFW. Natural Communities with ranks of S1-S3 are considered “sensitive

natural communities” to be addressed in the environmental review processes of CEQA and its equivalents. Both arroyo willow woodland and California bulrush marsh are listed by CDFW as sensitive natural communities. In addition, both communities are also considered Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA) by the California Coastal Commission (CCC), as well as the emergent wetland and estuarine habitats associated with Laguna Grande Lake.

Disturbance activities could result in the disturbance of arroyo willow woodland, California bulrush marsh, wetlands or estuarine habitat if present within or adjacent to invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints. Policy LUD-CZ 3.1A of the LCP/LUP identifies a minimum 50-foot buffer of ESHA is typically required, however the buffer may be reduced to 25 feet in conjunction with additional mitigation measures, including implementation of a restoration plan. Where possible, a 25-foot buffer of ESHA will be incorporated into project plans, however impacts where invasive removal and restoration activities intended to improve ESHA are unavoidable. Implementation of mitigation measures BIO-9 and BIO-10 would reduce this potential, significant impact to sensitive natural communities and ESHA to a less-than-significant level.

### ***Mitigation Measures***

BIO-9 Arroyo willow woodland, California bulrush marsh, wetlands or estuarine habitat within 25 feet of invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints will be protected from disturbance. Prior to activities adjacent to arroyo willow woodland, California bulrush marsh, wetlands or estuarine habitat, a qualified botanist will erect environmentally sensitive area fencing around areas near the invasive removal, maintenance or improvement area to identify and protect sensitive plant communities or Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas. The location of the fencing will be marked in the field with stakes and flagging. Vegetation clearing activities, vehicle operation, material and equipment storage, and other surface-disturbing activities will be prohibited within the fenced environmentally sensitive area.

BIO-10 If avoidance cannot be accommodated within invasive removal, maintenance or improvement plans, then the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority shall be responsible for ensuring the implementation of a restoration plan. The restoration plan shall be designed by a qualified biologist and shall include the following:

- a. Prior to implementation of invasive removal, maintenance, or improvement activities, the location and extent of the areas to be restored will be clearly delineated and mapped. A plant palette shall be determined, with preference to plant species endemic to coastal Monterey County. The plant palette used for restoration will be reviewed and approved by the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority.
- b. The restoration plan will include seed collection and transplantation/preservation or restoration/preservation guidelines. Maintenance activities may include, but not be limited to, watering during the plant establishment period, supplemental seed planting as needed, and removal of non-native invasive plants. Monitoring will occur

for a minimum of five years after mitigation area installation to verify that restoration activities have been successful and will include, at a minimum, quarterly monitoring reports for the first year and annual reports for the remaining four years.

- c. The abundance of annual plants naturally varies from year to year depending on multiple factors including disturbance and rainfall. The performance standard for successful mitigation will be a minimum 2:1 replacement ratio (i.e. two plants observed in the restoration area for each plant lost from the impact area) during at least one spring occurring in year 3, 4, or 5 after installation. The plan will contain options for corrective action and extended maintenance/monitoring if the performance standard is not achieved during the 5-year monitoring period.
  - d. During each monitoring effort undertaken in the restoration area, a qualified biologist will conduct a comparison of spring survey conditions from the previous year(s) and prepare a written report for the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. If adaptive management (corrective measures) are warranted, a description and recommendation will be included in the annual report.
- c. Wetlands and Waters of the U.S. A review of the National Wetlands Inventory online database was conducted to identify the closest jurisdictional aquatic features on or adjacent to the project site (USFWS 2021). As shown on Figure 7, National Wetlands Inventory, three types occur within the project boundary: freshwater emergent wetland, freshwater forested/shrub wetland, and lake. Areas of wetland vegetation, including cattail, common reed, and bulrush/tule, and riparian vegetation, including arroyo willow woodland, are shown on Figures 1 and 2 of the focused plant survey report in Appendix A of the Maintenance Strategy, which is Appendix A of this initial study. Potentially jurisdictional features include Laguna Grande Lake, associated wetland or riparian woodland areas adjacent to the Lake, and the drainage associated with Canyon del Rey Creek.

If located within or adjacent to invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints, impacts to jurisdictional wetland and waterway features are considered significant adverse environmental impacts. Policy LUD-CZ 3.1C of the LCP/LUP identifies a minimum 50-foot buffer of ESHA, including wetlands, is typically required, however the buffer may be reduced to 25 feet in conjunction with additional mitigation measures, including implementation of a restoration plan. Where possible, a 25-foot buffer of ESHA will be incorporated into project plans, however impacts where invasive removal and restoration activities intended to improve ESHA are unavoidable. The following mitigation measure would assure that this potentially significant impact is reduced to less than significant.

### ***Mitigation Measure***

BIO-11 Prior to disturbance in or within 25 feet adjacent to wetlands, a qualified biologist will prepare a wetland delineation to determine the extent of potential wetlands and waterways regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. If the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers claims jurisdiction, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority will retain a qualified biologist to obtain a Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permit. If the impacts to the drainage features do not qualify for a Nationwide Permit, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority shall proceed with the qualified biologist in obtaining an Individual Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority will also retain a qualified biologist to coordinate with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to obtain a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification. If necessary, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority will also retain a qualified biologist to coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement.

To compensate for temporary and/or permanent impacts to jurisdictional features that would be impacted as a result of the proposed project, mitigation shall be provided as required by the regulatory permits. Mitigation would be provided through one of the following mechanisms:

i. A Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring Plan shall be developed that will outline mitigation and monitoring obligations for temporary impacts to wetlands and other waters as a result of disturbance activities. The Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring Plan would include thresholds of success, monitoring and reporting requirements, and site-specific plans to compensate for wetland losses resulting from the project. The Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring Plan shall be submitted to the appropriate regulatory agencies for review and approval during the permit application process.

Or

ii. To compensate for permanent impacts, the purchase and/or dedication of land to provide suitable wetland restoration or creation shall ensure a no net loss of wetland values or functions. If restoration is available and feasible, a minimum 1:1 mitigation to impact ratio would apply to projects for which mitigation is provided in advance.

d. **Wildlife Movement.** Terrestrial species must navigate a habitat landscape that meets their needs for breeding, feeding and shelter. Natural and semi-natural components of the landscape must be large enough and connected enough to meet the needs of all species that use them. Wildlife movement corridors provide connectivity between habitat areas, enhancing species richness and diversity, and usually also provide cover, water, food, and breeding sites.

Laguna Grande Regional Park is one of the largest remaining freshwater open spaces in the area. The proposed project includes measures to remove invasive species, enhance and restore habitats, and improve trail facilities. These measures are anticipated to provide beneficial impacts to habitat for wildlife, and further facilitate movement through the park to Canyon del Rey. No mitigation measures are necessary.

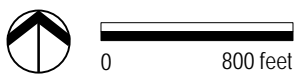


Source: ESRI 2022, USFWS 1998

Figure 7

# National Wetland Inventory Map

Laguna Grande Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy – Initial Study



*This side intentionally left blank.*

- e. **Local Biological Resource Policies/Ordinances.** The City of Monterey General Plan includes a Conservation Element that provides direction for the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources. Goal b, Water Quality, protects “creeks, lakes, wetlands, beaches, and Monterey Bay from pollutants” and calls for retaining and restoring “wetlands, riparian areas, and other habitats, which provide remediation for degraded water quality.” Goal d, Flora and Fauna and Marine Resources, seeks to “protect the character and composition of existing native vegetative communities. Conserve, manage, and restore habitats for endangered species, and protect biological diversity represented by special status plant and wildlife species.” This goal is supported by policies such as Policy d.5, which calls for reducing “biotic impacts to a less-than-significant level on project sites by ensuring that mitigation measures identified in biotic reports are incorporated as conditions of approval for development projects.”

The City of Seaside General Plan includes a Conservation and Open Space Element containing “goals and policies to protect and maintain natural resources such as water, soils, wildlife and minerals, and prevent wasteful resource exploitation, degradation and destruction.” Additionally, it contains “goals and policies to manage open space areas including undeveloped lands and environmentally constrained areas.” Policy COS-4.2 calls for the protection and enhancement of “creeks, lakes, and adjacent wetlands for their value in providing visual amenity, habitat for wildlife, and recreational opportunities.”

Implementation plans require close consultation “with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) during the discretionary project permitting and CEQA review of any project that may result in the alteration of a stream bed, involve the removal of vegetation in wetland and riparian habitats, or disturb Waters of the United States.” Public development projects are also required “to comply with the City of Seaside’s certified Local Coastal Program, which protects natural features within the beachfront areas in the City, including the Laguna Grande/Roberts Lake Areas.”

The Laguna Grande/Roberts Lake Local Coastal Program was adopted by the Monterey City Council in 1981 with an accompanying Land Use Plan developed in 2000. Its policies seek “to preserve and enhance the natural resources, environmental quality, and community character of the coastal zone.” It calls for shoreline improvements to Laguna Grande Lake to be “designed so as to encourage use by wildlife.”

The Seaside LCP/LUP was adopted in 2013 and contains a number of policies applicable to the protection of natural resources. Policy NCR-CZ 1.1.C limits development to minimize adverse effects to natural coastal resources. Policies NCR-CZ 1.2.A and NCR-CZ 1.2.B include the definition of ESHA and measures for the protection of ESHA. Policies NCR-CZ 1.3.A and NCR-CZ 1.3.B include the definition of wetlands and measures for the protection of aquatic resources. Policy LUD-CZ 3.1A identifies the need for site-specific biological analysis, setbacks from ESHA, and mitigation requirements. Policy LUD-CZ 3.1B identifies the need for a site-specific vegetation management report, including a plant inventory, appropriate buffers, and mitigation

requirements. Policy LUD-CZ 3.1C identifies the need for a site-specific wetland delineation and guidelines for the protection of wetland resources, including permit acquisition and compensatory mitigation.

Additional policies specific to the Laguna Grande Subarea include Policy NCR-LG 1.1.A, which requires using the best available methods for vegetation management for exotic and invasive plant removal, planting, and maintenance of native vegetation. Policy NCR-LG 4.1.A requires the protection of water quality within Laguna Grande Lake to improve recreational opportunities and preserve and enhance habitat values.

Mitigation measures contained in this section will mitigate impacts to biological resources to a less-than-significant level. With these considerations, the proposed project would not conflict with local policies and ordinances related to biological resources.

**Trees.** Chapter 37, Preservation of Trees and Shrubs, of the City Code of Monterey, assures preservation of trees and replacement of trees when removal is unavoidable. Section 37-12, Local Landmark Trees, defines oak trees with a ten-inch diameter trunk and conifers with a twelve-inch trunk as “local landmark trees.” The “local landmark tree” category establishes a process for reviewing and recommending trees that should be protected and preserved because of their outstanding size, prominence, and/or health.

Chapter 8.54 of the Seaside City Ordinance restricts the removal of trees citywide. A tree is defined as a woody perennial plant which usually but not necessarily has a single trunk and a height of ten feet or more, or has a circumference of twenty inches measured at twenty-four inches above the ground. No person can conduct any tree cutting or removal without first obtaining a permit from the Director of Public Works. Section 8.54.060 outlines the requirements for tree removal permits for projects proposing new construction. Section 8.54.070 and 8.54.080 include replacement ratios and protection of trees during construction.

The proposed project includes the removal of non-native trees, including acacia, blue gum eucalyptus, white ash, Ngaio tree, cherry plum, and Chinese elm trees. Although no native trees are currently planned for removal, invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints will remove or encroach on protected trees. Impacts to protected trees are considered significant adverse environmental impacts. The following mitigation measure would assure that this potentially significant impact is reduced to less than significant.

### ***Mitigation Measure***

BIO-12 Per section 8.54.060 of the Seaside City Ordinance, the zoning administrator, or his designee (a qualified forester or arborist) will prepare a report on trees based on the applicant’s plans and a site inspection of the land. Implementation of specific protections for preserved trees during disturbance activities will be followed; and replacement plantings for damaged or removed trees will be installed.

- f. **Conservation Plans.** There are no critical habitat boundaries, habitat conservation plans, natural community conservation plans, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans applicable to the proposed project site.

## 5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to section 15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Comments:

This section is based on the on the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) archival data record search and the archaeological pedestrian survey conducted by EMC Planning Group Inc.'s archaeologist on October 13, 2021. NWIC number for this project is NWIC #21-0317.

According to the NWIC records, there are no resources within the project area. There are two resources located within 1/8 the project area. The resources within 1/8 of the project include a 200-foot segment of the Southern Pacific Railroad and two obsidian isolates. The railroad segment lacks integrity and, therefore; there is not additional information regarding significant associations it may possess. Due to the two obsidian flakes being isolates they are not eligible for California Register of Historic Places (CRHR) listing. Additionally, according to the NWIC records there are a total of eleven reports located within 1/8-mile radius of the Laguna Grande Maintenance project. The project will not impact the resources mentioned in those reports.

The archaeological pedestrian survey results were negative. There was no trace evidence of cultural resources such as shell fragments, groundstone, debitage (flaked rock from toolmaking), or charring from hearths. There was a memorial plaque for the associate editor of the Monterey Peninsula, Ed Kennedy, observed and it is located near the bathrooms by the playground which is located next to the Russian Orthodox Church.

- a. This project would have no impact to historic resources.
- b. Although there was no trace evidence of archaeological resources on the surface of the project area there may be unknown buried archaeological resources, and could be damaged or destroyed by ground-disturbing construction activities associated with the proposed project plan. This would be considered a significant impact. Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce this potential, significant impact to a less than significant level.

***Mitigation Measure***

CR-1 If any archeological, prehistoric, or historic subsurface resources, including tribal cultural resources, are discovered during ground-disturbing (including tree and vegetation removal, path widening):

- a. All work within 50- meter (165 feet) shall be halted and a qualified archaeologist shall be consulted to assess the significance of the finding according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.
  - b. If any find is determined to be significant, representatives from the City of Monterey Recreation Department and the archaeologist shall meet to determine the appropriate avoidance measures or other appropriate mitigation.
  - c. All significant prehistoric cultural materials and or tribal cultural resources recovered shall be; returned to Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the area.
  - d. In considering any suggested mitigation proposed by the consulting archaeologist to mitigate impacts to historical resources or unique archaeological resources, the City shall determine whether avoidance is necessary and feasible in light of factors such as the nature of the find, proposed project design, costs, and other considerations.
  - e. If avoidance is infeasible, other appropriate measures (e.g., data recovery) would be implemented.
  - f. Work may proceed on other parts of the project site while mitigation for historical resources or unique archaeological resources is being carried out.
- c. There were no evidence of human remains on the surface, nonetheless the soils underlying the project site area and ground disturbing activities associated with the proposed project could damage or destroy previously undiscovered human remains. This would be a significant impact. Implementation of mitigation measure CR-1 and CR-2 would ensure potential impacts are less than significant.

***Mitigation Measure***

CR-2 California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and the CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e) contain the mandated procedures of conduct following the discovery of human remains. According to the provisions in CEQA, if human remains are encountered at the site, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery shall cease and necessary steps to ensure the integrity of the immediate area shall be taken. The Monterey County Coroner shall be notified immediately. The Coroner shall then determine whether the remains are Native American. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours, who would, in turn, notify the person the Native American Heritage Commission identifies as the Most Likely Descendant of any human remains. Further actions shall be determined, in part, by the desires of the Most Likely Descendant. The Most Likely Descendant has 48 hours to make recommendations regarding the disposition of the remains following notification from the

Native American Heritage Commission of the discovery. If the Most Likely Descendant does not make recommendations within 48 hours, the owner shall, with appropriate dignity, reinter the remains in an area of the property secure from further disturbance. Alternatively, if the owner does not accept the Most Likely Descendant's recommendations, the owner or the descendent may request mediation by the Native American Heritage Commission.

## 6. ENERGY

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Comments:

- a-b. The proposed project includes the maintenance and enhancement of the trail systems within Laguna Grande Regional Park and would not directly or indirectly result in inefficient, wasteful, and unnecessary consumption of energy. The project would not conflict with state or local plans for energy efficiency.

## 7. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
(1) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(4) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on expansive soil, creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Comments:

- a. **Fault.** The Monterey Peninsula, including Seaside, is located in a seismically active area. The regional faults include the San Andreas and its eastern branches including the Monterey Bay Fault Zone and its on-land extensions, the Chupines and Navy Faults, the San Gregorio-Palo Colorado Fault Zone, the King City-Reliz-Rinconada Fault, and the

Zayante-Vergeles Fault. Local faults include Ord Terrace Fault and Seaside Fault (City of Seaside 2004). According to the Monterey County Parcel Report Web App, the Chupines Fault runs approximately 0.13 miles northeast of the project site and is classified as potentially active. However, the project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (California Department of Conservation 2022).

Implementation of the proposed project would not significantly increase exposure of people to rupture of a known fault because all trail users would be outdoors and the damage would be of a much smaller scale due to the lack of structures onsite (aside from the restroom facilities) where the threat from falling buildings and earthquake-induced fire is high. Further, it is impossible to anticipate a seismic event so there are no precautions that can be taken to avoid or reduce seismic events for trail users in the area. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

**Seismic Ground-Shaking.** According to the *Final Seaside General Plan EIR* (“Seaside General Plan EIR”), the entire City of Seaside, which includes the project site, is at risk for damage by seismic ground-shaking. However, as discussed under “Faults,” all trail users would be outdoors and the damage would be of a small scale due to the lack of structures onsite (aside from the restroom facilities) where the threat from falling buildings and earthquake-induced ground-shaking is high. Further, no precautions can be taken for outdoor trail-users to avoid or reduce seismic events. This impact would be less than significant.

**Liquefaction.** According to the Monterey County Parcel Report Web App, the project site has high risk potential for liquefaction. However, the threat of liquefaction is higher for development projects since it causes structural instability in buildings due to the ground’s failure to handle the stress load from the structures. The proposed project involves the maintenance and enhancement of the existing trail system at the Laguna Grade Regional Park, which would not result in direct or indirect adverse effects involving liquefaction. Therefore, the project would not directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects involving liquefaction.

**Landslide.** There is no history of landslides in the City of Seaside and landslides in the area are not identified on the U.S. Landslide Inventory (USGS 2022). As such, there is considered to be a negligible level of risk related to landslides. Therefore, this issue is not discussed further.

- b. According to the Monterey County Parcel Report Web App, the project site has low and moderate erosion potential.

**Construction.** Phase one of the project implementation for individual portions of the trail system would result in a total ground disturbance that is less than 1.0 acre. Therefore, the project would not be subject to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Order No. 2012-0006-DWQ) adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Compliance with local regulations, such as the City of Seaside Municipal Code Section 15.32.180, City of Monterey Municipal Code Chapter 31.5, and Monterey County Code Chapter 16.12, that contain design standards, permitting, and grading regulations for runoff and erosion control would reduce soil erosion and the loss of topsoil. Compliance with these local regulations would reduce the risk of soil erosion during implementation of the proposed project, ensuring impacts would be less than significant.

**Operation.** As indicated previously, the project site has low and moderate erosion potential. As such, erosion may occur during project operation. The existing trail system includes gravel, DG, and mulch pathways with concrete limited to the existing restroom facilities and at bridge abutments on the north end of the site. The existing trail system includes unpaved shoulders on each side. Continued use of the trails has the potential to result in soil erosion and loss of topsoil. However, trail maintenance as part of the project would include upkeep of the gravel, DG, and mulch trails, ensuring soil compaction to reduce erosion. The project also includes installation of headers or curbs to maintain trail edges along the lake that has been impacted by erosion; this would also guide recreational users to stay on the trails, maintaining the natural habitat where there is the potential to increase erosion and soil loss. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project (i.e., maintenance to the trail system) would ensure impacts related to operational erosion would remain less than significant.

- c. According to the LCP, lateral spreading is considered to be potentially significant at the project site (p. 3.5). However, the threat of lateral spreading is higher for development projects since it causes structural instability in the soil. The proposed project involves the maintenance and enhancement of the existing trail system at the Laguna Grade Regional Park, which would not result in the increase of existing adverse impacts involving soil that is unstable. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant
- d. The Baywood Sand and Rindge Muck soils in the project area (Monterey County 2022) are generally not expansive, so risks associated with expansive soils are anticipated to be low. The proposed project as a park maintenance project would not create substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property.
- e. The project site consists of a public restroom and would not involve septic systems. The proposed project would not result in any impacts related to soil capability to support the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater.
- f. The project site is not in an area of high paleontological sensitivity as shown on Figure 4.7-4 of the certified *Fort Ord Trail and Greenway Project Final Environmental Impact Report* (Transportation Agency for Monterey County, 2020) or the County of Monterey GIS maps (Monterey County, accessed 2022). In addition, the project does not include any construction activities requiring that a depth of disturbance beyond a maximum of a couple of feet. Therefore, it is improbable that paleontological resources would be discovered on-site given the low potential for such resources and extent of disturbance. However, there is still a possibility that construction activities could result in the

disturbance and/or accidental destruction of paleontological resources. Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce this potential, significant impact to a less-than-significant level.

***Mitigation Measures***

GEO-1 All construction personnel must receive paleontological resources awareness training that includes information on the possibility of encountering fossils during construction; the types of fossils likely to be seen, based on past finds in the project area; and proper procedures in the event fossils are encountered. Worker training shall be prepared and presented by a qualified paleontologist. The Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority shall document evidence of completion of this training prior to ground disturbance

GEO-2 If vertebrae fossils are discovered during construction, all work within 50 feet of the discovery shall stop immediately until a qualified professional paleontologist can assess the nature and importance of the find and recommend appropriate treatment. Treatment may include avoidance, if feasible, preservation in place, or preparation and recovery of fossil materials so that they can be housed in an appropriate museum or university collection and may also include preparation of a report for publication describing the finds.

## 8. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Comments:

- a-b. The proposed project does not involve typical construction activities such as grading or demolition; the activities occurring during implementation of the proposed project would be a minor source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The Monterey Bay Air Resources District does not provide guidance for use by local lead agencies for assessing the impacts of GHG emissions either during construction or operation of development projects. Given this fact, lead agencies within the air district boundary have commonly referred to GHG impact analysis guidance provided by an adjacent air district – the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (reference BAAQMD’s 2017 CEQA Guidelines). That guidance does not include a threshold of significance for construction phase GHG emissions; only operational emissions are subject to analysis for their potential to cause significant impacts. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District is expected to adopt new GHG impact analysis guidance for assessing GHG impacts of development projects in the coming months. That guidance is expected to be similar in regards to how construction emissions are addressed.

Relative to typical land use development projects, the proposed project includes only minor improvements that would not require the use of typical construction equipment and would only occur for short periods of time. GHG emissions from this activity would be minor and the GHG impact would be less than significant.

## 9. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5 and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. For a project located within an airport land-use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or a public-use airport, result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Comments:

- a-b. The proposed project includes the maintenance and enhancement of the trail systems within Laguna Grande Regional Park. Therefore, the proposed project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment.
- c. The project site is located within one-quarter mile of the Cypress Continuation High School. However, the proposed project includes the maintenance and enhancement of

the trail systems within Laguna Grande Regional Park and would, therefore, not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste that would impact the school.

- d. The project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5 (California Department of Toxic Substances Control 2022) and, as a result, would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.
- e. The project site is located within two miles of the Monterey Peninsula Regional Airport and within the Monterey Peninsula Regional Airport Land Use Plan (Monterey County 2019). However, the project involves the maintenance and enhancement of the existing Laguna Grande Regional Park. Therefore, the project would not result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area.
- f. The proposed project involves the maintenance and enhancement of the existing Laguna Grande Regional Park and would not impact the three nearest evacuation routes pursuant to the Monterey County's peninsula region evacuation guide (Del Monte Avenue, Fremont Boulevard, and Canyon Del Rey Boulevard) (Monterey County Office of Emergency Services 2022). Therefore, the project would not impair the implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- g. The LCP identifies the project site as being within 2,400 meters of a moderate threat of wildfire (Figure 2-6). Refer also to Section 20, Wildfire. The project would not expose people or structures, directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires.

## 10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
(1) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3) Create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(4) Impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Comments:

- a. As discussed in the response under “b” in Section 7.0, Geology and Soils, phase one of the project implementation for individual portions of the trail system would result in a total ground disturbance that is less than 1.0 acre. Therefore, the project would not be subject to the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Order No. 2012-0006-DWQ) adopted by the State Water Resources Control Board.

Homeless encampments occur within the Laguna Grande Regional Park creating water quality concerns due to anthropogenic debris. The proposed project would remove dense and overgrown vegetation within the area, which have attracted homeless encampments over the years. Maintaining the cleanliness of the site is anticipated to decrease, if not completely remove, the homelessness attraction of the area. Therefore, the proposed project would not substantially degrade surface or ground water quality and may improve the water quality standards of the site.

- b. All runoff from the proposed project drains into the soil (or non-asphalt/concrete trails) onsite or drains through surface and subsurface pathways into the Laguna Grande Lake encouraging groundwater recharge. As a park maintenance and enhancement project, the proposed project would have no impact on groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge.
- c. **Erosion.** As identified in Section 7.0, Geology and Soils, the project site contains low and moderate erosion potential.

During implementation of the proposed project, soil disturbance is minimal and would not result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite. Compliance with local regulations, such as the City of Seaside Municipal Code Section 15.32.180, City of Monterey Municipal Code Chapter 31.5, and Monterey County Code Chapter 16.12, that contain design standards, permitting, and grading regulations for erosion control would ensure impacts remain less than significant.

Erosion may occur during project operation. However, trail maintenance as part of the project would include upkeep of the gravel, DG, and mulch trails, ensuring soil compaction to reduce erosion. Impacts from operational erosion would be less than significant. Refer back to Section 7.0, Geology and Soils, response to checklist question b for more detail.

**Flooding and Runoff.** All runoff from the proposed project drains into the soil (or non-asphalt/concrete trails) onsite or drains through surface and subsurface pathways into the Laguna Grande Lake. The water within the Laguna Grande Lake is connected through a man-made canal that runs underneath Del Monte Boulevard and directs the water flow towards the ocean. The proposed project includes repairing existing asphalt trails that are impacted by root growth and have become a concern for accessibility and safety. The proposed project would not increase the number of impervious surfaces at the project site or alter the existing drainage pattern. As a maintenance and enhancement park project, it would not create or contribute runoff water that would exceed the capacity of existing storm drainage systems. Onsite drainage and natural filtration of surface runoff would improve through the project's clearing of dense, overgrown vegetation and restoring native plant communities. Therefore, the proposed project would have no impacts on runoff and would not increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite.

**Flood Flows.** The proposed project would repair and enhance the existing trail system at the Laguna Grande Regional Park and would not impede or redirect flood flows through its implementation.

- d. The project site includes the Laguna Grande Lake; therefore, it is almost entirely within the 0.2 percent annual chance flood hazard zone (Zone AE) (FEMA 2022). Being in the coastal zone, the project site is also within a tsunami evacuation zone (City of Seaside 2013, Figure 2-7) and seiches could occur in the area.

However, the project is the maintenance and enhancement of the existing trail system at the Laguna Grande Regional Park and, therefore, would not exacerbate existing conditions related to flooding, tsunamis, or seiches on the site during or after implementation.

- e. The proposed project, as a maintenance and enhancement park project, has no impact on groundwater and would, therefore, have no conflict with a sustainable groundwater management plan. Water quality would be improved at the Laguna Grande Regional Park as natural filtration of pollutants in surface waters onsite would occur through the project's clearing of dense, overgrown vegetation and restoring native plant communities.

As identified previously, the proposed project would have no impacts on groundwater and, therefore, would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a sustainable groundwater management plan.

# 11. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause any significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Comments:

- a. The proposed project involves the maintenance and enhancement of the existing Laguna Grande Regional Park and, therefore, would not physically divide an established community.
- b. The project involves trail maintenance and enhancement within the existing Laguna Grande Regional Park. These activities are supported and encouraged by, rather than conflicting with, the City of Seaside LCP, the City of Monterey General Plan, and the *Laguna Grande Regional Park Master Plan and EIR Addendum* (Laguna Grande Regional Joint Powers Agency 1978) that govern the area. The proposed project complies with the City of Seaside LCP: Policy NCR-LG 2.1.B by its intent on enhancing and preserving the park and its trails and clearing invasive species vegetation that has overgrown and blocked views of the Laguna Grande Lake; Policy NCR-CA 1.1.B through its implementation of native enhancement and restoration that will sustain the biological productivity of coastal waters; Policy PAR-CZ 1.1.B by maximizing and protecting pedestrian and bicycle connectivity and recreational opportunities in the coastal zone; Policy PAR-CZ 1.1.D by its protecting and enhancing public recreational facilities (i.e., Laguna Grande Regional Park); and Policy PAR-CZ 1.3.A through its maintenance of the existing trail system. The proposed project complies with the City of Monterey General Plan Policy d.3 as it is a collaborative effort to maintain and enhance the exiting habitat and scenic resources for both Seaside and Monterey.

With implementation of mitigation measures presented in section 4, the proposed project would not conflict with any local policies and ordinances related to biological resources. The project also does not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a sustainable groundwater management plan.

Therefore, the proposed project would not cause any significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

## 12. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Result in loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated in a local general plan, specific plan, or other land-use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Comments:

- a-b. The *2010 Monterey County General Plan* (“County General Plan”) states that although Monterey County contains useful minerals, geological complexity caused by faulting and deformation makes further investigation difficult and inconclusive (Monterey County 2010). The County General Plan does not identify any specific mineral resources or mineral sites. The City of Monterey and the City of Seaside do not include any land zoned for mineral extraction and no mineral extraction occurs within the project area. No mineral resources are known to occur within the project site (United States Geological Survey 2022). Furthermore, as a project that does not include structures, the proposed project would not affect the long-term availability of mineral resources that could occur within the study area. Therefore, there would be no impact to mineral resources.

### 13. NOISE

Would the project result in:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or in applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land-use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public-use airport, expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

#### Comments:

- a. Sensitive receptors (i.e., residences) surround the project site to the west and east, the nearest being on the southwestern border of the project site. The proposed project would not result in any impacts to ambient noise levels during its operation, but may result in temporary increases in ambient noise levels during its implementation activities. However, this noise would be temporary and be limited to daytime hours per the City of Seaside’s Noise Ordinance (Section 9.12.030.D). Therefore, this potential impact is ensured to remain at a less-than-significant level.
- b. Implementation activities associated with the proposed project include clearing non-native vegetation and overgrown brush, tree and limb removal, paving on existing trails to level out those that are a safety hazard due to root damage, implementation of a new eight-foot seasonal mulch trail through the southern riparian woodland, installation of a header or curb to maintain trail edges along the lakeside, repairing or replacing culverts under the existing park trails, and providing a formal trail connection to Fremont Boulevard. The majority of these activities would not involve ground-borne vibrations or the generation of excessive ground-borne noise levels. However, a few activities (such as improving existing trails with root damage, the installation of a header or curb, and the formal trail connection to Fremont Boulevard) may result in the generation of excessive ground-borne vibrations or noise levels.

Project construction activities would be temporary and within limited hours per the City of Monterey Municipal Code Section 38-112 to between 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday; and per the City of Seaside's Noise Ordinance (Section 9.12.030) to between 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 9:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday, and holidays ensuring potential impacts remain at a less-than-significant level.

- c. The proposed project does not involve increasing the residential population of the region in a way that could expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels from the nearby Monterey Regional Airport located approximately 0.6 miles south of the project site.

## 14. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Comments:

- a-b. The proposed project involves the maintenance and enhancement of the trail systems within Laguna Grande Regional Park. The project does not involve inducing unplanned population growth in an area or displacing any numbers of existing people or housing.

## 15. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of or need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the following public services:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Comments:

- a-c, e. The proposed project involves the maintenance and enhancement of the Laguna Grande Regional Park trail system and would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of or need for new or physically altered fire, police, or school facilities, the construction of which could cause significant adverse environmental impacts.
- d. The maintenance and enhancement of the project site have been discussed and planned for by the City of Seaside for years and was continuously put off due to the lack of funding. Implementation of the proposed project would result in a significant benefit to the park and City of Seaside and, therefore, would not increase the use of the park such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.

## 16. RECREATION

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Comments:

- a-b. The proposed project's maintenance and enhancement of the Laguna Grande Regional Park trail system would not increase the residential population in the region it would serve and, therefore, would not directly result in an increased demand for and use of existing recreational facilities. However, the project itself would provide an improved recreational resource that already exists. The maintenance and enhancement of the project site have been discussed and planned for by the City of Seaside for years and was continuously put off due to the lack of funding. Implementation of the proposed project would result in a significant benefit to the park and City of Seaside and, therefore, would not increase the use of the park such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.

## 17. TRANSPORTATION

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Comments:

- a. The proposed project as a maintenance and enhancement of the existing trails system within the Laguna Grande Regional Park would not conflict, but rather comply, with the programs, plans, ordinances, and policies addressing the circulation of the area. The proposed project would benefit the existing pedestrian and bicycle facilities within the Laguna Grande Regional Park through its implementation of maintenance strategies that would create a more accessible, safe, and long-lasting park for the surrounding community and region.
- b. The proposed project involves the maintenance and enhancement of the Laguna Grande Regional Park and would not increase the number of vehicles coming and going from the site. The proposed project's purpose of providing a clear set of priorities and means for maintaining the trails and vegetation throughout the project site has no association with transportation vehicle miles traveled. Therefore, the project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b).
- c. The proposed project involves the maintenance of the existing trail system within the Laguna Grande Regional Park and would improve existing hazards, not increase them. Therefore, there would be no impact.
- d. The proposed project would clear non-native vegetation and overgrown brush to provide maintenance for emergency services foot access. At the southside of the project site, proposed tasks include enhancing an existing trail section and width for the use of Type 3 firetrucks and provide for a location for firetruck turnaround. Therefore, the proposed project would improve emergency access at the site.

## 18. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, or cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
(1) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources code section 5020.1(k), or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Comments:

- a. (1,2) The CEQA statute as amended by Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) (Public Resources Code Section 21073 and 21074) defines “tribal cultural resources”, and “California Native American tribe” as a Native American tribe located in California that is on the contact list maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission. Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1 outlines procedures for tribal consultation as part of the environmental review process. On October 5, 2021, on behalf of the Laguna Grande Regional Park JPA, EMC Planning Group sent an offer of consultation letter to the tribal representatives of the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, Amah Mutsun Tribal Band of Mission San Juan Bautista, Costanoan Rumsen Carmel Tribe, Esselen Tribe of Monterey County, Indian Canyon Mutsun Band of Costanoan, Kakoon Ta Ruk Band of Ohlone- Costanoan Indians of the Big Sur Rancheria, Ohlone/Costanoan- Esselen Nation, Rumsen Am:a Tur:ataj Ohlone, Salinan Tribe of Monterey, San Luis Obispo Counties, Santa Rosa Rancheria tachi Yokut Tribe, Tule River Indian Tribe, Wuksache Indian Tribe/ Eshom Valley Band, and Xolon-Salinan Tribe.

On October 25, 202, EMC Planning Group the City received a response letter and request for consultation with the Laguna Grande Regional Park JPA, from the KaKoon Ta Ruk Band of Ohlone-Costanoan Indians of the Big Sur Rancheria (“Tribe”). No other requests for consultation per AB 52 were received. The Tribe has provided its Cultural

Resources Treatment Protocol for Handling Human Remains and Cultural Items Affiliated with the KaKoon Ta Ruk Band of Ohlone-Costanoan Indians of the Big Sur Rancheria (Appendix C). In the unlikely event that cultural resources are encountered, outreach to the appropriate Native American tribal representatives would occur and implementation of mitigation measures outlined in Section 5.0, Cultural Resources, would be required to ensure that impacts related to tribal cultural resources are less than significant.

***Mitigation Measure***

TCR-1 The Laguna Grande Regional Park JPA will notify the KaKoon Ta Ruk Band of Ohlone-Costanoan Indians of the Big Sur Rancheria two-weeks prior to any earth-moving activity and the Tribe's cultural resource specialist(s) will be allowed onsite for monitoring. Appropriate safety protocols shall be adhered to by all people on-site during the project or site access may be revoked. The Tribe's treatment protocol should be implemented.

## 19. UTILITIES AND SERVICES SYSTEMS

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has inadequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Comments:

- The proposed project involves the maintenance and enhancement of the Laguna Grande Regional Park trail system and does not impact any facilities that use water, wastewater treatment, storm drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities. Therefore, no impact would occur with implementation of the project.
- The proposed project does not require the use of water and, therefore, would not impact water supplies.
- The proposed project does not propose additional facilities that would generate water requiring water treatment or distribution facilities and, therefore, would not impact wastewater treatment providers.

- d-e. The proposed project, as a maintenance and enhancement park project, would not generate solid waste and, therefore, would not result in excess solid waste of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals nor conflict with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

## 20. WILDFIRE

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Comments:

- a-d. The project site is not located in or near a state responsibility area or land classified as very high fire hazard severity zone. The nearest high fire hazard in a state responsibility zone is located approximately 1.3 miles south of the project site (CalFire 2022). Therefore, no discussion is necessary.

## 21. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Measures Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment; substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species; cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels; threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community; substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species; or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### Comments:

- a. As discussed in Section 4, Biological Resources, there are several special-status species potentially occurring in the project vicinity including, but not limited to, California red-legged frog, Coast Range newt, western pond turtle, burrowing owl, tricolored blackbird, American badger, Monterey dusky-footed woodrat, Monterey shrew, special-status bats, and nesting birds and raptors. Arroyo willow woodland and California bulrush marsh located within the site are listed by CDFW as sensitive natural communities. In addition, both communities are also considered Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHA) by the California Coastal Commission (CCC), as well as the emergent wetland and estuarine habitats associated with Laguna Grande Lake. There are also protected trees on site.

Disturbance activities could result in impacts to special-status species, the disturbance of arroyo willow woodland, California bulrush marsh, wetlands or estuarine habitat, or protected trees. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-12 would reduce these potential impacts to a less-than-significant level.

As described in Section 5, Cultural Resources, the project site does not consist of historic structures on-site and is not known to contain any historic or prehistoric resources. However, it is possible that these resources could be accidentally uncovered during

grading and construction activities. In the event this should occur, Mitigation Measures CR-1 and CR-2 outlined in this section would ensure that the potential impacts would not be significant.

- b. Based on the analysis provided in this initial study, the proposed project, the proposed project does not have individually limited, but cumulatively considerable impacts.
- c. Based on the analysis provided in this initial study, the proposed project does not have environmental effects, which would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

## E. SOURCES

### Environmental Setting

City of Monterey. Adopted January 2005. last amended March 2016, *City of Monterey General Plan*. Monterey, CA.

City of Seaside. June 2013. *City of Seaside Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan*. Seaside, CA.

Google Earth. 2022.

Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency. September 1978. *Laguna Grande Regional Park Master Plan and EIR Addendum*. [https://seasidecityca.documents-on-demand.com/document/621e71b6-b2e0-e911-a2d3-000c29a59557/LAGUNA%20GRANDE%20MASTER%20PLAN%20EIR\\_19092616040.PDF&fromFrame=1](https://seasidecityca.documents-on-demand.com/document/621e71b6-b2e0-e911-a2d3-000c29a59557/LAGUNA%20GRANDE%20MASTER%20PLAN%20EIR_19092616040.PDF&fromFrame=1)

Transportation Agency for Monterey County. *Fort Ord Trail and Greenway Project Final Environmental Impact Report*. March 2020. Salinas, CA.

### Project Description

Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. February 2022. *Draft – Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy*.

### Aesthetics

Caltrans. “California State Scenic Highway System Map.” Accessed on March 24, 2022. <https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aaca>

City of Monterey. Adopted January 2005, last amended March 2016. *City of Monterey General Plan*. Monterey, CA.

City of Seaside. June 2013. *City of Seaside Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan*. Seaside, CA.

Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. February 2022. *Draft – Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy*.

### Agriculture and Forest Resources

City of Monterey. Adopted January 2005, last amended March 2016. *City of Monterey General Plan*. Monterey, CA.

City of Seaside. August 2003. *Seaside General Plan*. City of Seaside, CA.

City of Seaside. January 2004. *Final Seaside General Plan EIR*. City of Seaside, CA.

Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. February 2022. *Draft – Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy*.

## Air Quality

Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. February 2022. *Draft – Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy*.

Monterey Bay Air Resources District. March 2017. *2012-2015 Air Quality Management Plan*. Monterey, CA. [https://www.mbard.org/files/6632732f5/2012-2015-AQMP\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.mbard.org/files/6632732f5/2012-2015-AQMP_FINAL.pdf)

Monterey Bay Air Resources District (formerly, Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District). 2008. *CEQA Air Quality Guidelines*. Monterey, CA. <https://www.mbard.org/files/0ce48fe68/CEQA+Guidelines.pdf>

## Biological Resources

BFS. 2022. *Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy*.

California Burrowing Owl Consortium. 1993. *Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines*.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2012. *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation*. State of California Natural Resources Agency.

California Native Plant Society (CNPS). 2001. *CNPS Botanical Survey Guidelines*. [https://cnps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/cnps\\_survey\\_guidelines.pdf](https://cnps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/cnps_survey_guidelines.pdf)

California Native Plant Society. 2021. *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California* online database. <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org>

CDFW. 2018. *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities*. <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=18959&inline>.

CDFW. 2021. *Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS)* online database. <http://bios.dfg.ca.gov>

CDFW. 2021. *California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB)* online database. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/data/cnddb>

City of Monterey, Adopted January 2005, last amended March 2016. *City of Monterey General Plan*. Monterey, CA.

City of Monterey. *Municipal Code*.

- City of Seaside. 2013. *Local Coastal Program / Land Use Plan*.
- City of Seaside. Municipal Code, Chapter 8.54. Trees.
- Jameson, E. W., and Hans J. Peeters. 2004. *Mammals of California*. University of California Press.
- Thomson, R. C. 2016. *California Amphibian and Reptile Species of Special Concern*, University of California Press.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2005. *Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the California Red-legged Frog*.
- USFWS. 2014. *USFWS Programmatic Biological Opinion for Issuance of Permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, including Authorizations Under 22 Nationwide Permits, for Projects that May Affect the Threatened California Red-legged Frog in Nine San Francisco Bay Area Counties, California*.
- USFWS. 2021. National Wetlands Inventory online database. U.S. Department of the Interior. Washington, D.C. <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/>
- USFWS. 2021. Endangered Species Program online database. Species list for San Benito County. Washington, D.C. <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>

## Cultural Resources

- California Historical Resources Information System, *Northwest Information Center File No. 21-0317*. Received 09/16/2022.

## Energy

- Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. February 2022. *Draft – Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy*.

## Geology and Soils

- California Department of Conservation. “Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation.” Accessed on March 3, 2022. <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/>
- City of Monterey. Adopted January 2005, last amended March 2016. *City of Monterey General Plan*. Monterey, CA.
- City of Seaside. January 2004. *Final Seaside General Plan EIR*. Seaside, CA.
- City of Seaside. June 2013. *City of Seaside Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan*. Seaside, CA.
- City of Seaside. November 2020. *Seaside Municipal Code*. <https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Seaside>

Transportation Agency for Monterey County. *Fort Ord Trail and Greenway Project Final Environmental Impact Report*. March 2020. Salinas, CA.

Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. February 2022. *Draft – Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy*.

Monterey County. “Parcel Report Web App.” Accessed on March 3, 2022.  
<https://maps.co.monterey.ca.us/wab/parcelreportwebapp/>

USGS. “U.S. Landslide Inventory.” Accessed on March 3, 2022.  
<https://usgs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ae120962f459434b8c904b456c82669d>

## **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Bay Area Air Quality Management District. May 2017. *California Environmental Quality Act Air Quality Guidelines*. [https://www.baaqmd.gov/~media/files/planning-and-research/ceqa/ceqa\\_guidelines\\_may2017-pdf.pdf?la=en](https://www.baaqmd.gov/~/media/files/planning-and-research/ceqa/ceqa_guidelines_may2017-pdf.pdf?la=en)

Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. February 2022. *Draft – Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy*.

## **Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

CalFire. “FHSZ Viewer.” Accessed on March 2, 2022. <https://egis.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/>

California Department of Toxic Substances Control. “EnviroStor Database.” Accessed March 2, 2022. <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=seasideca>

City of Monterey, Adopted January 2005, last amended March 2016, *City of Monterey General Plan*. Monterey, CA.

City of Seaside. June 2013. *City of Seaside Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan*. Seaside, CA.

Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. February 2022. *Draft – Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy*.

Monterey County. February 2019. *Monterey Regional Airport – Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan*. Salinas, CA.

Monterey County Office of Emergency Services. “Peninsula Evacuation Region Guide (DRAFT).” Accessed on March 2, 2022.  
<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showpublisheddocument/105410/637680098811670000>

## Hydrology and Water Quality

City of Monterey, Adopted January 2005, last amended March 2016, *City of Monterey General Plan*.  
Monterey, CA.

City of Seaside. June 2013. *City of Seaside Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan*. Seaside, CA.

FEMA. “FEMA Flood Map Service Center.” Accessed on April 1, 2022.  
<https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search#searchresultsanchor>

Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. February 2022. *Draft – Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy*.

## Land Use and Planning

City of Monterey, Adopted January 2005, last amended March 2016, *City of Monterey General Plan*.  
Monterey, CA.

City of Seaside. June 2013. *City of Seaside Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan*. Seaside, CA.

Laguna Grande Regional Joint Powers Agency. September 1978. *Laguna Grande Regional Park Master Plan and EIR Addendum*.

Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. February 2022. *Draft – Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy*.

## Mineral Resources

Monterey County. October 2010. *2010 Monterey County General Plan*. Salinas, CA.  
<https://www.co.monterey.ca.us/home/showpublisheddocument/46016/636389949187800000>

United States Geological Survey. “Mineral Resources Online Spatial Data.” Accessed on March 3, 2022. <https://mrdata.usgs.gov/general/map-us.html#home>

## Noise

City of Monterey. Adopted January 2005. last amended March 2016. *City of Monterey General Plan*.  
Monterey, CA.

City of Monterey. Municipal Code.

City of Seaside. November 2020. *Seaside Municipal Code*.  
<https://www.codepublishing.com/CA/Seaside>

Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. February 2022. *Draft – Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy*.

Monterey County. “Parcel Report Web App.” Accessed on March 3, 2022.  
<https://maps.co.monterey.ca.us/wab/parcelreportwebapp/>

## **Population and Housing**

Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. February 2022. *Draft – Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy.*

## **Public Services**

Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. February 2022. *Draft – Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy.*

## **Recreation**

Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. February 2022. *Draft – Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy.*

## **Transportation**

Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. February 2022. *Draft – Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy.*

## **Tribal Cultural Resources**

Native American Heritage Commission, *Sacred Land File*. Received 10/05/2021

## **Utilities and Service Systems**

Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. February 2022. *Draft – Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy.*

## **Wildfire**

CalFire. “FHSZ Viewer.” Accessed on March 2, 2022. <https://egis.fire.ca.gov/FHSZ/>

City of Monterey, Adopted January 2005, last amended March 2016, *City of Monterey General Plan*. Monterey, CA.

City of Seaside. June 2013. *City of Seaside Local Coastal Program Land Use Plan*. Seaside, CA.

## **Mandatory Findings of Significance**

Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. February 2022. *Draft – Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy.*

Draft – Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and  
Vegetation Maintenance Strategy

A  
APPENDIX





LAGUNA GRANDE  
REGIONAL PARK

TRAIL AND VEGETATION  
MAINTENANCE  
STRATEGY

FEBRUARY 28, 2022



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. HISTORY.....	1
2. EXISTING CONDITIONS.....	3
3. FUTURE PLANNING.....	13
4. COMMUNITY OUTREACH.....	17
5. GOALS.....	21
6. OVERALL PLAN.....	23
7. IMPLEMENTATION PHASE ONE.....	29
8. COST ESTIMATES.....	33

## APPENDICES

APPENDIX A	LAGUNA GRANDE FOCUSED PLANT SURVEY
APPENDIX B	INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL
APPENDIX C	WILDLIFE ANALYSIS
APPENDIX D	COMMUNITY OUTREACH MATERIALS

## FIGURES

FIGURE 1	CIRCULATION MAP.....	9
FIGURE 2	TRAIL CONDITIONS MAP.....	10
FIGURE 3	PARCEL OWNERSHIP MAP.....	11
FIGURE 4	FORTAG TRAIL – CANYON DEL REY/SR218 SEGMENT.....	15
FIGURE 5	COMMUNITY SITE WALK PHOTOS.....	19
FIGURE 6	COMMUNITY SITE WALK PHOTOS.....	20
FIGURE 7	OVERALL PLAN - NORTH.....	25
FIGURE 8	OVERALL PLAN - SOUTH.....	26
FIGURE 9	SOUTH WOODS SEASONAL TRAIL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.....	27
FIGURE 10	PHASE ONE PLAN - NORTH.....	31
FIGURE 11	PHASE ONE PLAN - SOUTH.....	32

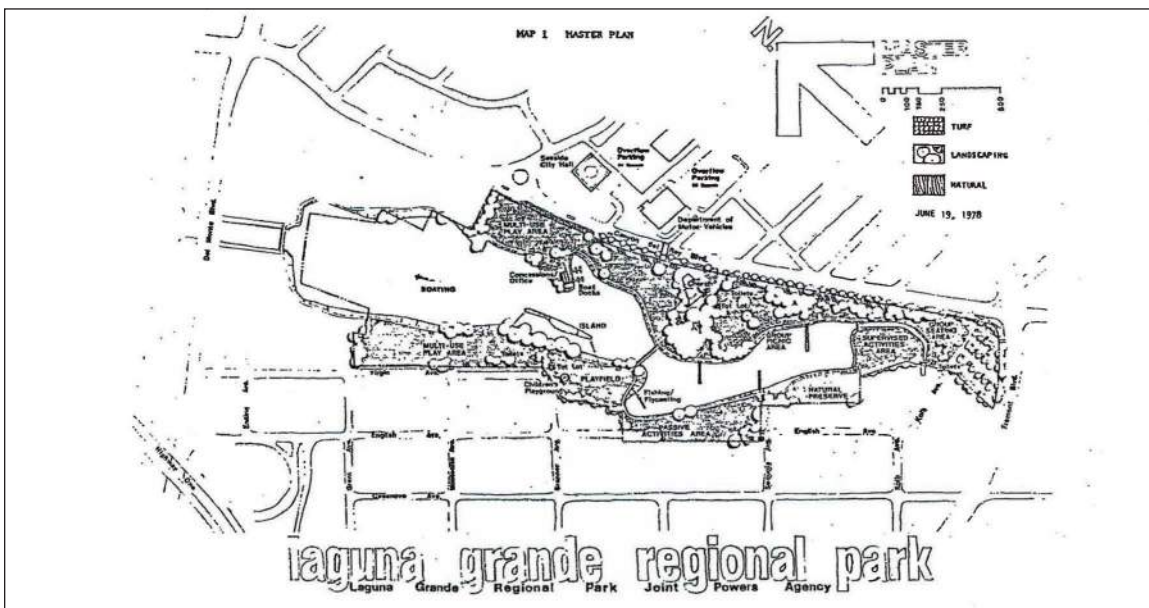
THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

Laguna Grande Lake was a flowing estuary called the Canyon Del Rey Creek, collecting runoff from the 16.8 square mile Canyon Del Rey watershed and flowing into the Monterey Bay. Laguna Grande Lake and Roberts Lake which existed as a single body of water were separated in the 1880s by the Southern Pacific Railroad. Over time the surrounding landscape developed and populations grew, the creek, the wetlands and estuary slowly filled and eventually were cut off from the bay. Slowly landfill operations filled in the marsh areas and edges of the lakes transforming this body of water into its current state.

Laguna Grande Regional Park (LGRP / Park) did not find its beginnings until the 1960's when the cities of Monterey, Seaside and Del Rey Oaks came together to petition the state for a feasibility study for developing a "Recreation and Park District for Laguna Grande". During this time there were grand visions for the park. A pamphlet from the Seaside Chamber of Commerce proudly read "It will beautify and make more attractive the City of Seaside and the entrance to the Monterey Peninsula. It should, from this standpoint, be of interest to every Peninsula community and individual." In 1968, the cities of Monterey and Seaside formed the Laguna Grande Agency to study the area. They developed the "Laguna Grande Plan" prepared by D'Amico and Associates and Charles R. Haugh. Shortly after, in 1975, the City of Seaside contracted Richard Murray and Associates to develop the "Laguna Grande Redevelopment General Conceptual Plan".

Many new developments began for LGRP in 1976. The cities of Monterey and Seaside and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District formed the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint



Source: Laguna Grande Regional Park Master Plan and EIR Addendum September 11, 1978

Powers Agency (JPA) in February. That same year the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District purchased the Laguna Grande site. The JPA adopted Seaside's 1975 conceptual plan as its' first step in preparation of a master plan. In 1978, the "Laguna Grande Regional Park Master Plan and EIR Addendum" was completed by J.P. Manachek, A.I.A, and consulting landscape architect Charles R. Haugh.

The master plan's main objective was to "preserve and enhance Laguna Grande through a water-oriented park facility." The plan proposed to dredge a portion of the southern marsh lands and add an additional 5 acres to the lake to provide more opportunities for fishing, fly-casting, and non-power boating. The lost waterfowl habitat would be relocated to Roberts Lake, while also retaining a portion of the southern marsh as a natural preserve with boardwalk paths throughout. The lake at the time was significantly polluted. The plan proposed the addition of an aeration system, silting basin, and the removal of tule growth along the edges to help decrease nitrogen levels in the water.

In 1981 the "Land Use Plan for the Laguna Grande/Roberts Lake Local Coastal Program", was completed by the cities of Monterey and Seaside to come under compliance with the Regional Coastal Commission. It was not until 1982 that the Park was opened to the public. The master plan for the Park was never fully implemented. The northern end of the park was built out with playgrounds, fields and park facilities. The south end of the park, meant to become an extension of the lake, was not completed due to lack of funds. As droughts became more frequent in California and with the slow buildup of sediments, the marshy, low wetlands to the south began to dry and more mature vegetation developed, forming a low dense woodland of willows and brambles that exist today.

## REFERENCES

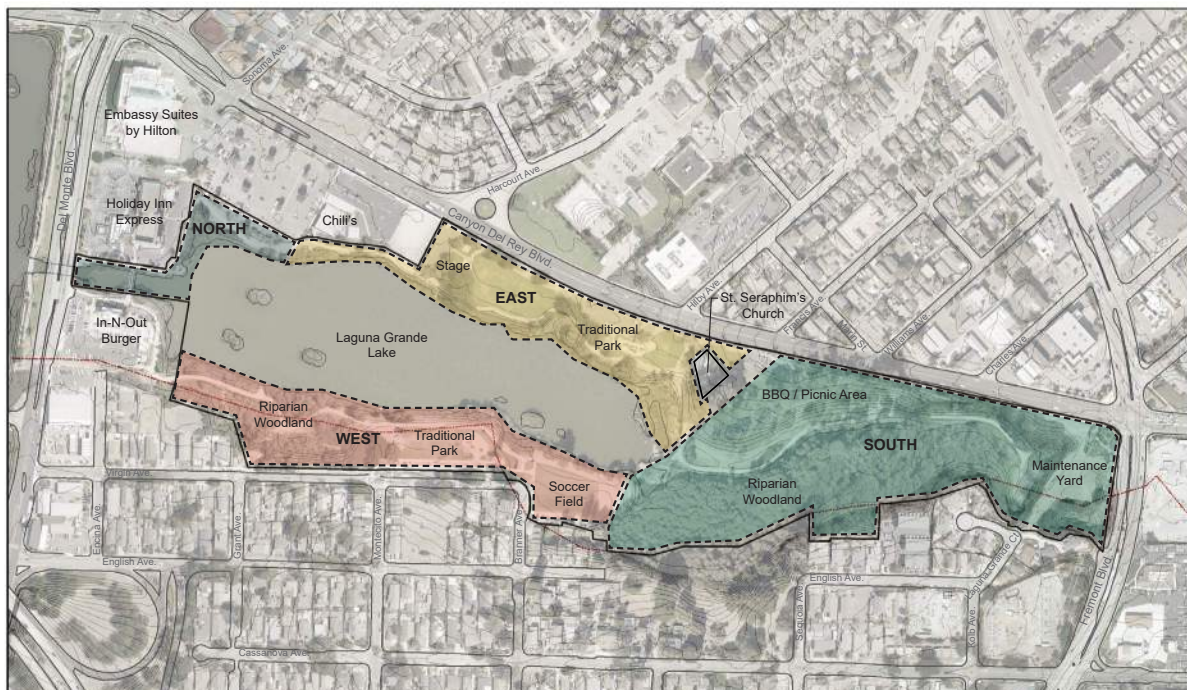
Schmalz, David. "Despite a persistent problem of encampments at Laguna Grande Park, the years go by, and nothing seems to change." Monterey County Weekly 07 Mar 2019. Web. 20 Oct 2021

Laguna Grande Regional Park Master Plan and EIR Addendum. J.P. Manachek, A.I.A., and Charles R Haugh. 1978

Land Use Plan for the Laguna Grande/Roberts Lake Local Coastal Program. Duncan and Jones. 1981

The following section is a summary of information compiled from several field studies conducted by the consultant, interviews with staff from the City of Monterey, City of Seaside and Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, and review of maps and plans prepared previously for Laguna Grande Regional Park. The field studies focused on vegetation and sensitive habitat, park physical features, review of park conditions for accessibility and observations of park uses by the public. Many of the studies confirmed the Park is a rich resource for wildlife, vegetation and provides the community with a diverse range of programmed uses. There are several areas of the park which are used for illegal camping and this has resulted in park safety concerns and a substantial amount of trash and debris collecting in sensitive habitat areas. Interviews with maintenance staff, fire officials and other officials has confirmed the Consultant team findings.

In order to provide a clear understanding of the park and its specific areas, below is a map highlighting key features and the areas that will be discussed throughout this plan.





## AESTHETICS

Laguna Grande Regional Park is a unique aquatic landscape situated between Monterey and Seaside. There are clear views into the park from Canyon Del Rey Boulevard to the east and from the surrounding neighborhoods to the west. Interior views include: the lake, native aquatic bird species, low woodlands, and rolling grassy hills. The south end of the Park has elevated hillsides, that provide views toward the Bay.

## ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

The Park provides multiple pedestrian and vehicular access points with the exception of the southern end. The southern end of the park has no accessible pedestrian or vehicular access connecting to Fremont Boulevard. An existing set of stairs leads down into the park near Canyon Del Rey Boulevard. There are no sidewalk connections to the stairs from Canyon Del Rey Boulevard or Fremont Boulevard.

Parking around the lake is facilitated with three public parking lots, two on the east and one on the west, as well as street parking on the west. Pedestrian connections to park trails are accessible from multiple points, two off of Del Monte Boulevard, four off of Canyon Del Rey Boulevard, and four off of Virgin Avenue. Trails connect to a central loop that runs along the perimeter of the lake. There is a wide path that leads to the south end of the park and dead ends with stairs which lead up to Fremont Boulevard. Secondary paths on the east and west sides of the park connect to the main loop around the lake. See Circulation Map Figure 01.

## TRAIL SURFACE/MATERIAL CONDITIONS

The Park has a number of trail materials including: asphalt, concrete, gravel, decomposed granite (DG), boardwalks, and mulch. The general trail conditions are good due to weekly maintenance and repairs from the cities. All trails have been kept clear of vegetation allowing easy access. See Trail Conditions Map Figure 02.

The majority of park trails are asphalt and conditions vary. There are two areas that have been heavily impacted by root growth and become areas of concern for accessibility and safety that need replacement. Along the asphalt trails there are many areas where the edge of the path, particularly on the lake side, is deteriorating. Some areas impacted by erosion and root damage have been clearly demarcated by maintenance staff for public safety.



*Asphalt Trail Root Impacts*



*Asphalt Trail in Poor Condition*

The use of concrete throughout the park has been limited to restroom facilities and at bridge abutments on the north end of the park. The concrete throughout the park is in good condition, however, in some locations where the trail transitions from concrete to DG, rutting has occurred.

Gravel has only been used for the trail that runs to the south end of the park. This portion of the trail has been well maintained is in good condition.

DG has been used on the northwest side of the park running from the end of the traditional park on the west side up to the In-N-Out Burger to the north. The DG path has been well maintained and is in good condition with no root impacts or erosion.



*Gravel Trail*



*DG Trail*



*Mulch Trail*

Wood decking is limited to the two bridges and five piers around the lake. These appear to be in good condition. Accessibility to these bridges and piers varies greatly. Many of the piers are inaccessible to wheelchairs due to grade change, as well as connections to the main trail that are too steep or narrow. The bridge at the north end of the park is not considered accessible by code.



*Bridge Boardwalk*

The mulch trails are seasonal and have been limited to the riparian woodland along the northwest edge of the lake. These trails vary in width and condition, with some portions of the trail subsiding into wet soil. The application of new mulch has kept much of the trail in good condition.

## **ADJACENT ACTIVITIES / SURROUNDING LAND USE**

The main trail loop is surrounded by a diverse set of land uses and activities. The north end of the park is adjacent to privately owned hotels, fast food and drive-in restaurants.

On the east side adjacent to Canyon Del Rey Boulevard there is a traditional neighborhood park with an event lawn and stage, restroom facility, and playground. There is also a private parcel with St. Seraphim's Russian Orthodox church, which is accessed through the park.



*Seaside Playground*

*Image Credit: <https://filmmonterey.org>*



*St. Seraphim's Church*



*Seaside BBQ/Picnic Area*

The southern portion of the park consists predominately of a riparian woodland and creek that are largely inaccessible to the public. South of the church are grassy slopes with BBQ / picnic areas and strolling paths. At the very southern tip of the park, adjacent to Fremont Boulevard, is a maintenance and storage yard for the city of Seaside.

The western edge of the park also has traditional park programming with a synthetic turf soccer field, restroom facility, playground, synthetic turf volleyball court, BBQ and picnic areas. There is also a riparian woodland with seasonal mulch trails.



*Monterey Volleyball Court*



*Monterey Soccer Field*

## TOPOGRAPHY

The property rises from 12-feet above sea level at the lake water level to 50-feet above sea level at the southern end along Fremont Boulevard and Laguna Grande Court. The southern end of the park functions like a valley between two 30-foot slopes to the east, south and west. The slopes level out as they move north towards the lake. The majority of the site sits 6-feet to 8-feet above the lake water level and is relatively flat and accessible.

## VEGETATION

The Park, with its unique aquatic features, hosts a wide variety of vegetation. Much of this vegetation is native to the region and provides habitat for various wildlife but has been impacted by the spread of invasive species. See appendix A and B. Vegetation is maintained by the cities on a weekly basis with a focus on the traditional park areas. Special maintenance activities, such as tree limbing and trail clearing, are performed a few times throughout the year. Dense vegetation throughout the park obstructs sight lines along the trail and to the docks and is a safety concern.



*Invasive Giant Reed and French Broom*



*Native Lavatera assurgentiflora - Island Mallow*

Refer to Appendix A – Laguna Grande Focused Plant Survey (EMC)

Refer to Appendix B – Invasive Plant Control (EMC and BRG)

### **WILDLIFE AND SENSITIVE SPECIES**

Refer to Appendix C – Wildlife Analysis (EMC)

### **GENERAL MAINTENANCE**

The Park is generally visited daily to clean restrooms and provide a quick visual check of park conditions. Operations improvements are scheduled weekly or monthly depending on the season. However, over the years persistent homeless encampments have considerably grown and become more permanent. City of Seaside staff are now checking encampments one to two times per week. Shelters, however, have tunneled deeper into the thickets to avoid easy observation. The increasing population has alarmed neighbors and created water quality and safety hazards for park visitors.



*Encampments in Woods*

*Image Credit: City of Seaside*



*Encampments in Thickets*

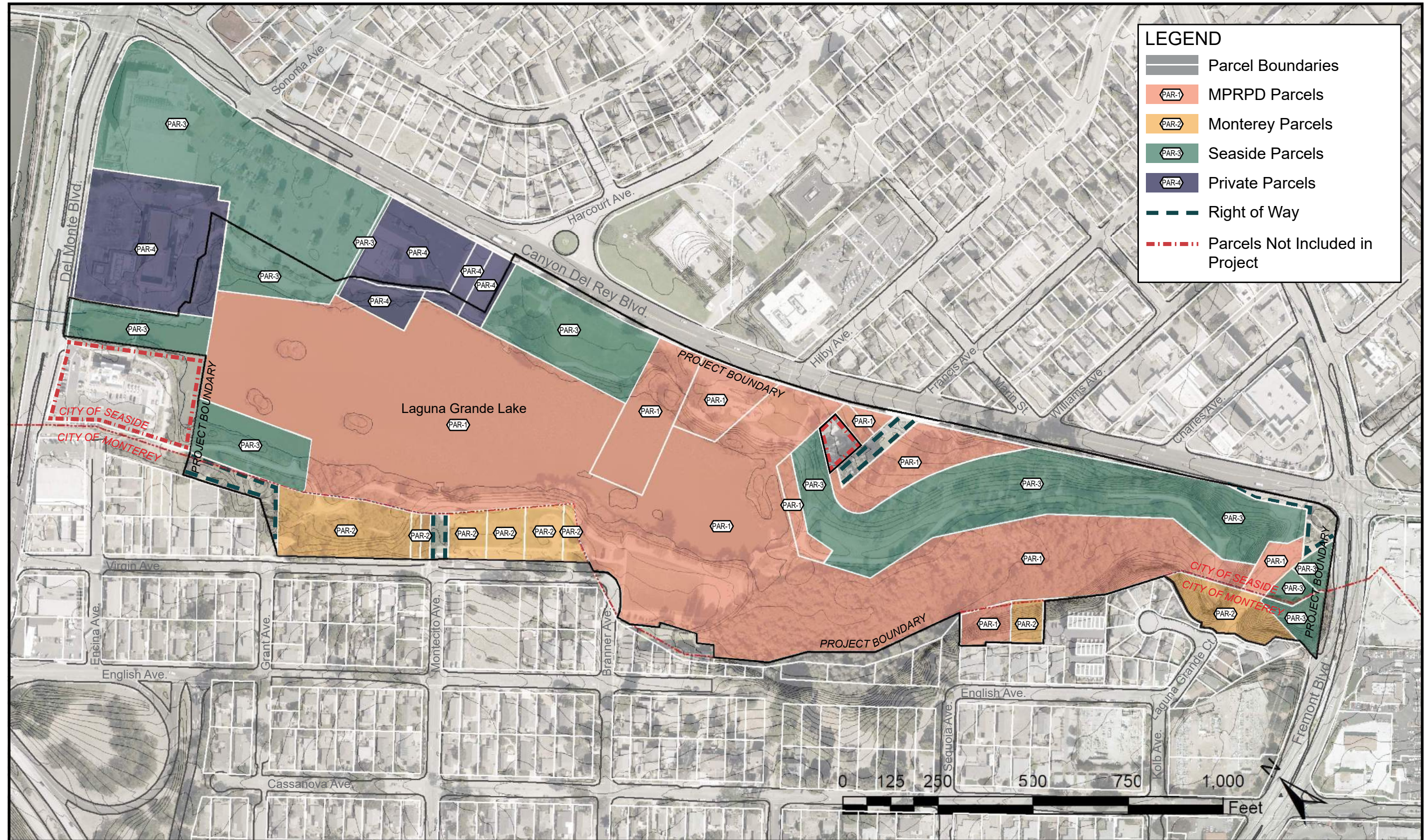
FIGURE 1: LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK CIRCULATION



FIGURE 2: LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK TRAIL CONDITIONS



FIGURE 3: LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK PARCEL OWNERSHIP



THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

Several projects are being planned and designed in and around Laguna Grande Regional Park. Many of these projects revolve around improving trails and multi-use corridors within and around the park which will improve regional trail connectivity and create safe connections along busy street corridors. In addition to improving trails and multi-use corridors, an update to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Master Plan, dated 1978, is forthcoming. Two significant projects which will affect the park are the North Fremont Street Sidewalk Gap Closure Project and the Fort Ord Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) Canyon Del Rey/SR 218 Segment Project

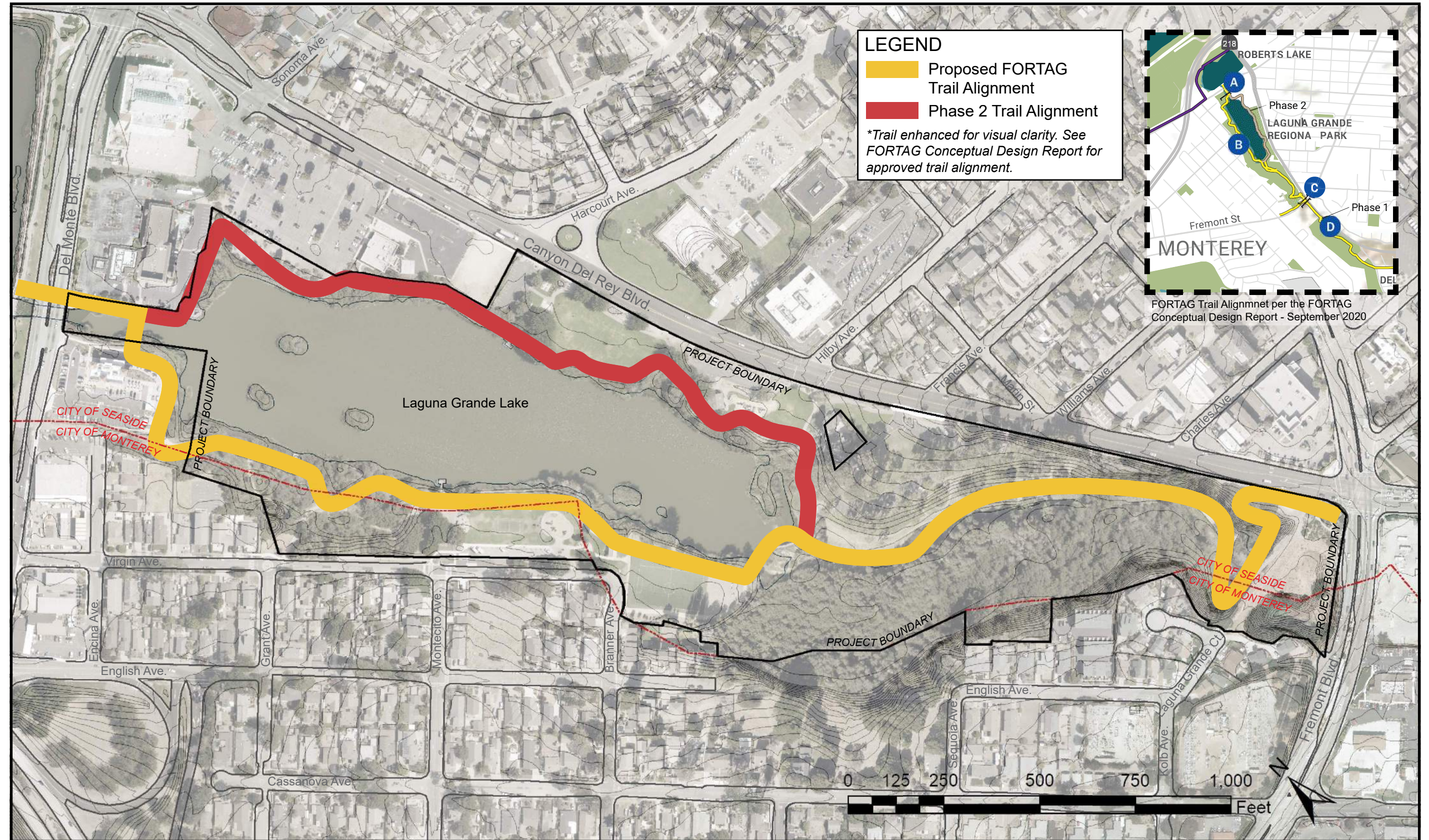
North Fremont Street Sidewalk Gap Closure Project: In the summer of 2021 the City of Monterey introduced an improvement project which will construct a multi-use ADA accessible bicycle and pedestrian path along North Fremont Street between Casanova Avenue and Canyon Dey Rey Blvd. The project includes a bridge that will link the existing sidewalk and Class IV bicycle lane to the future Fort Ord Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) project. Currently the gap closure project is going through the required environmental review process and the City of Monterey is looking to secure grant funding to complete construction. This planned improvement will greatly benefit the Park. Residents will be able to utilize Fremont Street by either walking or biking and connect directly into the park at the corner of Fremont Street and Canyon Del Rey Boulevard. This project will then link to the FORTAG Project which is planned to traverse through LGRP.



Fort Ord Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) Canyon Del Rey/SR 218 Segment Project: The FORTAG Canyon Del Rey/SR 218 Segment Project is a part of a much larger trail system that will connect the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail, the trails of the Fort Ord National Monument and the Coastal Rec Trail into a continuous system. Spearheaded by a group of private citizens, FORTAG has many stakeholders including the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC). Part of the FORTAG

Canyon Del Rey/SR 218 Segment is planned to travel through LGRP, utilizing the existing trail system. At the north end of the end park the trail users will be provided a safe crossing at Del Monte Boulevard connecting LGRP to Roberts Lake and at the south end of the park the trail will provide much needed accessibility improvements taking trail users up to the corner of Fremont Street and Canyon Del Rey Boulevard. The anticipated trail improvements, because of the FORTAG project, will greatly benefit the park through the widening of existing trails and paving improvements improving accessibility. In March 2020, TAMC certified the FORTAG Final Environmental Impact Report and in October of 2020 Phase 1 of the Canyon Del Rey/SR 218 Segment Project was funded for engineering design and community outreach. Phase 1 of this segment covers Fremont Street to Carlton Drive.

FIGURE 4: FORTAG TRAIL - CANYON DEL REY/SR218 SEGMENT



THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

In order to provide equitable engagement to the community within the planning process, the project team set up a website, [haveyoursaymonterey.org](http://haveyoursaymonterey.org), to allow community members of varying backgrounds and ages equal opportunity to comment and engage with the plans. Community meetings, public comments, plan drafts and design team meeting minutes were all made available throughout the planning process.

The opportunity for stakeholder and community engagement included a virtual townhall held on July 28, 2021 and a community site walk held on August 14, 2021. The virtual townhall, with 40 people in attendance, provided the community with an introduction to the planning process and key objectives. Community members were invited to provide comments. Key priorities heard from the community included:

- Improve park safety
- Address and fix accessibility issues
- Maintain and improve planting
- Disclose all funding sources for improvements
- Engage neighboring businesses adjacent to the Park

After the townhall, the community was invited to participate in a site walk around the Park. The project team engaged with community members and were able to address specific concerns throughout the park. There was a total of 32 people in attendance. Key takeaways from the site walk include:

- Unauthorized encampments are a personal safety, water quality, and fire danger security issue
- Design focus should be on accessibility improvements and vegetation maintenance
- Desire for clear sight lines along trails
- Protect and extend habitat areas and resources
- Aesthetic upgrades are not a priority – the park is generally well maintained
- Community should continue to be involved in the decision-making process
- Funding sources

## OUTREACH SUMMARY

The virtual town hall was recorded and made public on [haveyoursaymonterey.org](http://haveyoursaymonterey.org). A video of the site walk was created and also posted to the project website. Fliers and meeting minutes and materials for community engagement events can be seen in Appendix D. Opportunities for public comment and input will continue throughout the planning process.

THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

FIGURE 5: LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK COMMUNITY SITE WALK



FIGURE 6: LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK COMMUNITY SITE WALK



The purpose of the Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy (Strategy) is to provide the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) a clear set of priorities and means for maintaining the trails and vegetation throughout the Park. The proposed Plan will implement maintenance strategies to create a more accessible, safe, and long-lasting park for the surrounding community and region. Laguna Grande Regional Park is a unique landscape within the cities of Monterey and Seaside, providing visitors access to rarely seen aquatic and migratory birds, riparian vegetation, and fresh water lakes. Increased maintenance will require an intentional and thoughtful approach. The proposed Strategy provides direction to meet the regulations for maintenance of sensitive habitats and around bodies of water set forth by the State and Federal government agencies.

#### 1. ADDRESS ENCAMPMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS

- Provide seasonal trails through south riparian woods for consistent monitoring
- Access and Monitoring: clear non-native vegetation and overgrown brush to discourage illegal camping and provide maintenance for emergency services foot access



*Black Crowned Night Heron (Nycticorax nycticorax)*

Image Credit: [www.reconnectwithnature.org](http://www.reconnectwithnature.org)

## 2. IMPROVE PERSONAL SAFETY

- Access and Monitoring: clear vegetation and overgrown brush to increase public visibility and surveillance and discourage illegal camping; provide on-going maintenance for access and clean up.
- Sightline Visibility: create clear sight lines at curves and corners by limbing trees and clearing understory
- Accessibility Improvements: trail maintenance and repair
- Repair existing lighting and extend new lighting where park trail has no ambient street light

## 3. MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE QUALITY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Preserve and protect existing habitat
- Remove invasive vegetation where practical
- Mitigate habitat disturbance from vegetation removal as deemed appropriate at a 3:1 replacement ratio



*Mallards (Anas platyrhynchos)*

## TRAIL AND VEGETATION MAINTENANCE STRATEGY

The north side of the Park has a looped trail around the lake with direct neighborhood access and parking for visitors. This segment of the Park is well visited. The south end, extending back to Fremont Boulevard, does not have a looped path or easy neighborhood access. As a result, the dense vegetation has attracted homeless encampments. Warming fires are a concern to neighbors. Park visitors feel threatened by itinerant groups and observed drug exchanges.

Overall, residents feel the looped trail and active park areas are generally well maintained. Seaside and Monterey have been attentive to community needs in the primary recreation spaces. The JPA focus should begin with the southern half of the park.

As described in other sections of this report, any disturbance of identified habitat areas will be mitigated by habitat enhancement elsewhere in the park. Annually, a description and map of probable disturbance and enhancement will be submitted to the JPA for approval.

In order to meet the Goals and priorities above, the following maintenance strategies are recommended for Laguna Grande Regional Park.

### 1. SEASONAL TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

- Provide 8' wide seasonal mulch trails through southern riparian woodland with seasonal foot bridges for creek crossing
- Mitigate habitat removal with invasive removal and restoration planting

### 2. VEGETATION CLEARING

- Clearing and limbing around trail curves and corners
- Clearing at docks
- Clearing and limbing around illegal camp sites to improve access for monitoring and cleaning
- Mitigate habitat removal with invasive removal and restoration planting

### 3. TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

- Replace sections of trail impacted by root damage
- Repair edges of trail impacted by erosion – install header or curb to maintain trail edge along the lakeside.
- Add mulch seasonally to portions of seasonal trail that are degraded
- Repair or replace culverts under trail

- Provide formal trail connection to Fremont St
- Provide formal trail connection along Virgin St

#### **4. ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS**

- Restore accessibility to north bridge - make compliant with local building codes
- Repair areas with trip hazards
- Install accessible paths to docks - make compliant with local building codes
- Provide accessible ingress/egress to Laguna Grande from Fremont St.

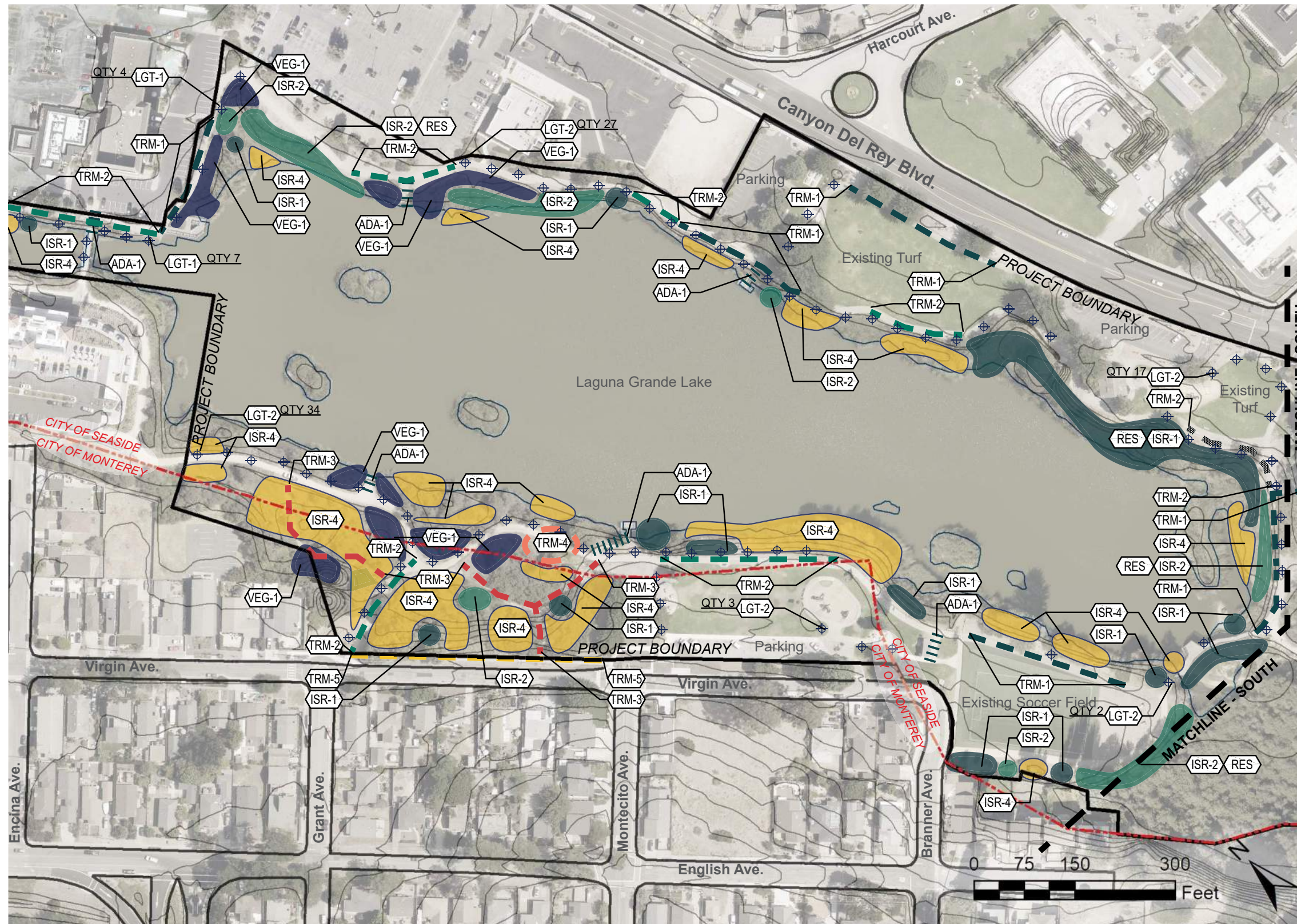
#### **5. INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL AND RESTORATION PLANTING**

- Priority 1 (1-3 years)
- Priority 2 (1-5 years)
- Priority 3 (6-10 years)
- Priorities 4-5
- Priority 6 (no action)
- Restore native plantings where invasives are fully removed
- Create new native habitat along southern gravel trail

#### **6. LIGHTING**

- Repair or replace existing lighting
- Extend new lighting along the southern gravel trail

FIGURE 7: OVERALL PLAN - NORTH



**LEGEND**

**South Woods Seasonal Trail Development**

- Enhance Existing Social Trails
- Similar to Seasonal Trails
- Seasonal Mulch Trail to Finish Loop

**Vegetation Clearing**

- Clear and Limb
- Clearing of Vegetation and Debris Consistent with Current Maintenance Practices

**Trail Maintenance and Improvements**

- Replace Trail Impacted by Roots
- Repair Edge of Trail - Erosion
- Add Mulch to Seasonal Trail
- Repair/replace Culverts
- Provide Formal Trail Connection

**Accessibility Improvements**

- Restore Trail Accessibility
- Accessibility Improvements per FORTAG Trail Alignment. See Figure 3.

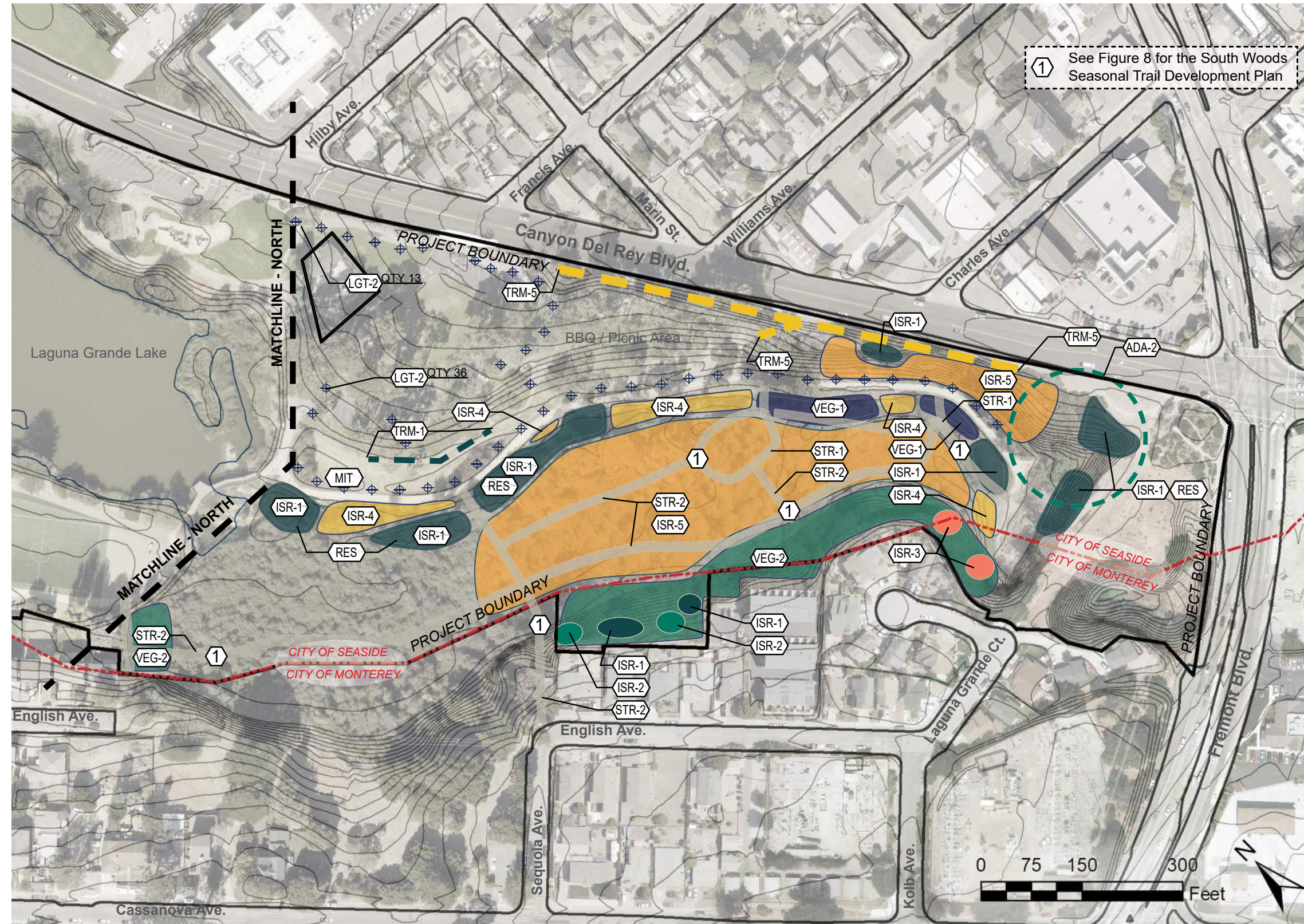
**Invasive Species Clearing**

- Clearing - Priority 1 (1-3 years)
- Clearing - Priority 2 (1-5 years)
- Clearing - Priority 3 (6-10 years)
- Clearing - Priority 4/5
- Priority 6 - No Action
- Restore Planting at Invasive Clearing Areas
- Habitat Removal Mitigation Planting

**Lighting**

- Repair/Replace Existing Lighting
- Extend New Lighting

FIGURE 8: OVERALL PLAN - SOUTH



**LEGEND**

**South Woods Seasonal Trail Development**

- Enhance Existing Social Trails Similar to Seasonal Trails
- Seasonal Mulch Trail to Finish Loop

**Vegetation Clearing**

- Clear and Limb
- Clearing of Vegetation and Debris Consistent with Current Maintenance Practices

**Trail Maintenance and Improvements**

- Replace Trail Impacted by Roots
- Repair Edge of Trail - Erosion
- Add Mulch to Seasonal Trail
- Repair/replace Culverts
- Provide Formal Trail Connection

**Accessibility Improvements**

- Restore Trail Accessibility
- Accessibility Improvements per FORTAG Trail Alignment. See Figure 3.

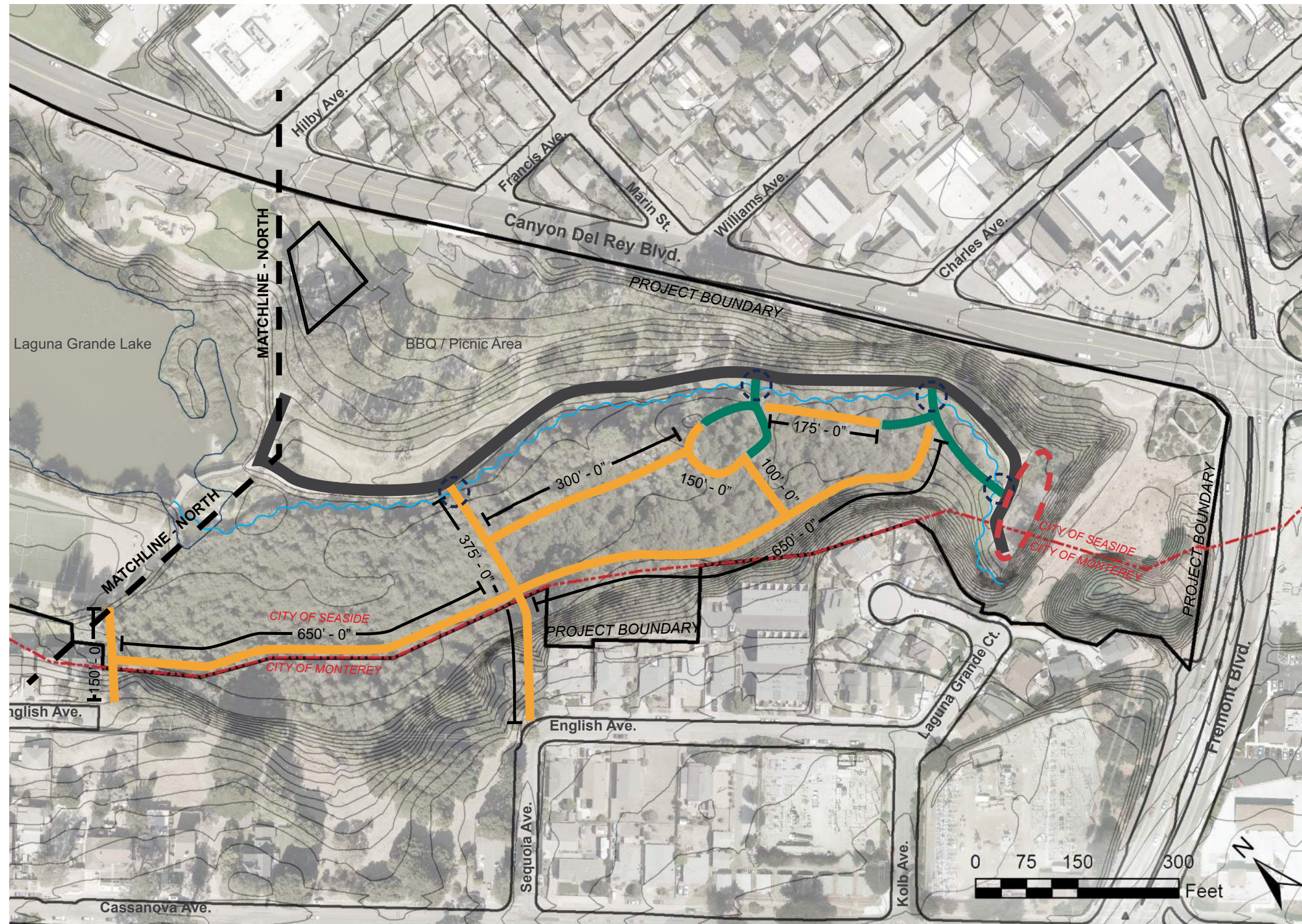
**Invasive Species Clearing**

- Clearing - Priority 1 (1-3 years)
- Clearing - Priority 2 (1-5 years)
- Clearing - Priority 3 (6-10 years)
- Clearing - Priority 4/5
- Priority 6 - No Action
- Restore Planting at Invasive Clearing Areas
- Habitat Removal Mitigation Planting

**Lighting**

- Repair/Replace Existing Lighting
- Extend New Lighting

FIGURE 9: SOUTH WOODS SEASONAL TRAIL DEVELOPMENT PLAN



LEGEND

-  Existing Creek
-  Existing Park Trail - Enhance trail section and width for Type 3 firetruck. Potential funding through Measure X\*.
-  Provide firetruck turnaround at end of trail. Potential funding through Measure X\*.
-  Existing Social Trails - 500 LF Adopt as Seasonal Mulch Trails. Widen to 8 feet and clear vegetation as required.
-  Seasonal Mulch Trails - 2,550 LF Clear 8 foot trail with mulch top dressing. Clear vegetation as required.
-  Seasonal Foot Bridge

\*Measure X was a tax increase measure which was approved in 2015 and is managed under the Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC).

THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

Implementation of the recommended maintenance and improvements will require time and approval from the governing agencies. The design team is recommending a phased approach to Strategy implementation in order to alleviate costs and to obtain permit approvals. With safety as the top priority, phase one will address these issues first. Many of the safety issues directly correlate with overgrown vegetation. Vegetation clearing and removal will require permits, but can easily be incorporated into weekly maintenance routines. Other safety items to be addressed include repairing trails heavily impacted by root damage and erosion and clearing defensible space for fire safety.

## 1. SEASONAL TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

- Provide 8' wide seasonal mulch trail through southern riparian woodland with seasonal foot bridges for creek crossing. Connect from the gravel trail to English and Sequoia
- Mitigate habitat removal with invasive removal and restoration planting
- Invasive Species Removal and Restoration Planting:
- Priority 1 (1-3 years):
  - Clear invasives where vegetation clearing for safety and defensible space will already be happening.
  - Clear invasive species where necessary to mitigate habitat removal
- Restore native plantings where invasive species have been fully removed

## 2. VEGETATION CLEARING

- Clearing and limbing around trail curves and corners particularly in the northwest riparian woodland
- Clearing at docks
- Clearing and limbing around illegal camp sites
- Mitigate habitat removal with invasive removal and restoration planting

## 3. TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

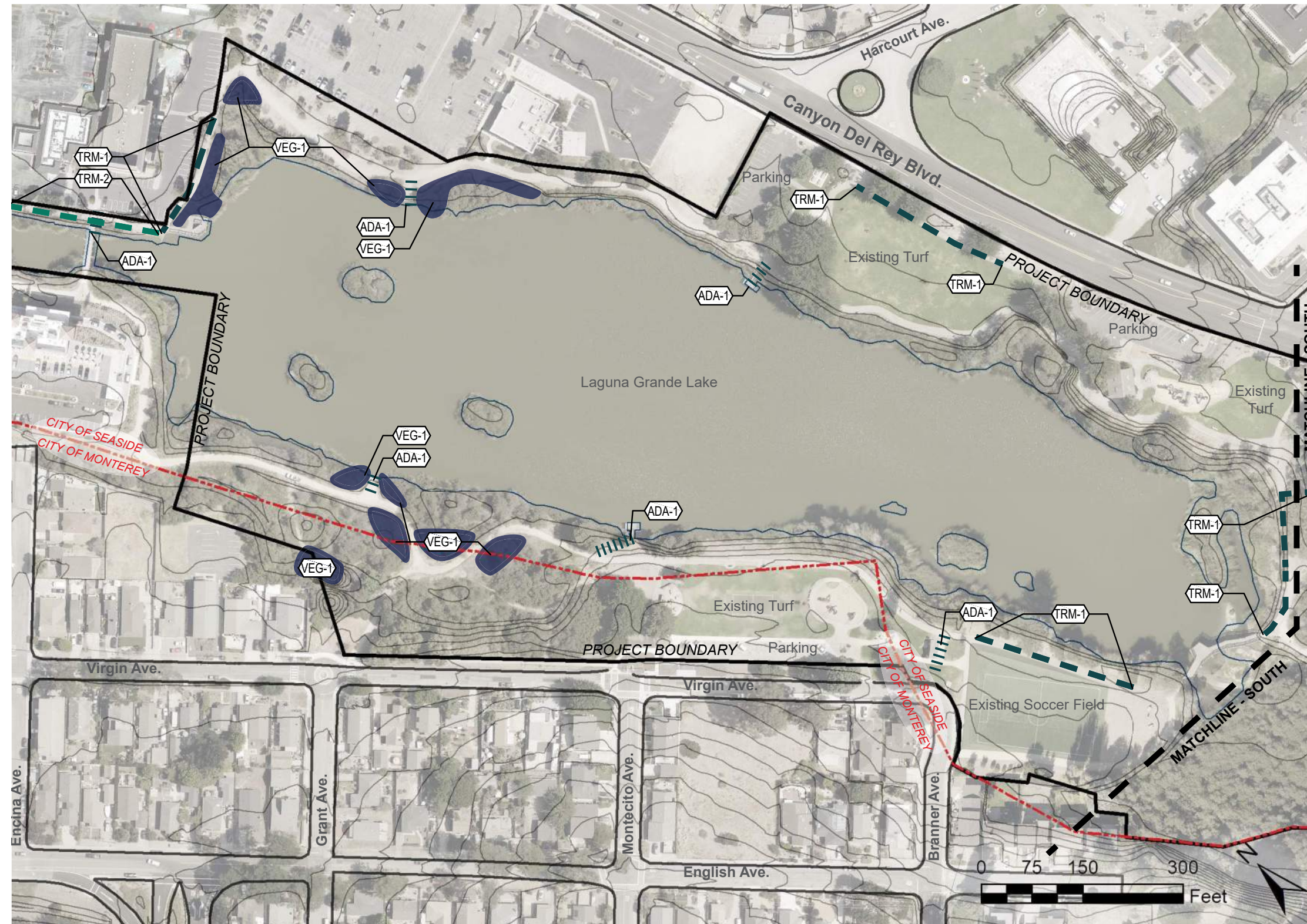
- Replace sections of trail impacted by root damage – trail section along Canyon Del Rey in Seaside traditional park and trail section along soccer field in Monterey traditional park

## 4. ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

- Restore accessibility compliance to north bridge

THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

FIGURE 10: PHASE ONE PLAN - NORTH



**LEGEND**

**South Woods Seasonal Trail Development**

- Enhance Existing Social Trails Similar to Seasonal Trails
- Seasonal Mulch Trail to Finish Loop

**Vegetation Clearing**

- Clear and Limb
- Clearing of Vegetation and Debris Consistent with Current Maintenance Practices

**Trail Maintenance and Improvements**

- Replace Trail Impacted by Roots
- Repair Edge of Trail - Erosion
- Add Mulch to Seasonal Trail
- Repair/replace Culverts
- Provide Formal Trail Connection

**Accessibility Improvements**

- Restore Trail Accessibility
- Accessibility Improvements per FORTAG Trail Alignment. See Figure 3.

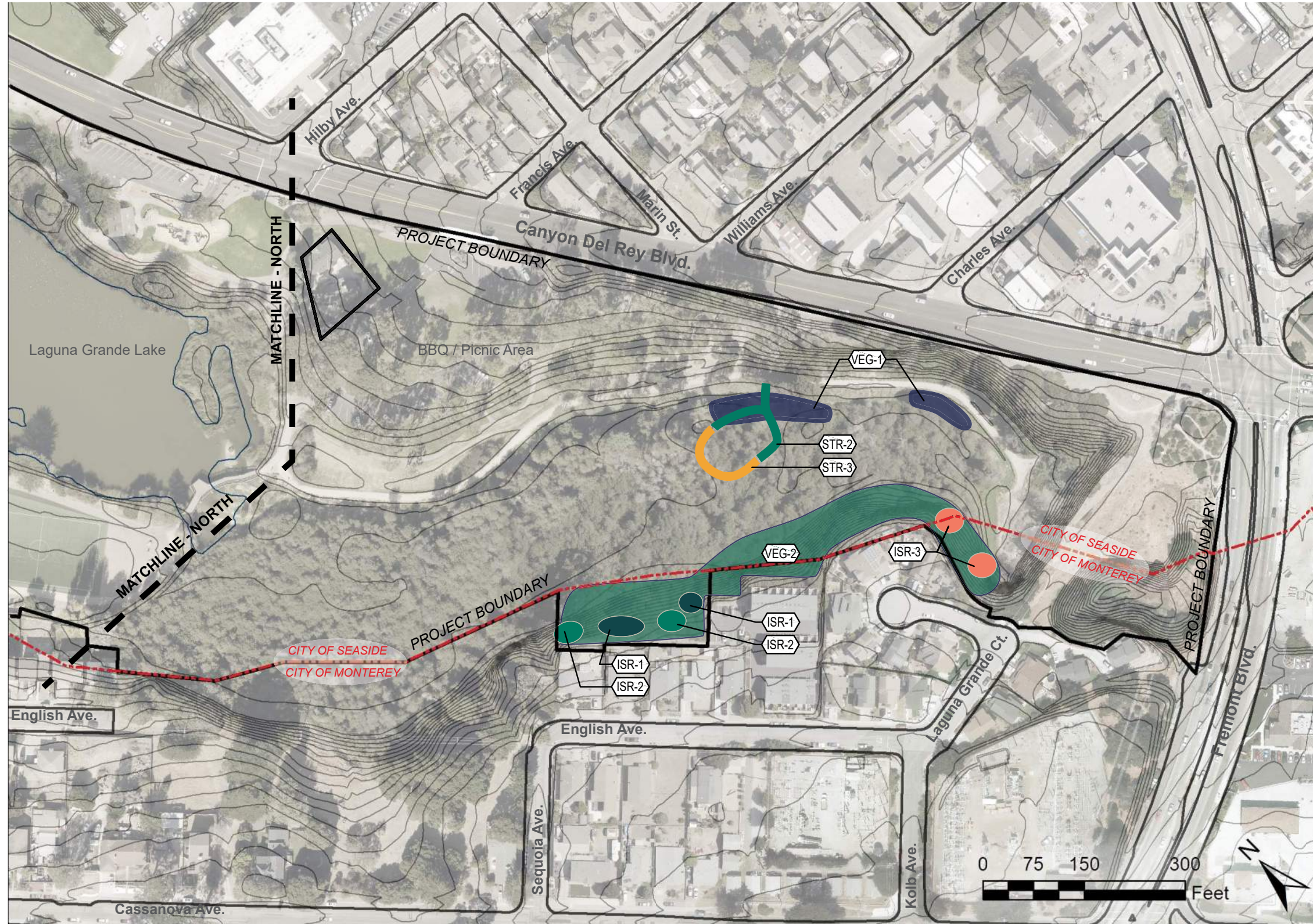
**Invasive Species Clearing**

- Clearing - Priority 1 (1-3 years)
- Clearing - Priority 2 (1-5 years)
- Clearing - Priority 3 (6-10 years)
- Clearing - Priority 4/5
- Priority 6 - No Action
- Restore Planting at Invasive Clearing Areas
- Habitat Removal Mitigation Planting

**Lighting**

- Repair/Replace Existing Lighting
- Extend New Lighting

FIGURE 11: PHASE ONE PLAN - SOUTH



**LEGEND**

**South Woods Seasonal Trail Development**

- Enhance Existing Social Trails Similar to Seasonal Trails
- Seasonal Mulch Trail to Finish Loop

**Vegetation Clearing**

- Clear and Limb
- Clearing of Vegetation and Debris Consistent with Current Maintenance Practices

**Trail Maintenance and Improvements**

- Replace Trail Impacted by Roots
- Repair Edge of Trail - Erosion
- Add Mulch to Seasonal Trail
- Repair/replace Culverts
- Provide Formal Trail Connection

**Accessibility Improvements**

- Restore Trail Accessibility
- Accessibility Improvements per FORTAG Trail Alignment. See Figure 3.

**Invasive Species Clearing**

- Clearing - Priority 1 (1-3 years)
- Clearing - Priority 2 (1-5 years)
- Clearing - Priority 3 (6-10 years)
- Clearing - Priority 4/5
- Priority 6 - No Action
- Restore Planting at Invasive Clearing Areas
- Habitat Removal Mitigation Planting

**Lighting**

- Repair/Replace Existing Lighting
- Extend New Lighting

**LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK COST ESTIMATE**

Project: Laguna Grande Regional Park -  
 Maintenance Strategy  
 Client: Laguna Grande Regional Park JPA  
 Issuance: **Strategy Draft**  
 Date: February 28, 2022

Project Number: 21.019  
 Estimate By: DZ  
 Checked By: BM



item description	quantity	unit cost	item total	subtotal
<b>ZONE 1 - LAGUNA GRANDE PARK-EXCLUDING SOUTH WOODLAND</b>				
<b>INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL</b>				
Priority 1 (1-3 years):				
High cost (Hand removal)	24,500 SF	\$0.35	\$8,575	
Medium cost (Mechanical removal)	6,500 SF	\$0.15	\$975	
Low cost	0 SF	\$0.07	\$0	
Tree removal	32 EA	\$500.00	\$16,000	<b>\$25,550</b>
Priority 2 (1-5 years):				
High cost (Hand removal)	22,250 SF	\$0.35	\$7,788	
Medium cost (Mechanical removal)	6,200 SF	\$0.15	\$930	
Medium cost (Mechanical removal) in defensible space	3,500 SF	\$0.07	\$245	
Low cost	0 SF	\$0.25	\$0	
Tree removal	2 EA	\$500.00	\$1,000	<b>\$9,963</b>
Priority 3 (6-10 years):				
High cost (Hand removal)	2,100 SF	\$0.35	\$735	
Medium cost (Mechanical removal)	1,100 SF	\$0.15	\$165	
Low cost	0 SF	\$0.07	\$0	
Tree removal	0 EA	\$500.00	\$0	<b>\$900</b>
Priority 4 (Himalayan Blackberry, English and Cape Ivy - removal will have short and long term impact on habitat)				
High cost (Hand removal)	93,750 SF	\$0.35	\$32,813	
Medium cost (Mechanical removal)	25,000 SF	\$0.15	\$3,750	
Low cost	9,600 SF	\$0.07	\$672	
Tree removal	0 EA	\$500.00	\$0	<b>\$37,235</b>
Priority 5 (Himalayan Blackberry - No Action at this time)				
Mitigation planting and irrigation	80,000 SF	\$5.00	\$400,000	<b>\$400,000</b>
Fire crew savings <sup>1,2</sup>	1 LS	(\$200,000.00)	(\$200,000.00)	(\$200,000)
<b>LIMBING, PRUNING, CLEARING</b>				
Tree pruning and limbing	50 EA	\$500.00	\$25,000	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>TRAIL REPAIRS - ROOT IMPACTS - 250 LF</b>				
Demolition	2,500 SF	\$3.00	\$7,500	
Root pruning	1 LS	\$8,000.00	\$8,000	
Fine grading	2,500 SF	\$0.25	\$625	
Asphalt paving and base	2,500 SF	\$8.00	\$20,000	<b>\$36,125</b>
<b>TRAIL REPAIRS - ACCESSIBILITY - 325 LF</b>				
Demolition	3,250 SF	\$3.00	\$9,750	
Fine grading	3,250 SF	\$0.25	\$813	
Asphalt paving and base	3,250 SF	\$8.00	\$26,000	
Concrete paving	520 SF	\$16.00	\$8,320	<b>\$44,883</b>
<b>LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE</b>				
Annual maintenance for mitigation landscape areas	1.84 AC	\$13,000.00	\$23,875	<b>\$23,875</b>

Continued Next Page

**ZONE 2 - SOUTH WOODLAND**

**INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL**

Priority 1 (1-3 years):

High cost (Hand removal)	5,800 SF	\$0.35	\$2,030	
Medium cost (Mechanical removal)	0 SF	\$0.15	\$0	
Low cost	0 SF	\$0.07	\$0	
Tree removal	29 EA	\$500.00	\$14,500	
Tree removal in defensible space	8 EA	\$500.00	\$4,000	<b>\$20,530</b>

Priority 2 (1-5 years):

High cost (Hand removal) in defensible space	4,000 SF	\$0.35	\$1,400	
Medium cost (Mechanical removal)	0 SF	\$0.15	\$0	
Low cost	0 SF	\$0.07	\$0	
Tree removal	0 EA	\$500.00	\$0	<b>\$1,400</b>

Priority 3 (6-10 years):

High cost (Hand removal) in defensible space	4,000 SF	\$0.35	\$1,400	
Medium cost (Mechanical removal)	0 SF	\$0.15	\$0	
Low cost	0 SF	\$0.07	\$0	
Tree removal	0 EA	\$500.00	\$0	<b>\$1,400</b>

Priority 4 (Himalayan Blackberry, English and Cape Ivy - removal will have short and long term impact on habitat)

High cost (Hand removal)	31,700 SF	\$0.35	\$11,095	
High cost (Hand removal) in defensible space	4,000 SF	\$0.35	\$1,400	
Medium cost (Mechanical removal)	0 SF	\$0.15	\$0	
Low cost	0 SF	\$0.07	\$0	
Tree removal	0 EA	\$500.00	\$0	<b>\$12,495</b>

Priority 5 (Himalayan Blackberry - No Action at this time)

179,500 SF	\$0.00	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
------------	--------	-----	------------

Priority 5 (Himalayan Blackberry - No Action at this time) in defensible space

35,500 SF	\$0.00	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
-----------	--------	-----	------------

Mitigation planting and irrigation

35,000 SF	\$5.00	\$175,000	<b>\$175,000</b>
-----------	--------	-----------	------------------

Fire crew savings<sup>1,2</sup>

1 LS	(\$98,250.00)	(\$98,250)	(\$98,250)
------	---------------	------------	------------

**8' SEASONAL TRAIL DEVELOPMENT - 3050 LF**

Seasonal footbridge at ditch crossing	4 AL	\$6,500.00	\$26,000	
Clear and grub	24,400 SF	\$0.50	\$12,200	
Fine grading	24,400 SF	\$0.50	\$12,200	
Mulch-3" depth	226 CY	\$120.00	\$27,120	
Mitigation planting and irrigation	24,400 SF	\$5.00	\$122,000	<b>\$199,520</b>
Fire crew savings <sup>1,2,3</sup>	1 LS	(\$61,680.00)	(\$61,680)	(\$61,680)

Continued Next Page

<b>LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE</b>				
Annual maintenance for mitigation landscape areas	1.36 AC	\$13,000.00	\$17,727	
Seasonal trail maintenance	1 AL	\$25,000.00	\$25,000	<b>\$42,727</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,056,602</b>	
<b>Potential Fire Crew Savings</b>			<b>-\$359,930</b>	

The above items, amounts, quantities, and related information are based on BFS Landscape Architects' judgment at this level of document preparation and is offered only as reference data. BFS has no control over construction quantities, costs, and related factors affecting costs, and advises the client that significant variations may occur between this estimate of probable construction costs and actual construction prices.

**NOTES**

1. Fire crews consist of 12-15 crew members and a fire captain. Cost \$225 a day and bring their own equipment.
2. Assumed fire crews will clear and grub at \$0.25 a SF and could plant at \$3.00 a SF
3. Assumed fire crews will clear and grub at \$0.25 a SF and mulch at \$90.00 a CY.

*Continued Next Page*

**LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK PHASE 1 COST ESTIMATE**

Project: Laguna Grande Regional Park -  
 Maintenance Strategy  
 Client: Laguna Grande Regional Park JPA  
 Issuance: Strategy Draft  
 Date: February 28, 2022

Project Number: 21.019  
 Estimate By: DZ  
 Checked By: BM



<b>IMPLEMENTATION PHASE 1</b>				
<b>item description</b>	<b>quantity</b>	<b>unit cost</b>	<b>item total</b>	<b>subtotal</b>
<b>LIMBING, PRUNING, CLEARING</b>				
Tree pruning and limbing	50 EA	\$500.00	\$25,000	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>LIMBING, PRUNING, CLEARING AT ENCAMPMENTS</b>				
Tree pruning and limbing	50 EA	\$500.00	\$25,000	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>TRAIL REPAIRS - ROOT IMPACTS - 250 LF</b>				
Demolition	2,500 SF	\$3.00	\$7,500	
Root pruning	1 LS	\$8,000.00	\$8,000	
Fine grading	2,500 SF	\$0.25	\$625	
Asphalt paving and base	2,500 SF	\$8.00	\$20,000	<b>\$36,125</b>
<b>TRAIL REPAIRS - ACCESSIBILITY - 200 LF</b>				
Demolition	2,000 SF	\$3.00	\$6,000	
Fine grading	2,000 SF	\$0.25	\$500	
Asphalt paving and base	2,000 SF	\$8.00	\$16,000	
Concrete paving	520 SF	\$16.00	\$8,320	<b>\$30,820</b>
<b>8' SEASONAL TRAIL DEVELOPMENT - 400 LF</b>				
Seasonal footbridge at ditch crossing	1 AL	\$6,500.00	\$6,500	
Clear and grub	3,200 SF	\$0.50	\$1,600	
Fine grading	3,200 SF	\$0.50	\$1,600	
Mulch-3" depth	30 CY	\$120.00	\$3,600	
Mitigation planting and irrigation	3,200 SF	\$5.00	\$16,000	<b>\$29,300</b>
Fire crew savings <sup>1 2 3</sup>	1 LS	(\$8,100.00)	(\$8,100)	(\$8,100)
<b>INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL - NON-SOUTH WOODS</b>				
High cost (Hand removal)	3,600 SF	\$0.35	\$1,260	
Medium cost (Mechanical removal)	3,000 SF	\$0.15	\$450	
Low cost	600 SF	\$0.07	\$42	<b>\$1,752</b>
<b>LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE</b>				
Annual maintenance for mitigation landscape	0.07 AC	\$13,000.00	\$955	
Seasonal trail maintenance	1 AL	\$8,000.00	\$8,000	<b>\$8,955</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$156,952</b>
<b>Potential Fire Crew Savings</b>				<b>-\$8,100</b>

The above items, amounts, quantities, and related information are based on BFS Landscape Architects' judgment at this level of document preparation and is offered only as reference data. BFS has no control over construction quantities, costs, and related factors affecting costs, and advises the client that significant variations may occur between this estimate of probable construction costs and actual construction prices.

**NOTES**

1. Fire crews consist of 12-15 crew members and a fire captain. Cost \$225 a day and bring their own equipment.
2. Assumed fire crews will clear and grub at \$0.25 a SF and could plant at \$3.00 a SF
3. Assumed fire crews will clear and grub at \$0.25 a SF and mulch at \$90.00 a CY.





# APPENDIX A

## PLANT SURVEY



**EMC PLANNING GROUP INC.**  
A LAND USE PLANNING & DESIGN FIRM

301 Lighthouse Avenue Suite C Monterey California 93940  
Tel 831-649-1799 Fax 831-649-8399 www.emcplanning.com

**To:** Elizabeth Matz, BFS Landscape Architects  
**From:** Patrick Furtado  
**Date:** July 2, 2021

---

**Re:** Laguna Grande Regional Park Vegetation Mapping and Focused Plant Survey Results

---

## **Vegetation Mapping**

EMC Planning Group associate biologist Patrick Furtado, M.S. conducted geographic information system (GIS) mapping of Laguna Grande Regional Park on May 18, 2021. Plant communities and several other features including invasive plants, trails, and homeless camps were mapped using Environmental Systems Research Institute's (ESRI) Field Maps mobile mapping application and a Trimble R1 sub-meter Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver. Plant communities were classified and mapped generally according to the alliance level of the Manual of California Vegetation (Sawyer et al. 2009). Figure 1, Vegetation Map – North, and Figure 2, Vegetation Map – South, are attached to this memorandum. Electronic GIS data can be provided upon request.

## **Focused Plant Survey**

EMC Planning Group associate biologist Patrick Furtado completed focused plant surveys for special-status plant species on May 24, 2021 and June 15, 2021 in accordance with current California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW 2009) and California Native Plant Society (CNPS 2001) rare plant survey protocols. According to the United States Drought Monitor, the project site is located in an area experiencing extreme drought conditions at the time of surveys (National Drought Mitigation Center 2021).

Mr. Furtado also visited nearby special-status plant reference populations for seaside bird's beak (*Cordylanthus rigidus* ssp. *littoralis*), Monterey spineflower (*Chorizanthe pungens* var. *pungens*), Monterey gilia (*Gilia tenuiflora* ssp. *arenaria*), Yadon's rein orchid (*Piperia yadonii*), and sand-loving wallflower (*Erysimum ammphilum*) to determine that these plant species were identifiable at the time of the surveys. All of these species except for Yadon's rein orchid were identifiable. Yadon's rein orchid may not be germinating or flowering in normal numbers this season due to the current extreme drought conditions (NDMC 2021). However, habitat for Yadon's rein orchid was not found on the Laguna Grande Park project site.

All suitable habitats for special-status plant species within the Laguna Grande Park survey area were systematically surveyed and plant species observed were recorded in field notes. Plant species were identified in the field or collected for subsequent identification using plant keys contained in *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California* (Baldwin et. al 2012). Taxonomy follows the Jepson Flora Project (2021) for scientific and common names.

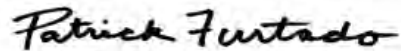
Special-status species are those listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Rare, or as Candidates for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or CDFW under the state and/or federal Endangered Species Acts. The special-status designation also includes CDFW Species of Special Concern and Fully Protected species, California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rare Plant Rank 1B and 2B species, and other locally rare species that meet the criteria for listing as described in Section 15380 of CEQA Guidelines. Special-status species are generally rare, restricted in distribution, declining throughout their range, or have a critical, vulnerable stage in their life cycle that warrants monitoring.

A total of 112 plant taxa were identified within the park boundaries, including 47 native California taxa (42 percent) and 65 non-native taxa (58 percent). No special-status plant species were observed within the Laguna Grande Regional Park survey area. Appendix A, Plant Species Observed, presents the list of all plant species that were observed at the park during the focused plant surveys.

Ms. Matz  
BFS Landscape Architects  
July 2, 2021, Page 3

Focused plant survey results are generally considered valid for about five years. Please contact me with any questions. I look forward to further assisting you with this important project.

Sincerely,



Patrick Furtado, M.S.  
Associate Biologist

**Attachments: Figure 1, Vegetation Map – North**

**Figure 2, Vegetation Map – South**

**Appendix A, Plant List**

## References

- Baldwin, B. G., D. H. Goldman, et al. 2012. *The Jepson manual: vascular plants of California*, University of California Press.
- Bossard, Carla C., et al. *Invasive Plants of California's Wildlands*. University of California Press, 2000.
- Calflora Database. 2021. Calflora: Information on California plants for education, research and conservation online database. Berkeley, California. <https://www.calflora.org/>
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2021. *Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS)* online database. <http://bios.dfg.ca.gov>
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2021. *California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB)* online database. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/data/cnddb>
- California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC). 2021. Cal-IPC Invasive Plant Inventory online database. <https://www.cal-ipc.org/plants/inventory/>
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS), Rare Plant Program. 2021. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California online database. <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org>
- Jepson Flora Project. 2021. Jepson eFlora online database. <https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/>
- Matthews, Mary Ann, and Michael Mitchell. 2015. *The Plants of Monterey County: An Illustrated Field Key*. Monterey Bay Chapter, California Native Plant Society.
- National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC). 2021. *United States Drought Monitor*. <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA>
- Sawyer, J. O., T. Keeler-Wolf, and J.M. Evens. 2009. *A Manual of California Vegetation*. California Native Plant Society, Sacramento, CA.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2021. Endangered Species Program online database. Species list for Monterey County. Washington, D.C. <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>
- Yeager, Rod M., and Michael Mitchell. *Monterey County Wildflowers: A Field Guide*. Monterey Bay Chapter, California Native Plant Society, 2016.



All areas identified as Ruderal are potential sites for native plant gardens, butterfly gardens, or native plant restoration areas.

Priority Invasive Plant Removal and Native Plant Restoration Area

Priority Invasive Plant Removal and Native Plant Restoration Area

Priority Invasive Plant Removal and Native Plant Restoration Area

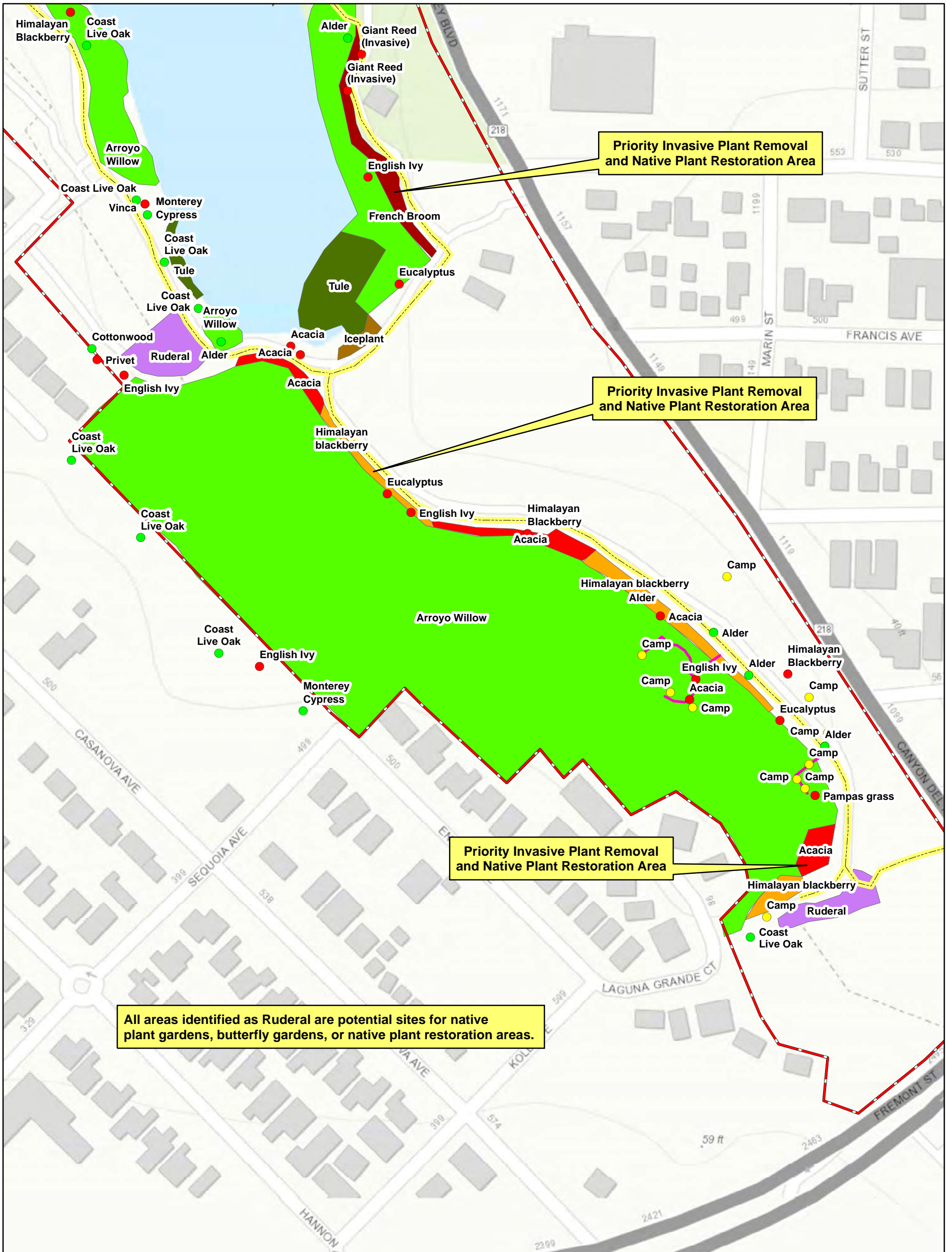
Priority Invasive Plant Removal and Native Plant Restoration Area



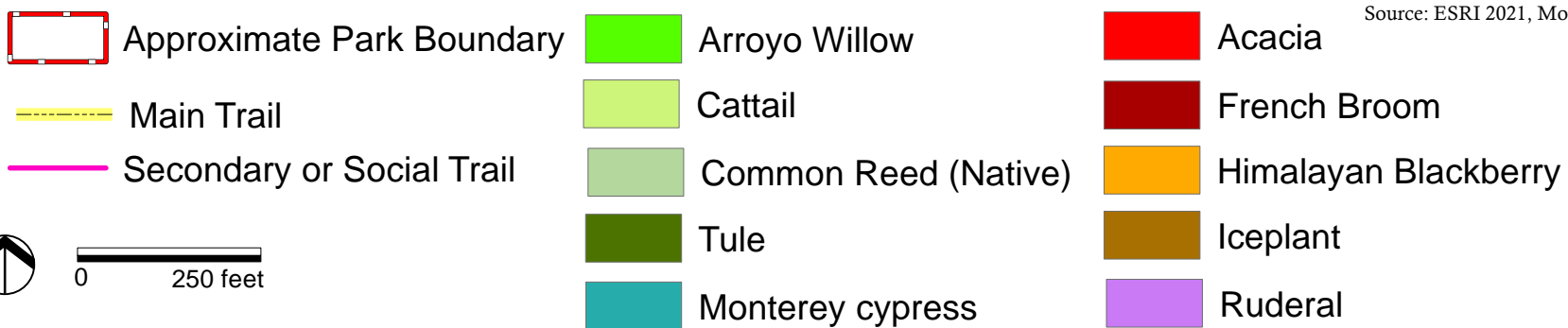
Source: ESRI 2021, Monterey County GIS 2019

Figure 1  
Vegetation Map - North





All areas identified as Ruderal are potential sites for native plant gardens, butterfly gardens, or native plant restoration areas.



Source: ESRI 2021, Monterey County GIS 2019



Figure 2  
Vegetation Map - South  
Laguna Grande Trail Maintenance Strategy IS/MND

---

## **APPENDIX A**

PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED MAY 24 AND JUNE 15, 2021

---



## Appendix A: Plant Species Observed May 24 and June 15, 2021

Family	Species Name	Common Name	Native/Non-Native	Form
Aizoaceae	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Iceplant	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Anacardiaceae	<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	Poison oak	native	Vine, Shrub
Apiaceae	<i>Apium graveolens</i>	Celery	non-native	Annual, Biennial herb
Apiaceae	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison hemlock	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Apiaceae	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Apiaceae	<i>Oenanthe sarmentosa</i>	Water parsley	native	Perennial herb
Apocynaceae	<i>Vinca major</i>	Vinca	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Araceae	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	Callalily	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Araliaceae	<i>Hedera helix</i>	English ivy	• invasive non-native	Vine, Shrub
Asteraceae	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Coyote brush	native	Shrub
Asteraceae	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	Italian thistle	• invasive non-native	Annual herb
Asteraceae	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bullthistle	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Asteraceae	<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>	Brass buttons	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Asteraceae	<i>Delairea odorata</i>	Cape ivy	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Asteraceae	<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>	Bristly ox-tongue	• invasive non-native	Annual, Perennial herb
Asteraceae	<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	Smooth cats ear	• invasive non-native	Annual herb
Asteraceae	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Hairy cats ear	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Asteraceae	<i>Jaumea carnosa</i>	Marsh jaumea	native	Perennial herb
Asteraceae	<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly lettuce	• invasive non-native	Annual herb
Asteraceae	<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineapple weed	native	Annual herb
Asteraceae	<i>Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum</i>	Jersey cudweed	non-native	Annual herb
Asteraceae	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Spiny sowthistle	• invasive non-native	Annual herb
Asteraceae	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Red seeded dandelion	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb

Appendix A

Family	Species Name	Common Name	Native/Non-Native	Form
Betulaceae	<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>	White alder	native	Tree
Boraginaceae	<i>Heliotropium curassavicum var. oculatum</i>	Seaside heliotrope	native	Perennial herb
Brassicaceae	<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Black mustard	• invasive non-native	Annual herb
Brassicaceae	<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Mustard	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Brassicaceae	<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Watercress	native	Perennial herb (aquatic)
Brassicaceae	<i>Raphanus sativus</i>	Jointed charlock	• invasive non-native	Annual, Biennial herb
Caryophyllaceae	<i>Silene gallica</i>	Common catchfly	non-native	Annual herb
Chenopodiaceae	<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	Fat-hen	non-native	Annual herb
Convolvulaceae	<i>Calystegia macrostegia</i>	Island morning glory	native	Perennial herb, Vine
Cornaceae	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	American dogwood	native	Shrub
Cucurbitaceae	<i>Marah fabacea</i>	California man-root	native	Perennial herb, Vine
Cupressaceae	<i>Hesperocyparis macrocarpa</i>	Monterey cypress	native	Tree
Cupressaceae	<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	Coast redwood	native	Tree
Cyperaceae	<i>Bolboschoenus robustus</i>	Sturdy bullrush	native	Perennial grasslike herb
Cyperaceae	<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	Tall cyperus	native	Perennial grasslike herb
Cyperaceae	<i>Schoenoplectus acutus var. occidentalis</i>	Tule	native	Perennial grasslike herb
Cyperaceae	<i>Schoenoplectus californicus</i>	California bulrush	native	Perennial grasslike herb
Cyperaceae	<i>Schoenoplectus pungens var. longispicatus</i>	Common threesquare	native	Perennial grasslike herb
Cyperaceae	<i>Scirpus microcarpus</i>	Small fruited bulrush	native	Perennial grasslike herb
Equisetaceae	<i>Equisetum telmateia ssp. braunii</i>	Giant horsetail	native	Fern
Fabaceae	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver wattle	• invasive non-native	Tree, Shrub
Fabaceae	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>	Golden wattle	non-native	Tree
Fabaceae	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood acacia	• invasive non-native	Tree
Fabaceae	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	French broom	• invasive non-native	Shrub

Family	Species Name	Common Name	Native/Non-Native	Form
Fabaceae	<i>Lupinus arboreus</i>	Coastal bush lupine	native	Shrub
Fabaceae	<i>Lupinus nanus</i>	Valley sky lupine	native	Annual herb
Fabaceae	<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	California burclover	• invasive non-native	Annual herb
Fabaceae	<i>Melilotus albus</i>	White sweetclover	• invasive non-native	Annual, Biennial herb
Fabaceae	<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Annual yellow sweetclover	non-native	Annual herb
Fabaceae	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover	non-native	Perennial herb
Fabaceae	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Spring vetch	non-native	Annual herb, Vine
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast live oak	native	Tree
Geraniaceae	<i>Erodium botrys</i>	Big heron bill	non-native	Annual herb
Geraniaceae	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Wild geranium	• invasive non-native	Annual herb
Geraniaceae	<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round leaved geranium	non-native	Annual herb
Juglandaceae	<i>Juglans hindsii</i>	Northern california black walnut	native	Tree
Juncaceae	<i>Juncus effusus ssp. pacificus</i>	Pacific rush	native	Perennial grasslike herb
Juncaceae	<i>Juncus patens</i>	Rush	native	Perennial grasslike herb
Malvaceae	<i>Malva pseudolavatera</i>	Cretan mallow	non-native	Shrub
Malvaceae	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	High mallow	non-native	Perennial herb
Myrsinaceae	<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel	non-native	Annual herb
Myrtaceae	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Blue gum	• invasive non-native	Tree
Onagraceae	<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	Slender willow herb	native	Perennial herb
Onagraceae	<i>Oenothera elata</i>	Evening primrose	native	Perennial herb
Papaveraceae	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy	native	Annual, Perennial herb
Plantaginaceae	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Cut leaf plantain	• invasive non-native	Annual herb
Plantaginaceae	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Plantaginaceae	<i>Plantago major</i>	Common plantain	non-native	Perennial herb

Appendix A

Family	Species Name	Common Name	Native/Non-Native	Form
Platanaceae	<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	California sycamore	native	Tree
Poaceae	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Redtop	• invasive non-native	Perennial grass
Poaceae	<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant reed	• invasive non-native	Perennial grass
Poaceae	<i>Avena fatua</i>	Wildoats	• invasive non-native	Annual grass
Poaceae	<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	Ripgut brome	• invasive non-native	Annual grass
Poaceae	<i>Bromus sitchensis var. carinatus</i>	California brome	native	Perennial grass
Poaceae	<i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i>	Crabgrass	non-native	Annual grass
Poaceae	<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	Salt grass	native	Perennial grass
Poaceae	<i>Ehrharta erecta</i>	Upright veldt grass	• invasive non-native	Perennial grass
Poaceae	<i>Festuca myuros</i>	Rattail sixweeks grass	• invasive non-native	Annual grass
Poaceae	<i>Festuca perennis</i>	Italian rye grass	• invasive non-native	Annual, Perennial grass
Poaceae	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Common velvetgrass	• invasive non-native	Perennial grass
Poaceae	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Foxtail barley	• invasive non-native	Annual grass
Poaceae	<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	Kikuyu grass	• invasive non-native	Perennial grass
Poaceae	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common reed	native	Perennial grass
Poaceae	<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual blue grass	non-native	Annual grass
Polygonaceae	<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	Water smartweed	native	Perennial herb (aquatic)
Polygonaceae	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Prostrate knotweed	non-native	Annual, Perennial herb
Polygonaceae	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep sorrel	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Polygonaceae	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curly dock	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Polygonaceae	<i>Rumex pulcher</i>	Fiddleleaf dock	non-native	Perennial herb
Rhamnaceae	<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i>	Blueblossom	native	Tree, Shrub
Rhamnaceae	<i>Frangula californica</i>	California coffeeberry	native	Shrub
Rosaceae	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silver weed cinquefoil	native	Perennial herb

Family	Species Name	Common Name	Native/Non-Native	Form
Rosaceae	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Cherry plum	• invasive non-native	Tree
Rosaceae	<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	Holly leaf cherry	native	Tree, Shrub
Rosaceae	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Chokecherry	native	Tree, Shrub
Rosaceae	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	Himalayan blackberry	• invasive non-native	Shrub
Rosaceae	<i>Rubus ursinus</i>	California blackberry	native	Vine, Shrub
Salicaceae	<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>	Black cottonwood	native	Tree
Salicaceae	<i>Salix laevigata</i>	Polished willow	native	Tree
Salicaceae	<i>Salix lasiandra</i>	Pacific willow	native	Tree
Salicaceae	<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	Arroyo willow	native	Tree, Shrub
Sapindaceae	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Boxelder	native	Tree
Scrophulariaceae	<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	Ngaio tree	• invasive non-native	Tree, Shrub
Scrophulariaceae	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Woolly mullein	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Tropaeolaceae	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	Garden nasturtium	non-native	Annual herb, Vine
Typhaceae	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Broadleaf cattail	native	Perennial herb (aquatic)
Urticaceae	<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Spreading pellitory	non-native	Perennial herb
Urticaceae	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging nettle	native	Perennial herb
Urticaceae	<i>Urtica urens</i>	Annual stinging nettle	non-native	Annual herb

SOURCE: EMC Planning Group 2021

# APPENDIX B

## INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL

**LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK  
TRAIL MAINTENANCE STRATEGY  
September 28, 2021**

**GUIDELINES FOR INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE PLANT REMOVAL/CONTROL**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Non-native plant species are species not present in California and/or the Monterey Bay prior to Russian, Spanish and/or European colonization. The Spanish discovery of Monterey Bay occurred in the early 1600's, yet it wasn't until 1770 that the first non-Native American settlement was established (Gordon, 1996). Available evidence indicates that the vast majority of non-native plants now established in California were introduced after this time (Cal-IPC, 2021). Settlers brought non-native plants accidentally in ship ballast and as contaminants of grain shipments, in livestock and livestock feed, as well as intentionally for food, fiber, medicine, and ornamental uses. Most non-native plants introduced to California in these early times first established at coastal sites near ports and around missions and other settlements. This is likely true for the Monterey Bay region. The majority of the first non-native plants to establish were of European origin; however, later-arriving species have origins in central and south America, and more recently from Asia and Australia. Many of the arriving non-native plant species found favorable growing conditions in coastal California and became successful in competing with native plant species for growing space, soil nutrients, and soil moisture. Of the estimated 1,800 non-native plant species established in California, only approximately 200 (11%) are recognized as serious threats to native ecosystems; yet these species have dramatically changed California's ecological landscape (Cal-IPC, 2021). Species that exhibit aggressive growth patterns that lead to a reduction in native plant diversity and cover are considered to be *invasive, non-native* plant species.

An aggressive growth pattern of an invasive, non-native plant species can result in a corresponding reduction in the diversity and health of native flora and fauna. A decrease in native plant and animal diversity can lead to a weakening of native ecosystems, making the ecosystem more vulnerable to permanent damage due to stochastic events (i.e., unpredictable events that can affect population and community dynamics, such as disease infestation, wildfire, or unintentional human damage). In addition, as native insects and wildlife rely on native plants for shelter, food and reproduction, the spread of non-utilized non-native plant species can result in the disappearance or reduced numbers and vigor of native species. A study on the ecosystems of California found the impacts of invasive species on native species include genetic impacts (i.e., hybridizing with native species), local or species-level extinctions through disease and displacement, changes in community composition and native species diversity, and altered ecosystem processes such as nutrient cycling and disturbance regimes (Mooney and Zavaleta 2016). Additionally, some invasive non-native plants are toxic to wildlife and insects. Toxic plant materials weaken or kill aquatic life. Finally, the loss of the complex plant cover and plant root systems lead to decreases in soil moisture, increases in soil temperature and changes in soil chemical composition. Soil and moisture changes can lead to increases in erosion potential and decreases in water quality.

Numerous non-native plant species have been recorded in Laguna Grande Regional Park. Some of these are invasive with infestations having negative effects on the park's upland and wetland ecosystems. A level of environmental damage has occurred within the Park from infestations of these invasive, non-native plant species. Measures to reduce damage from invasive, non-native plant species, to benefit the Park's native ecosystems, are identified in this chapter.

## **2.0 METHODOLOGY**

The extent of invasive, non-native plant species within Laguna Grande Regional Park was assessed through literature review, review of the Vegetation Mapping and Focused Plant Survey Results (EMC Planning Group, 2021), and field observations by Kathleen Lyons (plant ecologist) and George McMenamin (restoration specialist). Field surveys were conducted on July 30, August 10 and September 7, 2021 to field-check previously mapped data, identify additional locations of invasive, non-native plant species, evaluate the level of threat an infestation poses to native resources, and evaluate measures for removal and control of infestations. The distribution of the invasive, non-native plant species was depicted onto a base map and EMC Planning Group entered data entered into a Geographic Information System (GIS).

## **3.0 INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE PLANT SPECIES**

Over twenty-five invasive, non-native plant species were identified to be of management concern within Laguna Grande Regional Park. Most of these species are listed by the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC), as *invasive species*. Two species are listed as *noxious weeds* by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). Table 1 lists these species and their Cal-IPC invasive rating. Figures 1 and 2 show the distribution of each species within the regional park.

Plant species have varying patterns for growth and reproduction. These patterns are considered in evaluating their ability to invade native ecosystems as well as control measures. Plants that are annual/biennial species, such as a thistle, typically grows quickly and produce large amounts of seed that is often easily dispersed by wind or by animals. Seeds from annual species typically have relatively short lifespans (1-5 years). Some perennial plants, such as French broom, reproduce by seed; however, the seed can persist in the soil for long periods of time (30+ years). Some perennial plants, such as Cape ivy, can reproduce from stem fragments. The growth habitat and primary reproductive method of the invasive, non-native plant species is presented in Table 1.



Source: ESRI 2021, Monterey County GIS 2019

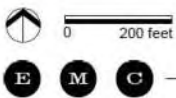
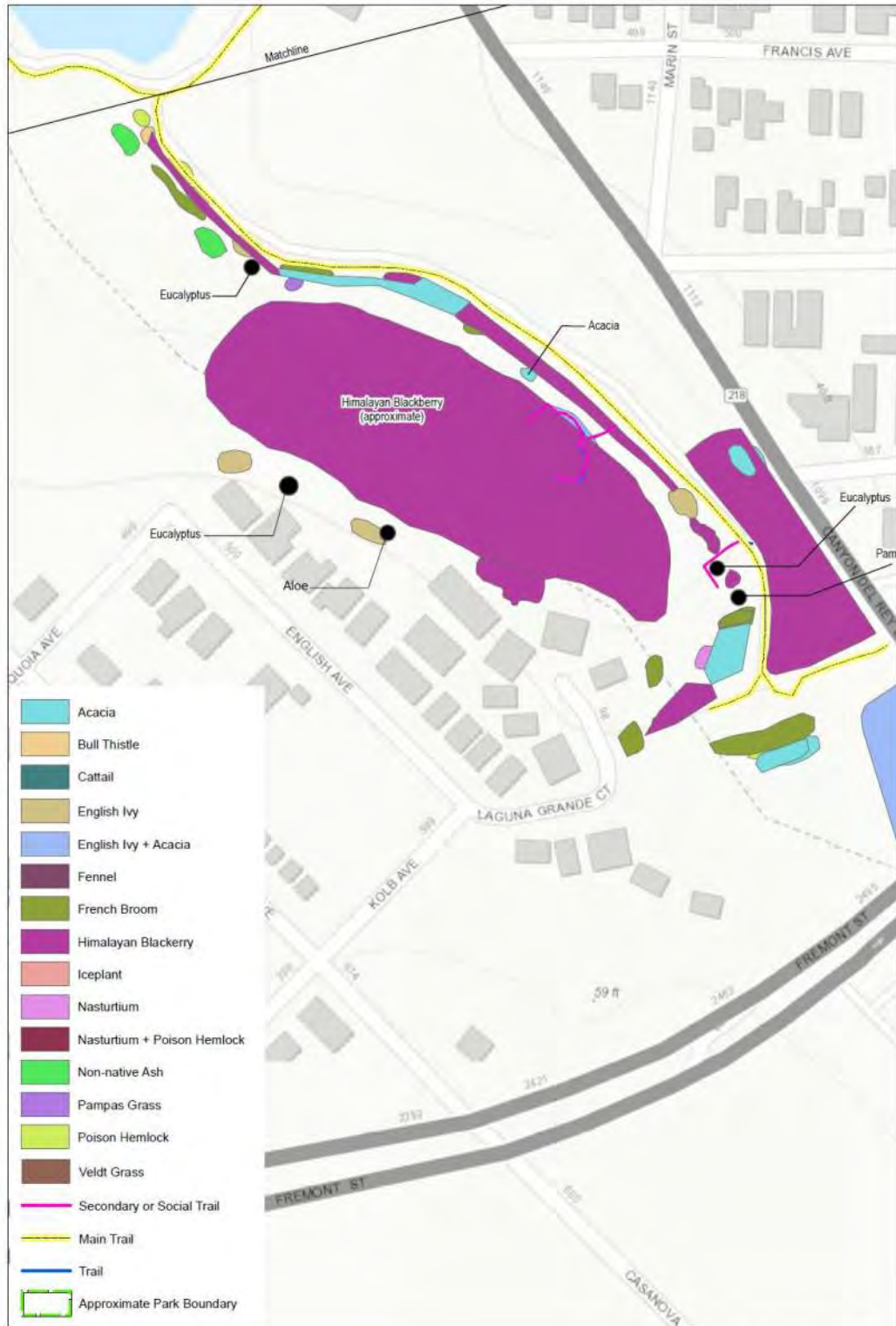


Figure 1  
**Invasive Plant Species - North**  
 Laguna Grande Trail Maintenance Strategy IS/MND

**Figure 1. Invasive, Non-native Plant Species, North**



Source: ESRI 2021, Monterey County GIS 2019

Figure 2

**Invasive Plant Species - South**  
Laguna Grande Trail Maintenance Strategy IS/MND

**Figure 2. Invasive, Non-native Plant Species, South**

**Table 1. Invasive, Non-native Plant Species of Management Concern, Laguna Grande Regional Park**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Cal-IPC Ranking	Growth Habit	Primary Reproduction
<b>TREES</b>				
Acacia	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> <i>Acacia dealbata</i> <i>Acacia longifolia</i>	Moderate	Perennial, evergreen	Seed, roots and stump sprouts
Blue Gum Eucalyptus	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Limited	Perennial, evergreen	Seed, stump sprouts
White Ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	None	Perennial, deciduous	Seed, stump and root sprouts
Ngaio Tree (Myoporum)	<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	None	Perennial, evergreen	Seed
Cherry Plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	None	Perennial, deciduous	Seed, stump sprouts
Chinese Elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	None	Perennial, deciduous	Seed, stump and root sprout
<b>SHRUBS AND WOODY VINES</b>				
French Broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	High	Perennial	Seed
Glossy Privet	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	Limited	Perennial	Seed
Himalayan Blackberry	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	High	Perennial	Seed, root fragments, cane tips
Elm-leaf (thornless) Blackberry	<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i>	None	Perennial	Seed, root fragments, cane tips
Pride of Madeira	<i>Echium candicans</i>	Limited	Perennial	Seed
<b>NON-WOODY VINES, GRASSES, AND GROUNDCOVERS</b>				
Aloe	<i>Aloe arborescens</i>	None	Perennial	Vegetatively, seeds
Giant Reed	<i>Arundo donax</i>	High	Perennial	Vegetatively
Short-stalked False Bindweed	<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	None	Perennial	Seeds, roots
Italian Thistle	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	Moderate <sup>1</sup>	Annual	Seed
Ice Plant	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> <i>Carpobrotus chilensis</i>	High	Perennial	Roots, plant fragments, seed
Bull Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Moderate <sup>1</sup>	Biennial	Seed
Poison Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Moderate	Biennial	Seed
Jubata Grass	<i>Cortaderia jubata</i>	High	Perennial	Seed
Pampas Grass	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>			
Cape Ivy	<i>Delairea odorata</i>	High	Perennial	Vegetatively
Panic Veldt Grass	<i>Ehrharta erecta</i>	Moderate	Annual	Seed
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Moderate	Perennial	Seed root fragments
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i> <i>Hedera spp. and cultivars</i>	High	Perennial	Seed, vegetatively
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	None	Perennial	Seed, vegetatively
Kikuyu Grass	<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	Limited	Perennial	Seed, rhizome, stolen fragments
Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	None	Annual	Seed, stem fragments
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>	Moderate		Vegetatively
Calla Lily	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	Limited	Perennial	Seed, rhizome

<sup>1</sup> – species has a pest rating of “C” by CDFA: “State endorsed holding action and eradication if plant found in a nursery; action to retard spread of plant outside nursery at discretion of County Agricultural Commissioner.”

Table 2 identifies the inventory categories developed by Cal-IPC to reflect the level of a species negative ecological impact in California. These categories are high, moderate, or limited. Two additional categories are “Alert” and “Watch.” 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. Species on the “watch” list have been assessed as posing a high risk of becoming invasive in the future in California.

**Table 2. Cal-IPC Ratings of Invasive Weeds**

Ranking	Meaning of Ranking
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.

Source: Cal-IPC, 2021

The plant species descriptions provided in the following sections are based on general plant life cycles and growth patterns in the central coast region. The information provided should be used as a general guideline and does not replace yearly monitoring. Some biennials may become annuals or short-lived perennials based on extreme conditions, such as drought or years of high rainfall. Additionally, the timing of plant growth and flowering may change under extreme parameters.

**3.1 Trees**

Most non-native tree species have several common invasive characteristics. Most outcompete many native plant species by blocking sunlight, having rapid growth, and dominating soil moisture and nutrient resources.

**Silver wattle** (*Acacia dealbata*), **Sydney golden wattle** (*Acacia longifolia*) and **blackwood wattle** (*Acacia melanoxylon*) are all non-native trees or shrubs. All three species are native to Australia, fast growing, fix nitrogen, and can re-sprout from cut stumps. They all produce prodigious amounts of seed and likely have leaves with allelopathic properties. The silver wattle usually reaches a height of 40-50 feet and can reproduce from both rhizomes and seed. Sydney golden wattle is usually a small tree or shrub that grows to a height of 20 to 25 feet and may form dense thickets. The blackwood wattle usually reaches heights of 40-50 feet. The blackwood wattle also develops root suckers and can form clonal populations. Both the silver and blackwood wattle may grow taller under some circumstances. All of these species are highly invasive due to their rapid growth, the allelopathic leave litter, their large, seed banks and their ability to spread by rhizome or roots. Once established, they outcompete the native plant species and alter the soil chemistry by fixing nitrogen. Additionally, they can create a significant fire hazard.

**Blue gum eucalyptus** (*Eucalyptus globulus*) is a large non-native tree that can grow rapidly to heights of 200 feet or more. It is native to Australia. Blue gum trees have an extensive lateral root system and can re-sprout from cut stumps and roots. Blue gum trees shed bark, leaves and drop branches continuously. This species can flower from late fall through the following spring, with seed capsules forming 10 months to a year later. The blue gum eucalyptus reproduces from seed. The species is a highly invasive tree due to its rapid growth, existing seed bank, ability to re-

sprout, and the allelopathic properties of the thick layer of leaf and bark litter. Additionally, the leaf litter, bark litter and large number of down branches create a significant fire hazard.

**White ash** (*Fraxinus americana*) is a non-native, evergreen to semi-deciduous tree native to southeastern Canada and midwestern United States. They can reach heights of 60 feet. Ash trees have large roots and may have adventitious roots. The trees flower in the spring with windborne pollination and they produce large quantities of viable seed. Ash trees are toxic to ruminant animals and may cause dermatitis to humans. The non-native ash species should be considered moderately invasive in riparian corridors or moist soils due to their rapid growth, potential for root sprouts and large quantities of seed.

**Chinese elm** (*Ulmus parvifolia*) is a non-native, semi-deciduous tree that can reach heights of 50 feet. It is native to Asia and prefers full to moderate sun. The Chinese elm sheds bark and has large roots. It flowers in late summer and produces viable seed. The seed can be carried by the wind for long distances. Chinese elms are low to moderately invasive in central coastal California, at this time, However, it is highly invasive in North Carolina and has potential to become more invasive along the central coast, due to its windborne seed and tolerance for many environmental conditions.

**Cherry plum** (*Prunus cerasifera*) is a non-native, often shrubby, deciduous tree that is native to Europe. Cherry plum trees can re-sprout from cut stumps and roots. This tree flowers in the spring and the plum-like fruit is often transported and spread into new areas, by animals and humans. Although this tree rarely forms groves or dominates habitat, it should be considered moderately invasive in some habitats where there is disturbance, or reduced competition and adequate resources for seedlings to become established.

**Ngaio tree (myoporium)** (*Myoporum laetum*) is a non-native, evergreen tree or shrub that can reach a height of 30 feet. It is native to New Zealand. Ngaio trees have a deep taproot and are drought tolerant when mature. Plants may re-sprout when the stems are cut. Ngaio trees flowers in the spring and summer and produces fruit containing 2-6 seeds. They produce large quantities of fruit which is often transported by birds. If the fruit stays intact, the seeds can survive for several years. This plant has regional toxicity if eaten, particularly the leaves. The Ngaio tree is moderately invasive in disturbed areas with sufficient soil moisture. This species can form monocultured stands due to the leaf litter and high seed production.

### **3.2 Shrubs and Woody Vines**

**French broom** (*Genista monspessulana*) is a non-native, leguminous, perennial shrub with an average life span of 12-15 years. It is native to the Mediterranean region of Europe. French broom is evergreen and may reach a height of 10+ feet. French broom usually flowers in spring and early summer. A mature plant can produce thousands of seed pods per year. Each pod contains 5-8 seeds. The seed pods are dehiscent, bursting open in the summer, expelling seeds for a distance of up to 6 feet. French broom seed remains viable in and on the soil for decades. French broom seeds and flowers are toxic to humans and many domestic and native wildlife species. French broom is a highly invasive shrub that spreads rapidly. The prodigious quantities and long-term

viability of the seeds often result in a rapid expansion of the infestation. In addition, French broom will re-sprout from cut stumps unless it is cut below the root crown. Over a period of 3-6 years French broom can create a dense, monocultured stand.

**Himalayan blackberry** (*Rubus armeniacus*) and **elm-leaf (thornless) blackberry** (*Rubus ulmifolius*) are long-lived, non-native shrubs/woody vines that develop a perennial root system. These species grow in numerous forms and create dense thickets. Both species can assume a vine form and climb 20-30 feet into trees. Himalayan blackberry is native to Eurasia; elm-leaf (thornless) blackberry is native to Europe. Both species flower in the spring and usually produces fruit in the summer. Both of these blackberry species are highly invasive and spread quickly. They produce large quantities of berries and the seeds are often spread by birds and other animals that eat the fruit. Both blackberries develop extensive root systems and can spread vegetatively (re-sprout) from root fragments and re-rooting from cane tips.

**Glossy privet** (*Ligustrum lucidum*) is a non-native, evergreen tree or shrub that is native to Asia. This tree can reach heights of 40 feet and often has multiple stems. Glossy privet can re-sprout from cut stumps or roots. Glossy privet flowers in the late spring to summer. This species produces large quantities of berries that are mostly dispersed by birds. Glossy privet reproduces by both seed and roots. They may be invasive in woodlands or forest habitats where root sprouts and seed can form dense stands over time.

**Pride of Madeira** (*Echium candicans*) is a large, long lived, perennial shrub that is native to the island of Madeira, north of the Canary Islands. Pride of Madeira has numerous branches, woody roots and can reach heights of 8 feet. Pride of Madeira is a common landscape ornamental that has escaped cultivation in coastal regions. This species requires full sun and may bloom from April thru July, producing large quantities of viable seed. All parts of the plant are considered poisonous to ingest and can skin contact can cause dermatitis. Due to its long-life span and large quantities of seed, Pride of Madeira is moderately invasive along the central coast.

### 3.3 Non-woody Vines, Grasses and Groundcovers

**Aloe** (*Aloe arborescens*) is an evergreen, perennial succulent, native to southern Africa. Often called torch aloe, it is a large, densely growing succulent shrub that can reach 9 feet in height and spread. The stems support numerous narrow, recurved, soft-toothed margined leaves that are dull green, yellow-green to sometimes blue-green depending on the location and amount of sunlight received. Coral-red flowers bloom in late fall and early winter. Aloe spreads vegetatively, from a branch or stem and can also reproduce by seed. Due to Aloe's ability to spread both vegetatively and by seed, this species is considered somewhat invasive.

**Giant reed** (*Arundo donax*) is a non-native, long-lived, perennial grass that can grow to heights of 10+ feet. It is native to the Mediterranean area and tropical Asia. Giant reed has an extremely thick, aggressive, rhizomatous root system that can survive periodic flooding. Although it can flower year-round in some areas, seedlings are not encountered in California. It reproduces almost exclusively from rhizomes and root fragments which are often spread during flooding or high-water levels. In addition, Giant reed is highly flammable and can increase the risk of fire.

Giant reed is invasive, particularly in riparian corridors where it forms dense, impenetrable stands completely eliminating native plant species and greatly reducing habitat values.

**Short-stalked false bindweed** (*Calystegia sylvatica*) is a non-native, aggressive, perennial vine with an extensive root system. It is native to Europe. The vines are extremely aggressive climbers and grow rapidly. They can grow high into trees and can smother small trees and shrubs. The vines die back each year to the roots. Each flower produces a capsule with 2-4 seeds. Short-stalked false bindweed spreads both vegetatively and by seed. Once established, this bindweed can be difficult to eradicate due to the extensive root system and seed bank.

**Bull thistle** (*Cirsium vulgare*) is usually a biennial, from Eurasia and **Italian thistle** (*Carduus pycnocephalus*) is usually an annual, both native to the Mediterranean area. Bull thistle mostly flowers in late spring through the summer of the second year, with seed viability ranging from 3 to 5 years. Italian thistle usually flowers from mid-April through May and seed viability ranges from 4-8 years. Italian thistle produces 2 types of seed; one seed type usually falls near the plant and the other seed type is carried by the wind. Both species of thistle may continue to produce flowers until soil moisture becomes too low. Both of these thistles reproduce only by seed. Bull thistle represents a greatest threat in areas with soil moisture continuing later into the summer and the plant can re-sprout from cut roots, if conditions are right. Bull thistle may continue to produce some flower heads well into the fall under good conditions. Italian thistle prefers ground with reduced late spring moisture.

**Ice plant** (*Carpobrotus edulis/Carpobrotus chilensis* - may include hybrids) is a non-native, ground creeping, succulent, perennial shrub. It is native to South Africa. Trailing stems can reach lengths of 10+ feet and root at the nodes. Ice plant can form large, extremely dense mats of clonal plants. It is drought tolerant and often grows year around. On the central coast, ice plant flowers for most of the year and may flower year around. It produces numerous seeds with seed viability of 2 years. However, it is thought that ice plant mainly produces seedlings only in disturbed soils, due to herbivory. Once introduced into an area, ice plant can be highly invasive, in full sun. Additionally, it creates high levels of organic matter that can lead to invasions by additional non-native plant species. In this area, ice plant appears to spread mainly by root or plant fragments.

**Poison hemlock** (*Conium maculatum*) is a non-native, biennial, invasive plant that can grow to 10+ feet in height. It is native to Europe. It does not require much light and can grow in almost full shade. Poison hemlock can grow in most habitats as long as there is sufficient soil moisture. A large plant can produce up to several thousand flowers and seeds. Poison hemlock usually flowers April through July, but can continue to flower through the summer. Damaged stems may flower into the following spring. Seed viability is thought to be 3-4 years. Poison hemlock is extremely toxic to human and animals when eaten. It can cause contact dermatitis in some humans. It is not uncommon for animals to ingest Poison hemlock in early spring or when desirable vegetation becomes scarce, in the late summer and fall. Poison hemlock is highly invasive, particularly in areas with some sunlight, and good soil moisture, although it can be invasive in most types of habitats. It does not spread vegetatively, but can re-sprout multiple times from its large taproot if the stem is cut or broken.

**Pampas grass** and **Jubata grass** (*Cortaderia selloana* and *C. jubata*) are both non-native, perennial, densely tufted, grasses with long basal leaves and feathery inflorescence plumes. Both species are native to the Andes Mountains and several other sections of South America. The basal leaves and floral plumes can reach heights of 8-10 feet. The rhizomes and roots form a dense clump. Old pampas grass plants can have roots 10 feet deep and rhizomes 20 feet wide. Jubata grass tussocks are usually smaller than those of pampas grass. Although both species can produce large quantities of seed, pampas grass requires both male and female plants, in range, to create seed. All jubata grasses are female and produce viable seed. Each seed plume can have up to 100,000 seeds that are viable soon after emerging from the grass sheath. However, seed viability is less than 1 year and so a persisting seedbank does not occur. Pampas grass seedlings can survive a greater number of environmental conditions than jubata grass. In areas with disturbed soil, bare ground or low levels of competition from grasses or sedges, these two species can be highly invasive and greatly limit the establishment of native plant species.

**Cape ivy** (*Delairea odorata*) is a non-native, perennial vine that is usually evergreen, but can become deciduous under drought or extreme heat conditions. It is native to South Africa. Vines can form dense patches and smother all other vegetation. Additionally, the vines can grow 60+ feet in trees. Once established, Cape ivy vines and rhizomes can have growth rates of more than 20 feet in all directions per year. In California, Cape ivy flowers in mid to late winter and early spring. Although most Cape ivy seed is not viable in California, it is viable in some other countries and has proven viable under lab conditions. Cape ivy is mildly toxic to wildlife and can become toxic to fish and aquatic wildlife, if sufficient contact with water and dissolved plant matter occurs. Cape ivy is extremely invasive in riparian or shaded habitat. Although it does not usually produce viable seed in California, it has an extremely high growth rate and spreads vegetatively. The vines, stolons, and rhizomes are easily fragmented; a fragment as small as a half inch, with a node, can develop roots and re-sprout. As Cape ivy has a high carbohydrate and water content, even if left to dry for 2 or 3 months or more, a fragment can re-sprout when it rains or contacts moisture.

**Panic veldt grass** (*Ehrharta erecta*) is a perennial non-native grass. It is native to South Africa. The roots usually form a shallow clump although they can grow deeper in sandy soil. Panic veldt grass can grow in conditions from full sun to almost full shade. This species can create flowers and prodigious seed year-round. On the Central coast, seeds can germinate any time of the year in areas with sufficient moisture or fog. Due to the fact that this grass grows well in almost full shade, produces ample seed and germinates year-round, it represents a serious threat to riparian, wooded or other partially shaded areas, where it can outcompete native understory plants.

**Fennel** (*Foeniculum vulgare*) is a non-native, perennial invasive plant that can grow to 10+ feet in height. Fennel is native to Europe. It seems to grow best in areas of soil disturbance and may inhibit the growth of native plants, possibly due to allelopathic properties. The cultivar forms used for human consumption are usually not invasive. A single plant may produce multiple stems and 1000s of flowers and seeds. It usually flowers from late spring through the end of summer. Fennel mostly reproduces by seed, but under good conditions can spread from root fragments. Fennel is invasive in some habitats and is particularly invasive in areas with soil disturbance.

Once it develops a dense stand it will exclude native plant species due to its competitive seed bank and possibly allelopathic properties.

**English ivy** (*Hedera helix*, *H. spp.* and cultivars) is a general term used for a group of species. There are over 12 *Hedera* species and hundreds of cultivars. They are morphologically similar and often require chromosome testing to identify accurately. Most plants in this area are likely one of three species with very similar morphological features and reproductive patterns. These species are native to Europe and often hybridize. English ivy is a non-native, perennial woody plant with 2 growth forms. When young it assumes a vine form that can grow upward to 100+ feet. This allows it to grow high into trees and form dense, monocultural coverage on the ground that eliminates almost all other vegetation. When it reaches the mature reproductive form, it is often erect and has tree or shrub-like stems. It mostly forms flowers in the fall and berries in the spring on vertical surfaces. Each plant can produce 1000s of seeds. English ivy is mildly toxic to wildlife and has been called a green desert. English ivy is highly invasive and spreads both vegetatively and by seed. Birds can spread the seed large distances. English ivy can grow over and smother almost all other vegetation. Additionally, it will grow up in trees and damage them from the weight, dense coverage and wind breakage.

**Japanese honeysuckle** (*Lonicera japonica*) is a perennial climbing and ground cover vine. It is an evergreen and is a native to eastern Asia. The vines grow rapidly and can reach lengths of 30 feet. This honeysuckle flowers in late spring throughout the summer. Japanese honeysuckle is mildly toxic to humans, but does have some edible uses. Japanese honeysuckle can be highly invasive. Japanese honeysuckle grows rapidly and can smother or girdle small trees and shrubs with its vines. As ground cover it can outcompete native plant species. It spreads by both seed and rhizomatous stems which can root at each node.

**Kikuyu grass** (*Pennisetum clandestinum*) is a non-native perennial grass that is native to tropical portions of Africa. It has prostrate stems with a complex system of tough, branching rhizomes and stolons, mostly in the top 4-6 inches of soil. Kikuyu grass flowers from April to October and seed may be long-lived in some habitats. This grass can spread by both seed and vegetatively by rhizome or stolon fragments. When established, Kikuyu grass can form dense mat-like patches or grass areas that limit the growth of native plant species.

**Garden nasturtium** (*Tropaeolum majus*) is a non-native, annual or perennial, invasive garden escape. It is native to Central and South America. It can grow in multiple habitats, and often becomes invasive in riparian habitat. It has long climbing stems or vines that grow rapidly. Garden nasturtium may form a dense groundcover and cover small shrubs or trees. Garden nasturtium flowers from late spring through the summer and produces ample seed. This species reproduces from the seed and vegetatively from stem fragments. Garden nasturtium is moderately invasive, particularly in riparian habitats with ample sun and well-draining soils. It may densely cover the ground and inhibit the growth of native plants. Once established Garden nasturtium can be difficult to control with its large seed bank.

**Periwinkle** (*Vinca major*) is a non-native, perennial, evergreen, invasive plant that is native to Europe. Periwinkle usually flowers from April to August. However, this species stems and flowers are almost always sterile, so spread from seed is uncommon. Trailing stems have been observed as long as 6+ feet and can re-root at each node. Periwinkle spreads almost exclusively from trailing stems and stem fragments. Periwinkle is highly toxic and most species will not usually eat it, including goats.

Periwinkle is highly invasive in shaded habitats once it is introduced. It creates a dense, monocultured ground cover that prevents native seedlings or the growth of native species.

**Calla lily** (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*) is a non-native, perennial, monocot that is native to South Africa. It is usually deciduous in the central coast, due to the long dry season. It can grow in full shade, but usually does not bloom without some sunlight. Calla lily usually flowers in the late spring to early summer. Each seed pod can contain up to 50 seeds. All parts of a Calla lily are toxic to humans and wildlife. Calla lily is moderately invasive in riparian or partially shaded habitats with well-draining soils. However, it usually does not flower in full shade. Calla lily spreads by seed and vegetatively by rhizomes. Additionally, each plant can create large numbers of specialized buds along the rhizome the result in new stems and flowers.

#### 4.0 PRIORITY AND TREATMENT

The management of invasive, non-native plants refers to the removal/control of species that have been considered be a significant threat to the habitat value of the park’s riparian woodland and/or wetlands. To guide management actions and allocation of resources, priorities for species/occurrence removal were developed. This plan identifies six priority levels based on a species infestation, its ability to spread into habitat areas, and available removal/treatment actions. In addition, priority levels identify where removal actions may result in significant short or longer-term impacts to native riparian and/or wetland resources. Table 3 outlines the six priority levels.

**Table 3. Priority Levels for Invasive, Non-native Plant Species Removal and Control**

CODE	PRIORITY	RATIONALE
1	Highest	Isolated patches of highly invasive species that significantly degrade habitats. The goal is eradication in Years 1-3
2	High	Localized occurrences suitable for complete control/eradication in Years 1-5
3	Moderate	Isolated patches unlikely to spread significantly in next 5 years. If resources are not initially available treat in Years 6-10
4	Low	Occurrences confined by trails or other barriers. Occurrences are intermixed with native species and removal/control would have significant short and/or long-term impacts on native woodland/wetland habitat.
5	Lowest	Dense occurrences within inaccessible wooded terrain; heavy equipment and/or labor costs would be high for initial removal and long-term control; significant short and/or long-term impacts to native woodland habitat.
6	No Action	Occurrence does not pose a significant impact to native biotic resources or is not likely to pose a significant decline in native habitat values over time.

#### 4.1 Removal/Control Treatments

Invasive, non-native plant species within the project area can be controlled through use of heavy equipment, hand removal/cutting, mechanical weed whipping and other tool work, and herbicide application. The most effective control techniques must take into account a species growth cycle, its flowering period, seed production/release periods, and its occurrence or level of infestation within the project area. Table 4 identifies techniques and general guidelines for invasive plant control.

**General Guidelines and Specifications.** The techniques to control specific invasive, non-native plants are numerous. The various techniques and methods have been tailored specifically for the plant species, conditions and locations within the park and are listed in Table 4. Figures 3 and 4 display the priority level and recommended treatment method(s) for each invasive, non-native plant occurrence. Proper training of field personnel is recommended prior to all field work, such that the method and technique is correlated to the biology of the species and the surrounding environmental conditions. Additionally, as natural environments are subject to constant dynamic processes, adjustments to methods or techniques may be required.

**Field Training.** Although supervision as to timing, technique and general location for invasive plant management can be provided for personnel performing invasive plant fieldwork, the personnel performing the work will need to be capable of operating independently. Untrained personnel will cause negative impacts on plant management results. Therefore, a certain level of field training is required for success. Training should include, but not be limited to, the follow skills and abilities:

- The ability to identify the key invasive plant species likely to be encountered within the work area. This could be achieved by disseminating a booklet of major invasive plants and field training sessions.
- The ability to identify the key native plants species likely to be encountered within the work area. This could be achieved by disseminating information on native plants in the project area and field training sessions.
- Although field personnel often have a high degree of skill with various types of equipment, details of proper techniques and timing should be provided to achieve maximum efficiency and success.
- Instructions should be provided so if field personnel encounter plants, animals or situations outside of their scope of training, they will know the proper course of action to take when these situations occur. General guidance should be provided to workers to limit harm to sensitive or protected habitats and species (such as dusky-footed woodrat dens, bird nests), including guidelines to employ that would limit the disruption of work.
- Use adaptive management strategies. Field personnel may have useful and efficient ideas and methods for doing a given task. Field supervisors should be encouraged to consider new ideas and potential improvements based on monitoring the effectiveness and effects of actions implemented on both the targeted species and the habitat, short and long-term.



Source: ESRI 2021, Monterey County GIS 2019

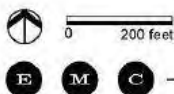
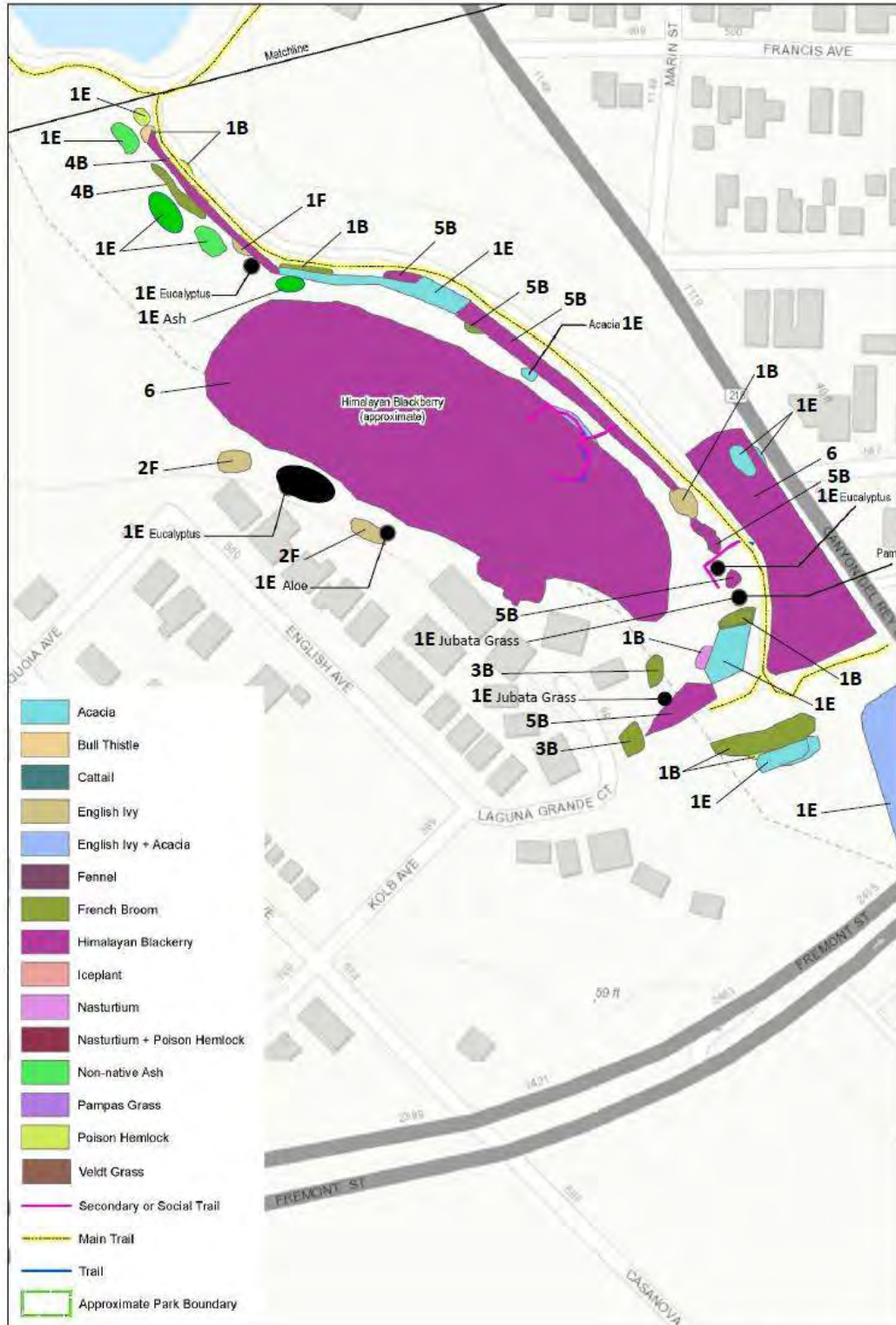


Figure 1  
 Invasive Plant Species - North  
 Laguna Grande Trail Maintenance Strategy IS/MND

Figure 3. Treatment of Invasive, Non-native Plant Species, North



Source: ESRI 2021, Monterey County GIS 2019

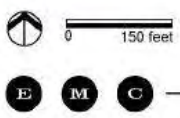


Figure 2  
**Invasive Plant Species - South**  
 Laguna Grande Trail Maintenance Strategy IS/MND

**Figure 4. Treatment of Invasive, Non-native Plant Species, South**

**Table 4. Techniques for Removal of Invasive, Non-native Plant Species, Laguna Grande Regional Park**

Code	Technique	Possible Applications	Treatment Notes
A	<b>Mechanical Equipment</b>  (Includes all non-handheld mechanized equipment, such as mowers, backhoes, chippers, mulchers, brush cutters, other heavy equipment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ice plant, Jubata grass</li> <li>▪ Himalayan blackberry, English ivy in areas away from water and trees- (leave buffer zones around each of these)</li> <li>▪ Maintenance and mowing of pathways, yet with care to avoid spreading periwinkle, Kikuyu grass and panic veldt grass</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May be used for mass clearing of areas containing invasive plant species with no desirable native plant species</li> <li>▪ Mowers may be used along pathways dominated by invasive non-native plant species containing limited specific native plants that will survive the treatment</li> <li>▪ Should be avoided in areas of potential erosion or sedimentation issues</li> <li>▪ Use should be limited during bird nesting season</li> </ul>
B	<b>Hand Removal</b>  (includes all non-motorized, battery or electric powered) individual hand removal work, such as shovels, pick-axes, hoes, pulaskis, pruners and loppers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All species. excluding trees and shrubs with trunk diameters greater than 1"</li> <li>▪ Requires removal of plant and roots for poison hemlock, fennel, bull thistle, periwinkle, nasturtium, panic veldt grass, Italian thistle, ice plant, Pride of Madeira, aloe, and calla lily</li> <li>▪ Useful for removal of above-ground stems of short - stalked false bindweed and Japanese honeysuckle, yet these species may require a specific cut and paint method to kill the underground growth and roots (see E, below)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hand pull – maximize root removal, <u>disposal options vary with species</u></li> <li>▪ Hand pull with hand tools; tools used mostly to loosen soil around roots</li> <li>▪ Surface cut of weeds (timing is critical, suitable for annual, shallow root species).</li> <li>▪ Shovel cut to sever root (depth and timing are critical)</li> <li>▪ Full dig (mostly biennial and a few perennial species)</li> </ul>
C	<b>Herbicide Spot Spray or Cut and Spray</b>  (with non-ionic surfactant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jubata grass (cut and spray)</li> <li>▪ Giant reed re sprouts (spot spray)</li> <li>▪ Periwinkle, Kikuyu grass &amp; calla lily (spot spray on a limited basis)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>See suggested guidelines and restrictions section</u></li> <li>▪ Spot spray - should be based on herbicide restrictions and guidelines to limit the chemicals, quantities and concentrations used.</li> <li>▪ Some targeted partial plant spray (terminal growth area only) after initial cutting</li> </ul>
D	<b>Mechanized Hand Tools</b>  (includes Individual methods utilizing gas, electric or battery)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Italian thistle (Needs to be specifically timed; <u>hand removal is the preferred method</u>)</li> <li>▪ All trees (chainsaws followed by cut and paint herbicide; See E below)</li> <li>▪ Blackberries and English ivy (Hedge trimmers and chainsaws to <u>cut back</u> growth)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May requires specific techniques.</li> <li>▪ <u>No metal blades during dry season</u></li> <li>▪ Timing is often critical for control and seed bank depletion</li> </ul>

**Table 4. Techniques for Removal of Invasive, Non-native Plant Species, Laguna Grande Regional Park**

Code	Technique	Possible Applications	Treatment Notes
	powered equipment, such as chainsaws, hedge trimmers, augers, hammer drills, brush cutters, weed whips)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hedge trimmers and chainsaws for creating access to areas for removal of other invasive species, such as English ivy, Cape ivy, blackberries and nasturtium, yet care should be used to limit damage to desirable native plant species</li> <li>▪ English ivy, Cape ivy and blackberries (large masses)</li> </ul>	
E	<b>Cut and Paint Herbicide</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This method is limited to perennial, woody plant species.</li> <li>▪ All tree and shrub species where the trunk is greater than 1” in diameter</li> <li>▪ Short-stalked false bindweed and Japanese honeysuckle may require a specific cut and paint method to kill the underground growth and roots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cut stem and paint herbicide to cut</li> <li>▪ Use on woody species capable of stump re-sprouts, other vegetative growth or having rhizomatous stems</li> <li>▪ Requires different concentrations and usually no surfactant</li> <li>▪ Use 1” brush or small dabber</li> <li>▪ Apply to cambium layer only, except for small diameter stems or <i>Hedera helix</i></li> <li>▪ Apply first treatment within 1 minute of cut</li> <li>▪ A second treatment may be applied within 2 minutes of first application</li> </ul>
F	<b>Removal from Tree Trunks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Intended to remove specific invasive plant species from the canopy of trees and shrubs.</li> <li>▪ Mostly hand work for English ivy, Cape ivy and invasive blackberry species</li> <li>▪ Chainsaws may be used to cut large-diameter English ivy vines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hand pull and cut with hand tools – maximize stem removal from lower tree trunk; allow canopy material to die on site.</li> </ul>

**Note: Eradication of Cape ivy, English ivy and Himalayan blackberry** may require many or all of the treatment methods in Table 4 to be successful. As these three species are often intertwined with native plants and found in riparian woodlands to be retained, efforts at eradication could result in short and moderate-term environmental damage to these woodlands. Additionally, eradicating these three species would require a long-term substantial commitment of time and resources. Therefore, for the purpose of this section, efforts for these species have been limited to control. If eradication of these species is desired, a species-specific long-term plan should be created.

**Herbicide Guidelines and Restrictions.** It is suggested that herbicide and associated surfactants be utilized only when conditions and/or resources practically limit other options. Additionally, efforts should be made to limit the quantities of herbicide used, the number of applications of herbicide and to elimination the use of surfactants where possible. Some level of experimentation, within allowable agency and biological restrictions, during the first session of invasive plant control, may provide information that will assist in achieving these goals. As conditions in a particular area may allow approved, appropriate changes from standard application practices or specialized methods, factors to be considered include, but are not limited to:

- Proximity to listed or protected species, or associated habitat
- Proximity to water or seasonal flows
- Method and timing of application to maximize effectiveness
- Type and concentration of herbicide
- Type and need for surfactant
- Potential to reduce the number of applications
- Plant species to be treated
- The density of focused invasive plant species
- The density and proximity of desirable plant species
- Timing of application to avoid conflicts with governmental environmental restrictions or biological imperatives.

Input from a Certified Pesticide Advisor may be required prior to herbicide use. Any herbicide applications should follow product label requirements, at a minimum. All herbicide use must follow legal and biological requirements and restrictions for application, cleanup and disposal. These following considerations may exceed the product label requirements. Additional considerations could include:

- Herbicides potentially allowed (subject to approval and conditions). Possible herbicides that could be utilized include Milestone©, Rodeo©, Aquamaster©, Roundup Custom for Aquatic Habitats©, and Garlon 3.
- Surfactant allowed (subject to conditions, but recommend non-ionic only)
- Appropriate dye should be added to herbicide to identify placement.
- If herbicide work is to be done by non-county personnel, herbicide should be mixed on site, at a designated location from unopened containers.
- No herbicide should be used near on in running or standing water.
- No herbicide should be used within 48 hours after a rain event.
- Herbicide applications should not take place within 24 hours of a forecasted 20%+ chance of precipitation.
- No herbicide shall be used in proximity to listed species established by the appropriate agencies.
- No herbicide shall be used in proximity to nesting birds.
- No herbicide shall be used in proximity to bee colonies or like pollinators.
- Density or plant coverage protocols should be established for the types of herbicide application, when appropriate.
- Removable barriers shall be placed prior to area herbicide spraying (ex; stake and screen erosion fencing), when appropriate.

#### **4.2 Precautions to Protect Sensitive Biotic Resources**

Implementation of some invasive, non-native plant management activities has the potential to harm native plant and animal species, if such resources are present in the work area. For example, ground nesting birds can be harmed if they have nests within areas subject to vegetation removal during the bird nesting season. Dens of dusky-footed woodrat can be harmed if weed control activities inadvertently alter these dens. Measures are described in this section on actions to be implemented to avoid impacts to non-target plants and animals. In addition, work during the rainy season should be avoided, as there can be inadvertent impacts on downstream waters if sediment and soils are dislodged. If work is proposed between October 15 and April 15, work should be conducted away from the active creek channel and not in areas of standing water. If bare ground is created, consider placing erosion control features, such as straw wattles, around the perimeter of the treated area. Additional erosion control measures may be warranted. Work along the creek and pond edge should be done in a manner that avoids impacts to water quality. Worker access in the creek bed and along the pond edge should be minimized.

**Pre-Construction Bird Nest Survey and Woodrat House Avoidance.** When invasive plant removal work is to occur within the bird-breeding season (i.e., typically March 1 through August 31) measures are needed to ensure work does not affect nesting birds, as all migratory bird nests are protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Prior to vegetation removal the work area should be walked and inspected to determine presence/absence of nesting migratory birds. This survey should be conducted by a qualified biologist or by trained Park personnel. Meandering walking surveys should be conducted through the work area up to 7 days prior to work. If birds are found nesting within or immediately adjacent to the proposed work area, reschedule work until young have fledged, as determined by a qualified biologist, or the biologist shall establish an appropriate sized buffer zone around the nest(s) where no work shall take place until all young have fledged.

The work area should be walked to identify any wood rat houses. All stick houses are to be retained, with a minimum 10-foot buffer established around each house. Each house should be flagged and workers notified as to the location of each den.

#### **4.3 Implementation Schedule and Adaptive Management**

The removal of invasive, non-native plant species control should be timed to coincide with specific weather and plant growth conditions. As much as is possible, let the biology guide the timing of the treatment. Most invasive weed infestations can be effectively controlled when treatments are implemented prior to plant flowering, which reduces seed formation. Some biennial and perennial species are best treated after flowering, when plant nutrients are being expended and treatment actions can stress the plant, reduce its vigor, and inhibit its ability to reproduce. Other species may be best treated when they are focusing on drawing nutrients into the roots or stems for storage (i.e., English ivy, Himalayan blackberry). Table 5 displays the typical flowering period for each species.

Table 6 presents a generalized schedule of when plant species flower so as to schedule invasive weed control and maintenance. This schedule should only be used as a guide, as plant growth, including timing of flowering and seed set, are greatly influenced by rainfall and temperature

patterns. Also, various techniques may require changing patterns to maximize effects. Management actions should be updated and refined in response to weather patterns, plant responses, and as new information on weed control/treatment is gathered. All management actions should be monitored as to their effectiveness.

Tables 4, 5, and 6, used together, provide guidelines for determining the optimum timing for invasive weed control.

**Table 5. Typical Flowering Period of Invasive, Non-native Plant Species, Laguna Grande Regional Park**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>TREES</b>													
Acacia	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> ; <i>A. dealbata</i> ; <i>A. longifolia</i>												
Blue Gum Eucalyptus	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>												
White Ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>												
Ngaiio Tree (Myoporum)	<i>Myoporum laetum</i>												
Cherry Plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>												
Chinese Elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>												
<b>SHRUBS AND WOODY VINES</b>													
French Broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>												
Glossy Privet	<i>Ligustrum sp.</i>												
Himalaya Blackberry	<i>Rubus ameniacus</i>												
Elm-leaf (thornless) Blackberry	<i>Rubus ameniacus</i>												
Pride of Madeira	<i>Echium candicans</i>												
<b>NON-WOODY VINES, GRASSES, AND GROUNDCOVERS</b>													
Aloe	<i>Aloe arborescens</i>												
Giant Reed	<i>Arundo donax</i>												
Short-stalked False Bindweed	<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>												
Italian Thistle	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>												
Ice Plant	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> ; <i>C. chilensis</i>												
Bull Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>												
Poison Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>												
Jubata Grass Pampas Grass	<i>Cortaderia jubata</i> ; <i>C. selloana</i>												
Cape Ivy	<i>Delairea odorata</i>												
Panic Veldt) Grass	<i>Erharta erecta</i>												
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>												
English ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i> ; <i>H. spp.</i>												
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>												
Kikuyu Grass	<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>												
Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>												
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>												
Calla Lily	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>												

**Table 6. Invasive, Non-native Plant Treatment, Suggested Implementation Schedule, Years 1-10**

Task	Winter		Spring			Summer			Fall			Dec
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr <sup>1</sup>	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	
<b>Yearly Tasks</b>												
Develop work plan for year, including procurement of specialized personnel, equipment, and/or services.												
Conduct field inspection to monitor plant growth and progress of flowering stalks on invasive weed species. Update distribution maps as needed.												
<b>Years 1 -3: Highest Priority Occurrences</b>												
Year 1 - Priority 1 Trees: Cut and remove priority 1 trees; cut and treat stumps as needed.												
Years 2-3: Cut and re-treat any re-sprouting trees												
Years 2-3 - Priority 1 Shrub/Groundcovers/Grasses: Remove priority 1 occurrences of giant reed, French broom, English ivy, Cape ivy, palm, veldt grass, Jubata grass, Pride of Madeira, aloe. Re-treat re-sprouts as needed.												
<b>Years 1 -5: High Priority Occurrences</b>												
Priority 2 Shrub/Groundcovers/Grasses: Remove priority 2 occurrences of French broom, Ngaio tree, ice plant, English ivy, bindweed, Himalaya blackberry, nasturtium.												
Cut and re-treat any re-sprouting Priority 1 and 2 occurrences												
<b>Years 6 -10: Moderate Priority Occurrences</b>												
Priority 3 Shrub/Groundcovers/Grasses: Remove priority 3 occurrences of English ivy, kikuyu grass, Himalaya blackberry, nasturtium.												
Develop long-term plan for Years 10-20.												

## References

- Baldwin, B. G., D. H. Goldman, et al. 2012. *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California*, University of California Press.
- Bossard, Carla C., et al. *Invasive Plants of California's Wildlands*. University of California Press, 2000.
- Calflora Database. 2021. Calflora: Information on California plants for education, research and conservation online database. Berkeley, California. <https://www.calflora.org/>
- California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC). 2021. Cal-IPC Invasive Plant Inventory online database. <https://www.cal-ipc.org/plants/inventory/>
- California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC). 2021 *California Wildland Invasive Plants* by John M. Randall and Marc C. Hoshovsky. <https://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/library/publications/ipcw/cwip/cal-ipc.org>
- DiTomaso, Joseph M. *Weeds of California and Other Western States*, Vol 1 and Vol.2. University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2007.
- EMC Planning Group, 2021. *Laguna Grande Regional Park Vegetation Mapping and Focused Plant Survey Results*. Report prepared for BFSAs., Monterey, CA. July 2021.
- Gordon, Burton., 1996. *Monterey Bay Area: Natural History and Cultural Imprints*. Boxwood Press, Pacific Grove, CA.
- Jepson Flora Project. 2021. Jepson eFlora online database. <https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/>
- Matthews, Mary Ann, and Michael Mitchell. 2015. *The Plants of Monterey County: An Illustrated Field Key*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Monterey Bay Chapter, California Native Plant Society.
- Mooney, Harold A., and Erika Zavaleta. *Ecosystems of California*. University of California Press, 2016. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/j.ctv1xxzp6>
- Sawyer, J. O., T. Keeler-Wolf, and J.M. Evens. 2009. *A Manual of California Vegetation*. California Native Plant Society, Sacramento, CA.
- Tietje, William D., William L. Preston, and Anne Y. Polyakov. 2019. *Natural History of the Central Coast Bioregion*. University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. <https://oaks.cnr.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Nat-History-of-CC-BIO-2019.pdf>
- Yeager, Rod M., and Michael Mitchell. *Monterey County Wildflowers: A Field Guide*. Monterey Bay Chapter, California Native Plant Society, 2016.

APPENDIX C  
WILDLIFE ANALYSIS

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

DRAFT Wildlife Analysis for the Biological Resources Section of the Initial Study..... 1

    Introduction .....1

    Special-Status Amphibians and Reptiles .....2

*California Red-legged Frog* .....2

*Coast Range Newt* .....6

*Western Pond Turtle* .....7

    Special-Status Birds.....7

*Burrowing Owl*.....7

*Nesting Birds* .....9

*Tricolored Blackbird* .....10

    Special-Status Mammals .....11

*American Badger* .....11

*Monterey Dusky-Footed Woodrat* .....12

*Monterey Shrew*.....13

*Bats* .....13

Sources ..... 15

## Appendices

Appendix A      Special-Status Species in the Project Vicinity

## Figures

Figure 1-1      Special-Status Species Known to Occur in the Project Vicinity **Error! Bookmark not defined.**



# DRAFT WILDLIFE ANALYSIS FOR THE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES SECTION OF THE INITIAL STUDY

## Introduction

This section is based on reconnaissance-level biological field surveys conducted by EMC Planning Group biologist Patrick Furtado, M.S., on May 18, May 24, and June 15, 2021, to document existing plant communities/wildlife habitats and evaluate the potential for special-status species to occur on the project site. Biological resources were documented in field notes, including species observed, dominant plant communities, significant wildlife habitat characteristics, and riparian and wetland habitat. Qualitative estimations of plant cover, structure, and spatial changes in species composition were used to determine plant communities and wildlife habitats. Habitat quality and disturbance levels were also described.

Prior to conducting the survey, Mr. Furtado reviewed aerial photographs, natural resource database mapping and reports, and other relevant scientific literature. This included searching the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Endangered Species Database (USFWS 2021), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CDFW 2021), and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CNPS 2021) to identify special-status plants, wildlife, and habitats known to occur in the vicinity of the project site. Special-status species in this report are those listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Rare, or as Candidates for listing by the USFWS and/or CDFW; as Species of Special Concern or Fully Protected species by the CDFW; or as Rare Plant Rank 1B or 2B species by the CNPS.

A search of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) was conducted for the target Seaside USGS quadrangle, and eight surrounding quadrangles (Monterey OE N, Marina, Salinas, Monterey, Spreckels, Soberanes Point, Mount Carmel, and Carmel Valley) to generate a list of potentially occurring special-status wildlife species in the project vicinity (CDFW 2021). Records of occurrence for special-status plants were also reviewed for those twelve USGS quadrangles in the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CNPS 2021). A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Endangered Species Program threatened and endangered species list was generated for San Benito County (USFWS 2021). [Appendix X, Special-Status Species in the Project Vicinity](#), presents tables with CNDDDB results, which lists special-status species documented within the project vicinity, their listing status and suitable habitat description, and their potential to occur on the site. [Figure X](#),

[Special-Status Species Known to Occur in the Project Vicinity](#), presents a map with CNDDDB results.

Critical habitat is a designation used by the USFWS for specific geographic areas that contain features essential to the conservation of an endangered or threatened species and that may require special management and protection. The project site is not within a critical habitat area.

Wildlife species identified with the potential to occur on the project site include:

- California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*);
- Coast Range newt (*Taricha torosa*);
- Western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*);
- Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*);
- Tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*);
- American badger (*Taxidea taxus*);
- Monterey dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes luciana*);
- Monterey shrew (*Sorex ornatus salarii*);
- Hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*); and
- Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*).

## Special-Status Amphibians and Reptiles

The following special-status amphibian and reptile species occur in the project vicinity and were assessed for the potential to occur on the project site:

- California red-legged frog, federally listed as Threatened and a California Species of Special Concern;
- Coast Range newt, California Species of Special Concern; and
- Western pond turtle, California Species of Special Concern.

### California Red-legged Frog

A federally-listed Threatened species and California Species of Special Concern, California red-legged frog occurs in lowlands and foothills primarily in perennial or ephemeral ponds, pools, and streams where water remains long enough (14-28 weeks) for breeding and metamorphosis of tadpoles. Specific breeding sites include streams, creeks, ponds, marshes, sag ponds, deep pools, backwater areas, dune ponds, lagoons, and estuaries. California red-legged frog may disperse from their aquatic breeding habitats to upland habitats during the dry season. They prefer upland habitats that provide

moisture to prevent desiccation and protection from predators, including downed logs, woody vegetation, boulders, moist leaf litter, or other refugia during the dry season. In areas where upland habitats do not contain structure, they take refuge in burrows. However, if there is sufficient water at their breeding location, they may remain in aquatic habitats year-round instead of moving to adjacent uplands.

During wet seasons, frogs can move long distances between habitats, traversing upland areas or ephemeral drainages. Dispersal distances are typically less than 0.3 mile, with a few individuals moving 1.2-2.2 miles. Seeps and springs in open grasslands can function as foraging habitat or refugia for wandering frogs.

CNDDDB records indicate that the closest known occurrence of California red-legged frog is approximately 2.5 miles south of the project site (Occurrence No. 939, CNDDDB 2021). There are no known occurrences within the project area lake or drainages, however breeding and upland habitat is potentially present. If impacts to California red-legged frog occur, they could be significant. Implementation of mitigation measures BIO-X and BIO-X would reduce this potential, significant impact to California red-legged frog to a less-than-significant level.

BIO-X Prior to ground disturbance, a qualified biologist shall conduct a training session for all construction personnel. At a minimum, the training shall include a description of special-status species potentially occurring in the project vicinity, including, but not limited to, California red-legged frog, Coast Range newt, western pond turtle, burrowing owl, tricolored blackbird, American badger, Monterey dusky-footed woodrat, Monterey shrew, special-status bats, and nesting birds and raptors. Their habitats, general measures that are being implemented to conserve species as they relate to the project, and the boundaries within which construction activities will occur will be explained. Informational handouts with photographs clearly illustrating the species' appearances shall be used in the training session. All new construction personnel shall undergo this mandatory environmental awareness training.

The qualified biologist will train biological monitors selected from the construction crew by the construction contractor (typically the project foreman). Before the start of work each day, the monitor will check for animals under any equipment such as vehicles and stored pipes within active construction zones. The monitor will also check all excavated steep-walled holes or trenches greater than one foot deep for trapped animals. If a special-status species is observed within an active construction zone, the qualified biologist will be notified immediately and all work within 50 feet of the individual will be halted and all equipment turned off until the individual has left the construction area.

The Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority shall document evidence of completion of this training prior to ground disturbance.

BIO-X A qualified biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys following the guidance documented in the *Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the California Red-legged Frog* (USFWS 2005) no more than two weeks (14 days) prior to the start of construction activities. The project site will be surveyed for potential migratory and/or upland activity. The qualified biologist shall prepare a report documenting the results of the preconstruction surveys for submittal to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority prior to ground disturbance.

If California red-legged frog is found, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority will coordinate with the USFWS and/or CDFW to determine the appropriate course of action per the requirements of FESA and/or CESA (e.g., obtaining Incidental Take Permits) and implement the permit requirements prior to ground disturbance.

3. The following measures from the *USFWS Programmatic Biological Opinion for Issuance of Permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, including Authorizations Under 22 Nationwide Permits, for Projects that May Affect the Threatened California Red-legged Frog in Nine San Francisco Bay Area Counties, California* (USFWS 2014) shall be implemented:
  - a. Construction documents shall delineate a 100-foot boundary from the outer edge of riparian vegetation along the lake and drainages.
  - b. A qualified biologist shall be on site during all activities within 100 feet from the outer edge of riparian vegetation along the lake or drainage that where California red-legged frog may be encountered.
  - c. To the extent possible, all ground-disturbing work within 100 feet from the outer edge of riparian vegetation along the lake and drainage shall be avoided between November 1 and March 31, the time period when California red-legged frogs are most likely to be moving through upland areas.
  - d. All ground-disturbing work within 100 feet from the outer edge of riparian vegetation should be accomplished during the dry season, with no construction activities occurring during rain events or within 24 hours following a rain event.

- e. Prior to construction activities, exclusionary fencing shall be placed to keep construction vehicles and personnel from impacting potentially jurisdictional waters and riparian/wetland habitat outside of work areas. A biological monitor shall supervise the installation of exclusionary fencing and monitor at least once per week until construction is complete to ensure that the protective exclusionary fencing remains intact. Exclusion fencing material shall be selected to avoid accidental entrapment of wildlife species, such as fencing with a smaller gauge or no gaps at all (e.g., Animex™ fencing).
- f. To minimize harassment, injury, death, and harm in the form of temporary habitat disturbances, all project-related vehicle traffic shall be restricted to established roads, construction areas, equipment staging, storage, parking, and stockpile areas.
- g. If a California red-legged frog is encountered, all activities which have the potential to result in the harassment, injury, or death of the individual shall be immediately halted. A qualified biologist shall then assess the situation and select a course of action that shall avoid or minimize adverse effects to the animal.
- h. Uneaten human food and trash attracts crows, ravens, coyotes, and other predators of the California red-legged frog. A litter control program shall be instituted at each project site. All workers shall ensure their food scraps, paper wrappers, food containers, cans, bottles, and other trash are deposited in covered or closed trash containers. The trash containers shall be removed from the project site at the end of each working day.
- i. Loss of soil from run-off or erosion shall be prevented with straw bales, straw wattles, or similar means provided they do not entangle, block escape or dispersal routes of the California red-legged frog.
- j. No insecticides or herbicides shall be used at the project site during construction or long-term operational maintenance where there is the potential for these chemical agents to enter the river, or uplands that contain potential habitat for the California red-legged frog.
- k. No pets shall be permitted at the project site, to avoid and minimize the potential for harassment, injury, and death of the California red-legged frog.

- l. For on-site storage of pipes, conduits, and other materials that could provide shelter for special-status species, an open-top trailer shall be used to elevate the materials above ground. This is intended to reduce the potential for animals to climb into the conduits and other materials.
- m. To the maximum extent possible, night-time construction shall be minimized or avoided because dusk and dawn are often the times when the California red-legged frog is most actively moving and foraging.
- n. Plastic monofilament netting (erosion control matting), loosely woven netting, or similar material in any form shall not be used at the project site because California red-legged frogs can become entangled and trapped in them. Materials utilizing fixed weaves (strands cannot move), polypropylene, polymer, or other synthetic materials shall not be used.
- o. Trenches or pits one foot or deeper that are going to be left unfilled for more than 48 hours shall be securely covered with boards or other material to prevent the California red-legged frog from falling into them.

### **Coast Range Newt**

Coast Range newt is a California Species of Special Concern. This species is endemic to California and distributed along the coast and coast range mountains from central Mendocino County south to San Diego County. It is found from sea level to at least 1,280 meters on Mt. Hamilton in Santa Clara County. Coast Range newt burrows in or uses soil, fallen logs, or debris for cover. Central California localities are found in wet forests, oak forests, chaparral, and rolling grasslands. It will occupy upland habitats when not breeding. During reproduction, Coast Range newts will migrate to intermittent streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds where they lay eggs in shallow water attached to submerged rocks or twigs. CNDDDB records indicate one occurrence of Coast Range newt approximately six miles southwest of the project site (Occurrence No. 70, CNDDDB 2021). There are no known occurrences within the project area lake or drainages, however breeding and upland habitat is potentially present. Mitigation measure BIO-X, presented above, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the construction site for all personnel, and BIO-X and BIO-X, which require preconstruction surveys and measures for the protection of California red-legged frog would also protect Coast Range newt, if present. Implementation of these measures would reduce the potential, significant impact to Coast Range newt to a less-than-significant level and no additional measures are recommended.

## **Western Pond Turtle**

Western pond turtle is a California Species of Special Concern. It is uncommon to common in suitable aquatic habitat throughout California including freshwater marshes, stock ponds, lakes, rivers, and streams. This species is considered omnivorous. Aquatic plant material, including pond lilies, beetles and a variety of aquatic invertebrates as well as fishes, frogs, and even carrion have been reported among their food. Pond turtles require basking sites such as partially submerged logs, rocks, mats of floating vegetation, or open mud banks. Turtles slip from basking sites to underwater retreats at the approach of humans or potential predators.

CNDDDB records indicate one occurrence of western pond turtle approximately 3.5 miles southwest of the project site (Occurrence No. 1014, CNDDDB 2021). There are no known occurrences within the lake or drainages, however breeding and upland habitat is potentially present. Mitigation measure BIO-X, presented above, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the construction site for all personnel, and BIO-X and BIO-X, which require preconstruction surveys and measures for the protection of California red-legged frog would also protect western pond turtle, if present. Implementation of these measures would reduce the potential, significant impact to western pond turtle to a less-than-significant level and no additional measures are recommended.

## **Special-Status Birds**

The following special-status bird species occur in the project vicinity and were assessed for the potential to occur on the project site:

- Burrowing owl, California Species of Special Concern;
- Nesting birds; protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code; and
- Tricolored blackbird, California Species of Special Concern.

## **Burrowing Owl**

Burrowing owl is a California Species of Special Concern. Burrowing owls live and breed in burrows in the ground, especially in abandoned California ground squirrel burrows. Optimal habitat conditions include large open, dry and nearly level grasslands or prairies with short to moderate vegetation height and cover, areas of bare ground, and populations of burrowing mammals. A general, non-specific record for this species has been recorded approximately 900 feet north and west of the project site (Occurrence No. 574, CNDDDB 2021). The project site's non-native grassland provides marginally suitable foraging habitat for burrowing owl, and a few scattered small mammal burrows on the site could be utilized for nesting habitat, but burrowing owl has low potential to occur on the site. If burrowing owl is present on or adjacent to the project site, construction activities could result in the loss or

disturbance of individual animals. This would be a significant adverse environmental impact. Implementation of mitigation measures BIO-X, presented earlier, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the construction site for all personnel, and BIO-X would reduce this potentially significant impact to less than significant.

### *Mitigation Measure*

BIO-X To avoid/minimize impacts to burrowing owls potentially occurring within the project site, a biologist qualified in ornithology shall conduct surveys for burrowing owl. The approved biologist shall conduct a two-visit (i.e., morning and evening) presence/absence survey at areas of suitable habitat on and adjacent to the project site boundary no less than 14 days prior to the start of construction or ground disturbance activities. Surveys shall be conducted according to the methods for take avoidance described in the *Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines* (California Burrowing Owl Consortium 1993) and the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFW 2012). If no burrowing owls are found, a letter report confirming absence will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.

Because burrowing owls occupy habitat year-round, seasonal no-disturbance buffers, as outlined in the *Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines* (CBOC 1993) and the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFW 2012), shall be in place around occupied habitat prior to and during any ground disturbance activities. The following table includes buffer areas based on the time of year and level of disturbance (CDFW 2012), unless a qualified biologist approved by the CDFW verifies through non-invasive measures that either: 1) birds have not begun egg laying and incubation; or 2) that juveniles from the occupied burrows are foraging independently and are capable of independent survival.

Location	Time of Year	Level of Disturbance Buffers (meters)		
		Low	Med	High
Nesting Sites	April 1 – Aug 15	200 m	500 m	500 m
Nesting Sites	Aug 16 – Oct 15	200 m	200 m	500 m
Nesting Sites	Oct 16 – Mar 31	50 m	100 m	500 m

If burrowing owl is found and avoidance is not possible, burrow exclusion may be conducted by qualified biologists only during the non-breeding season, before breeding behavior is exhibited and after

the burrow is confirmed empty through non-invasive methods, such as surveillance. Occupied burrows shall be replaced with artificial burrows at a ratio of one collapsed burrow to one constructed artificial burrow (1:1). Evicted burrowing owls may attempt to colonize or re-colonize an area that would be impacted, thus ongoing surveillance during project activities shall be conducted at a rate sufficient to detect burrowing owls if they return.

If surveys locate occupied burrows in or near construction areas, consultation with the CDFW shall occur to interpret survey results and develop a project-specific avoidance and minimization approach. Once the absence of burrowing owl has been confirmed, a letter report will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority.

## **Nesting Birds**

Protected nesting birds have the potential to nest in buildings or structures, on open ground, or in any type of vegetation, including trees, during the nesting bird season (January 15 through September 15). The project site contains a variety of potential habitats for nesting birds. Construction activities, including ground disturbance, can impact nesting birds protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code, should nesting birds be present during construction. If protected bird species are nesting adjacent to the project site during the bird nesting season, then noise-generating construction activities could result in the loss of fertile eggs, nestlings, or otherwise lead to the abandonment of nests. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-X, presented above, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the construction site for all personnel, and BIO-X would reduce potential, significant impacts to nesting birds to less than significant.

### *Mitigation Measure*

BIO-X To avoid impacts to nesting birds during the nesting season (January 15 through September 15), all construction activities should be conducted between September 16 and January 14, which is outside of the bird nesting season. If construction occurs during the bird nesting season, then a qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey for nesting birds to ensure that no nests would be disturbed during project construction.

If project-related work is scheduled during the nesting season (February 15 to August 30 for small bird species such as passerines; January 15 to September 15 for owls; and February 15 to September 15 for other raptors), a qualified biologist shall conduct nesting bird surveys.

- a. Two surveys for active bird nests will occur within 14 days prior to start of construction, with the final survey conducted within 48 hours prior to construction. Appropriate minimum survey radii surrounding each work area are typically 250 feet for passerines, 500 feet for smaller raptors, and 1,000 feet for larger raptors. Surveys will be conducted at the appropriate times of day to observe nesting activities. Locations off the site to which access is not available may be surveyed from within the site or from public areas. If no nesting birds are found, a letter report confirming absence will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.
- b. If the qualified biologist documents active nests within the project site or in nearby surrounding areas, an appropriate buffer between each nest and active construction shall be established. The buffer shall be clearly marked and maintained until the young have fledged and are foraging independently. Prior to construction, the qualified biologist shall conduct baseline monitoring of each nest to characterize “normal” bird behavior and establish a buffer distance, which allows the birds to exhibit normal behavior. The qualified biologist shall monitor the nesting birds daily during construction activities and increase the buffer if birds show signs of unusual or distressed behavior (e.g., defensive flights and vocalizations, standing up from a brooding position, and/or flying away from the nest). If buffer establishment is not possible, the qualified biologist or construction foreman shall have the authority to cease all construction work in the area until the young have fledged and the nest is no longer active. Once the absence of nesting birds has been confirmed, a letter report will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority.

### **Tricolored Blackbird**

Tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*) is a California Species of Special Concern found mostly throughout the Central Valley and San Francisco Bay Delta regions. Tricolored blackbirds forage in annual grasslands; wet and dry vernal pools and other seasonal wetlands; and croplands. They also forage occasionally in riparian scrub habitats and along marsh borders. Tricolored blackbirds nest near freshwater marshes. There are CNDDDB records indicating tricolored blackbird activity within five miles of the project site, and

riparian and wetland vegetation along the lake and drainage may support this species. Measures recommended for the protection of nesting birds (above) are anticipated to determine if tricolored blackbirds are present and provide protection during construction, if needed.

## **Special-Status Mammals**

The following special-status bird species occur in the project vicinity and were assessed for the potential to occur on the project site:

- American badger, California Species of Special Concern;
- Monterey dusky-footed woodrat, California Species of Special Concern;
- Hoary bat, California Species of Special Concern; and
- Townsend's big-eared bat, California Species of Special Concern.

### **American Badger**

American badger is a California Species of Special Concern. It is an uncommon, permanent resident found throughout most of the state, except in the northern North Coast area. This large member of the weasel family uses most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats with friable soils suitable for burrows. Prey species include fossorial rodents such as rats, mice, chipmunks, ground squirrels, and pocket gophers. Badger diet shifts seasonally depending on the availability of prey and may also include reptiles, insects, earthworms, eggs, birds, and carrion. Mixed oak woodland, coastal scrub, and grassland habitats provide cover, drier soils for burrowing, and prey resources for this species. A historic record for American badger was recorded approximately 700 feet east of the project site (Occurrence No. 171, CDFW 2021), and a more recent (1992) observation was recorded approximately 2.3 miles east of the project site (Occurrence No. 241, CDFW 2021). Open grassland areas and openings along trails provide suitable habitat for the American badger. American badgers are known to occur in the region and could den and forage on the project site. Ground disturbance could result in impacts to this species from direct mortality or injury. Loss or harm to American badger is considered a significant adverse impact. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-X, presented above, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the construction site for all personnel, and BIO-X would reduce potential, significant impacts to American badger to less than significant.

### ***Mitigation Measures***

BIO-X Not more than 14 days prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities, a qualified wildlife biologist shall conduct surveys of the grassland habitat on site to identify any potential American badger burrows/dens. If the survey results are negative (i.e., no badger dens observed), a letter report

confirming absence will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.

If the results are positive (badger dens are observed), the qualified biologist shall determine if the dens are active by installing a game camera for three days and three nights to determine if the den is in use.

- a. If the biologist determines that a den may be active, coordination with the CDFW shall be undertaken to develop a suitable strategy to avoid impacts to American badger. The strategy may include the following: the biologist shall install a one-way door in the den opening and continue use of the game camera. Once the camera captures the individual exiting the one-way door, the den can be excavated with hand tools to prevent badgers from reusing them. If the biologist determines that the den is a maternity den, construction activities shall be delayed during the maternity season (February to August), or until the badgers leave the den on their own accord or the biologist determines that the den is no longer in use.
- b. If the game camera does not capture an individual entering/exiting the den, the den can be excavated with hand tools to prevent badgers from reusing them.

After dens have been excavated and the absence of American badger confirmed, a letter report will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority.

### **Monterey Dusky-Footed Woodrat**

The Monterey dusky-footed woodrat is a California species of Special Concern typically found within dense chaparral or oak woodland habitats with moderately dense understory growth and abundant dead wood for nest construction. Monterey dusky-footed woodrat is known to occur in the project vicinity and woodland and riparian habitat at the project site is considered potential habitat. Removal or disturbance of habitat during nesting season is considered a significant impact. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-X, presented above, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the construction site for all personnel, and BIO-X would reduce potential, significant impacts to Monterey dusky-footed woodrat to less than significant.

#### ***Mitigation Measure***

BIO-X A qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys for woodrat nests within the trail improvement area. All woodrat nests shall be flagged for avoidance of direct construction impacts where feasible. If impacts cannot be avoided, woodrat nests shall be dismantled no more than three days prior to

dismantling so that the occupants do not attempt to rebuild. Nests are to be slowly dismantled by hand in order to allow the occupants to disperse.

## **Monterey Shrew**

The Monterey shrew is a California species of Special Concern. This species is an endemic subspecies of shrew occurring only on the Monterey Peninsula. Preferred habitats include riparian areas and other moist microclimates with available insect prey. Little is known about this species, since it is difficult to locate and does not survive well in traps due to very high metabolic rates. A general observation of this species has been recorded to include the project site; however, the record is from 1919 and the current distribution of Monterey shrew in the area is unknown (Occurrence No. 3, CDFW 2021). Riparian and woodland habitats within the project area could support this species, if present. Construction activities at the project site could result in the loss of individuals on or adjacent to the project site. Mitigation measure BIO-X, presented above, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the construction site for all personnel, and BIO-X and BIO-X, which require preconstruction surveys and measures for the protection of California red-legged frog would also protect Monterey shrew, if present. Implementation of these measures would reduce the potential, significant impact to Monterey shrew to a less-than-significant level and no additional measures are recommended.

## **Bats**

Trees and/or buildings or structures on or adjacent to the project site could provide roosting habitat for state-listed species of special concern hoary bat and Townsend's big-eared bat. Hoary bat is a solitary species that generally prefers dense foliage of medium to large trees. Townsend's big-eared bat prefers roosting and nesting found in caves, tunnels, mines, and buildings. These species have been identified as occurring within 1.2 and seven miles to the west and east of the project site, however little is known about their distribution in the project vicinity (CNDDDB 2021). Construction activities at the project site could result in the disturbance of roost and natal sites occupied by special-status bats on or adjacent to the project site, if present. Implementation of mitigation measures BIO-X, presented earlier, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the construction site for all personnel, and BIO-X would reduce this potential, significant impact to special-status bats to a less-than-significant level.

## ***Mitigation Measure***

BIO-X      Approximately 14 days prior to tree removal or construction activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct a habitat assessment for bats and potential roosting sites in trees to be removed, in trees within 50 feet of the construction easement. These surveys shall include a visual inspection of potential roosting features (bats need not be present) and a search for presence of guano within the project site,

construction access routes, and 50 feet around these areas. Cavities, crevices, exfoliating bark, and bark fissures that could provide suitable potential nest or roost habitat for bats shall be surveyed. Assumptions can be made on what species is present due to observed visual characteristics along with habitat use, or the bats can be identified to the species level with the use of a bat echolocation detector such as an "Anabat" unit. Potential roosting features found during the survey shall be flagged or marked.

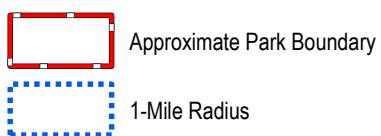
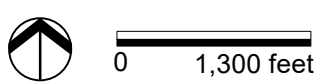
If no roosting sites or bats are found, a letter report confirming absence shall be prepared and submitted to Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.

If bats or roosting sites are found, bats shall not be disturbed without specific notice to and consultation with CDFW.

If bats are found roosting outside of the nursery season (May 1 through October 1), CDFW shall be consulted prior to any eviction or other action. If avoidance or postponement is not feasible, a Bat Eviction Plan will be submitted to CDFW for written approval prior to project implementation. A request to evict bats from a roost includes details for excluding bats from the roost site and monitoring to ensure that all bats have exited the roost prior to the start of activity and are unable to re-enter the roost until activity is completed. Any bat eviction shall be timed to avoid lactation and young-rearing. If bats are found roosting during the nursery season, they shall be monitored to determine if the roost site is a maternal roost. This could occur by either visual inspection of the roost bat pups, if possible, or by monitoring the roost after the adults leave for the night to listen for bat pups. Because bat pups cannot leave the roost until they are mature enough, eviction of a maternal roost cannot occur during the nursery season. Therefore, if a maternal roost is present, a 50-foot buffer zone (or different size if determined in consultation with the CDFW) shall be established around the roosting site within which no construction activities including tree removal or structure disturbance shall occur until after the nursery season.

## SOURCES

1. California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2012. Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation. State of California Natural Resources Agency.
2. CDFW. 2018. Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities. <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=18959&inline>.
3. CDFW. 2021. Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS) online database. <http://bios.dfg.ca.gov>
4. CDFW. 2021. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) online database. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/data/cnddb>
5. California Native Plant Society (CNPS). 2001. CNPS Botanical Survey Guidelines. [https://cnps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/cnps\\_survey\\_guidelines.pdf](https://cnps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/cnps_survey_guidelines.pdf).
6. California Native Plant Society. 2021. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California online database. <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org>
7. Jameson, E. W., and Hans J. Peeters. 2004. Mammals of California. University of California Press.
8. Thomson, R. C. 2016. California Amphibian and Reptile Species of Special Concern, University of California Press.
9. United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2005. *Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the California Red-legged Frog*.
10. USFWS. 2014. *USFWS Programmatic Biological Opinion for Issuance of Permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, including Authorizations Under 22 Nationwide Permits, for Projects that May Affect the Threatened California Red-legged Frog in Nine San Francisco Bay Area Counties, California*.
11. USFWS. 2021. National Wetlands Inventory online database. U.S. Department of the Interior. Washington, D.C. <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/>
12. USFWS. 2021. Endangered Species Program online database. Species list for San Benito County. Washington, D.C. <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>



Source: ESRI 2021, CDFW CNDDDB 2021



Figure X  
Special-Status Species Known to Occur in the Project Vicinity

Laguna Grande Trail Maintenance CEQA

APPENDIX D  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
MATERIALS



# Laguna Grande Park Virtual Town Hall

Wednesday, July 28, 2021  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

A town hall meeting to discuss  
maintenance of trails and vegetation  
at Laguna Grande Park.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86977507440>

Meeting ID: 869 7750 7440

Call-In (English): +1(669)900-6833

ID: 869 7750 7440#



# Laguna Grande Park Junta Comunitaria

Miercoles, 28 de julio de 2021  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Una junta comunitaria para discutir el  
mantenimiento de los senderos y la  
vegetación en Laguna Grande Park

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86977507440>

Meeting ID: 869 7750 7440

Llamada (Ingles ): +1(669)900-6833

ID: 869 7750 7440#

August 02, 2021



MEMO TO: Chris Schmidt / Planner  
City of Monterey

CC: City of Seaside and Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District  
FROM: Beth Matz, BFS Landscape Architects

**RE: LAGUNA GRANDE VIRTUAL TOWNHALL JULY 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – MEETING MINUTES & PUBLIC COMMENTS**

6:30- 6:50: BFS and City of Monterey presented presentation virtually to the community. BFS counted 40 attendees in the meeting.

6:50 – 7:30: Community members were given a forum to either ask questions or provide comments. Community members could talk virtually or leave comments in the chat box. The following comments were provided virtually:

7:30: Community was invited to the next community event- The site walk around Laguna Grande Park on August 14, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

1. Laura Nagel –
  - a. Does not feel safe in the park
  - b. Need balance of nature with habitat
  - c. Need to keep eyes on / in the park
  - d. Is Roberts Lake included?

Response: Roberts Lake is not included in the project scope.

2. Esther Malkin –
  - a. Lighting?
  - b. Acquisition of additional property
  - c. Park needs playground upgrade like Montecito Park
  - d. Need bathrooms on both sides of the park
  - e. Senior workout area
  - f. Has a sketch – available at the state level

Response: Due to sensitive habitat lighting will have to be studied carefully and will be part of the CEQA review process.

3. Tammy Jennings –
  - a. Wheel chair accessibility needed
  - b. Not safe in early morning or late evening

20210802\_Laguna Grande Park\_Townhall Public Comments\_BFS

4. Diane Nielsen –
  - a. Concern with more planting!
  - b. Eucalyptus trees – fire risk, Elkhorn Slough is removing trees
  - c. Take care of community planting @ Canyon Del Rey and Fremont Blvd
  
5. Kevin Roskoff (MPRPD)
  - a. Schedule to get started!
  - b. Community concerns
  
6. Joseph –
  - a. Lives behind soccer field
  - b. Likes proposed pruning
  
7. Kay Cline (Seaside Resident) –
  - a. Is this jointly supported?
  - b. Who are city staff?
  - c. Park is a gem to be cared for
  
8. Mayor Clyde Roberson (Monterey) -
  - a. No notes
  
9. Anne –
  - a. Goose excrement a super big problem!
  - b. Bridge condition, upgrade?
  
10. Scott Hanson (Monterey Resident near park) –
  - a. North Fremont area is most problematic
  - b. City of Monterey does a good job
  
11. Chris Parsons (Villa Del Monte / Monterey) –
  - a. What I like – city maintenance does a great job
  - b. Get businesses involved!!
  - c. Native plants for wildlife and safety
  - d. Likes mixed recreation uses
  - e. Trash along water edge is an issue
  
12. Online chat –
  - a. Goose excrement!
  - b. Stop removing water fountains and fix the existing ones
  
13. Stephen –
  - a. Funding source?

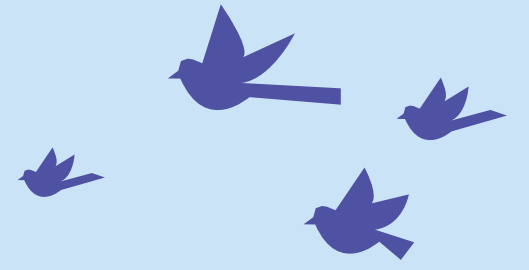
Response: Funding to be provide through the JPA-which is a comprised of City of Monterey, City of Seaside and Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District
  
14. 277-0563 Chuck Hallbeck –

- a. Add shade at playground and parcourse equipment
- b. Basketball court
- c. Lighting
- d. Likes Montecito Park
- e. Questions if people want to see the encampments
- f. Does not like dogs on the bike path

The following comments were provided through the chat function:

1. Carmen: Will be the recording be emailed;  
Response: We will post the link on the Have your Say Website
2. Susi Allen: Add more garbage cans
3. Esther Malkin: Has a budget been set? Where is the funding coming from?  
Response: A budget will be developed as a part of this project. We are looking at the entire park. We will be working with all jurisdictions on funding options.
4. Esther Malkin: Hoping the picnic area on the Monterey Side will get an upgrade. Upgrade tables, trash cans, bbqs, The whole area is ratty looking. The kids playground by the soccer field could use an upgrade like Montecito Park got and the bathrooms on both sides of the park.
5. Esther Malkin: I approached Chili's & IN/Out yrs ago to join the effort (ie vegetation maintenance).  
Scott Hanson: I lobbied the manager at Holiday Inn to become involved-he was helpful but more can be done.
6. Mayor Roberson: thank you everyone for your concern and care for the park. We will continue to work together as neighbors and concerned citizens.
7. Esther Malkin: I'm happy to engage more on the work we've done over the past 7 yrs to get to this point. [esthermalkin@yahoo.com](mailto:esthermalkin@yahoo.com). We looked at adding some senior workout equipment that would be great to get in
8. Chuck H: I do always carry pepper spray or a knife while walking. There was a bear in the park once. Precautions. Work tickets are not easy to put in
9. Gina Garcia: Can you speak on what is the current status of the structure near the kids playground on the Seaside side? Looks like a church or hall? Any plans for that structure?  
Response: The structure is a church – St. Seraphim of Sarov Parish

–END–



# Laguna Grande Park Community Site Walk

Saturday, August 14th 2021  
10 AM - 12:00 PM

Meet at Hillside BBQ Space #1  
Parking at the Eucalyptus Lot

Seeking public input on the maintenance of  
trails and vegetation at Laguna Grande Park

<https://haveyoursaymonterey.org/laguna-grande-park-plan>



# Caminata por el sitio de la comunidad Laguna Grande

Sábado, 14 de agosto de 2021  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Nos reuniremos en Hillside BBQ, espacio #1  
Estacionamiento en Eucalyptus

Estamos buscando ideas y sugerencias  
sobre el mantenimiento de los senderos y de  
la vegetación del parque Laguna Grande

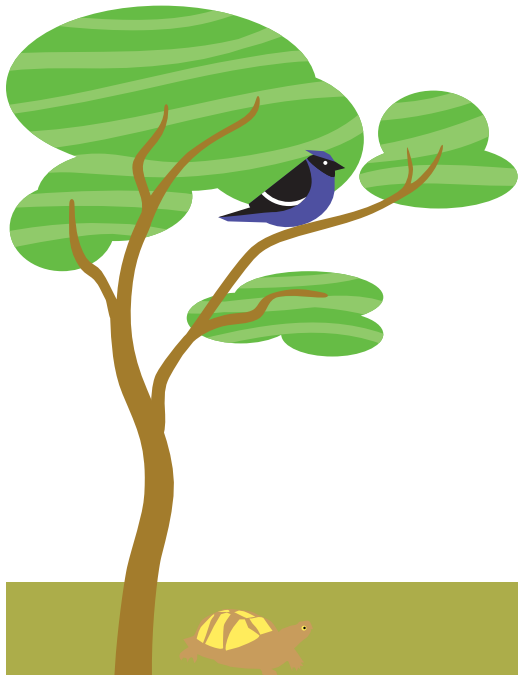
<https://haveyoursaymonterey.org/laguna-grande-park-plan>





# Laguna Grande Park Site Walk

August 14th, 2021



Site walk notes

Stop #1

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Stop #2

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Stop #3

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Site walk notes

Stop #4

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Stop #5

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Stop #6

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....



# Laguna Grande Park



# LAGUNA GRANDE



MONTEREY

SEASIDE

## FORTAG TRAIL ALIGNMENT OPTIONS



# LAGUNA GRANDE



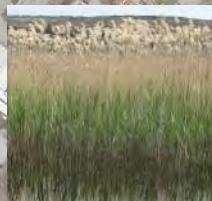
MONTEREY

SEASIDE

WHERE DO YOU LIVE?



# LAGUNA GRANDE



*Alnus rhombifolia* - White Alder

*Phragmites australis* - Common Reed

*Salix lasiolepis* - Arroyo Willow

*Schoenoplectus acutus* - Tule

 Invasive Species

## HABITAT COMMUNITIES



August 23, 2021

MEMO TO: Chris Schmidt / Planner  
City of Monterey

CC: City of Seaside and Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District  
FROM: Beth Matz, BFS Landscape Architects

**RE: LAGUNA GRANDE SITE WALK AUGUST 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – MEETING NOTES & PUBLIC COMMENTS**

ATTENDEES:

City of Seaside:  
Ian Oglesby  
Dave Pacheco  
Daniel Meewis

MPPRD:  
Kevin Raskoff  
Caine Camarillo

City of Monterey:  
Thys Norton  
Louie Marcuzzo  
Chris Schmidt

BFS Landscape Architects:  
Mike Bellinger  
Beth Matz  
Payam Ostovar  
Daniel Zuercher

MEETING AGENDA MINUTES:

10:15 – 10:30: Attendees gathered at the Hillside BBQ space in the Eucalyptus parking lot. While waiting attendees were able to review maps of the park outlining habitat communities and showing proposed FORTAG trail alignment options. Attendees were asked to identify areas of concern with orange stickers. See maps below. See Sign-in Sheets for event participants.

10:30 – 11:15: The (32) attendees were split into two groups to begin the site walk around the lake and discuss key points of the park. See map below for key points:

11:15: The two groups reconvened at the south bridge to walk and discuss the forebay section of the park.

12:15 – 12:30: The group returned to the Hillside BBQ space, finishing the site walk.

MEETING SUMMARY:

1. Primary urgency for residents was the forebay area
2. Participants favored both accessibility improvements and vegetation maintenance
3. Participants were not overly interested in adding 'more' lake access points or extending sightlines across the lake
4. Participants desire to have sightlines along the main path be clear and vegetation be managed to open up views around the curves of the path and where the paths or lake access points branch off of trail
5. Participants were supportive to protect habitat areas and extend habitat resources
6. Participants want a transparent decision-making process and the opportunity to review materials and decisions being made

7. Participants want clear delineation on where the City of Seaside and City of Monterey boundary occurs in the park
8. Aesthetics of the park was not a priority; many participants enjoy the park character as is
9. Participants are frustrated by the slow-moving process for mitigating and reducing illegal camping. Participants feel like they've been put on the backburner for 10 years.

#### ACTION ITEMS AND NEXT STEPS

1. BFS and JPA staff to respond to participant questions by September 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - a. Where are the City property lines
  - b. Is trail resurfacing apart of the project
  - c. What is the schedule for the project
  - d. What lighting levels are optimal for park safety
  - e. What is the budget for the strategy plan and for the maintenance work to occur? Where is funding coming from?
2. Action Item: BFS to provide schedule for project webpage to show deliverables, public meetings, and process
3. Action Item: BFS to provide meeting minutes and site video for project webpage
4. Action Item: JPA provide noticing for next public meeting

#### SITE WALK COMMENTS:

##### Stop 1: Eucalyptus Parking Lot and Picnic Area

- Concern about the JPA making decisions without the community's input
- Concern about water quality of lake and the ditch around the perimeter of the forebay
- Comment: Adjust benches to enhance visibility
- Question: Are trails to be resurfaced as part of maintenance plan?
- Question: What is the maintenance plan for the bridge?

##### Stop 2: Lakeside Parking Lot and Picnic Area

- Comment: Preference for consistent paving materials throughout the park
- Comment: Repair all trails and pathways within the park
- Comment: Preference for D.G. paving materials due to its natural look and maintenance
- Comment: Improve visibility of docks from path, need to be able to see if someone is using the dock
- Comment: Improve accessibility to docks from pathway
- Comment: Open up views to the lake, add more benches for better views
- Comment: Cut back vegetation at curves in pathway to open-up sightlines
- Comment: Sightlines across lake not as important as sightlines along path
- Comment: There are not enough trash cans
- Question: Why is there wire fence along lake edge?

##### Stop 3: North Bridge adjacent to Holiday Inn Express

- Comment: There are not enough trash cans and litter is thrown in the reeds/vegetation
- Comment; Adding benches and picnic tables would be nice along the trail
- Question: What level of lighting is allowed in habitat areas
- Comment: Current light fixtures are not attractive

- Comment: Light fixtures need to be tamper proof
- Comment: The section of park path near the large viewing dock is low and floods during wet season
- Comment: Nearby businesses need to get involved
- Comment: Clear out vegetation around the dock
- Comment: There is so much vegetation around the lake that you can't tell there is a trail. Open up site lines to rest of trail to help draw people into the park
- Question: Will the plan address accessibility issues? (ie gap at bridge and trail)
- Question: Is it feasible to use goats for vegetation maintenance?
- Question: Who is responsible for maintenance?
- Question: How is maintenance funded and budgeted?

#### Stop 4: North-Western Habitat Area at English Street

- Comment: Clean up understory and limb up canopy to allow views around corners of trail
- Comment: Culverts are eroded and need repair / replacement
- Comment: Thys Norton from Monterey Parks does a good job keeping trail areas clear
- Comment: Monterey did major clearing along the informal trails to access illegal camping in this area; residents were not happy, but it has grown back very quickly
- Comment: Mowing the bull rush is good, but it does grow back quickly
- Comment: The mulched trails in the area helped reduce the encampments
- Comment: Check out the website [birdability.org](http://birdability.org)-Advocates to create birding opportunities for everyone
- Comment: Monterey Audobon members acknowledge this as a prime bird area
- Concern: Accessibility varies through the park and the trails. Habitat area is not accessible
- Question: Are there noise abatement options?
- Comment: There are several feral cats that live with in the park
- Question Is boardwalk decking an option in low lying areas?
- Comment: There is car camping around the perimeter of the park and the parking lots
- Comment: Resident still doesn't go into the habitat areas where trails have been cleared. Resident doesn't like not being able to see what she is walking up too (ie people congregated or hanging out)
- Comment: Strong support for the habitat area from Monterey Audobon member-would like more park spaces like this space

#### Stop 5: Laguna Grande Park Soccer Field/Playground/Picnic Area at Virgin Street

- Comment: Move playfield fence to the water side of the trail
- Comment: This is a good area to install senior work out equipment, similar to El Estero Park
- Comment: There are issues with soccer balls going over the fence and into the lake . People go past fence to access the lake
- Question: Should the pathway fence taller?
- Comment: Lift understory and canopy to open up views to lake
- Concern that the reeds will fill in the lake
- Comment: Eating areas and trash cans should be in one place
- Comment: Add benches or picnic table for watching soccer and enjoying the area
- Comment: Pathway sightlines are well maintained in this stretch of the park

- Comment: Not a priority to add more lake access along western side of park
- Question: Where are the city property lines?

#### Stop 6: Southern Park Extents

- General consensus: Majority of group do not go back into this space, most do not feel comfortable or safe in this space
- General Consensus: Deter illegal camping, open sightlines and provide access for emergency services
- Comment: Pathway width is comfortable and D.G. material is consistent with park character
- Comment: Lack of comfort is due to the limited outlet
- Question: Is the water quality of the ditch going to be tested?
- Discussion: Re-alignment of existing pathway (potentially to become the FORTAG trail connector) to be closer to Canyon Del Rey
  - Opportunities: improve pathway visibility
  - Opportunities: expand habitat space to offset mitigation required to further develop trails within sensitive habitat areas
  - Opportunities: adding more bioswales and drainage features will continue to add to habitat diversity
  - Clarification: The FORTAG Trail connector is not a part of the project and development of the trail will not be given priority over mitigating the safety issues of concerned residents
  - Comment: Residents were promised for multiple years an action plan to deal with illegal camping
  - Comment: Vegetation maintenance and new trail development in the 'forebay' habitat area should be the number one priority for the strategy plan
- Comment: Trails in the forebay area can be much similar to the north-west habitat area.
- Question: Who manages the forebay area? Which City is the forebay area located in?
- Comment: Residents have proposed to City staff the desire for a dog park in the Seaside maintenance/storage area. Dog Park would provide "eyes on" / visibility and extra egress from the forebay
- Comment: Adding lighting would help with safety concerns.
- Comment: Noise from the illegal camping does impact residents
- Comment: Fire danger from illegal camping is a concern. Residents acknowledge improvements due to consistent vegetation maintenance – but they want to know the plan
- Comment: Provide accessible route from corner of N. Fremont down into the park.
- Comment: Illegal camping has noticeably been reduced, thanks to the municipalities
- Comment: Prioritize the forebay – that's what has been promised
- Question: What is the project schedule?
- Question: What happened to the MPRPD budget of \$65,000 that was set aside for the project
- Question: How much is the consultant getting paid
- Question: When is the masterplan scheduled to occur?
- Question: What is the next step? How does the review process work

<b><u>Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program</u></b>			
<b>Mitigation Measure</b>	Implementation and Monitoring/Reporting Responsibility	Timing Requirements	Reporting Requirements & Verification of Compliance (Completed As Part of Project)
<p><b>AQ-1</b> All construction equipment will be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer’s specifications and will be checked by a certified visible emissions evaluator. All non-road diesel construction equipment will, at a minimum, meet Tier 3 emission standards listed in the Code of Federal Regulations Title 40, Part 89, Subpart B, §89.112. Further, where feasible, construction equipment will use alternative fuels such as compressed natural gas, propane, electricity or biodiesel.</p>	<p>JPA Staff and/or Contractor</p>	<p>Prior and During Construction</p>	
<p><b>BIO-1</b> Prior to ground disturbance, a qualified biologist shall conduct a training session for all construction personnel. At a minimum, the training shall include a description of special-status species potentially occurring in the project vicinity, including, but not limited to, California red-legged frog, Coast Range newt, western pond turtle, burrowing owl, tricolored blackbird, American badger, Monterey dusky-footed woodrat, Monterey shrew, special-status bats, and nesting birds and raptors. Their habitats, general measures that are being implemented to conserve species as they relate to the project, and the boundaries within which disturbance activities will occur will be explained. Informational handouts with</p>	<p>JPA Staff and/or Contractor</p>	<p>Prior and During Construction</p>	

<p>photographs clearly illustrating the species' appearances shall be used in the training session. All new construction personnel shall undergo this mandatory environmental awareness training. The qualified biologist will train biological monitors selected from the construction crew by the construction contractor (typically the project foreman). Before the start of work each day, the monitor will check for animals under any equipment such as vehicles and stored pipes within active disturbance areas. The monitor will also check all excavated steep-walled holes or trenches greater than one foot deep for trapped animals. If a special-status species is observed within an active disturbance area, the qualified biologist will be notified immediately and all work within 50 feet of the individual will be halted and all equipment turned off until the individual has left the disturbance area. The Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority shall document evidence of completion of this training prior to ground disturbance.</p>			
<p><b>BIO-2</b> A qualified biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys following the guidance documented in the <i>Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the California Red-legged Frog</i> (USFWS 2005) no more than two weeks (14 days) prior to the start of disturbance activities. The invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints will be surveyed for potential migratory and/or upland activity. The qualified biologist shall prepare a report documenting the results of the preconstruction surveys for submittal to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority prior to ground disturbance.</p>	<p>JPA Staff and/or Contractor</p>	<p>Prior and During Construction</p>	

<p>If California red-legged frog is found, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority will coordinate with the USFWS and/or CDFW to determine the appropriate course of action per the requirements of FESA and/or CESA (e.g., obtaining Incidental Take Permits) and implement the permit requirements prior to ground disturbance.</p>			
<p><b>BIO-3</b> The following measures from the USFWS <i>Programmatic Biological Opinion for Issuance of Permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, including Authorizations Under 22 Nationwide Permits, for Projects that May Affect the Threatened California Red-legged Frog in Nine San Francisco Bay Area Counties, California</i> (USFWS 2014) shall be implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Plans shall delineate a 100-foot boundary from the outer edge of riparian vegetation along the lake and drainages.</li> <li>b. A qualified biologist shall be on site during all activities within 100 feet from the outer edge of riparian vegetation along the lake or drainage that where California red-legged frog may be encountered.</li> <li>c. To the extent possible, all ground-disturbing work within 100 feet from the outer edge of riparian vegetation along the lake and drainage shall be avoided between November 1 and March 31, the time period when California red-legged frogs are most likely to be moving through upland areas.</li> <li>d. All ground-disturbing work within 100 feet from the outer edge of riparian vegetation should be accomplished during the dry season, with no</li> </ul>	<p>JPA Staff and/or Contractor</p>	<p>Prior and During Construction and/or Site Disturbance</p>	

<p>disturbance activities occurring during rain events or within 24 hours following a rain event.</p> <p>e. Prior to disturbance activities, exclusionary fencing shall be placed to keep construction vehicles and personnel from impacting potentially jurisdictional waters and riparian/wetland habitat outside of work areas. A biological monitor shall supervise the installation of exclusionary fencing and monitor at least once per week until disturbance activities are complete to ensure that the protective exclusionary fencing remains intact. Exclusion fencing material shall be selected to avoid accidental entrapment of wildlife species, such as fencing with a smaller gauge or no gaps at all (e.g., Animex™ fencing).</p> <p>f. To minimize harassment, injury, death, and harm in the form of temporary habitat disturbances, all project-related vehicle traffic shall be restricted to established roads, disturbance areas, equipment staging, storage, parking, and stockpile areas.</p> <p>g. If a California red-legged frog is encountered, all activities which have the potential to result in the harassment, injury, or death of the individual shall be immediately halted. A qualified biologist shall then assess the situation and select a course of action that shall avoid or minimize adverse effects to the animal.</p> <p>h. Uneaten human food and trash attracts crows, ravens, coyotes, and other predators of the California red-legged frog. A litter control program shall be instituted at each project site. All workers shall ensure their food scraps, paper wrappers, food containers, cans, bottles, and other trash are deposited in covered or closed trash containers. The trash containers shall be removed from the project site at the end of each working day.</p>			
---	--	--	--

<p>i. Loss of soil from run-off or erosion shall be prevented with straw bales, straw wattles, or similar means provided they do not entangle, block escape or dispersal routes of the California red-legged frog.</p> <p>j. No insecticides or herbicides shall be used at the project site during construction or long-term operational maintenance where there is the potential for these chemical agents to enter the river, or uplands that contain potential habitat for the California red-legged frog.</p> <p>k. For on-site storage of pipes, conduits, and other materials that could provide shelter for special-status species, an open-top trailer shall be used to elevate the materials above ground. This is intended to reduce the potential for animals to climb into the conduits and other materials.</p> <p>l. To the maximum extent possible, night-time construction shall be minimized or avoided because dusk and dawn are often the times when the California red-legged frog is most actively moving and foraging.</p> <p>m. Plastic monofilament netting (erosion control matting), loosely woven netting, or similar material in any form shall not be used at the project site because California red-legged frogs can become entangled and trapped in them. Materials utilizing fixed weaves (strands cannot move), polypropylene, polymer, or other synthetic materials shall not be used.</p> <p>n. Trenches or pits one foot or deeper that are going to be left unfilled for more than 48 hours shall be securely covered with boards or other material to prevent the California red-legged frog from falling into them.</p>			
--	--	--	--

<p><b>BIO-4</b> To avoid/minimize impacts to burrowing owls potentially occurring within invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints, a biologist qualified in ornithology shall conduct surveys for burrowing owl. The approved biologist shall conduct a two-visit (i.e., morning and evening) presence/absence survey at areas of suitable habitat on and adjacent to the invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints no less than 14 days prior to the start of construction or ground disturbance activities. Surveys shall be conducted according to the methods for take avoidance described in the <i>Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines</i> (California Burrowing Owl Consortium 1993) and the <i>Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation</i> (CDFW 2012). If no burrowing owls are found, a letter report confirming absence will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.</p>	<p>JPA Staff and/or Contractor</p>	<p>Prior to Construction and/or Site Disturbance</p>	
<p><b>BIO-5</b> To avoid impacts to nesting birds during the nesting season (January 15 through September 15), all disturbance activities should be conducted between September 16 and January 14, which is outside of the bird nesting season. If project-related work is scheduled during the nesting season (February 15 to August 30 for small bird species such as passerines; January 15 to September 15 for owls; and February 15 to September 15 for other raptors), a qualified biologist shall conduct nesting bird surveys.  a. Two surveys for active bird nests will occur within 14 days prior to start of disturbance activities, with the final survey conducted within 48</p>	<p>JPA Staff and/or Contractor</p>	<p>Prior to Construction and/or Site Disturbance</p>	

<p>hours prior to disturbance. Appropriate minimum survey radii surrounding each work area are typically 250 feet for passerines, 500 feet for smaller raptors, and 1,000 feet for larger raptors. Surveys will be conducted at the appropriate times of day to observe nesting activities. Locations off the site to which access is not available may be surveyed from within the site or from public areas. If no nesting birds are found, a letter report confirming absence will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.</p> <p>b. If the qualified biologist documents active nests within the invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints or in nearby surrounding areas, an appropriate buffer between each nest and active disturbance area shall be established. The buffer shall be clearly marked and maintained until the young have fledged and are foraging independently. Prior to ground disturbance, the qualified biologist shall conduct baseline monitoring of each nest to characterize “normal” bird behavior and establish a buffer distance, which allows the birds to exhibit normal behavior. The qualified biologist shall monitor the nesting birds daily during disturbance activities and increase the buffer if birds show signs of unusual or distressed behavior (e.g., defensive flights and vocalizations, standing up from a brooding position, and/or flying away from the nest). If buffer establishment is not possible, the qualified biologist or construction foreman shall have the authority to cease all work in the area until the young have fledged and the nest is no longer active. Once the absence of nesting birds has</p>			
---	--	--	--

<p>been confirmed, a letter report will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority.</p>			
<p><b>BIO-6</b> Not more than 14 days prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities, a qualified wildlife biologist shall conduct surveys of the grassland habitat within or adjacent to invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints to identify any potential American badger burrows/dens. If the survey results are negative (i.e., no badger dens observed), a letter report confirming absence will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.</p> <p>If the results are positive (badger dens are observed), the qualified biologist shall determine if the dens are active by installing a game camera for three days and three nights to determine if the den is in use.</p> <p>a. If the biologist determines that a den may be active, coordination with the CDFW shall be undertaken to develop a suitable strategy to avoid impacts to American badger. The strategy may include the following: the biologist shall install a one-way door in the den opening and continue use of the game camera. Once the camera captures the individual exiting the one-way door, the den can be excavated with hand tools to prevent badgers from reusing them. If the biologist determines that the den is a maternity den, disturbance activities shall be delayed during the maternity season (February to August), or until the badgers leave the den on their own accord or the biologist determines that the den is no longer in use.</p>	<p>JPA Staff and/or Contractor</p>	<p>Prior to Construction and/or Site Disturbance</p>	

<p>b. If the game camera does not capture an individual entering/exiting the den, the den can be excavated with hand tools to prevent badgers from reusing them.</p>			
<p><b>BIO-7</b> A qualified biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys for woodrat nests within invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints. All woodrat nests shall be flagged for avoidance of direct impacts where feasible. If impacts cannot be avoided, woodrat nests shall be dismantled no more than three days prior to dismantling so that the occupants do not attempt to rebuild. Nests are to be slowly dismantled by hand in order to allow the occupants to disperse.</p>	<p>JPA Staff and/or Contractor</p>	<p>Prior to Construction and/or Site Disturbance</p>	
<p><b>BIO-8</b> Approximately 14 days prior to tree removal or disturbance activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct a habitat assessment for bats and potential roosting sites in trees to be removed and in trees within 50 feet of invasive removal, maintenance or improvement footprints. These surveys shall include a visual inspection of potential roosting features (bats need not be present) and a search for presence of guano within the project site, access routes, and 50 feet around these areas. Cavities, crevices, exfoliating bark, and bark fissures that could provide suitable potential nest or roost habitat for bats shall be surveyed. Assumptions can be made on what species is present due to observed visual characteristics along with habitat use, or the bats can be identified to the species level with the use of a bat echolocation detector such as an “Anabat” unit. Potential roosting features found during the survey shall be flagged or marked. If no roosting sites or bats are found, a letter report confirming absence</p>	<p>JPA Staff and/or Contractor</p>	<p>Prior to Construction and/or Site Disturbance</p>	

<p>shall be prepared and submitted to Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required. If bats or roosting sites are found, bats shall not be disturbed without specific notice to and consultation with CDFW. If bats are found roosting outside of the nursery season (May 1 through October 1), CDFW shall be consulted prior to any eviction or other action. If avoidance or postponement is not feasible, a Bat Eviction Plan will be submitted to CDFW for written approval prior to project implementation. A request to evict bats from a roost includes details for excluding bats from the roost site and monitoring to ensure that all bats have exited the roost prior to the start of activity and are unable to re-enter the roost until activity is completed. Any bat eviction shall be timed to avoid lactation and young-rearing. If bats are found roosting during the nursery season, they shall be monitored to determine if the roost site is a maternal roost. This could occur by either visual inspection of the roost bat pups, if possible, or by monitoring the roost after the adults leave for the night to listen for bat pups. Because bat pups cannot leave the roost until they are mature enough, eviction of a maternal roost cannot occur during the nursery season. Therefore, if a maternal roost is present, a 50-foot buffer zone (or different size if determined in consultation with the CDFW) shall be established around the roosting site within which no activities including tree removal or structure disturbance shall occur until after the nursery season.</p>			
<p><b>BIO-9</b> Arroyo willow woodland, California bulrush marsh, wetlands or estuarine habitat within 25 feet of invasive removal, maintenance or improvement</p>	<p>JPA Staff and/or Contractor</p>	<p>During Construction and/or Site Disturbance</p>	

<p>footprints will be protected from disturbance. Prior to activities adjacent to arroyo willow woodland, California bulrush marsh, wetlands or estuarine habitat, a qualified botanist will erect environmentally sensitive area fencing around areas near the invasive removal, maintenance or improvement area to identify and protect sensitive plant communities or Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas.</p> <p>The location of the fencing will be marked in the field with stakes and flagging. Vegetation clearing activities, vehicle operation, material and equipment storage, and other surface-disturbing activities will be prohibited within the fenced environmentally sensitive area.</p>			
<p><b>BIO-10</b> If avoidance cannot be accommodated within invasive removal, maintenance or improvement plans, then the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority shall be responsible for ensuring the implementation of a restoration plan. The restoration plan shall be designed by a qualified biologist and shall include the following:</p> <p>a. Prior to implementation of invasive removal, maintenance, or improvement activities, the location and extent of the areas to be restored will be clearly delineated and mapped. A plant palette shall be determined, with preference to plant species endemic to coastal Monterey County. The plant palette used for restoration will be reviewed and approved by the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority.</p> <p>b. The restoration plan will include seed collection and transplantation/preservation or restoration/preservation guidelines. Maintenance</p>	<p>JPA Staff and/or Contractor</p>	<p>During Construction and/or Site Disturbance</p>	

<p>activities may include, but not be limited to, watering during the plant establishment period, supplemental seed planting as needed, and removal of non-native invasive plants. Monitoring will occur for a minimum of five years after mitigation area installation to verify that restoration activities have been successful and will include, at a minimum, quarterly monitoring reports for the first year and annual reports for the remaining four years.</p> <p>c. The abundance of annual plants naturally varies from year to year depending on multiple factors including disturbance and rainfall. The performance standard for successful mitigation will be a minimum 2:1 replacement ratio (i.e. two plants observed in the restoration area for each plant lost from the impact area) during at least one spring occurring in year 3, 4, or 5 after installation. The plan will contain options for corrective action and extended maintenance/monitoring if the performance standard is not achieved during the 5-year monitoring period.</p> <p>d. During each monitoring effort undertaken in the restoration area, a qualified biologist will conduct a comparison of spring survey conditions from the previous year(s) and prepare a written report for the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority. If adaptive management (corrective measures) are warranted, a description and recommendation will be included in the annual report.</p>			
<p><b>BIO-11</b> Prior to disturbance in or within 25 feet adjacent to wetlands, a qualified biologist will prepare a wetland delineation to determine the extent of potential wetlands and waterways regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,</p>	<p>JPA Staff and/or Contractor</p>	<p>Prior to Construction and/or Site Disturbance</p>	

<p>Regional Water Quality Control Board, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife. If the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers claims jurisdiction, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority will retain a qualified biologist to obtain a Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permit. If the impacts to the drainage features do not qualify for a Nationwide Permit, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority shall proceed with the qualified biologist in obtaining an Individual Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority will also retain a qualified biologist to coordinate with the Regional Water Quality Control Board to obtain a Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification. If necessary, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority will also retain a qualified biologist to coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to obtain a Streambed Alteration Agreement.</p> <p>To compensate for temporary and/or permanent impacts to jurisdictional features that would be impacted as a result of the proposed project, mitigation shall be provided as required by the regulatory permits. Mitigation would be provided through one of the following mechanisms:</p> <p>i. A Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring Plan shall be developed that will outline mitigation and monitoring obligations for temporary impacts to wetlands and other waters as a result of disturbance activities. The Wetland Mitigation and Monitoring Plan would include thresholds of success, monitoring and reporting requirements, and site-specific plans to compensate for wetland losses resulting from the project. The Wetland</p>			
--	--	--	--

<p>Mitigation and Monitoring Plan shall be submitted to the appropriate regulatory agencies for review and approval during the permit application process. Or ii. To compensate for permanent impacts, the purchase and/or dedication of land to provide suitable wetland restoration or creation shall ensure a no net loss of wetland values or functions. If restoration is available and feasible, a minimum 1:1 mitigation to impact ratio would apply to projects for which mitigation is provided in advance.</p>			
<p><b>BIO-12</b> Per section 8.54.060 of the Seaside City Ordinance, the zoning administrator, or his designee (a qualified forester or arborist) will prepare a report on trees based on the applicant’s plans and a site inspection of the land. Implementation of specific protections for preserved trees during disturbance activities will be followed; and replacement plantings for damaged or removed trees will be installed.</p>	<p>JPA Staff and/or Contractor</p>	<p>Prior and During Construction and/or Site Disturbance</p>	
<p><b>CR-1</b> If any archeological, prehistoric, or historic subsurface resources, including tribal cultural resources, are discovered during ground-disturbing (including tree and vegetation removal, path widening): a. All work within 50- meter (165 feet) shall be halted and a qualified archaeologist shall be consulted to assess the significance of the finding according to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. b. If any find is determined to be significant, representatives from the City of Monterey Recreation Department and the archaeologist shall meet to determine the appropriate avoidance measures or other appropriate mitigation.</p>	<p>JPA Staff and/or Contractor</p>	<p>During Construction and/or Site Disturbance</p>	

<p>c. All significant prehistoric cultural materials and or tribal cultural resources recovered shall be; returned to Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the area.</p> <p>d. In considering any suggested mitigation proposed by the consulting archaeologist to mitigate impacts to historical resources or unique archaeological resources, the City shall determine whether avoidance is necessary and feasible in light of factors such as the nature of the find, proposed project design, costs, and other considerations.</p> <p>e. If avoidance is infeasible, other appropriate measures (e.g., data recovery) would be implemented.</p> <p>f. Work may proceed on other parts of the project site while mitigation for historical resources or unique archaeological resources is being carried out.</p>			
<p><b>CR-2</b> California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and the CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e) contain the mandated procedures of conduct following the discovery of human remains. According to the provisions in CEQA, if human remains are encountered at the site, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery shall cease and necessary steps to ensure the integrity of the immediate area shall be taken. The Monterey County Coroner shall be notified immediately. The Coroner shall then determine whether the remains are Native American. If the Coroner determines the remains are Native American, the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours, who would, in turn, notify the person the Native American Heritage Commission identifies as the Most Likely</p>	<p>JPA Staff and/or Contractor</p>	<p>During Construction and/or Site Disturbance</p>	

<p>Descendant of any human remains. Further actions shall be determined, in part, by the desires of the Most Likely Descendant. The Most Likely Descendant has 48 hours to make recommendations regarding the disposition of the remains following notification from the Native American Heritage Commission of the discovery. If the Most Likely Descendant does not make recommendations within 48 hours, the owner shall, with appropriate dignity, reinter the remains in an area of the property secure from further disturbance. Alternatively, if the owner does not accept the Most Likely Descendant's recommendations, the owner or the descendent may request mediation by the Native American Heritage Commission.</p>			
<p><b>GEO-1</b> All construction personnel must receive paleontological resources awareness training that includes information on the possibility of encountering fossils during construction; the types of fossils likely to be seen, based on past finds in the project area; and proper procedures in the event fossils are encountered. Worker training shall be prepared and presented by a qualified paleontologist. The Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority shall document evidence of completion of this training prior to ground disturbance</p>	<p>JPA Staff and/or Contractor</p>	<p>Prior to Construction and/or Site Disturbance</p>	
<p><b>GEO-2</b> If vertebrae fossils are discovered during construction, all work within 50 feet of the discovery shall stop immediately until a qualified professional paleontologist can assess the nature and importance of the find and recommend appropriate treatment. Treatment may include avoidance, if feasible, preservation in place, or preparation and recovery of fossil materials so that</p>	<p>JPA Staff and/or Contractor</p>	<p>During Construction and/or Site Disturbance</p>	

<p>they can be housed in an appropriate museum or university collection and may also include preparation of a report for publication describing the finds.</p>			
<p><b>TCR-1</b> The Laguna Grande Regional Park JPA will notify the KaKoon Ta Ruk Band of Ohlone-Costanoan Indians of the Big Sur Rancheria two-weeks prior to any earthmoving activity and the Tribe’s cultural resource specialist(s) will be allowed onsite for monitoring. Appropriate safety protocols shall be adhered to by all people on-site during the project or site access may be revoked. The Tribe’s treatment protocol should be implemented.</p>	<p>JPA Staff and/or Contractor</p>	<p>Prior and During Construction and/or Site Disturbance</p>	

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK  
JOINT POWERS AGENCY**

**ADOPTING THE LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK TRAIL AND VEGETATION  
MAINTENANCE STRATEGY**

WHEREAS, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency (JPA) approved the release of a Request for Proposal for trail maintenance strategy;

WHEREAS, the JPA awarded a contract to BFS Landscape Architects to create the Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy (Exhibit A);

WHEREAS, the Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy project includes key items, including seasonal trail development, vegetation clearing, trail maintenance and improvements, accessibility improvements, invasive species removal and restoration planting and new and replacement lighting;

WHEREAS, the proposed project is located in both the cities of Monterey and Seaside and includes ownership by the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, cities of Monterey and Seaside, and private property owners. The JPA, cities and the parks district will need to certify the environmental document;

WHEREAS, a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration was posted according to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Section 15072 and a Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) were circulated for public review for the required 30 day public review period, from January 18, 2023 to February 17, 2023 (CEQA Section 15073), during which time all related documents were made available at the Monterey City Hall Planning Office and on the City's website;

WHEREAS, the IS/MND discloses that the project could result in potentially significant environmental impacts associated with air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, tribal cultural resources, and mandatory findings of significance. Mitigation Measures have been required that will reduce the potential impacts to a less-than-significant level;

WHEREAS, no comment letters were received during the public review period. There is no evidence before the JPA indicating that the proposed project could cause significant adverse environmental effects which have not already been considered, analyzed, and mitigated in the IS/MND;

WHEREAS, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency, at a properly noticed public hearing on March 30th, 2023, carefully considered all of the information presented to it, including the agenda report and information submitted at the public hearing by interested persons; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency that it hereby adopts the Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Vegetation

Maintenance Strategy, attached hereto as Exhibits A on the following finding:

1. On March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency held a duly noticed public hearing, carefully considered all of the information presented to it, took public testimony to consider the Mitigated Negative Declaration, and exercised its independent judgement in determining that the conclusions reaching in the Mitigated Negative Declaration are correct and supported by substantial evidence, and finds that the Mitigated Negative Declaration complies with all requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE LAGUNA GRANDE PARK JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023, with the following vote:

AYES:	_	AGENCY MEMBERS:
NOES:	_	AGENCY MEMBERS:
ABSENT:	_	AGENCY MEMBERS:
ABSTAIN:	_	AGENCY MEMBERS:

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dominique L. Davis, Agency Clerk



LAGUNA GRANDE  
REGIONAL PARK

TRAIL AND VEGETATION  
MAINTENANCE  
STRATEGY

FEBRUARY 28, 2022



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. HISTORY.....	1
2. EXISTING CONDITIONS.....	3
3. FUTURE PLANNING.....	13
4. COMMUNITY OUTREACH.....	17
5. GOALS.....	21
6. OVERALL PLAN.....	23
7. IMPLEMENTATION PHASE ONE.....	29
8. COST ESTIMATES.....	33

## APPENDICES

APPENDIX A	LAGUNA GRANDE FOCUSED PLANT SURVEY
APPENDIX B	INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL
APPENDIX C	WILDLIFE ANALYSIS
APPENDIX D	COMMUNITY OUTREACH MATERIALS

## FIGURES

FIGURE 1	CIRCULATION MAP.....	9
FIGURE 2	TRAIL CONDITIONS MAP.....	10
FIGURE 3	PARCEL OWNERSHIP MAP.....	11
FIGURE 4	FORTAG TRAIL – CANYON DEL REY/SR218 SEGMENT.....	15
FIGURE 5	COMMUNITY SITE WALK PHOTOS.....	19
FIGURE 6	COMMUNITY SITE WALK PHOTOS.....	20
FIGURE 7	OVERALL PLAN - NORTH.....	25
FIGURE 8	OVERALL PLAN - SOUTH.....	26
FIGURE 9	SOUTH WOODS SEASONAL TRAIL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.....	27
FIGURE 10	PHASE ONE PLAN - NORTH.....	31
FIGURE 11	PHASE ONE PLAN - SOUTH.....	32

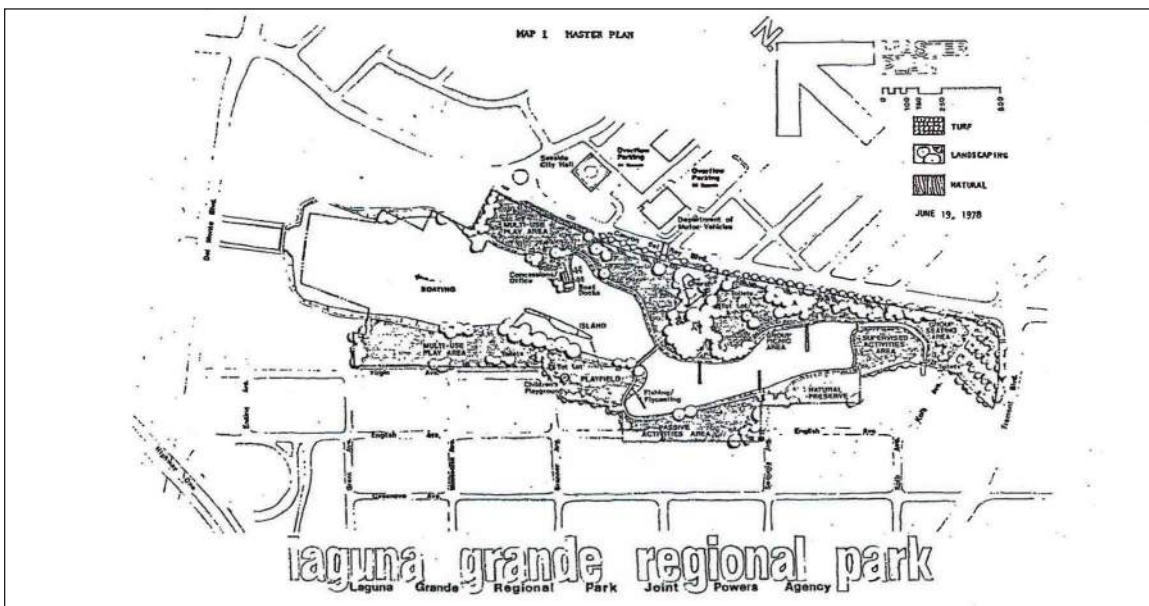
THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

Laguna Grande Lake was a flowing estuary called the Canyon Del Rey Creek, collecting runoff from the 16.8 square mile Canyon Del Rey watershed and flowing into the Monterey Bay. Laguna Grande Lake and Roberts Lake which existed as a single body of water were separated in the 1880s by the Southern Pacific Railroad. Over time the surrounding landscape developed and populations grew, the creek, the wetlands and estuary slowly filled and eventually were cut off from the bay. Slowly landfill operations filled in the marsh areas and edges of the lakes transforming this body of water into its current state.

Laguna Grande Regional Park (LGRP / Park) did not find its beginnings until the 1960's when the cities of Monterey, Seaside and Del Rey Oaks came together to petition the state for a feasibility study for developing a "Recreation and Park District for Laguna Grande". During this time there were grand visions for the park. A pamphlet from the Seaside Chamber of Commerce proudly read "It will beautify and make more attractive the City of Seaside and the entrance to the Monterey Peninsula. It should, from this standpoint, be of interest to every Peninsula community and individual." In 1968, the cities of Monterey and Seaside formed the Laguna Grande Agency to study the area. They developed the "Laguna Grande Plan" prepared by D'Amico and Associates and Charles R. Haugh. Shortly after, in 1975, the City of Seaside contracted Richard Murray and Associates to develop the "Laguna Grande Redevelopment General Conceptual Plan".

Many new developments began for LGRP in 1976. The cities of Monterey and Seaside and the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District formed the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint



Source: Laguna Grande Regional Park Master Plan and EIR Addendum September 11, 1978

Powers Agency (JPA) in February. That same year the Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District purchased the Laguna Grande site. The JPA adopted Seaside's 1975 conceptual plan as its' first step in preparation of a master plan. In 1978, the "Laguna Grande Regional Park Master Plan and EIR Addendum" was completed by J.P. Manachek, A.I.A, and consulting landscape architect Charles R. Haugh.

The master plan's main objective was to "preserve and enhance Laguna Grande through a water-oriented park facility." The plan proposed to dredge a portion of the southern marsh lands and add an additional 5 acres to the lake to provide more opportunities for fishing, fly-casting, and non-power boating. The lost waterfowl habitat would be relocated to Roberts Lake, while also retaining a portion of the southern marsh as a natural preserve with boardwalk paths throughout. The lake at the time was significantly polluted. The plan proposed the addition of an aeration system, silting basin, and the removal of tule growth along the edges to help decrease nitrogen levels in the water.

In 1981 the "Land Use Plan for the Laguna Grande/Roberts Lake Local Coastal Program", was completed by the cities of Monterey and Seaside to come under compliance with the Regional Coastal Commission. It was not until 1982 that the Park was opened to the public. The master plan for the Park was never fully implemented. The northern end of the park was built out with playgrounds, fields and park facilities. The south end of the park, meant to become an extension of the lake, was not completed due to lack of funds. As droughts became more frequent in California and with the slow buildup of sediments, the marshy, low wetlands to the south began to dry and more mature vegetation developed, forming a low dense woodland of willows and brambles that exist today.

## REFERENCES

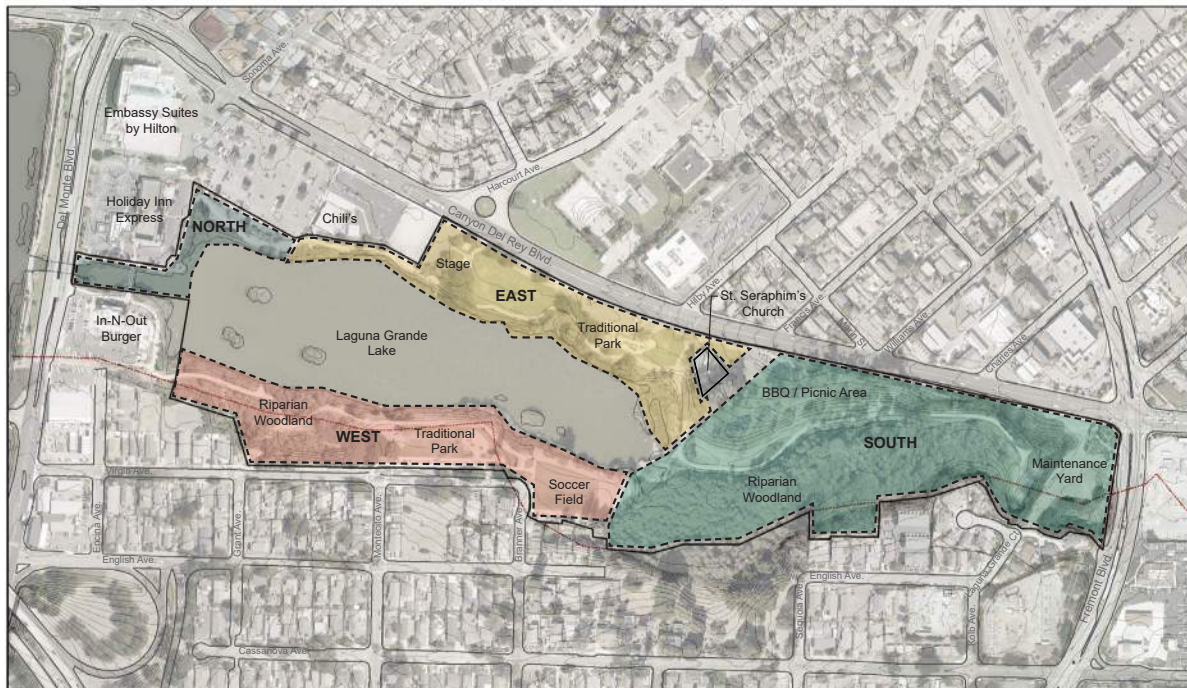
Schmalz, David. "Despite a persistent problem of encampments at Laguna Grande Park, the years go by, and nothing seems to change." Monterey County Weekly 07 Mar 2019. Web. 20 Oct 2021

Laguna Grande Regional Park Master Plan and EIR Addendum. J.P. Manachek, A.I.A., and Charles R Haugh. 1978

Land Use Plan for the Laguna Grande/Roberts Lake Local Coastal Program. Duncan and Jones. 1981

The following section is a summary of information compiled from several field studies conducted by the consultant, interviews with staff from the City of Monterey, City of Seaside and Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District, and review of maps and plans prepared previously for Laguna Grande Regional Park. The field studies focused on vegetation and sensitive habitat, park physical features, review of park conditions for accessibility and observations of park uses by the public. Many of the studies confirmed the Park is a rich resource for wildlife, vegetation and provides the community with a diverse range of programmed uses. There are several areas of the park which are used for illegal camping and this has resulted in park safety concerns and a substantial amount of trash and debris collecting in sensitive habitat areas. Interviews with maintenance staff, fire officials and other officials has confirmed the Consultant team findings.

In order to provide a clear understanding of the park and its specific areas, below is a map highlighting key features and the areas that will be discussed throughout this plan.





## AESTHETICS

Laguna Grande Regional Park is a unique aquatic landscape situated between Monterey and Seaside. There are clear views into the park from Canyon Del Rey Boulevard to the east and from the surrounding neighborhoods to the west. Interior views include: the lake, native aquatic bird species, low woodlands, and rolling grassy hills. The south end of the Park has elevated hillsides, that provide views toward the Bay.

## ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

The Park provides multiple pedestrian and vehicular access points with the exception of the southern end. The southern end of the park has no accessible pedestrian or vehicular access connecting to Fremont Boulevard. An existing set of stairs leads down into the park near Canyon Del Rey Boulevard. There are no sidewalk connections to the stairs from Canyon Del Rey Boulevard or Fremont Boulevard.

Parking around the lake is facilitated with three public parking lots, two on the east and one on the west, as well as street parking on the west. Pedestrian connections to park trails are accessible from multiple points, two off of Del Monte Boulevard, four off of Canyon Del Rey Boulevard, and four off of Virgin Avenue. Trails connect to a central loop that runs along the perimeter of the lake. There is a wide path that leads to the south end of the park and dead ends with stairs which lead up to Fremont Boulevard. Secondary paths on the east and west sides of the park connect to the main loop around the lake. See Circulation Map Figure 01.

## TRAIL SURFACE/MATERIAL CONDITIONS

The Park has a number of trail materials including: asphalt, concrete, gravel, decomposed granite (DG), boardwalks, and mulch. The general trail conditions are good due to weekly maintenance and repairs from the cities. All trails have been kept clear of vegetation allowing easy access. See Trail Conditions Map Figure 02.

The majority of park trails are asphalt and conditions vary. There are two areas that have been heavily impacted by root growth and become areas of concern for accessibility and safety that need replacement. Along the asphalt trails there are many areas where the edge of the path, particularly on the lake side, is deteriorating. Some areas impacted by erosion and root damage have been clearly demarcated by maintenance staff for public safety.



*Asphalt Trail Root Impacts*



*Asphalt Trail in Poor Condition*

The use of concrete throughout the park has been limited to restroom facilities and at bridge abutments on the north end of the park. The concrete throughout the park is in good condition, however, in some locations where the trail transitions from concrete to DG, rutting has occurred.

Gravel has only been used for the trail that runs to the south end of the park. This portion of the trail has been well maintained is in good condition.

DG has been used on the northwest side of the park running from the end of the traditional park on the west side up to the In-N-Out Burger to the north. The DG path has been well maintained and is in good condition with no root impacts or erosion.



*Gravel Trail*



*DG Trail*



*Mulch Trail*

Wood decking is limited to the two bridges and five piers around the lake. These appear to be in good condition. Accessibility to these bridges and piers varies greatly. Many of the piers are inaccessible to wheelchairs due to grade change, as well as connections to the main trail that are too steep or narrow. The bridge at the north end of the park is not considered accessible by code.



*Bridge Boardwalk*

The mulch trails are seasonal and have been limited to the riparian woodland along the northwest edge of the lake. These trails vary in width and condition, with some portions of the trail subsiding into wet soil. The application of new mulch has kept much of the trail in good condition.

## **ADJACENT ACTIVITIES / SURROUNDING LAND USE**

The main trail loop is surrounded by a diverse set of land uses and activities. The north end of the park is adjacent to privately owned hotels, fast food and drive-in restaurants.

On the east side adjacent to Canyon Del Rey Boulevard there is a traditional neighborhood park with an event lawn and stage, restroom facility, and playground. There is also a private parcel with St. Seraphim's Russian Orthodox church, which is accessed through the park.



*Seaside Playground*



*St. Seraphim's Church*

*Image Credit: <https://filmmonterey.org>*



*Seaside BBQ/Picnic Area*

The southern portion of the park consists predominately of a riparian woodland and creek that are largely inaccessible to the public. South of the church are grassy slopes with BBQ / picnic areas and strolling paths. At the very southern tip of the park, adjacent to Fremont Boulevard, is a maintenance and storage yard for the city of Seaside.

The western edge of the park also has traditional park programming with a synthetic turf soccer field, restroom facility, playground, synthetic turf volleyball court, BBQ and picnic areas. There is also a riparian woodland with seasonal mulch trails.



*Monterey Volleyball Court*



*Monterey Soccer Field*

## TOPOGRAPHY

The property rises from 12-feet above sea level at the lake water level to 50-feet above sea level at the southern end along Fremont Boulevard and Laguna Grande Court. The southern end of the park functions like a valley between two 30-foot slopes to the east, south and west. The slopes level out as they move north towards the lake. The majority of the site sits 6-feet to 8-feet above the lake water level and is relatively flat and accessible.

## VEGETATION

The Park, with its unique aquatic features, hosts a wide variety of vegetation. Much of this vegetation is native to the region and provides habitat for various wildlife but has been impacted by the spread of invasive species. See appendix A and B. Vegetation is maintained by the cities on a weekly basis with a focus on the traditional park areas. Special maintenance activities, such as tree limbing and trail clearing, are performed a few times throughout the year. Dense vegetation throughout the park obstructs sight lines along the trail and to the docks and is a safety concern.



*Invasive Giant Reed and French Broom*



*Native Lavatera assurgentiflora - Island Mallow*

Refer to Appendix A – Laguna Grande Focused Plant Survey (EMC)

Refer to Appendix B – Invasive Plant Control (EMC and BRG)

### **WILDLIFE AND SENSITIVE SPECIES**

Refer to Appendix C – Wildlife Analysis (EMC)

### **GENERAL MAINTENANCE**

The Park is generally visited daily to clean restrooms and provide a quick visual check of park conditions. Operations improvements are scheduled weekly or monthly depending on the season. However, over the years persistent homeless encampments have considerably grown and become more permanent. City of Seaside staff are now checking encampments one to two times per week. Shelters, however, have tunneled deeper into the thickets to avoid easy observation. The increasing population has alarmed neighbors and created water quality and safety hazards for park visitors.



*Encampments in Woods*

*Image Credit: City of Seaside*



*Encampments in Thickets*

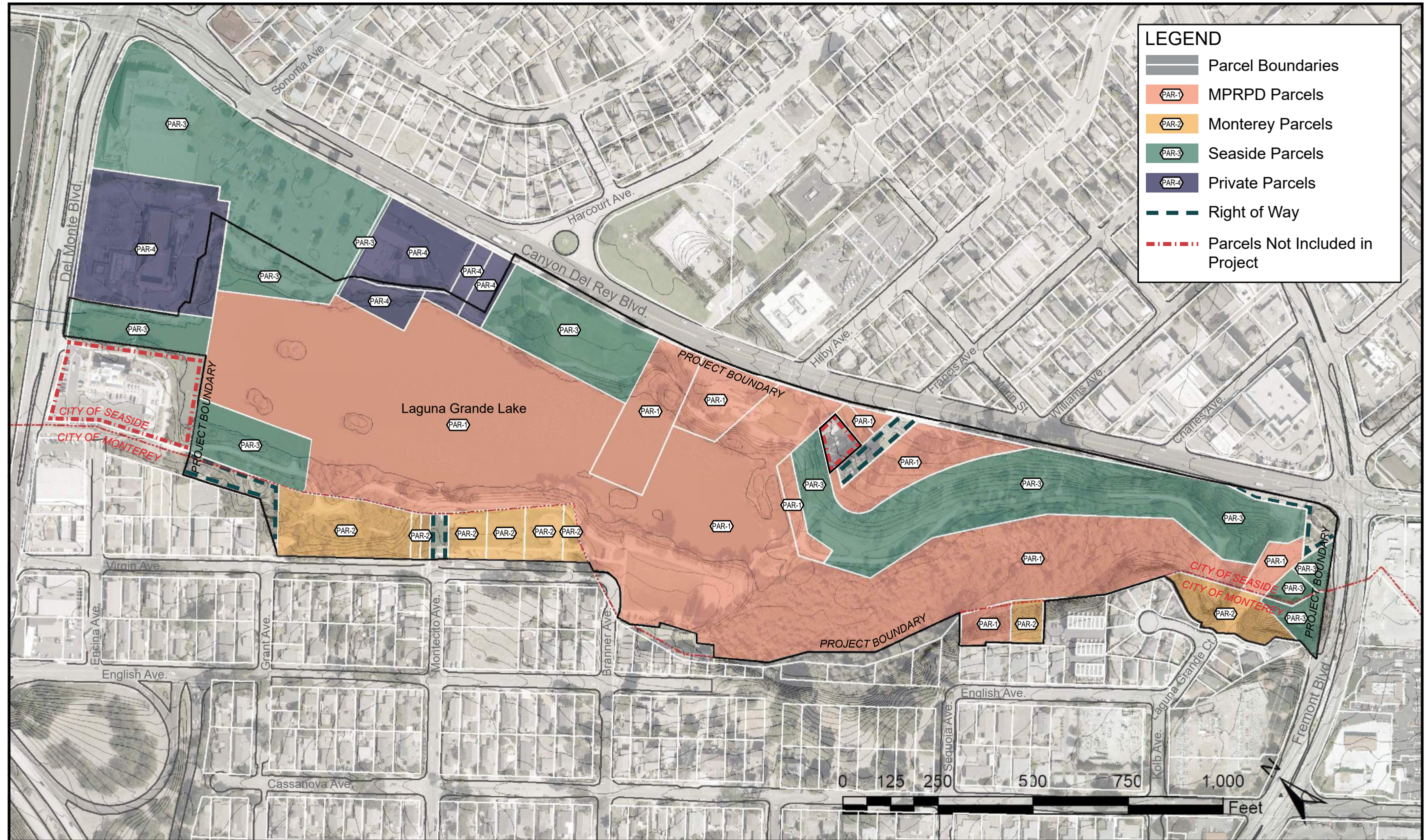
FIGURE 1: LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK CIRCULATION



FIGURE 2: LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK TRAIL CONDITIONS



FIGURE 3: LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK PARCEL OWNERSHIP



THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

Several projects are being planned and designed in and around Laguna Grande Regional Park. Many of these projects revolve around improving trails and multi-use corridors within and around the park which will improve regional trail connectivity and create safe connections along busy street corridors. In addition to improving trails and multi-use corridors, an update to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Master Plan, dated 1978, is forthcoming. Two significant projects which will affect the park are the North Fremont Street Sidewalk Gap Closure Project and the Fort Ord Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) Canyon Del Rey/SR 218 Segment Project

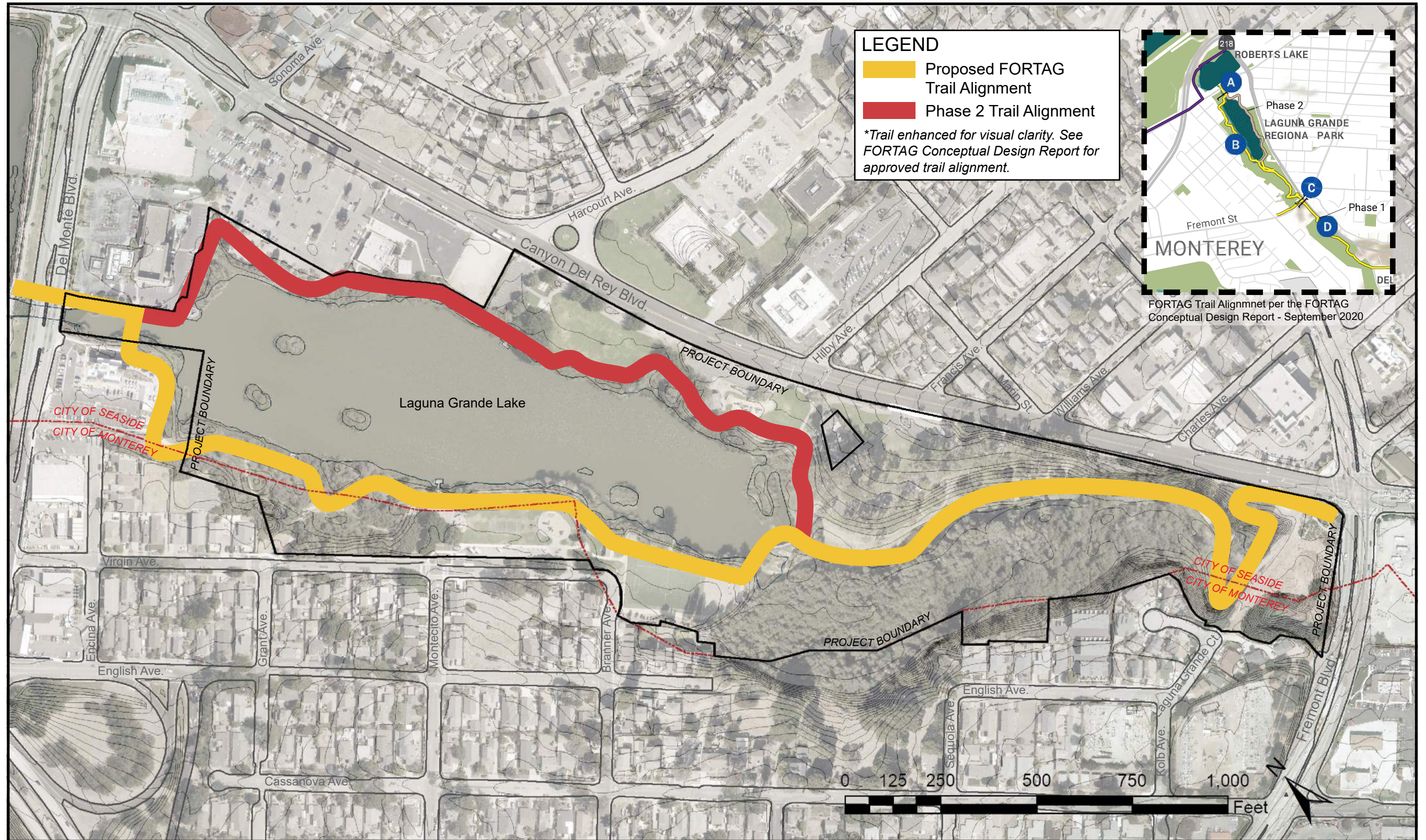
North Fremont Street Sidewalk Gap Closure Project: In the summer of 2021 the City of Monterey introduced an improvement project which will construct a multi-use ADA accessible bicycle and pedestrian path along North Fremont Street between Casanova Avenue and Canyon Dey Rey Blvd. The project includes a bridge that will link the existing sidewalk and Class IV bicycle lane to the future Fort Ord Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) project. Currently the gap closure project is going through the required environmental review process and the City of Monterey is looking to secure grant funding to complete construction. This planned improvement will greatly benefit the Park. Residents will be able to utilize Fremont Street by either walking or biking and connect directly into the park at the corner of Fremont Street and Canyon Del Rey Boulevard. This project will then link to the FORTAG Project which is planned to traverse through LGRP.



Fort Ord Trail and Greenway (FORTAG) Canyon Del Rey/SR 218 Segment Project: The FORTAG Canyon Del Rey/SR 218 Segment Project is a part of a much larger trail system that will connect the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail, the trails of the Fort Ord National Monument and the Coastal Rec Trail into a continuous system. Spearheaded by a group of private citizens, FORTAG has many stakeholders including the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC). Part of the FORTAG

Canyon Del Rey/SR 218 Segment is planned to travel through LGRP, utilizing the existing trail system. At the north end of the end park the trail users will be provided a safe crossing at Del Monte Boulevard connecting LGRP to Roberts Lake and at the south end of the park the trail will provide much needed accessibility improvements taking trail users up to the corner of Fremont Street and Canyon Del Rey Boulevard. The anticipated trail improvements, because of the FORTAG project, will greatly benefit the park through the widening of existing trails and paving improvements improving accessibility. In March 2020, TAMC certified the FORTAG Final Environmental Impact Report and in October of 2020 Phase 1 of the Canyon Del Rey/SR 218 Segment Project was funded for engineering design and community outreach. Phase 1 of this segment covers Fremont Street to Carlton Drive.

FIGURE 4: FORTAG TRAIL - CANYON DEL REY/SR218 SEGMENT



THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

In order to provide equitable engagement to the community within the planning process, the project team set up a website, [haveyoursaymonterey.org](http://haveyoursaymonterey.org), to allow community members of varying backgrounds and ages equal opportunity to comment and engage with the plans. Community meetings, public comments, plan drafts and design team meeting minutes were all made available throughout the planning process.

The opportunity for stakeholder and community engagement included a virtual townhall held on July 28, 2021 and a community site walk held on August 14, 2021. The virtual townhall, with 40 people in attendance, provided the community with an introduction to the planning process and key objectives. Community members were invited to provide comments. Key priorities heard from the community included:

- Improve park safety
- Address and fix accessibility issues
- Maintain and improve planting
- Disclose all funding sources for improvements
- Engage neighboring businesses adjacent to the Park

After the townhall, the community was invited to participate in a site walk around the Park. The project team engaged with community members and were able to address specific concerns throughout the park. There was a total of 32 people in attendance. Key takeaways from the site walk include:

- Unauthorized encampments are a personal safety, water quality, and fire danger security issue
- Design focus should be on accessibility improvements and vegetation maintenance
- Desire for clear sight lines along trails
- Protect and extend habitat areas and resources
- Aesthetic upgrades are not a priority – the park is generally well maintained
- Community should continue to be involved in the decision-making process
- Funding sources

## OUTREACH SUMMARY

The virtual town hall was recorded and made public on [haveyoursaymonterey.org](http://haveyoursaymonterey.org). A video of the site walk was created and also posted to the project website. Fliers and meeting minutes and materials for community engagement events can be seen in Appendix D. Opportunities for public comment and input will continue throughout the planning process.

THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

FIGURE 5: LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK COMMUNITY SITE WALK



FIGURE 6: LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK COMMUNITY SITE WALK



The purpose of the Trail and Vegetation Maintenance Strategy (Strategy) is to provide the Joint Powers Authority (JPA) a clear set of priorities and means for maintaining the trails and vegetation throughout the Park. The proposed Plan will implement maintenance strategies to create a more accessible, safe, and long-lasting park for the surrounding community and region. Laguna Grande Regional Park is a unique landscape within the cities of Monterey and Seaside, providing visitors access to rarely seen aquatic and migratory birds, riparian vegetation, and fresh water lakes. Increased maintenance will require an intentional and thoughtful approach. The proposed Strategy provides direction to meet the regulations for maintenance of sensitive habitats and around bodies of water set forth by the State and Federal government agencies.

#### 1. ADDRESS ENCAMPMENT, HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS

- Provide seasonal trails through south riparian woods for consistent monitoring
- Access and Monitoring: clear non-native vegetation and overgrown brush to discourage illegal camping and provide maintenance for emergency services foot access



*Black Crowned Night Heron (Nycticorax nycticorax)*

Image Credit: [www.reconnectwithnature.org](http://www.reconnectwithnature.org)

## 2. IMPROVE PERSONAL SAFETY

- Access and Monitoring: clear vegetation and overgrown brush to increase public visibility and surveillance and discourage illegal camping; provide on-going maintenance for access and clean up.
- Sightline Visibility: create clear sight lines at curves and corners by limbing trees and clearing understory
- Accessibility Improvements: trail maintenance and repair
- Repair existing lighting and extend new lighting where park trail has no ambient street light

## 3. MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE QUALITY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

- Preserve and protect existing habitat
- Remove invasive vegetation where practical
- Mitigate habitat disturbance from vegetation removal as deemed appropriate at a 3:1 replacement ratio



*Mallards (Anas platyrhynchos)*

## TRAIL AND VEGETATION MAINTENANCE STRATEGY

The north side of the Park has a looped trail around the lake with direct neighborhood access and parking for visitors. This segment of the Park is well visited. The south end, extending back to Fremont Boulevard, does not have a looped path or easy neighborhood access. As a result, the dense vegetation has attracted homeless encampments. Warming fires are a concern to neighbors. Park visitors feel threatened by itinerant groups and observed drug exchanges.

Overall, residents feel the looped trail and active park areas are generally well maintained. Seaside and Monterey have been attentive to community needs in the primary recreation spaces. The JPA focus should begin with the southern half of the park.

As described in other sections of this report, any disturbance of identified habitat areas will be mitigated by habitat enhancement elsewhere in the park. Annually, a description and map of probable disturbance and enhancement will be submitted to the JPA for approval.

In order to meet the Goals and priorities above, the following maintenance strategies are recommended for Laguna Grande Regional Park.

### 1. SEASONAL TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

- Provide 8' wide seasonal mulch trails through southern riparian woodland with seasonal foot bridges for creek crossing
- Mitigate habitat removal with invasive removal and restoration planting

### 2. VEGETATION CLEARING

- Clearing and limbing around trail curves and corners
- Clearing at docks
- Clearing and limbing around illegal camp sites to improve access for monitoring and cleaning
- Mitigate habitat removal with invasive removal and restoration planting

### 3. TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

- Replace sections of trail impacted by root damage
- Repair edges of trail impacted by erosion – install header or curb to maintain trail edge along the lakeside.
- Add mulch seasonally to portions of seasonal trail that are degraded
- Repair or replace culverts under trail

- Provide formal trail connection to Fremont St
- Provide formal trail connection along Virgin St

#### **4. ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS**

- Restore accessibility to north bridge - make compliant with local building codes
- Repair areas with trip hazards
- Install accessible paths to docks - make compliant with local building codes
- Provide accessible ingress/egress to Laguna Grande from Fremont St.

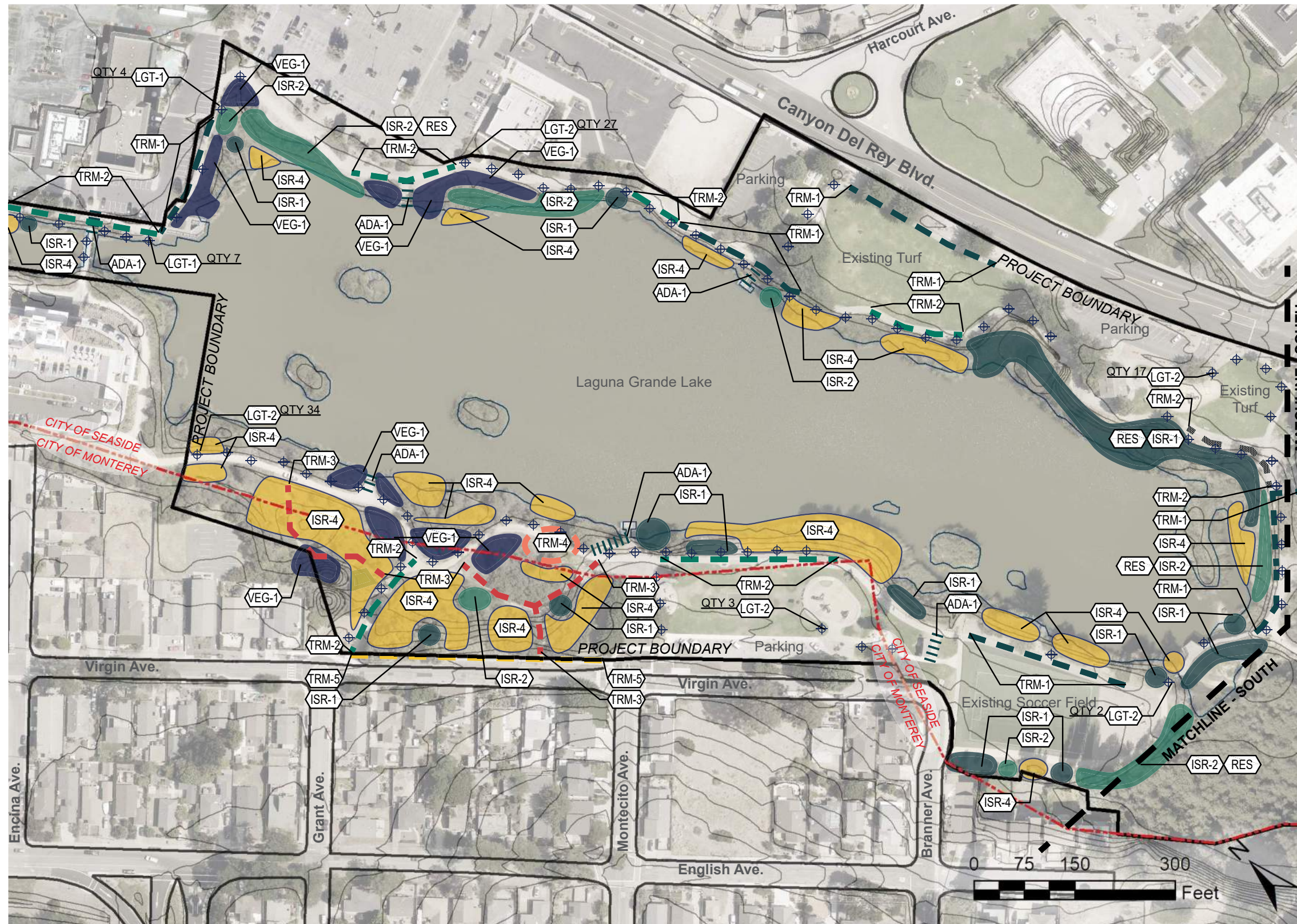
#### **5. INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL AND RESTORATION PLANTING**

- Priority 1 (1-3 years)
- Priority 2 (1-5 years)
- Priority 3 (6-10 years)
- Priorities 4-5
- Priority 6 (no action)
- Restore native plantings where invasives are fully removed
- Create new native habitat along southern gravel trail

#### **6. LIGHTING**

- Repair or replace existing lighting
- Extend new lighting along the southern gravel trail

FIGURE 7: OVERALL PLAN - NORTH



LEGEND

South Woods Seasonal Trail Development

- Enhance Existing Social Trails
- Similar to Seasonal Trails
- Seasonal Mulch Trail to Finish Loop

Vegetation Clearing

- Clear and Limb
- Clearing of Vegetation and Debris Consistent with Current Maintenance Practices

Trail Maintenance and Improvements

- Replace Trail Impacted by Roots
- Repair Edge of Trail - Erosion
- Add Mulch to Seasonal Trail
- Repair/replace Culverts
- Provide Formal Trail Connection

Accessibility Improvements

- Restore Trail Accessibility
- Accessibility Improvements per FORTAG Trail Alignment. See Figure 3.

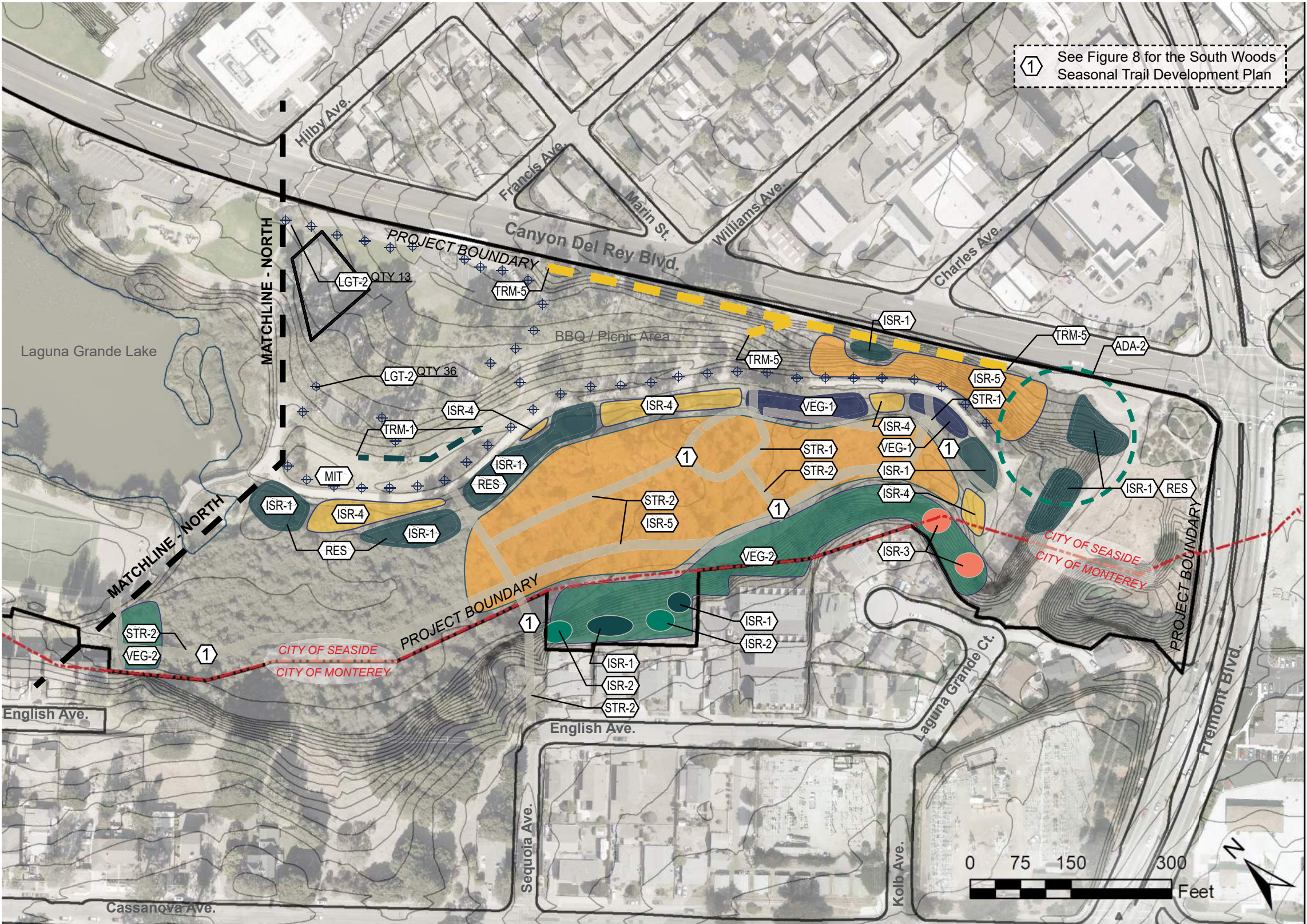
Invasive Species Clearing

- Clearing - Priority 1 (1-3 years)
- Clearing - Priority 2 (1-5 years)
- Clearing - Priority 3 (6-10 years)
- Clearing - Priority 4/5
- Priority 6 - No Action
- Restore Planting at Invasive Clearing Areas
- Habitat Removal Mitigation Planting

Lighting

- Repair/Replace Existing Lighting
- Extend New Lighting

FIGURE 8: OVERALL PLAN - SOUTH



### LEGEND

**South Woods Seasonal Trail Development**

- (STR-1) Enhance Existing Social Trails Similar to Seasonal Trails
- (STR-2) Seasonal Mulch Trail to Finish Loop

**Vegetation Clearing**

- (VEG-1) Clear and Limb
- (VEG-2) Clearing of Vegetation and Debris Consistent with Current Maintenance Practices

**Trail Maintenance and Improvements**

- (TRM-1) Replace Trail Impacted by Roots
- (TRM-2) Repair Edge of Trail - Erosion
- (TRM-3) Add Mulch to Seasonal Trail
- (TRM-4) Repair/replace Culverts
- (TRM-5) Provide Formal Trail Connection

**Accessibility Improvements**

- (ADA-1) Restore Trail Accessibility
- (ADA-2) Accessibility Improvements per FORTAG Trail Alignment. See Figure 3.

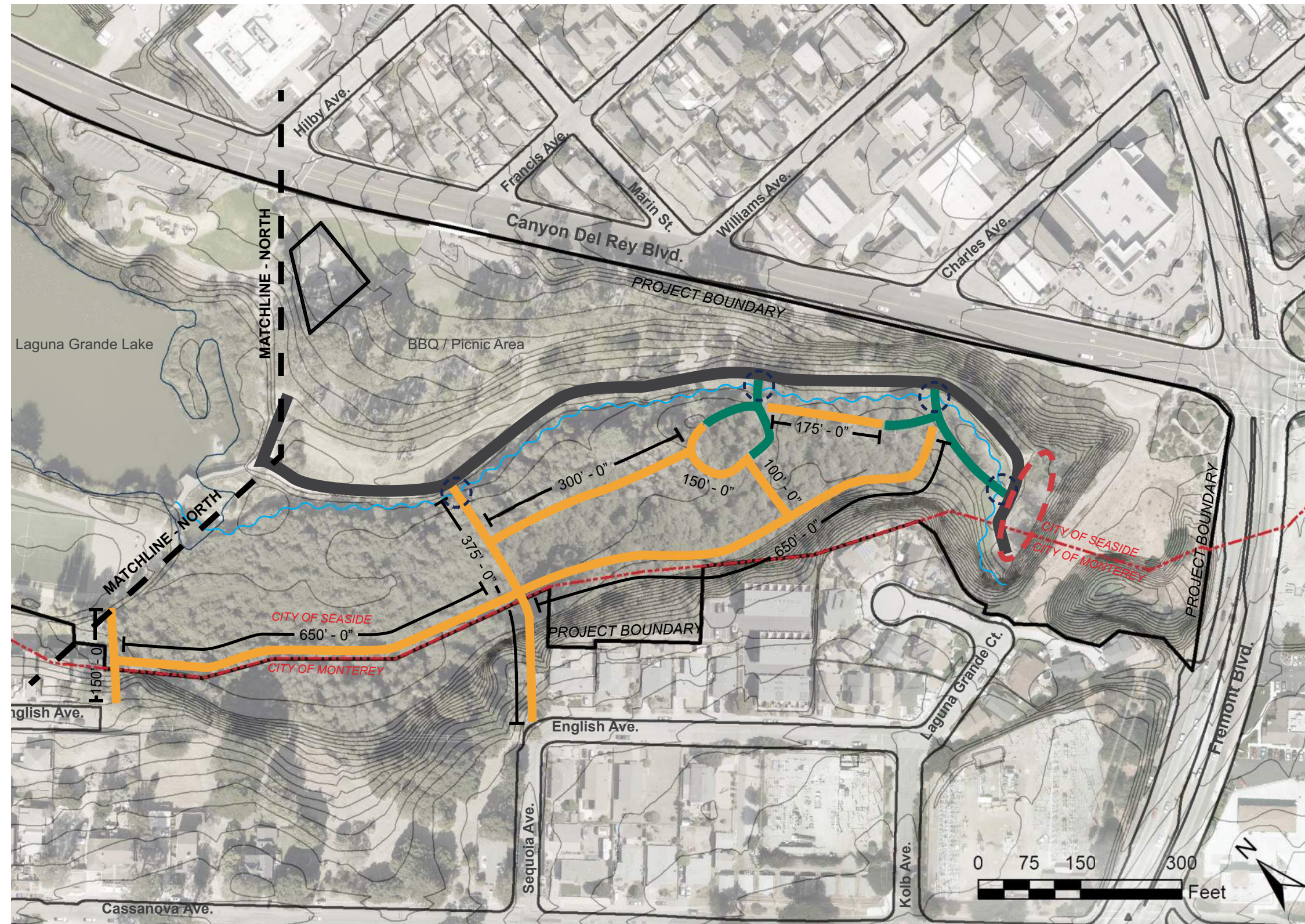
**Invasive Species Clearing**

- (ISR-1) Clearing - Priority 1 (1-3 years)
- (ISR-2) Clearing - Priority 2 (1-5 years)
- (ISR-3) Clearing - Priority 3 (6-10 years)
- (ISR-4) Clearing - Priority 4/5
- (ISR-5) Priority 6 - No Action
- (RES) Restore Planting at Invasive Clearing Areas
- (MIT) Habitat Removal Mitigation Planting

**Lighting**

- (LGT-1) Repair/Replace Existing Lighting
- (LGT-2) Extend New Lighting

FIGURE 9: SOUTH WOODS SEASONAL TRAIL DEVELOPMENT PLAN



LEGEND

-  Existing Creek
-  Existing Park Trail - Enhance trail section and width for Type 3 firetruck. Potential funding through Measure X\*.
-  Provide firetruck turnaround at end of trail. Potential funding through Measure X\*.
-  Existing Social Trails - 500 LF Adopt as Seasonal Mulch Trails. Widen to 8 feet and clear vegetation as required.
-  Seasonal Mulch Trails - 2,550 LF Clear 8 foot trail with mulch top dressing. Clear vegetation as required.
-  Seasonal Foot Bridge

\*Measure X was a tax increase measure which was approved in 2015 and is managed under the Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC).

THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

Implementation of the recommended maintenance and improvements will require time and approval from the governing agencies. The design team is recommending a phased approach to Strategy implementation in order to alleviate costs and to obtain permit approvals. With safety as the top priority, phase one will address these issues first. Many of the safety issues directly correlate with overgrown vegetation. Vegetation clearing and removal will require permits, but can easily be incorporated into weekly maintenance routines. Other safety items to be addressed include repairing trails heavily impacted by root damage and erosion and clearing defensible space for fire safety.

## 1. SEASONAL TRAIL DEVELOPMENT

- Provide 8’ wide seasonal mulch trail through southern riparian woodland with seasonal foot bridges for creek crossing. Connect from the gravel trail to English and Sequoia
- Mitigate habitat removal with invasive removal and restoration planting
- Invasive Species Removal and Restoration Planting:
- Priority 1 (1-3 years):
  - Clear invasives where vegetation clearing for safety and defensible space will already be happening.
  - Clear invasive species where necessary to mitigate habitat removal
- Restore native plantings where invasive species have been fully removed

## 2. VEGETATION CLEARING

- Clearing and limbing around trail curves and corners particularly in the northwest riparian woodland
- Clearing at docks
- Clearing and limbing around illegal camp sites
- Mitigate habitat removal with invasive removal and restoration planting

## 3. TRAIL MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

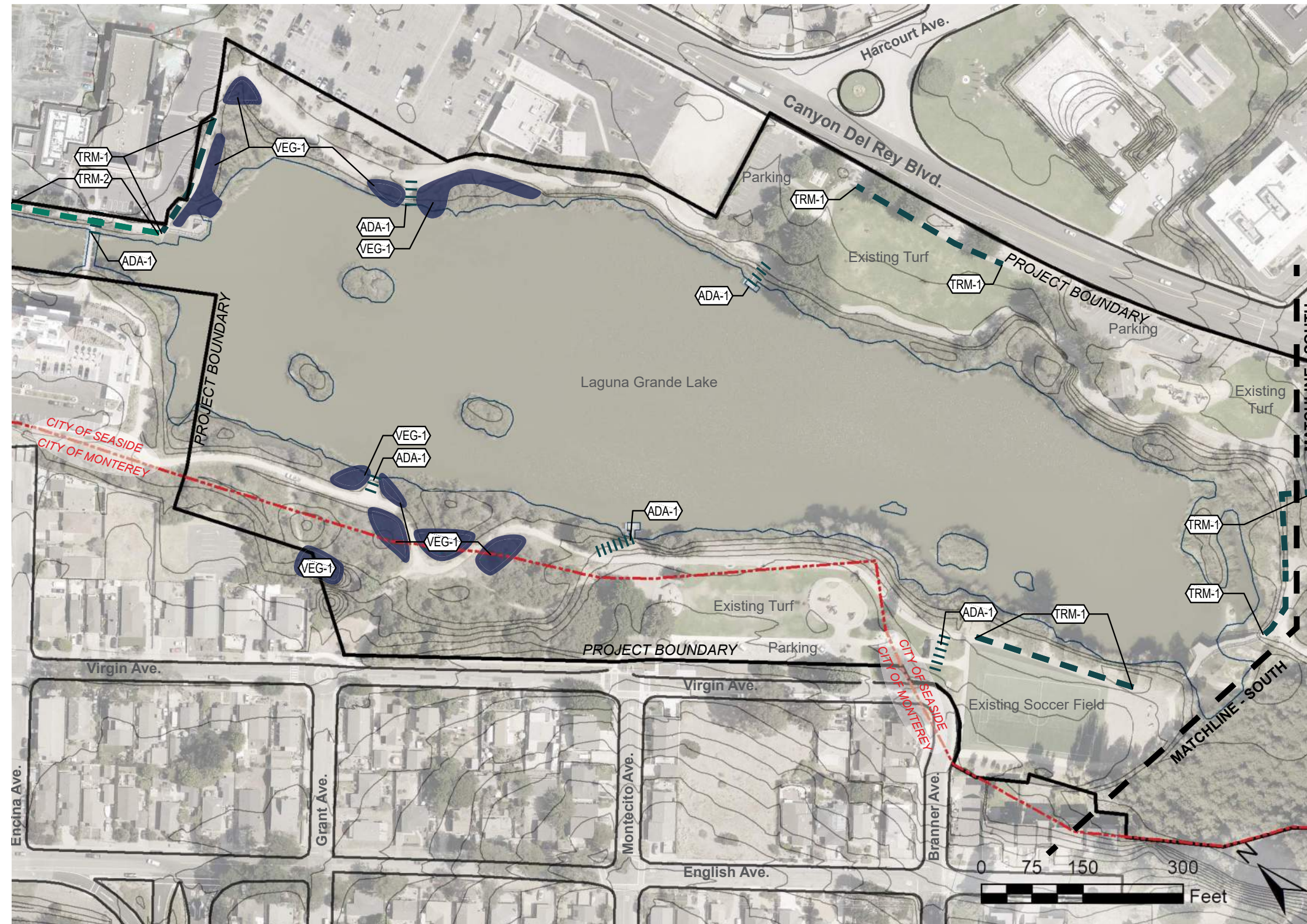
- Replace sections of trail impacted by root damage – trail section along Canyon Del Rey in Seaside traditional park and trail section along soccer field in Monterey traditional park

## 4. ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS

- Restore accessibility compliance to north bridge

THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK

FIGURE 10: PHASE ONE PLAN - NORTH



**LEGEND**

**South Woods Seasonal Trail Development**

- Enhance Existing Social Trails Similar to Seasonal Trails
- Seasonal Mulch Trail to Finish Loop

**Vegetation Clearing**

- Clear and Limb
- Clearing of Vegetation and Debris Consistent with Current Maintenance Practices

**Trail Maintenance and Improvements**

- Replace Trail Impacted by Roots
- Repair Edge of Trail - Erosion
- Add Mulch to Seasonal Trail
- Repair/replace Culverts
- Provide Formal Trail Connection

**Accessibility Improvements**

- Restore Trail Accessibility
- Accessibility Improvements per FORTAG Trail Alignment. See Figure 3.

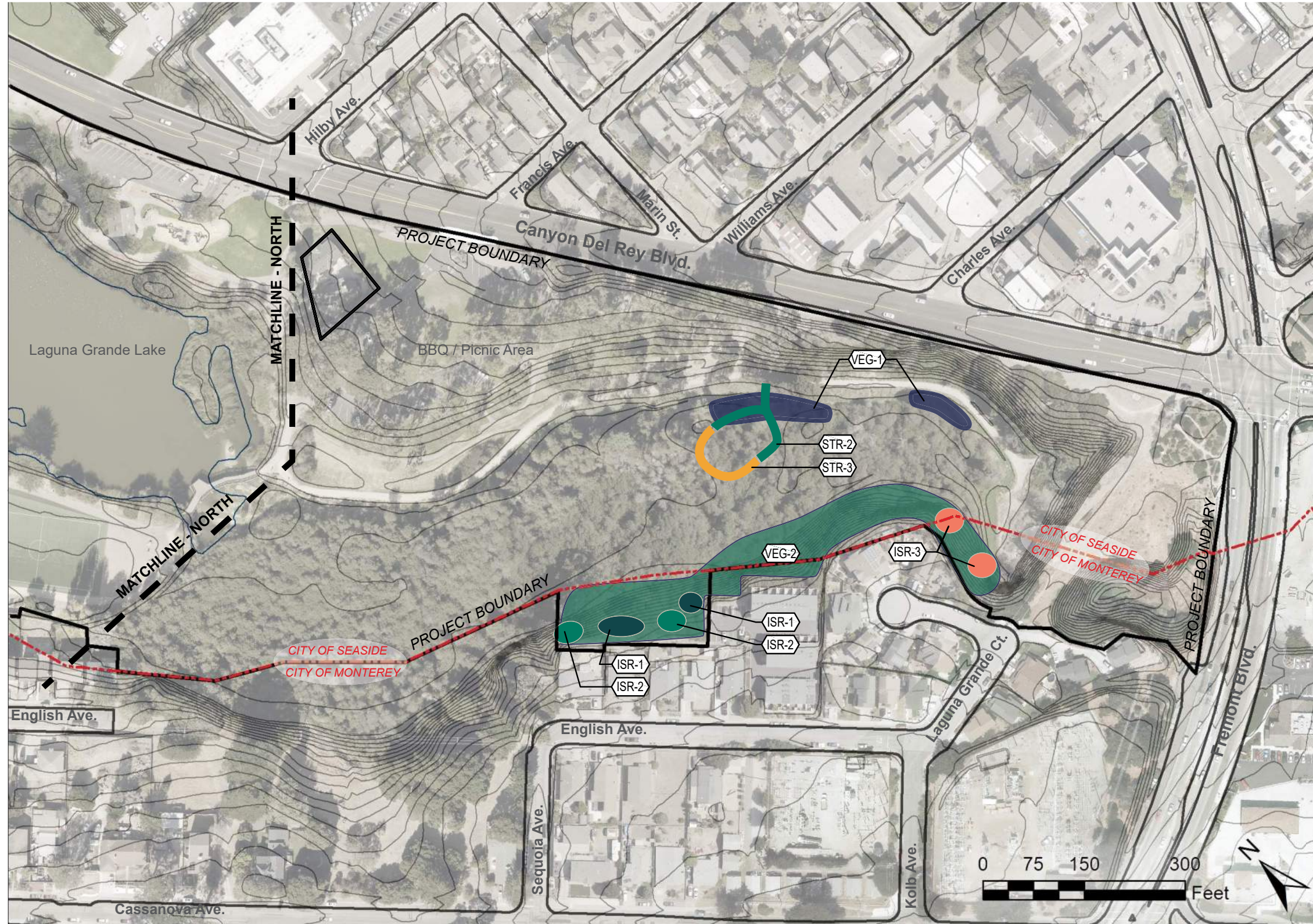
**Invasive Species Clearing**

- Clearing - Priority 1 (1-3 years)
- Clearing - Priority 2 (1-5 years)
- Clearing - Priority 3 (6-10 years)
- Clearing - Priority 4/5
- Priority 6 - No Action
- Restore Planting at Invasive Clearing Areas
- Habitat Removal Mitigation Planting

**Lighting**

- Repair/Replace Existing Lighting
- Extend New Lighting

FIGURE 11: PHASE ONE PLAN - SOUTH



**LEGEND**

**South Woods Seasonal Trail Development**

- Enhance Existing Social Trails Similar to Seasonal Trails
- Seasonal Mulch Trail to Finish Loop

**Vegetation Clearing**

- Clear and Limb
- Clearing of Vegetation and Debris Consistent with Current Maintenance Practices

**Trail Maintenance and Improvements**

- Replace Trail Impacted by Roots
- Repair Edge of Trail - Erosion
- Add Mulch to Seasonal Trail
- Repair/replace Culverts
- Provide Formal Trail Connection

**Accessibility Improvements**

- Restore Trail Accessibility
- Accessibility Improvements per FORTAG Trail Alignment. See Figure 3.

**Invasive Species Clearing**

- Clearing - Priority 1 (1-3 years)
- Clearing - Priority 2 (1-5 years)
- Clearing - Priority 3 (6-10 years)
- Clearing - Priority 4/5
- Priority 6 - No Action
- Restore Planting at Invasive Clearing Areas
- Habitat Removal Mitigation Planting

**Lighting**

- Repair/Replace Existing Lighting
- Extend New Lighting

**LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK COST ESTIMATE**

Project: Laguna Grande Regional Park -  
Maintenance Strategy  
Client: Laguna Grande Regional Park JPA  
Issuance: **Strategy Draft**  
Date: February 28, 2022

Project Number: 21.019  
Estimate By: DZ  
Checked By: BM



item description	quantity	unit cost	item total	subtotal
<b>ZONE 1 - LAGUNA GRANDE PARK-EXCLUDING SOUTH WOODLAND</b>				
<b>INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL</b>				
Priority 1 (1-3 years):				
High cost (Hand removal)	24,500 SF	\$0.35	\$8,575	
Medium cost (Mechanical removal)	6,500 SF	\$0.15	\$975	
Low cost	0 SF	\$0.07	\$0	
Tree removal	32 EA	\$500.00	\$16,000	<b>\$25,550</b>
Priority 2 (1-5 years):				
High cost (Hand removal)	22,250 SF	\$0.35	\$7,788	
Medium cost (Mechanical removal)	6,200 SF	\$0.15	\$930	
Medium cost (Mechanical removal) in defensible space	3,500 SF	\$0.07	\$245	
Low cost	0 SF	\$0.25	\$0	
Tree removal	2 EA	\$500.00	\$1,000	<b>\$9,963</b>
Priority 3 (6-10 years):				
High cost (Hand removal)	2,100 SF	\$0.35	\$735	
Medium cost (Mechanical removal)	1,100 SF	\$0.15	\$165	
Low cost	0 SF	\$0.07	\$0	
Tree removal	0 EA	\$500.00	\$0	<b>\$900</b>
Priority 4 (Himalayan Blackberry, English and Cape Ivy - removal will have short and long term impact on habitat)				
High cost (Hand removal)	93,750 SF	\$0.35	\$32,813	
Medium cost (Mechanical removal)	25,000 SF	\$0.15	\$3,750	
Low cost	9,600 SF	\$0.07	\$672	
Tree removal	0 EA	\$500.00	\$0	<b>\$37,235</b>
Priority 5 (Himalayan Blackberry - No Action at this time)				
Mitigation planting and irrigation	80,000 SF	\$5.00	\$400,000	<b>\$400,000</b>
Fire crew savings <sup>1,2</sup>	1 LS	(\$200,000.00)	(\$200,000.00)	(\$200,000)
<b>LIMBING, PRUNING, CLEARING</b>				
Tree pruning and limbing	50 EA	\$500.00	\$25,000	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>TRAIL REPAIRS - ROOT IMPACTS - 250 LF</b>				
Demolition	2,500 SF	\$3.00	\$7,500	
Root pruning	1 LS	\$8,000.00	\$8,000	
Fine grading	2,500 SF	\$0.25	\$625	
Asphalt paving and base	2,500 SF	\$8.00	\$20,000	<b>\$36,125</b>
<b>TRAIL REPAIRS - ACCESSIBILITY - 325 LF</b>				
Demolition	3,250 SF	\$3.00	\$9,750	
Fine grading	3,250 SF	\$0.25	\$813	
Asphalt paving and base	3,250 SF	\$8.00	\$26,000	
Concrete paving	520 SF	\$16.00	\$8,320	<b>\$44,883</b>
<b>LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE</b>				
Annual maintenance for mitigation landscape areas	1.84 AC	\$13,000.00	\$23,875	<b>\$23,875</b>

Continued Next Page

**ZONE 2 - SOUTH WOODLAND****INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL**

## Priority 1 (1-3 years):

High cost (Hand removal)	5,800 SF	\$0.35	\$2,030	
Medium cost (Mechanical removal)	0 SF	\$0.15	\$0	
Low cost	0 SF	\$0.07	\$0	
Tree removal	29 EA	\$500.00	\$14,500	
Tree removal in defensible space	8 EA	\$500.00	\$4,000	<b>\$20,530</b>

## Priority 2 (1-5 years):

High cost (Hand removal) in defensible space	4,000 SF	\$0.35	\$1,400	
Medium cost (Mechanical removal)	0 SF	\$0.15	\$0	
Low cost	0 SF	\$0.07	\$0	
Tree removal	0 EA	\$500.00	\$0	<b>\$1,400</b>

## Priority 3 (6-10 years):

High cost (Hand removal) in defensible space	4,000 SF	\$0.35	\$1,400	
Medium cost (Mechanical removal)	0 SF	\$0.15	\$0	
Low cost	0 SF	\$0.07	\$0	
Tree removal	0 EA	\$500.00	\$0	<b>\$1,400</b>

## Priority 4 (Himalayan Blackberry, English and Cape Ivy - removal will have short and long term impact on habitat)

High cost (Hand removal)	31,700 SF	\$0.35	\$11,095	
High cost (Hand removal) in defensible space	4,000 SF	\$0.35	\$1,400	
Medium cost (Mechanical removal)	0 SF	\$0.15	\$0	
Low cost	0 SF	\$0.07	\$0	
Tree removal	0 EA	\$500.00	\$0	<b>\$12,495</b>

## Priority 5 (Himalayan Blackberry - No Action at this time)

179,500 SF	\$0.00	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
------------	--------	-----	------------

## Priority 5 (Himalayan Blackberry - No Action at this time) in defensible space

35,500 SF	\$0.00	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
-----------	--------	-----	------------

## Mitigation planting and irrigation

35,000 SF	\$5.00	\$175,000	<b>\$175,000</b>
-----------	--------	-----------	------------------

Fire crew savings<sup>1,2</sup>

1 LS	(\$98,250.00)	(\$98,250)	(\$98,250)
------	---------------	------------	------------

**8' SEASONAL TRAIL DEVELOPMENT - 3050 LF**

Seasonal footbridge at ditch crossing	4 AL	\$6,500.00	\$26,000	
Clear and grub	24,400 SF	\$0.50	\$12,200	
Fine grading	24,400 SF	\$0.50	\$12,200	
Mulch-3" depth	226 CY	\$120.00	\$27,120	
Mitigation planting and irrigation	24,400 SF	\$5.00	\$122,000	<b>\$199,520</b>
Fire crew savings <sup>1,2,3</sup>	1 LS	(\$61,680.00)	(\$61,680)	(\$61,680)

Continued Next Page

<b>LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE</b>				
Annual maintenance for mitigation landscape areas	1.36 AC	\$13,000.00	\$17,727	
Seasonal trail maintenance	1 AL	\$25,000.00	\$25,000	<b>\$42,727</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,056,602</b>	
<b>Potential Fire Crew Savings</b>				<b>-\$359,930</b>

The above items, amounts, quantities, and related information are based on BFS Landscape Architects' judgment at this level of document preparation and is offered only as reference data. BFS has no control over construction quantities, costs, and related factors affecting costs, and advises the client that significant variations may occur between this estimate of probable construction costs and actual construction prices.

**NOTES**

1. Fire crews consist of 12-15 crew members and a fire captain. Cost \$225 a day and bring their own equipment.
2. Assumed fire crews will clear and grub at \$0.25 a SF and could plant at \$3.00 a SF
3. Assumed fire crews will clear and grub at \$0.25 a SF and mulch at \$90.00 a CY.

*Continued Next Page*

**LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK PHASE 1 COST ESTIMATE**

Project: Laguna Grande Regional Park -  
 Maintenance Strategy  
 Client: Laguna Grande Regional Park JPA  
 Issuance: Strategy Draft  
 Date: February 28, 2022

Project Number: 21.019  
 Estimate By: DZ  
 Checked By: BM



<b>IMPLEMENTATION PHASE 1</b>				
<b>item description</b>	<b>quantity</b>	<b>unit cost</b>	<b>item total</b>	<b>subtotal</b>
<b>LIMBING, PRUNING, CLEARING</b>				
Tree pruning and limbing	50 EA	\$500.00	\$25,000	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>LIMBING, PRUNING, CLEARING AT ENCAMPMENTS</b>				
Tree pruning and limbing	50 EA	\$500.00	\$25,000	<b>\$25,000</b>
<b>TRAIL REPAIRS - ROOT IMPACTS - 250 LF</b>				
Demolition	2,500 SF	\$3.00	\$7,500	
Root pruning	1 LS	\$8,000.00	\$8,000	
Fine grading	2,500 SF	\$0.25	\$625	
Asphalt paving and base	2,500 SF	\$8.00	\$20,000	<b>\$36,125</b>
<b>TRAIL REPAIRS - ACCESSIBILITY - 200 LF</b>				
Demolition	2,000 SF	\$3.00	\$6,000	
Fine grading	2,000 SF	\$0.25	\$500	
Asphalt paving and base	2,000 SF	\$8.00	\$16,000	
Concrete paving	520 SF	\$16.00	\$8,320	<b>\$30,820</b>
<b>8' SEASONAL TRAIL DEVELOPMENT - 400 LF</b>				
Seasonal footbridge at ditch crossing	1 AL	\$6,500.00	\$6,500	
Clear and grub	3,200 SF	\$0.50	\$1,600	
Fine grading	3,200 SF	\$0.50	\$1,600	
Mulch-3" depth	30 CY	\$120.00	\$3,600	
Mitigation planting and irrigation	3,200 SF	\$5.00	\$16,000	<b>\$29,300</b>
Fire crew savings <sup>1 2 3</sup>	1 LS	(\$8,100.00)	(\$8,100)	(\$8,100)
<b>INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL - NON-SOUTH WOODS</b>				
High cost (Hand removal)	3,600 SF	\$0.35	\$1,260	
Medium cost (Mechanical removal)	3,000 SF	\$0.15	\$450	
Low cost	600 SF	\$0.07	\$42	<b>\$1,752</b>
<b>LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE</b>				
Annual maintenance for mitigation landscape	0.07 AC	\$13,000.00	\$955	
Seasonal trail maintenance	1 AL	\$8,000.00	\$8,000	<b>\$8,955</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>\$156,952</b>
<b>Potential Fire Crew Savings</b>				<b>-\$8,100</b>

The above items, amounts, quantities, and related information are based on BFS Landscape Architects' judgment at this level of document preparation and is offered only as reference data. BFS has no control over construction quantities, costs, and related factors affecting costs, and advises the client that significant variations may occur between this estimate of probable construction costs and actual construction prices.

**NOTES**

1. Fire crews consist of 12-15 crew members and a fire captain. Cost \$225 a day and bring their own equipment.
2. Assumed fire crews will clear and grub at \$0.25 a SF and could plant at \$3.00 a SF
3. Assumed fire crews will clear and grub at \$0.25 a SF and mulch at \$90.00 a CY.





# A P P E N D I X A

## P L A N T S U R V E Y



**EMC PLANNING GROUP INC.**  
A LAND USE PLANNING & DESIGN FIRM

301 Lighthouse Avenue Suite C Monterey California 93940  
Tel 831-649-1799 Fax 831-649-8399 www.emcplanning.com

**To:** Elizabeth Matz, BFS Landscape Architects  
**From:** Patrick Furtado  
**Date:** July 2, 2021

---

**Re:** Laguna Grande Regional Park Vegetation Mapping and Focused Plant Survey Results

---

## **Vegetation Mapping**

EMC Planning Group associate biologist Patrick Furtado, M.S. conducted geographic information system (GIS) mapping of Laguna Grande Regional Park on May 18, 2021. Plant communities and several other features including invasive plants, trails, and homeless camps were mapped using Environmental Systems Research Institute's (ESRI) Field Maps mobile mapping application and a Trimble R1 sub-meter Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver. Plant communities were classified and mapped generally according to the alliance level of the Manual of California Vegetation (Sawyer et al. 2009). Figure 1, Vegetation Map – North, and Figure 2, Vegetation Map – South, are attached to this memorandum. Electronic GIS data can be provided upon request.

## **Focused Plant Survey**

EMC Planning Group associate biologist Patrick Furtado completed focused plant surveys for special-status plant species on May 24, 2021 and June 15, 2021 in accordance with current California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW 2009) and California Native Plant Society (CNPS 2001) rare plant survey protocols. According to the United States Drought Monitor, the project site is located in an area experiencing extreme drought conditions at the time of surveys (National Drought Mitigation Center 2021).

Mr. Furtado also visited nearby special-status plant reference populations for seaside bird's beak (*Cordylanthus rigidus* ssp. *littoralis*), Monterey spineflower (*Chorizanthe pungens* var. *pungens*), Monterey gilia (*Gilia tenuiflora* ssp. *arenaria*), Yadon's rein orchid (*Piperia yadonii*), and sand-loving wallflower (*Erysimum ammophilum*) to determine that these plant species were identifiable at the time of the surveys. All of these species except for Yadon's rein orchid were identifiable. Yadon's rein orchid may not be germinating or flowering in normal numbers this season due to the current extreme drought conditions (NDMC 2021). However, habitat for Yadon's rein orchid was not found on the Laguna Grande Park project site.

All suitable habitats for special-status plant species within the Laguna Grande Park survey area were systematically surveyed and plant species observed were recorded in field notes. Plant species were identified in the field or collected for subsequent identification using plant keys contained in *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California* (Baldwin et. al 2012). Taxonomy follows the Jepson Flora Project (2021) for scientific and common names.

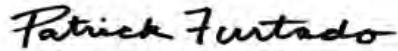
Special-status species are those listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Rare, or as Candidates for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or CDFW under the state and/or federal Endangered Species Acts. The special-status designation also includes CDFW Species of Special Concern and Fully Protected species, California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rare Plant Rank 1B and 2B species, and other locally rare species that meet the criteria for listing as described in Section 15380 of CEQA Guidelines. Special-status species are generally rare, restricted in distribution, declining throughout their range, or have a critical, vulnerable stage in their life cycle that warrants monitoring.

A total of 112 plant taxa were identified within the park boundaries, including 47 native California taxa (42 percent) and 65 non-native taxa (58 percent). No special-status plant species were observed within the Laguna Grande Regional Park survey area. Appendix A, Plant Species Observed, presents the list of all plant species that were observed at the park during the focused plant surveys.

Ms. Matz  
BFS Landscape Architects  
July 2, 2021, Page 3

Focused plant survey results are generally considered valid for about five years. Please contact me with any questions. I look forward to further assisting you with this important project.

Sincerely,



Patrick Furtado, M.S.  
Associate Biologist

**Attachments: Figure 1, Vegetation Map – North**

**Figure 2, Vegetation Map – South**

**Appendix A, Plant List**

### References

- Baldwin, B. G., D. H. Goldman, et al. 2012. *The Jepson manual: vascular plants of California*, University of California Press.
- Bossard, Carla C., et al. *Invasive Plants of California's Wildlands*. University of California Press, 2000.
- Calflora Database. 2021. Calflora: Information on California plants for education, research and conservation online database. Berkeley, California. <https://www.calflora.org/>
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2021. *Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS)* online database. <http://bios.dfg.ca.gov>
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2021. *California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB)* online database. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/data/cnddb>
- California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC). 2021. Cal-IPC Invasive Plant Inventory online database. <https://www.cal-ipc.org/plants/inventory/>
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS), Rare Plant Program. 2021. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California online database. <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org>
- Jepson Flora Project. 2021. Jepson eFlora online database. <https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/>
- Matthews, Mary Ann, and Michael Mitchell. 2015. *The Plants of Monterey County: An Illustrated Field Key*. Monterey Bay Chapter, California Native Plant Society.
- National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC). 2021. *United States Drought Monitor*. <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA>
- Sawyer, J. O., T. Keeler-Wolf, and J.M. Evens. 2009. *A Manual of California Vegetation*. California Native Plant Society, Sacramento, CA.
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2021. Endangered Species Program online database. Species list for Monterey County. Washington, D.C. <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>
- Yeager, Rod M., and Michael Mitchell. *Monterey County Wildflowers: A Field Guide*. Monterey Bay Chapter, California Native Plant Society, 2016.



All areas identified as Ruderal are potential sites for native plant gardens, butterfly gardens, or native plant restoration areas.

Priority Invasive Plant Removal and Native Plant Restoration Area

Priority Invasive Plant Removal and Native Plant Restoration Area

Priority Invasive Plant Removal and Native Plant Restoration Area

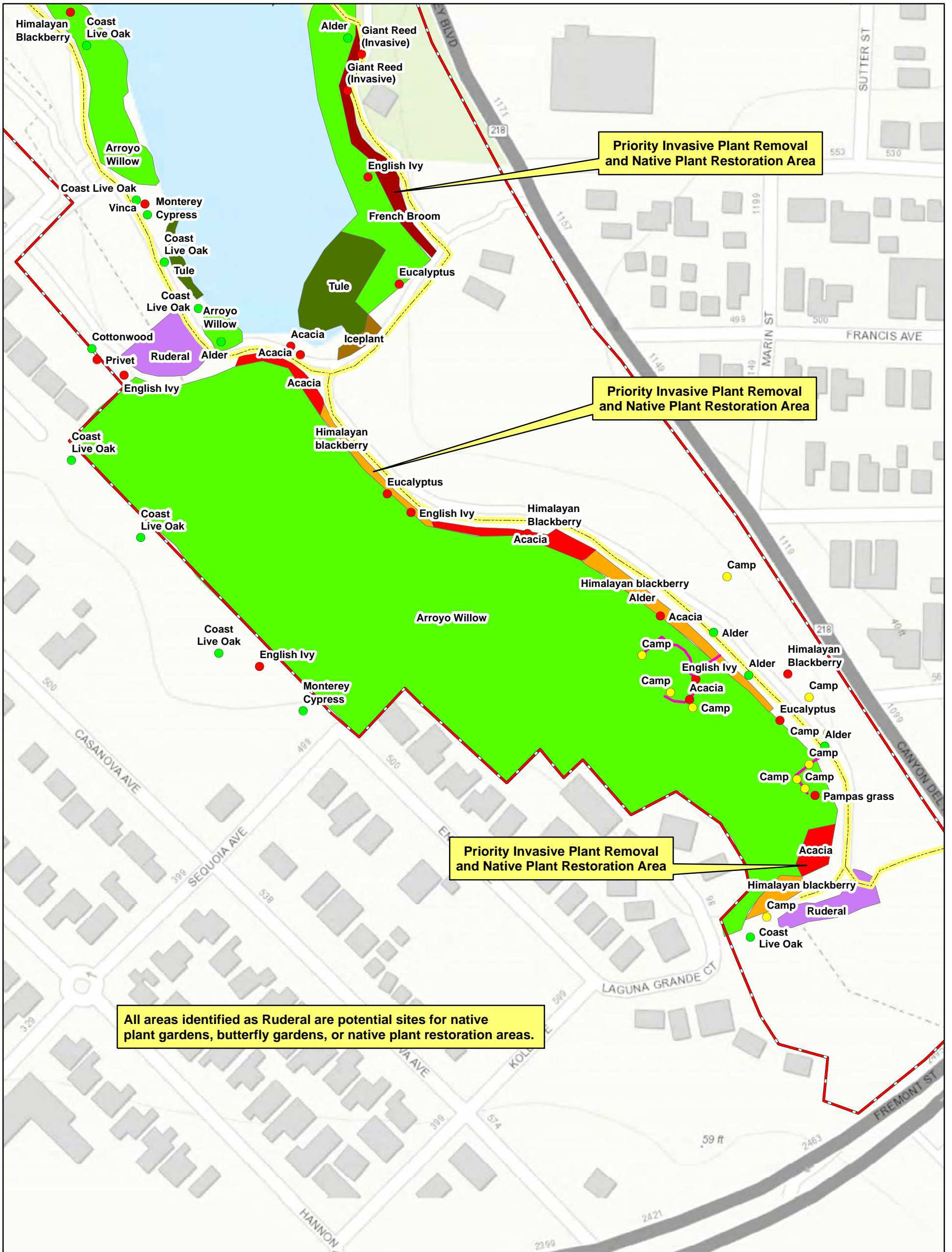
Priority Invasive Plant Removal and Native Plant Restoration Area



Source: ESRI 2021, Monterey County GIS 2019



Figure 1  
Vegetation Map - North



All areas identified as Ruderal are potential sites for native plant gardens, butterfly gardens, or native plant restoration areas.



Source: ESRI 2021, Monterey County GIS 2019



Figure 2  
Vegetation Map - South

Laguna Grande Trail Maintenance Strategy IS/MND

---

## **APPENDIX A**

PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED MAY 24 AND JUNE 15, 2021

---



## Appendix A: Plant Species Observed May 24 and June 15, 2021

Family	Species Name	Common Name	Native/Non-Native	Form
Aizoaceae	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i>	Iceplant	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Anacardiaceae	<i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	Poison oak	native	Vine, Shrub
Apiaceae	<i>Apium graveolens</i>	Celery	non-native	Annual, Biennial herb
Apiaceae	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Poison hemlock	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Apiaceae	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Apiaceae	<i>Oenanthe sarmentosa</i>	Water parsley	native	Perennial herb
Apocynaceae	<i>Vinca major</i>	Vinca	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Araceae	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	Callalily	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Araliaceae	<i>Hedera helix</i>	English ivy	• invasive non-native	Vine, Shrub
Asteraceae	<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	Coyote brush	native	Shrub
Asteraceae	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	Italian thistle	• invasive non-native	Annual herb
Asteraceae	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Bullthistle	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Asteraceae	<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>	Brass buttons	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Asteraceae	<i>Delairea odorata</i>	Cape ivy	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Asteraceae	<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i>	Bristly ox-tongue	• invasive non-native	Annual, Perennial herb
Asteraceae	<i>Hypochaeris glabra</i>	Smooth cats ear	• invasive non-native	Annual herb
Asteraceae	<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Hairy cats ear	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Asteraceae	<i>Jaumea carnosa</i>	Marsh jaumea	native	Perennial herb
Asteraceae	<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly lettuce	• invasive non-native	Annual herb
Asteraceae	<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineapple weed	native	Annual herb
Asteraceae	<i>Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum</i>	Jersey cudweed	non-native	Annual herb
Asteraceae	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Spiny sowthistle	• invasive non-native	Annual herb
Asteraceae	<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Red seeded dandelion	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb

Appendix A

Family	Species Name	Common Name	Native/Non-Native	Form
Betulaceae	<i>Alnus rhombifolia</i>	White alder	native	Tree
Boraginaceae	<i>Heliotropium curassavicum var. oculatum</i>	Seaside heliotrope	native	Perennial herb
Brassicaceae	<i>Brassica nigra</i>	Black mustard	• invasive non-native	Annual herb
Brassicaceae	<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i>	Mustard	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Brassicaceae	<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	Watercress	native	Perennial herb (aquatic)
Brassicaceae	<i>Raphanus sativus</i>	Jointed charlock	• invasive non-native	Annual, Biennial herb
Caryophyllaceae	<i>Silene gallica</i>	Common catchfly	non-native	Annual herb
Chenopodiaceae	<i>Atriplex prostrata</i>	Fat-hen	non-native	Annual herb
Convolvulaceae	<i>Calystegia macrostegia</i>	Island morning glory	native	Perennial herb, Vine
Cornaceae	<i>Cornus sericea</i>	American dogwood	native	Shrub
Cucurbitaceae	<i>Marah fabacea</i>	California man-root	native	Perennial herb, Vine
Cupressaceae	<i>Hesperocyparis macrocarpa</i>	Monterey cypress	native	Tree
Cupressaceae	<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	Coast redwood	native	Tree
Cyperaceae	<i>Bolboschoenus robustus</i>	Sturdy bullrush	native	Perennial grasslike herb
Cyperaceae	<i>Cyperus eragrostis</i>	Tall cyperus	native	Perennial grasslike herb
Cyperaceae	<i>Schoenoplectus acutus var. occidentalis</i>	Tule	native	Perennial grasslike herb
Cyperaceae	<i>Schoenoplectus californicus</i>	California bulrush	native	Perennial grasslike herb
Cyperaceae	<i>Schoenoplectus pungens var. longispicatus</i>	Common threesquare	native	Perennial grasslike herb
Cyperaceae	<i>Scirpus microcarpus</i>	Small fruited bulrush	native	Perennial grasslike herb
Equisetaceae	<i>Equisetum telmateia ssp. braunii</i>	Giant horsetail	native	Fern
Fabaceae	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver wattle	• invasive non-native	Tree, Shrub
Fabaceae	<i>Acacia longifolia</i>	Golden wattle	non-native	Tree
Fabaceae	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood acacia	• invasive non-native	Tree
Fabaceae	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	French broom	• invasive non-native	Shrub

Family	Species Name	Common Name	Native/Non-Native	Form
Fabaceae	<i>Lupinus arboreus</i>	Coastal bush lupine	native	Shrub
Fabaceae	<i>Lupinus nanus</i>	Valley sky lupine	native	Annual herb
Fabaceae	<i>Medicago polymorpha</i>	California burclover	• invasive non-native	Annual herb
Fabaceae	<i>Melilotus albus</i>	White sweetclover	• invasive non-native	Annual, Biennial herb
Fabaceae	<i>Melilotus indicus</i>	Annual yellow sweetclover	non-native	Annual herb
Fabaceae	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover	non-native	Perennial herb
Fabaceae	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Spring vetch	non-native	Annual herb, Vine
Fagaceae	<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	Coast live oak	native	Tree
Geraniaceae	<i>Erodium botrys</i>	Big heron bill	non-native	Annual herb
Geraniaceae	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Wild geranium	• invasive non-native	Annual herb
Geraniaceae	<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round leaved geranium	non-native	Annual herb
Juglandaceae	<i>Juglans hindsii</i>	Northern california black walnut	native	Tree
Juncaceae	<i>Juncus effusus ssp. pacificus</i>	Pacific rush	native	Perennial grasslike herb
Juncaceae	<i>Juncus patens</i>	Rush	native	Perennial grasslike herb
Malvaceae	<i>Malva pseudolavatera</i>	Cretan mallow	non-native	Shrub
Malvaceae	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	High mallow	non-native	Perennial herb
Myrsinaceae	<i>Lysimachia arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel	non-native	Annual herb
Myrtaceae	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Blue gum	• invasive non-native	Tree
Onagraceae	<i>Epilobium ciliatum</i>	Slender willow herb	native	Perennial herb
Onagraceae	<i>Oenothera elata</i>	Evening primrose	native	Perennial herb
Papaveraceae	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	California poppy	native	Annual, Perennial herb
Plantaginaceae	<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Cut leaf plantain	• invasive non-native	Annual herb
Plantaginaceae	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Plantaginaceae	<i>Plantago major</i>	Common plantain	non-native	Perennial herb

Appendix A

Family	Species Name	Common Name	Native/Non-Native	Form
Platanaceae	<i>Platanus racemosa</i>	California sycamore	native	Tree
Poaceae	<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Redtop	• invasive non-native	Perennial grass
Poaceae	<i>Arundo donax</i>	Giant reed	• invasive non-native	Perennial grass
Poaceae	<i>Avena fatua</i>	Wildoats	• invasive non-native	Annual grass
Poaceae	<i>Bromus diandrus</i>	Ripgut brome	• invasive non-native	Annual grass
Poaceae	<i>Bromus sitchensis var. carinatus</i>	California brome	native	Perennial grass
Poaceae	<i>Digitaria sanguinalis</i>	Crabgrass	non-native	Annual grass
Poaceae	<i>Distichlis spicata</i>	Salt grass	native	Perennial grass
Poaceae	<i>Ehrharta erecta</i>	Upright veldt grass	• invasive non-native	Perennial grass
Poaceae	<i>Festuca myuros</i>	Rattail sixweeks grass	• invasive non-native	Annual grass
Poaceae	<i>Festuca perennis</i>	Italian rye grass	• invasive non-native	Annual, Perennial grass
Poaceae	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Common velvetgrass	• invasive non-native	Perennial grass
Poaceae	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Foxtail barley	• invasive non-native	Annual grass
Poaceae	<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	Kikuyu grass	• invasive non-native	Perennial grass
Poaceae	<i>Phragmites australis</i>	Common reed	native	Perennial grass
Poaceae	<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual blue grass	non-native	Annual grass
Polygonaceae	<i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	Water smartweed	native	Perennial herb (aquatic)
Polygonaceae	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Prostrate knotweed	non-native	Annual, Perennial herb
Polygonaceae	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep sorrel	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Polygonaceae	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curly dock	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Polygonaceae	<i>Rumex pulcher</i>	Fiddleleaf dock	non-native	Perennial herb
Rhamnaceae	<i>Ceanothus thyrsiflorus</i>	Blueblossom	native	Tree, Shrub
Rhamnaceae	<i>Frangula californica</i>	California coffeeberry	native	Shrub
Rosaceae	<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silver weed cinquefoil	native	Perennial herb

Family	Species Name	Common Name	Native/Non-Native	Form
Rosaceae	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	Cherry plum	• invasive non-native	Tree
Rosaceae	<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	Holly leaf cherry	native	Tree, Shrub
Rosaceae	<i>Prunus virginiana</i>	Chokecherry	native	Tree, Shrub
Rosaceae	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	Himalayan blackberry	• invasive non-native	Shrub
Rosaceae	<i>Rubus ursinus</i>	California blackberry	native	Vine, Shrub
Salicaceae	<i>Populus trichocarpa</i>	Black cottonwood	native	Tree
Salicaceae	<i>Salix laevigata</i>	Polished willow	native	Tree
Salicaceae	<i>Salix lasiandra</i>	Pacific willow	native	Tree
Salicaceae	<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	Arroyo willow	native	Tree, Shrub
Sapindaceae	<i>Acer negundo</i>	Boxelder	native	Tree
Scrophulariaceae	<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	Ngaio tree	• invasive non-native	Tree, Shrub
Scrophulariaceae	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	Woolly mullein	• invasive non-native	Perennial herb
Tropaeolaceae	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	Garden nasturtium	non-native	Annual herb, Vine
Typhaceae	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	Broadleaf cattail	native	Perennial herb (aquatic)
Urticaceae	<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Spreading pellitory	non-native	Perennial herb
Urticaceae	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging nettle	native	Perennial herb
Urticaceae	<i>Urtica urens</i>	Annual stinging nettle	non-native	Annual herb

SOURCE: EMC Planning Group 2021

# A P P E N D I X B

## I N V A S I V E P L A N T C O N T R O L

**LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK  
TRAIL MAINTENANCE STRATEGY  
September 28, 2021**

**GUIDELINES FOR INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE PLANT REMOVAL/CONTROL**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Non-native plant species are species not present in California and/or the Monterey Bay prior to Russian, Spanish and/or European colonization. The Spanish discovery of Monterey Bay occurred in the early 1600's, yet it wasn't until 1770 that the first non-Native American settlement was established (Gordon, 1996). Available evidence indicates that the vast majority of non-native plants now established in California were introduced after this time (Cal-IPC, 2021). Settlers brought non-native plants accidentally in ship ballast and as contaminants of grain shipments, in livestock and livestock feed, as well as intentionally for food, fiber, medicine, and ornamental uses. Most non-native plants introduced to California in these early times first established at coastal sites near ports and around missions and other settlements. This is likely true for the Monterey Bay region. The majority of the first non-native plants to establish were of European origin; however, later-arriving species have origins in central and south America, and more recently from Asia and Australia. Many of the arriving non-native plant species found favorable growing conditions in coastal California and became successful in competing with native plant species for growing space, soil nutrients, and soil moisture. Of the estimated 1,800 non-native plant species established in California, only approximately 200 (11%) are recognized as serious threats to native ecosystems; yet these species have dramatically changed California's ecological landscape (Cal-IPC, 2021). Species that exhibit aggressive growth patterns that lead to a reduction in native plant diversity and cover are considered to be *invasive, non-native* plant species.

An aggressive growth pattern of an invasive, non-native plant species can result in a corresponding reduction in the diversity and health of native flora and fauna. A decrease in native plant and animal diversity can lead to a weakening of native ecosystems, making the ecosystem more vulnerable to permanent damage due to stochastic events (i.e., unpredictable events that can affect population and community dynamics, such as disease infestation, wildfire, or unintentional human damage). In addition, as native insects and wildlife rely on native plants for shelter, food and reproduction, the spread of non-utilized non-native plant species can result in the disappearance or reduced numbers and vigor of native species. A study on the ecosystems of California found the impacts of invasive species on native species include genetic impacts (i.e., hybridizing with native species), local or species-level extinctions through disease and displacement, changes in community composition and native species diversity, and altered ecosystem processes such as nutrient cycling and disturbance regimes (Mooney and Zavaleta 2016). Additionally, some invasive non-native plants are toxic to wildlife and insects. Toxic plant materials weaken or kill aquatic life. Finally, the loss of the complex plant cover and plant root systems lead to decreases in soil moisture, increases in soil temperature and changes in soil chemical composition. Soil and moisture changes can lead to increases in erosion potential and decreases in water quality.

Numerous non-native plant species have been recorded in Laguna Grande Regional Park. Some of these are invasive with infestations having negative effects on the park's upland and wetland ecosystems. A level of environmental damage has occurred within the Park from infestations of these invasive, non-native plant species. Measures to reduce damage from invasive, non-native plant species, to benefit the Park's native ecosystems, are identified in this chapter.

## **2.0 METHODOLOGY**

The extent of invasive, non-native plant species within Laguna Grande Regional Park was assessed through literature review, review of the Vegetation Mapping and Focused Plant Survey Results (EMC Planning Group, 2021), and field observations by Kathleen Lyons (plant ecologist) and George McMenamin (restoration specialist). Field surveys were conducted on July 30, August 10 and September 7, 2021 to field-check previously mapped data, identify additional locations of invasive, non-native plant species, evaluate the level of threat an infestation poses to native resources, and evaluate measures for removal and control of infestations. The distribution of the invasive, non-native plant species was depicted onto a base map and EMC Planning Group entered data entered into a Geographic Information System (GIS).

## **3.0 INVASIVE, NON-NATIVE PLANT SPECIES**

Over twenty-five invasive, non-native plant species were identified to be of management concern within Laguna Grande Regional Park. Most of these species are listed by the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC), as *invasive species*. Two species are listed as *noxious weeds* by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). Table 1 lists these species and their Cal-IPC invasive rating. Figures 1 and 2 show the distribution of each species within the regional park.

Plant species have varying patterns for growth and reproduction. These patterns are considered in evaluating their ability to invade native ecosystems as well as control measures. Plants that are annual/biennial species, such as a thistle, typically grows quickly and produce large amounts of seed that is often easily dispersed by wind or by animals. Seeds from annual species typically have relatively short lifespans (1-5 years). Some perennial plants, such as French broom, reproduce by seed; however, the seed can persist in the soil for long periods of time (30+ years). Some perennial plants, such as Cape ivy, can reproduce from stem fragments. The growth habitat and primary reproductive method of the invasive, non-native plant species is presented in Table 1.



Source: ESRI 2021, Monterey County GIS 2019

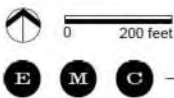
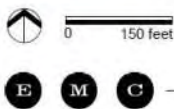
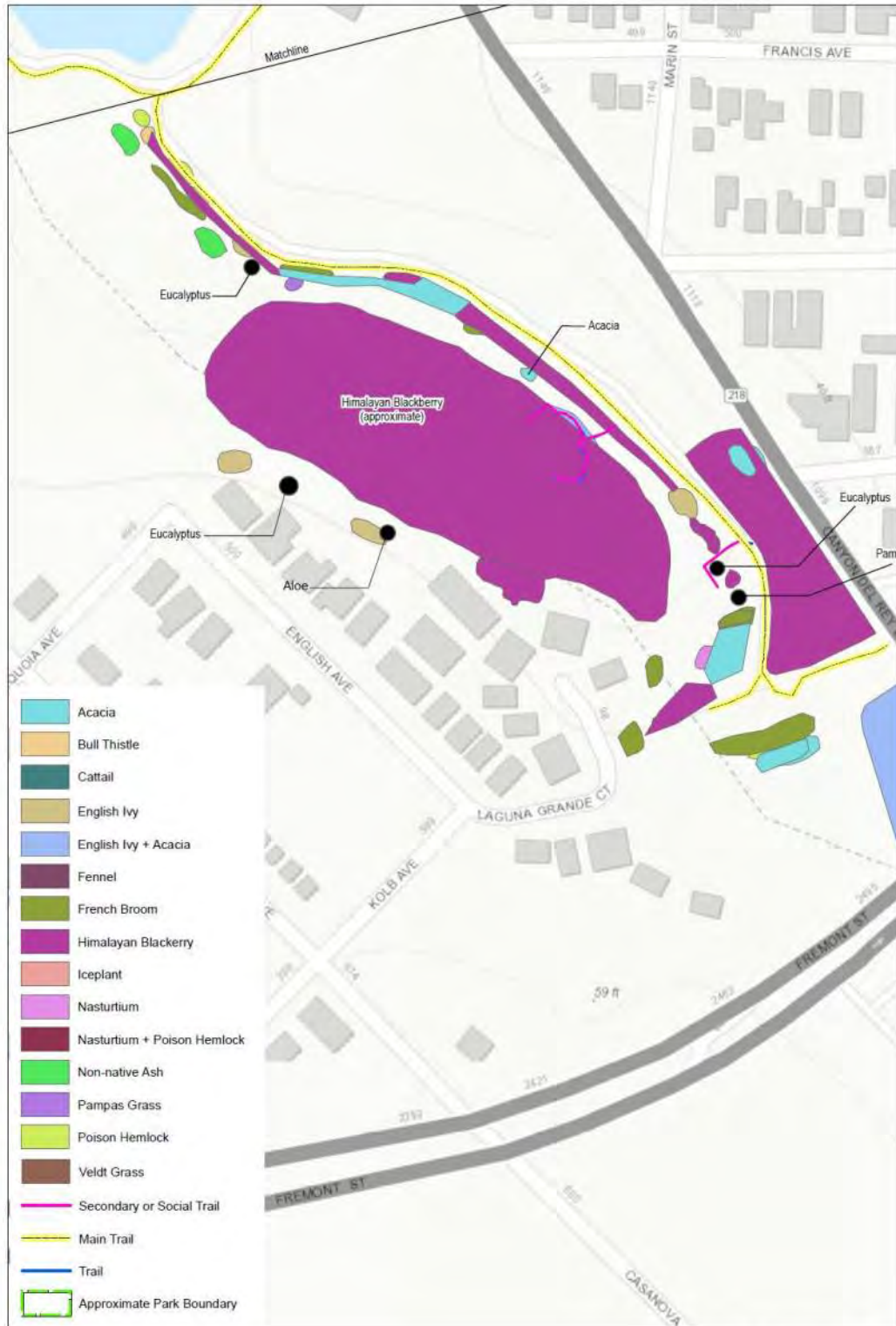


Figure 1  
**Invasive Plant Species - North**  
 Laguna Grande Trail Maintenance Strategy IS/MND

**Figure 1. Invasive, Non-native Plant Species, North**



Source: ESRI 2021, Monterey County GIS 2019

Figure 2  
 Invasive Plant Species - South  
 Laguna Grande Trail Maintenance Strategy IS/MND

**Figure 2. Invasive, Non-native Plant Species, South**

**Table 1. Invasive, Non-native Plant Species of Management Concern, Laguna Grande Regional Park**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Cal-IPC Ranking	Growth Habit	Primary Reproduction
<b>TREES</b>				
Acacia	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> <i>Acacia dealbata</i> <i>Acacia longifolia</i>	Moderate	Perennial, evergreen	Seed, roots and stump sprouts
Blue Gum Eucalyptus	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Limited	Perennial, evergreen	Seed, stump sprouts
White Ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>	None	Perennial, deciduous	Seed, stump and root sprouts
Ngaio Tree (Myoporum)	<i>Myoporum laetum</i>	None	Perennial, evergreen	Seed
Cherry Plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>	None	Perennial, deciduous	Seed, stump sprouts
Chinese Elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	None	Perennial, deciduous	Seed, stump and root sprout
<b>SHRUBS AND WOODY VINES</b>				
French Broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>	High	Perennial	Seed
Glossy Privet	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	Limited	Perennial	Seed
Himalayan Blackberry	<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>	High	Perennial	Seed, root fragments, cane tips
Elm-leaf (thornless) Blackberry	<i>Rubus ulmifolius</i>	None	Perennial	Seed, root fragments, cane tips
Pride of Madeira	<i>Echium candicans</i>	Limited	Perennial	Seed
<b>NON-WOODY VINES, GRASSES, AND GROUNDCOVERS</b>				
Aloe	<i>Aloe arborescens</i>	None	Perennial	Vegetatively, seeds
Giant Reed	<i>Arundo donax</i>	High	Perennial	Vegetatively
Short-stalked False Bindweed	<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>	None	Perennial	Seeds, roots
Italian Thistle	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>	Moderate <sup>1</sup>	Annual	Seed
Ice Plant	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> <i>Carpobrotus chilensis</i>	High	Perennial	Roots, plant fragments, seed
Bull Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Moderate <sup>1</sup>	Biennial	Seed
Poison Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Moderate	Biennial	Seed
Jubata Grass	<i>Cortaderia jubata</i>	High	Perennial	Seed
Pampas Grass	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>			
Cape Ivy	<i>Delairea odorata</i>	High	Perennial	Vegetatively
Panic Veldt Grass	<i>Ehrharta erecta</i>	Moderate	Annual	Seed
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Moderate	Perennial	Seed root fragments
English Ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i> <i>Hedera spp. and cultivars</i>	High	Perennial	Seed, vegetatively
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>	None	Perennial	Seed, vegetatively
Kikuyu Grass	<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	Limited	Perennial	Seed, rhizome, stolen fragments
Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>	None	Annual	Seed, stem fragments
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>	Moderate		Vegetatively
Calla Lily	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>	Limited	Perennial	Seed, rhizome

<sup>1</sup> – species has a pest rating of “C” by CDFA: “State endorsed holding action and eradication if plant found in a nursery; action to retard spread of plant outside nursery at discretion of County Agricultural Commissioner.”

Table 2 identifies the inventory categories developed by Cal-IPC to reflect the level of a species negative ecological impact in California. These categories are high, moderate, or limited. Two additional categories are “Alert” and “Watch.” 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. Species on the “watch” list have been assessed as posing a high risk of becoming invasive in the future in California.

**Table 2. Cal-IPC Ratings of Invasive Weeds**

Ranking	Meaning of Ranking
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.

Source: Cal-IPC, 2021

The plant species descriptions provided in the following sections are based on general plant life cycles and growth patterns in the central coast region. The information provided should be used as a general guideline and does not replace yearly monitoring. Some biennials may become annuals or short-lived perennials based on extreme conditions, such as drought or years of high rainfall. Additionally, the timing of plant growth and flowering may change under extreme parameters.

### 3.1 Trees

Most non-native tree species have several common invasive characteristics. Most outcompete many native plant species by blocking sunlight, having rapid growth, and dominating soil moisture and nutrient resources.

**Silver wattle** (*Acacia dealbata*), **Sydney golden wattle** (*Acacia longifolia*) and **blackwood wattle** (*Acacia melanoxylon*) are all non-native trees or shrubs. All three species are native to Australia, fast growing, fix nitrogen, and can re-sprout from cut stumps. They all produce prodigious amounts of seed and likely have leaves with allelopathic properties. The silver wattle usually reaches a height of 40-50 feet and can reproduce from both rhizomes and seed. Sydney golden wattle is usually a small tree or shrub that grows to a height of 20 to 25 feet and may form dense thickets. The blackwood wattle usually reaches heights of 40-50 feet. The blackwood wattle also develops root suckers and can form clonal populations. Both the silver and blackwood wattle may grow taller under some circumstances. All of these species are highly invasive due to their rapid growth, the allelopathic leaf litter, their large, seed banks and their ability to spread by rhizome or roots. Once established, they outcompete the native plant species and alter the soil chemistry by fixing nitrogen. Additionally, they can create a significant fire hazard.

**Blue gum eucalyptus** (*Eucalyptus globulus*) is a large non-native tree that can grow rapidly to heights of 200 feet or more. It is native to Australia. Blue gum trees have an extensive lateral root system and can re-sprout from cut stumps and roots. Blue gum trees shed bark, leaves and drop branches continuously. This species can flower from late fall through the following spring, with seed capsules forming 10 months to a year later. The blue gum eucalyptus reproduces from seed. The species is a highly invasive tree due to its rapid growth, existing seed bank, ability to re-

sprout, and the allelopathic properties of the thick layer of leaf and bark litter. Additionally, the leaf litter, bark litter and large number of down branches create a significant fire hazard.

**White ash** (*Fraxinus americana*) is a non-native, evergreen to semi-deciduous tree native to southeastern Canada and midwestern United States. They can reach heights of 60 feet. Ash trees have large roots and may have adventitious roots. The trees flower in the spring with windborne pollination and they produce large quantities of viable seed. Ash trees are toxic to ruminant animals and may cause dermatitis to humans. The non-native ash species should be considered moderately invasive in riparian corridors or moist soils due to their rapid growth, potential for root sprouts and large quantities of seed.

**Chinese elm** (*Ulmus parvifolia*) is a non-native, semi-deciduous tree that can reach heights of 50 feet. It is native to Asia and prefers full to moderate sun. The Chinese elm sheds bark and has large roots. It flowers in late summer and produces viable seed. The seed can be carried by the wind for long distances. Chinese elms are low to moderately invasive in central coastal California, at this time, However, it is highly invasive in North Carolina and has potential to become more invasive along the central coast, due to its windborne seed and tolerance for many environmental conditions.

**Cherry plum** (*Prunus cerasifera*) is a non-native, often shrubby, deciduous tree that is native to Europe. Cherry plum trees can re-sprout from cut stumps and roots. This tree flowers in the spring and the plum-like fruit is often transported and spread into new areas, by animals and humans. Although this tree rarely forms groves or dominates habitat, it should be considered moderately invasive in some habitats where there is disturbance, or reduced competition and adequate resources for seedlings to become established.

**Ngaio tree (myoporum)** (*Myoporum laetum*) is a non-native, evergreen tree or shrub that can reach a height of 30 feet. It is native to New Zealand. Ngaio trees have a deep taproot and are drought tolerant when mature. Plants may re-sprout when the stems are cut. Ngaio trees flowers in the spring and summer and produces fruit containing 2-6 seeds. They produce large quantities of fruit which is often transported by birds. If the fruit stays intact, the seeds can survive for several years. This plant has regional toxicity if eaten, particularly the leaves. The Ngaio tree is moderately invasive in disturbed areas with sufficient soil moisture. This species can form monocultured stands due to the leaf litter and high seed production.

### **3.2 Shrubs and Woody Vines**

**French broom** (*Genista monspessulana*) is a non-native, leguminous, perennial shrub with an average life span of 12-15 years. It is native to the Mediterranean region of Europe. French broom is evergreen and may reach a height of 10+ feet. French broom usually flowers in spring and early summer. A mature plant can produce thousands of seed pods per year. Each pod contains 5-8 seeds. The seed pods are dehiscent, bursting open in the summer, expelling seeds for a distance of up to 6 feet. French broom seed remains viable in and on the soil for decades. French broom seeds and flowers are toxic to humans and many domestic and native wildlife species. French broom is a highly invasive shrub that spreads rapidly. The prodigious quantities and long-term

viability of the seeds often result in a rapid expansion of the infestation. In addition, French broom will re-sprout from cut stumps unless it is cut below the root crown. Over a period of 3-6 years French broom can create a dense, monocultured stand.

**Himalayan blackberry** (*Rubus armeniacus*) and **elm-leaf (thornless) blackberry** (*Rubus ulmifolius*) are long-lived, non-native shrubs/woody vines that develop a perennial root system. These species grow in numerous forms and create dense thickets. Both species can assume a vine form and climb 20-30 feet into trees. Himalayan blackberry is native to Eurasia; elm-leaf (thornless) blackberry is native to Europe. Both species flower in the spring and usually produces fruit in the summer. Both of these blackberry species are highly invasive and spread quickly. They produce large quantities of berries and the seeds are often spread by birds and other animals that eat the fruit. Both blackberries develop extensive root systems and can spread vegetatively (re-sprout) from root fragments and re-rooting from cane tips.

**Glossy privet** (*Ligustrum lucidum*) is a non-native, evergreen tree or shrub that is native to Asia. This tree can reach heights of 40 feet and often has multiple stems. Glossy privet can re-sprout from cut stumps or roots. Glossy privet flowers in the late spring to summer. This species produces large quantities of berries that are mostly dispersed by birds. Glossy privet reproduces by both seed and roots. They may be invasive in woodlands or forest habitats where root sprouts and seed can form dense stands over time.

**Pride of Madeira** (*Echium candicans*) is a large, long lived, perennial shrub that is native to the island of Madeira, north of the Canary Islands. Pride of Madeira has numerous branches, woody roots and can reach heights of 8 feet. Pride of Madeira is a common landscape ornamental that has escaped cultivation in coastal regions. This species requires full sun and may bloom from April thru July, producing large quantities of viable seed. All parts of the plant are considered poisonous to ingest and can skin contact can cause dermatitis. Due to its long-life span and large quantities of seed, Pride of Madeira is moderately invasive along the central coast.

### 3.3 Non-woody Vines, Grasses and Groundcovers

**Aloe** (*Aloe arborescens*) is an evergreen, perennial succulent, native to southern Africa. Often called torch aloe, it is a large, densely growing succulent shrub that can reach 9 feet in height and spread. The stems support numerous narrow, recurved, soft-toothed margined leaves that are dull green, yellow-green to sometimes blue-green depending on the location and amount of sunlight received. Coral-red flowers bloom in late fall and early winter. Aloe spreads vegetatively, from a branch or stem and can also reproduce by seed. Due to Aloe's ability to spread both vegetatively and by seed, this species is considered somewhat invasive.

**Giant reed** (*Arundo donax*) is a non-native, long-lived, perennial grass that can grow to heights of 10+ feet. It is native to the Mediterranean area and tropical Asia. Giant reed has an extremely thick, aggressive, rhizomatous root system that can survive periodic flooding. Although it can flower year-round in some areas, seedlings are not encountered in California. It reproduces almost exclusively from rhizomes and root fragments which are often spread during flooding or high-water levels. In addition, Giant reed is highly flammable and can increase the risk of fire.

Giant reed is invasive, particularly in riparian corridors where it forms dense, impenetrable stands completely eliminating native plant species and greatly reducing habitat values.

**Short-stalked false bindweed** (*Calystegia sylvatica*) is a non-native, aggressive, perennial vine with an extensive root system. It is native to Europe. The vines are extremely aggressive climbers and grow rapidly. They can grow high into trees and can smother small trees and shrubs. The vines die back each year to the roots. Each flower produces a capsule with 2-4 seeds. Short-stalked false bindweed spreads both vegetatively and by seed. Once established, this bindweed can be difficult to eradicate due to the extensive root system and seed bank.

**Bull thistle** (*Cirsium vulgare*) is usually a biennial, from Eurasia and **Italian thistle** (*Carduus pycnocephalus*) is usually an annual, both native to the Mediterranean area. Bull thistle mostly flowers in late spring through the summer of the second year, with seed viability ranging from 3 to 5 years. Italian thistle usually flowers from mid-April through May and seed viability ranges from 4-8 years. Italian thistle produces 2 types of seed; one seed type usually falls near the plant and the other seed type is carried by the wind. Both species of thistle may continue to produce flowers until soil moisture becomes too low. Both of these thistles reproduce only by seed. Bull thistle represents a greatest threat in areas with soil moisture continuing later into the summer and the plant can re-sprout from cut roots, if conditions are right. Bull thistle may continue to produce some flower heads well into the fall under good conditions. Italian thistle prefers ground with reduced late spring moisture.

**Ice plant** (*Carpobrotus edulis/Carpobrotus chilensis* - may include hybrids) is a non-native, ground creeping, succulent, perennial shrub. It is native to South Africa. Trailing stems can reach lengths of 10+ feet and root at the nodes. Ice plant can form large, extremely dense mats of clonal plants. It is drought tolerant and often grows year around. On the central coast, ice plant flowers for most of the year and may flower year around. It produces numerous seeds with seed viability of 2 years. However, it is thought that ice plant mainly produces seedlings only in disturbed soils, due to herbivory. Once introduced into an area, ice plant can be highly invasive, in full sun. Additionally, it creates high levels of organic matter that can lead to invasions by additional non-native plant species. In this area, ice plant appears to spread mainly by root or plant fragments.

**Poison hemlock** (*Conium maculatum*) is a non-native, biennial, invasive plant that can grow to 10+ feet in height. It is native to Europe. It does not require much light and can grow in almost full shade. Poison hemlock can grow in most habitats as long as there is sufficient soil moisture. A large plant can produce up to several thousand flowers and seeds. Poison hemlock usually flowers April through July, but can continue to flower through the summer. Damaged stems may flower into the following spring. Seed viability is thought to be 3-4 years. Poison hemlock is extremely toxic to human and animals when eaten. It can cause contact dermatitis in some humans. It is not uncommon for animals to ingest Poison hemlock in early spring or when desirable vegetation becomes scarce, in the late summer and fall. Poison hemlock is highly invasive, particularly in areas with some sunlight, and good soil moisture, although it can be invasive in most types of habitats. It does not spread vegetatively, but can re-sprout multiple times from its large taproot if the stem is cut or broken.

**Pampas grass** and **Jubata grass** (*Cortaderia selloana* and *C. jubata*) are both non-native, perennial, densely tufted, grasses with long basal leaves and feathery inflorescence plumes. Both species are native to the Andes Mountains and several other sections of South America. The basal leaves and floral plumes can reach heights of 8-10 feet. The rhizomes and roots form a dense clump. Old pampas grass plants can have roots 10 feet deep and rhizomes 20 feet wide. Jubata grass tussocks are usually smaller than those of pampas grass. Although both species can produce large quantities of seed, pampas grass requires both male and female plants, in range, to create seed. All jubata grasses are female and produce viable seed. Each seed plume can have up to 100,000 seeds that are viable soon after emerging from the grass sheath. However, seed viability is less than 1 year and so a persisting seedbank does not occur. Pampas grass seedlings can survive a greater number of environmental conditions than jubata grass. In areas with disturbed soil, bare ground or low levels of competition from grasses or sedges, these two species can be highly invasive and greatly limit the establishment of native plant species.

**Cape ivy** (*Delairea odorata*) is a non-native, perennial vine that is usually evergreen, but can become deciduous under drought or extreme heat conditions. It is native to South Africa. Vines can form dense patches and smother all other vegetation. Additionally, the vines can grow 60+ feet in trees. Once established, Cape ivy vines and rhizomes can have growth rates of more than 20 feet in all directions per year. In California, Cape ivy flowers in mid to late winter and early spring. Although most Cape ivy seed is not viable in California, it is viable in some other countries and has proven viable under lab conditions. Cape ivy is mildly toxic to wildlife and can become toxic to fish and aquatic wildlife, if sufficient contact with water and dissolved plant matter occurs. Cape ivy is extremely invasive in riparian or shaded habitat. Although it does not usually produce viable seed in California, it has an extremely high growth rate and spreads vegetatively. The vines, stolons, and rhizomes are easily fragmented; a fragment as small as a half inch, with a node, can develop roots and re-sprout. As Cape ivy has a high carbohydrate and water content, even if left to dry for 2 or 3 months or more, a fragment can re-sprout when it rains or contacts moisture.

**Panic veldt grass** (*Ehrharta erecta*) is a perennial non-native grass. It is native to South Africa. The roots usually form a shallow clump although they can grow deeper in sandy soil. Panic veldt grass can grow in conditions from full sun to almost full shade. This species can create flowers and prodigious seed year-round. On the Central coast, seeds can germinate any time of the year in areas with sufficient moisture or fog. Due to the fact that this grass grows well in almost full shade, produces ample seed and germinates year-round, it represents a serious threat to riparian, wooded or other partially shaded areas, where it can outcompete native understory plants.

**Fennel** (*Foeniculum vulgare*) is a non-native, perennial invasive plant that can grow to 10+ feet in height. Fennel is native to Europe. It seems to grow best in areas of soil disturbance and may inhibit the growth of native plants, possibly due to allelopathic properties. The cultivar forms used for human consumption are usually not invasive. A single plant may produce multiple stems and 1000s of flowers and seeds. It usually flowers from late spring through the end of summer. Fennel mostly reproduces by seed, but under good conditions can spread from root fragments. Fennel is invasive in some habitats and is particularly invasive in areas with soil disturbance.

Once it develops a dense stand it will exclude native plant species due to its competitive seed bank and possibly allelopathic properties.

**English ivy** (*Hedera helix*, *H. spp.* and cultivars) is a general term used for a group of species. There are over 12 *Hedera* species and hundreds of cultivars. They are morphologically similar and often require chromosome testing to identify accurately. Most plants in this area are likely one of three species with very similar morphological features and reproductive patterns. These species are native to Europe and often hybridize. English ivy is a non-native, perennial woody plant with 2 growth forms. When young it assumes a vine form that can grow upward to 100+ feet. This allows it to grow high into trees and form dense, monocultural coverage on the ground that eliminates almost all other vegetation. When it reaches the mature reproductive form, it is often erect and has tree or shrub-like stems. It mostly forms flowers in the fall and berries in the spring on vertical surfaces. Each plant can produce 1000s of seeds. English ivy is mildly toxic to wildlife and has been called a green desert. English ivy is highly invasive and spreads both vegetatively and by seed. Birds can spread the seed large distances. English ivy can grow over and smother almost all other vegetation. Additionally, it will grow up in trees and damage them from the weight, dense coverage and wind breakage.

**Japanese honeysuckle** (*Lonicera japonica*) is a perennial climbing and ground cover vine. It is an evergreen and is a native to eastern Asia. The vines grow rapidly and can reach lengths of 30 feet. This honeysuckle flowers in late spring throughout the summer. Japanese honeysuckle is mildly toxic to humans, but does have some edible uses. Japanese honeysuckle can be highly invasive. Japanese honeysuckle grows rapidly and can smother or girdle small trees and shrubs with its vines. As ground cover it can outcompete native plant species. It spreads by both seed and rhizomatous stems which can root at each node.

**Kikuyu grass** (*Pennisetum clandestinum*) is a non-native perennial grass that is native to tropical portions of Africa. It has prostrate stems with a complex system of tough, branching rhizomes and stolons, mostly in the top 4-6 inches of soil. Kikuyu grass flowers from April to October and seed may be long-lived in some habitats. This grass can spread by both seed and vegetatively by rhizome or stolon fragments. When established, Kikuyu grass can form dense mat-like patches or grass areas that limit the growth of native plant species.

**Garden nasturtium** (*Tropaeolum majus*) is a non-native, annual or perennial, invasive garden escape. It is native to Central and South America. It can grow in multiple habitats, and often becomes invasive in riparian habitat. It has long climbing stems or vines that grow rapidly. Garden nasturtium may form a dense groundcover and cover small shrubs or trees. Garden nasturtium flowers from late spring through the summer and produces ample seed. This species reproduces from the seed and vegetatively from stem fragments. Garden nasturtium is moderately invasive, particularly in riparian habitats with ample sun and well-draining soils. It may densely cover the ground and inhibit the growth of native plants. Once established Garden nasturtium can be difficult to control with its large seed bank.

**Periwinkle** (*Vinca major*) is a non-native, perennial, evergreen, invasive plant that is native to Europe. Periwinkle usually flowers from April to August. However, this species stems and flowers are almost always sterile, so spread from seed is uncommon. Trailing stems have been observed as long as 6+ feet and can re-root at each node. Periwinkle spreads almost exclusively from trailing stems and stem fragments. Periwinkle is highly toxic and most species will not usually eat it, including goats.

Periwinkle is highly invasive in shaded habitats once it is introduced. It creates a dense, monocultured ground cover that prevents native seedlings or the growth of native species.

**Calla lily** (*Zantedeschia aethiopica*) is a non-native, perennial, monocot that is native to South Africa. It is usually deciduous in the central coast, due to the long dry season. It can grow in full shade, but usually does not bloom without some sunlight. Calla lily usually flowers in the late spring to early summer. Each seed pod can contain up to 50 seeds. All parts of a Calla lily are toxic to humans and wildlife. Calla lily is moderately invasive in riparian or partially shaded habitats with well-draining soils. However, it usually does not flower in full shade. Calla lily spreads by seed and vegetatively by rhizomes. Additionally, each plant can create large numbers of specialized buds along the rhizome the result in new stems and flowers.

#### 4.0 PRIORITY AND TREATMENT

The management of invasive, non-native plants refers to the removal/control of species that have been considered be a significant threat to the habitat value of the park’s riparian woodland and/or wetlands. To guide management actions and allocation of resources, priorities for species/occurrence removal were developed. This plan identifies six priority levels based on a species infestation, its ability to spread into habitat areas, and available removal/treatment actions. In addition, priority levels identify where removal actions may result in significant short or longer-term impacts to native riparian and/or wetland resources. Table 3 outlines the six priority levels.

**Table 3. Priority Levels for Invasive, Non-native Plant Species Removal and Control**

CODE	PRIORITY	RATIONALE
1	Highest	Isolated patches of highly invasive species that significantly degrade habitats. The goal is eradication in Years 1-3
2	High	Localized occurrences suitable for complete control/eradication in Years 1-5
3	Moderate	Isolated patches unlikely to spread significantly in next 5 years. If resources are not initially available treat in Years 6-10
4	Low	Occurrences confined by trails or other barriers. Occurrences are intermixed with native species and removal/control would have significant short and/or long-term impacts on native woodland/wetland habitat.
5	Lowest	Dense occurrences within inaccessible wooded terrain; heavy equipment and/or labor costs would be high for initial removal and long-term control; significant short and/or long-term impacts to native woodland habitat.
6	No Action	Occurrence does not pose a significant impact to native biotic resources or is not likely to pose a significant decline in native habitat values over time.

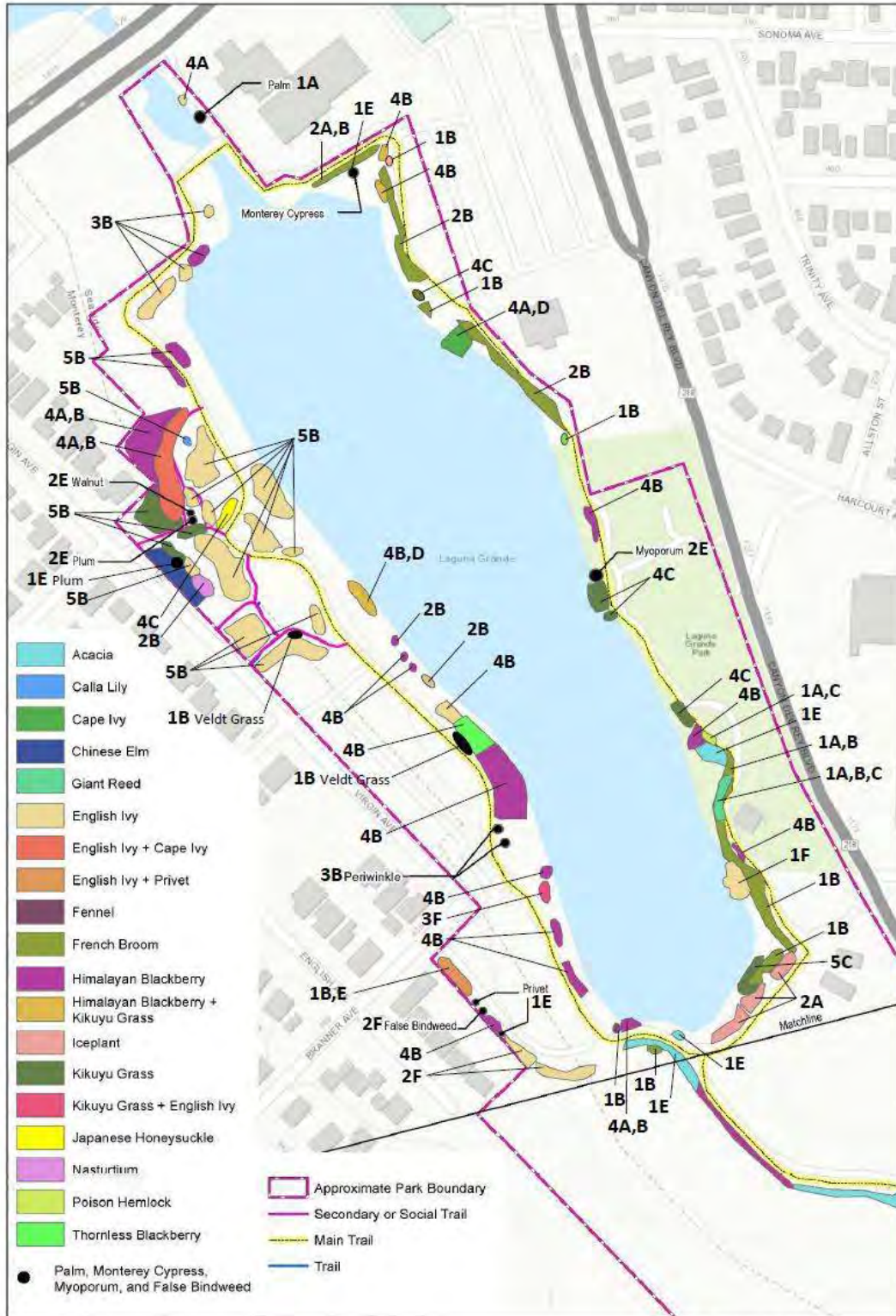
#### 4.1 Removal/Control Treatments

Invasive, non-native plant species within the project area can be controlled through use of heavy equipment, hand removal/cutting, mechanical weed whipping and other tool work, and herbicide application. The most effective control techniques must take into account a species growth cycle, its flowering period, seed production/release periods, and its occurrence or level of infestation within the project area. Table 4 identifies techniques and general guidelines for invasive plant control.

**General Guidelines and Specifications.** The techniques to control specific invasive, non-native plants are numerous. The various techniques and methods have been tailored specifically for the plant species, conditions and locations within the park and are listed in Table 4. Figures 3 and 4 display the priority level and recommended treatment method(s) for each invasive, non-native plant occurrence. Proper training of field personnel is recommended prior to all field work, such that the method and technique is correlated to the biology of the species and the surrounding environmental conditions. Additionally, as natural environments are subject to constant dynamic processes, adjustments to methods or techniques may be required.

**Field Training.** Although supervision as to timing, technique and general location for invasive plant management can be provided for personnel performing invasive plant fieldwork, the personnel performing the work will need to be capable of operating independently. Untrained personnel will cause negative impacts on plant management results. Therefore, a certain level of field training is required for success. Training should include, but not be limited to, the follow skills and abilities:

- The ability to identify the key invasive plant species likely to be encountered within the work area. This could be achieved by disseminating a booklet of major invasive plants and field training sessions.
- The ability to identify the key native plants species likely to be encountered within the work area. This could be achieved by disseminating information on native plants in the project area and field training sessions.
- Although field personnel often have a high degree of skill with various types of equipment, details of proper techniques and timing should be provided to achieve maximum efficiency and success.
- Instructions should be provided so if field personnel encounter plants, animals or situations outside of their scope of training, they will know the proper course of action to take when these situations occur. General guidance should be provided to workers to limit harm to sensitive or protected habitats and species (such as dusky-footed woodrat dens, bird nests), including guidelines to employ that would limit the disruption of work.
- Use adaptive management strategies. Field personnel may have useful and efficient ideas and methods for doing a given task. Field supervisors should be encouraged to consider new ideas and potential improvements based on monitoring the effectiveness and effects of actions implemented on both the targeted species and the habitat, short and long-term.



Source: ESRI 2021, Monterey County GIS 2019

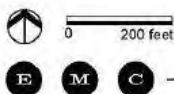
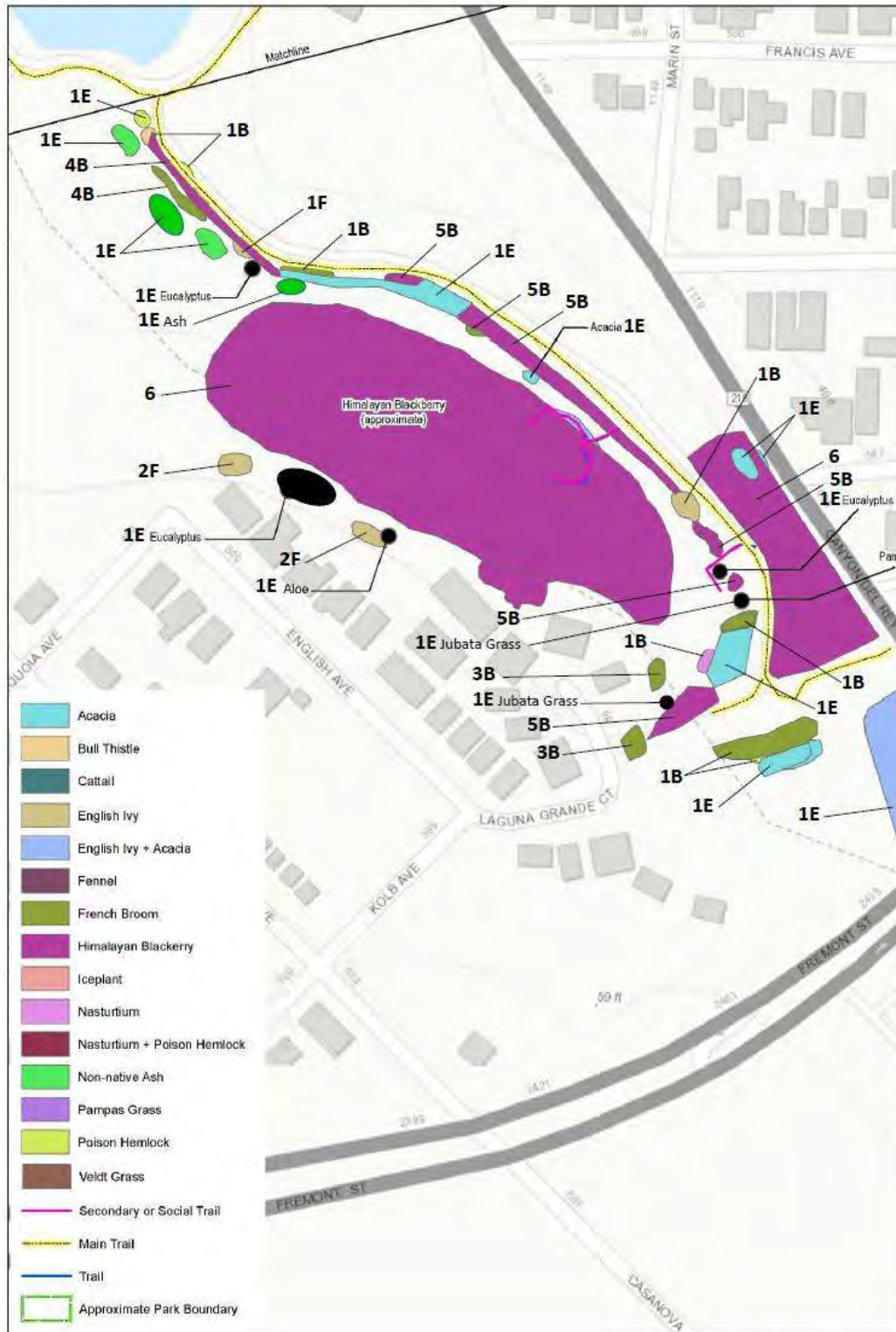


Figure 1  
 Invasive Plant Species - North  
 Laguna Grande Trail Maintenance Strategy IS/MND

Figure 3. Treatment of Invasive, Non-native Plant Species, North



Source: ESRI 2021, Monterey County GIS 2019

Figure 2

Invasive Plant Species - South

Laguna Grande Trail Maintenance Strategy IS/MND

Figure 4. Treatment of Invasive, Non-native Plant Species, South

**Table 4. Techniques for Removal of Invasive, Non-native Plant Species, Laguna Grande Regional Park**

Code	Technique	Possible Applications	Treatment Notes
A	<b>Mechanical Equipment</b>  (Includes all non-handheld mechanized equipment, such as mowers, backhoes, chippers, mulchers, brush cutters, other heavy equipment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Ice plant, Jubata grass</li> <li>▪ Himalayan blackberry, English ivy in areas away from water and trees- (leave buffer zones around each of these)</li> <li>▪ Maintenance and mowing of pathways, yet with care to avoid spreading periwinkle, Kikuyu grass and panic veldt grass</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May be used for mass clearing of areas containing invasive plant species with no desirable native plant species</li> <li>▪ Mowers may be used along pathways dominated by invasive non-native plant species containing limited specific native plants that will survive the treatment</li> <li>▪ Should be avoided in areas of potential erosion or sedimentation issues</li> <li>▪ Use should be limited during bird nesting season</li> </ul>
B	<b>Hand Removal</b>  (includes all non-motorized, battery or electric powered) individual hand removal work, such as shovels, pick-axes, hoes, pulaskis, pruners and loppers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All species. excluding trees and shrubs with trunk diameters greater than 1"</li> <li>▪ Requires removal of plant and roots for poison hemlock, fennel, bull thistle, periwinkle, nasturtium, panic veldt grass, Italian thistle, ice plant, Pride of Madeira, aloe, and calla lily</li> <li>▪ Useful for removal of above-ground stems of short - stalked false bindweed and Japanese honeysuckle, yet these species may require a specific cut and paint method to kill the underground growth and roots (see E, below)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hand pull – maximize root removal, <u>disposal options vary with species</u></li> <li>▪ Hand pull with hand tools; tools used mostly to loosen soil around roots</li> <li>▪ Surface cut of weeds (timing is critical, suitable for annual, shallow root species).</li> <li>▪ Shovel cut to sever root (depth and timing are critical)</li> <li>▪ Full dig (mostly biennial and a few perennial species)</li> </ul>
C	<b>Herbicide Spot Spray or Cut and Spray</b>  (with non-ionic surfactant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jubata grass (cut and spray)</li> <li>▪ Giant reed re sprouts (spot spray)</li> <li>▪ Periwinkle, Kikuyu grass &amp; calla lily (spot spray on a limited basis)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>See suggested guidelines and restrictions section</u></li> <li>▪ Spot spray - should be based on herbicide restrictions and guidelines to limit the chemicals, quantities and concentrations used.</li> <li>▪ Some targeted partial plant spray (terminal growth area only) after initial cutting</li> </ul>
D	<b>Mechanized Hand Tools</b>  (includes Individual methods utilizing gas, electric or battery)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Italian thistle (Needs to be specifically timed; <u>hand removal is the preferred method</u>)</li> <li>▪ All trees (chainsaws followed by cut and paint herbicide; See E below)</li> <li>▪ Blackberries and English ivy (Hedge trimmers and chainsaws to <u>cut back</u> growth)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ May requires specific techniques.</li> <li>▪ <u>No metal blades during dry season</u></li> <li>▪ Timing is often critical for control and seed bank depletion</li> </ul>

**Table 4. Techniques for Removal of Invasive, Non-native Plant Species, Laguna Grande Regional Park**

Code	Technique	Possible Applications	Treatment Notes
	powered equipment, such as chainsaws, hedge trimmers, augers, hammer drills, brush cutters, weed whips)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hedge trimmers and chainsaws for creating access to areas for removal of other invasive species, such as English ivy, Cape ivy, blackberries and nasturtium, yet care should be used to limit damage to desirable native plant species</li> <li>▪ English ivy, Cape ivy and blackberries (large masses)</li> </ul>	
E	<b>Cut and Paint Herbicide</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This method is limited to perennial, woody plant species.</li> <li>▪ All tree and shrub species where the trunk is greater than 1” in diameter</li> <li>▪ Short-stalked false bindweed and Japanese honeysuckle may require a specific cut and paint method to kill the underground growth and roots</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cut stem and paint herbicide to cut</li> <li>▪ Use on woody species capable of stump re-sprouts, other vegetative growth or having rhizomatous stems</li> <li>▪ Requires different concentrations and usually no surfactant</li> <li>▪ Use 1” brush or small dabber</li> <li>▪ Apply to cambium layer only, except for small diameter stems or <i>Hedera helix</i></li> <li>▪ Apply first treatment within 1 minute of cut</li> <li>▪ A second treatment may be applied within 2 minutes of first application</li> </ul>
F	<b>Removal from Tree Trunks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Intended to remove specific invasive plant species from the canopy of trees and shrubs.</li> <li>▪ Mostly hand work for English ivy, Cape ivy and invasive blackberry species</li> <li>▪ Chainsaws may be used to cut large-diameter English ivy vines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Hand pull and cut with hand tools – maximize stem removal from lower tree trunk; allow canopy material to die on site.</li> </ul>

**Note: Eradication of Cape ivy, English ivy and Himalayan blackberry** may require many or all of the treatment methods in Table 4 to be successful. As these three species are often intertwined with native plants and found in riparian woodlands to be retained, efforts at eradication could result in short and moderate-term environmental damage to these woodlands. Additionally, eradicating these three species would require a long-term substantial commitment of time and resources. Therefore, for the purpose of this section, efforts for these species have been limited to control. If eradication of these species is desired, a species-specific long-term plan should be created.

**Herbicide Guidelines and Restrictions.** It is suggested that herbicide and associated surfactants be utilized only when conditions and/or resources practically limit other options. Additionally, efforts should be made to limit the quantities of herbicide used, the number of applications of herbicide and to elimination the use of surfactants where possible. Some level of experimentation, within allowable agency and biological restrictions, during the first session of invasive plant control, may provide information that will assist in achieving these goals. As conditions in a particular area may allow approved, appropriate changes from standard application practices or specialized methods, factors to be considered include, but are not limited to:

- Proximity to listed or protected species, or associated habitat
- Proximity to water or seasonal flows
- Method and timing of application to maximize effectiveness
- Type and concentration of herbicide
- Type and need for surfactant
- Potential to reduce the number of applications
- Plant species to be treated
- The density of focused invasive plant species
- The density and proximity of desirable plant species
- Timing of application to avoid conflicts with governmental environmental restrictions or biological imperatives.

Input from a Certified Pesticide Advisor may be required prior to herbicide use. Any herbicide applications should follow product label requirements, at a minimum. All herbicide use must follow legal and biological requirements and restrictions for application, cleanup and disposal. These following considerations may exceed the product label requirements. Additional considerations could include:

- Herbicides potentially allowed (subject to approval and conditions). Possible herbicides that could be utilized include Milestone©, Rodeo©, Aquamaster©, Roundup Custom for Aquatic Habitats©, and Garlon 3.
- Surfactant allowed (subject to conditions, but recommend non-ionic only)
- Appropriate dye should be added to herbicide to identify placement.
- If herbicide work is to be done by non-county personnel, herbicide should be mixed on site, at a designated location from unopened containers.
- No herbicide should be used near on in running or standing water.
- No herbicide should be used within 48 hours after a rain event.
- Herbicide applications should not take place within 24 hours of a forecasted 20%+ chance of precipitation.
- No herbicide shall be used in proximity to listed species established by the appropriate agencies.
- No herbicide shall be used in proximity to nesting birds.
- No herbicide shall be used in proximity to bee colonies or like pollinators.
- Density or plant coverage protocols should be established for the types of herbicide application, when appropriate.
- Removable barriers shall be placed prior to area herbicide spraying (ex; stake and screen erosion fencing), when appropriate.

#### **4.2 Precautions to Protect Sensitive Biotic Resources**

Implementation of some invasive, non-native plant management activities has the potential to harm native plant and animal species, if such resources are present in the work area. For example, ground nesting birds can be harmed if they have nests within areas subject to vegetation removal during the bird nesting season. Dens of dusky-footed woodrat can be harmed if weed control activities inadvertently alter these dens. Measures are described in this section on actions to be implemented to avoid impacts to non-target plants and animals. In addition, work during the rainy season should be avoided, as there can be inadvertent impacts on downstream waters if sediment and soils are dislodged. If work is proposed between October 15 and April 15, work should be conducted away from the active creek channel and not in areas of standing water. If bare ground is created, consider placing erosion control features, such as straw wattles, around the perimeter of the treated area. Additional erosion control measures may be warranted. Work along the creek and pond edge should be done in a manner that avoids impacts to water quality. Worker access in the creek bed and along the pond edge should be minimized.

**Pre-Construction Bird Nest Survey and Woodrat House Avoidance.** When invasive plant removal work is to occur within the bird-breeding season (i.e., typically March 1 through August 31) measures are needed to ensure work does not affect nesting birds, as all migratory bird nests are protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Prior to vegetation removal the work area should be walked and inspected to determine presence/absence of nesting migratory birds. This survey should be conducted by a qualified biologist or by trained Park personnel. Meandering walking surveys should be conducted through the work area up to 7 days prior to work. If birds are found nesting within or immediately adjacent to the proposed work area, reschedule work until young have fledged, as determined by a qualified biologist, or the biologist shall establish an appropriate sized buffer zone around the nest(s) where no work shall take place until all young have fledged.

The work area should be walked to identify any wood rat houses. All stick houses are to be retained, with a minimum 10-foot buffer established around each house. Each house should be flagged and workers notified as to the location of each den.

#### **4.3 Implementation Schedule and Adaptive Management**

The removal of invasive, non-native plant species control should be timed to coincide with specific weather and plant growth conditions. As much as is possible, let the biology guide the timing of the treatment. Most invasive weed infestations can be effectively controlled when treatments are implemented prior to plant flowering, which reduces seed formation. Some biennial and perennial species are best treated after flowering, when plant nutrients are being expended and treatment actions can stress the plant, reduce its vigor, and inhibit its ability to reproduce. Other species may be best treated when they are focusing on drawing nutrients into the roots or stems for storage (i.e., English ivy, Himalayan blackberry). Table 5 displays the typical flowering period for each species.

Table 6 presents a generalized schedule of when plant species flower so as to schedule invasive weed control and maintenance. This schedule should only be used as a guide, as plant growth, including timing of flowering and seed set, are greatly influenced by rainfall and temperature

patterns. Also, various techniques may require changing patterns to maximize effects. Management actions should be updated and refined in response to weather patterns, plant responses, and as new information on weed control/treatment is gathered. All management actions should be monitored as to their effectiveness.

Tables 4, 5, and 6, used together, provide guidelines for determining the optimum timing for invasive weed control.

**Table 5. Typical Flowering Period of Invasive, Non-native Plant Species, Laguna Grande Regional Park**

Common Name	Scientific Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>TREES</b>													
Acacia	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i> ; <i>A. dealbata</i> ; <i>A. longifolia</i>												
Blue Gum Eucalyptus	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>												
White Ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>												
Ngaiio Tree (Myoporum)	<i>Myoporum laetum</i>												
Cherry Plum	<i>Prunus cerasifera</i>												
Chinese Elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>												
<b>SHRUBS AND WOODY VINES</b>													
French Broom	<i>Genista monspessulana</i>												
Glossy Privet	<i>Ligustrum sp.</i>												
Himalaya Blackberry	<i>Rubus ameniacus</i>												
Elm-leaf (thornless) Blackberry	<i>Rubus ameniacus</i>												
Pride of Madeira	<i>Echium candicans</i>												
<b>NON-WOODY VINES, GRASSES, AND GROUNDCOVERS</b>													
Aloe	<i>Aloe arborescens</i>												
Giant Reed	<i>Arundo donax</i>												
Short-stalked False Bindweed	<i>Calystegia silvatica</i>												
Italian Thistle	<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i>												
Ice Plant	<i>Carpobrotus edulis</i> ; <i>C. chilensis</i>												
Bull Thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>												
Poison Hemlock	<i>Conium maculatum</i>												
Jubata Grass	<i>Cortaderia jubata</i> ; <i>C. selloana</i>												
Pampas Grass													
Cape Ivy	<i>Delairea odorata</i>												
Panic Veldt) Grass	<i>Erharta erecta</i>												
Fennel	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>												
English ivy	<i>Hedera helix</i> ; <i>H. spp.</i>												
Japanese Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera japonica</i>												
Kikuyu Grass	<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>												
Nasturtium	<i>Tropaeolum majus</i>												
Periwinkle	<i>Vinca major</i>												
Calla Lily	<i>Zantedeschia aethiopica</i>												

**Table 6. Invasive, Non-native Plant Treatment, Suggested Implementation Schedule, Years 1-10**

Task	Winter		Spring			Summer			Fall			Dec
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr <sup>1</sup>	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	
<b>Yearly Tasks</b>												
Develop work plan plan for year, including procurment of specilized personnel, equipment, and/or services.												
Conduct field inspection to monitor plant growth and progress of flowering stalks on invasive weed species. Update distribution maps as needed.												
<b>Years 1 -3: Highest Priority Occurrences</b>												
Year 1 - Priority 1 Trees: Cut and remove priority 1 trees; cut and treat stumps as needed.												
Years 2-3: Cut and re-treat any re-sprouting trees												
Years 2-3 - Priority 1 Shrub/Groundcovers/Grasses: Remove priority 1 occurrences of giant reed, French broom, English ivy, Cape ivy, palm, veldt grass, Jubata grass, Pride of Madeira, aloe. Re-treat re-sprouts as needed.												
<b>Years 1 -5: High Priority Occurrences</b>												
Priority 2 Shrub/Groundcovers/Grasses: Remove priority 2 occurrences of French broom, Ngaio tree, ice plant, English ivy, bindweed, Himalaya blackberry, nasturtium.												
Cut and re-treat any re-sprouting Priority 1 and 2 occurrences												
<b>Years 6 -10: Moderate Priority Occurrences</b>												
Priority 3 Shrub/Groundcovers/Grasses: Remove priority 3 occurrences of English ivy, kikuyu grass, Himalaya blackberry, nasturtium.												
Develop long-term plan for Years 10-20.												

## References

- Baldwin, B. G., D. H. Goldman, et al. 2012. *The Jepson Manual: Vascular Plants of California*, University of California Press.
- Bossard, Carla C., et al. *Invasive Plants of California's Wildlands*. University of California Press, 2000.
- Calflora Database. 2021. Calflora: Information on California plants for education, research and conservation online database. Berkeley, California. <https://www.calflora.org/>
- California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC). 2021. Cal-IPC Invasive Plant Inventory online database. <https://www.cal-ipc.org/plants/inventory/>
- California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC). 2021 *California Wildland Invasive Plants* by John M. Randall and Marc C. Hoshovsky. <https://www.cal-ipc.org/resources/library/publications/ipcw/cwip/cal-ipc.org>
- DiTomaso, Joseph M. *Weeds of California and Other Western States, Vol 1 and Vol.2*. University of California Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources, 2007.
- EMC Planning Group, 2021. *Laguna Grande Regional Park Vegetation Mapping and Focused Plant Survey Results*. Report prepared for BFSAs., Monterey, CA. July 2021.
- Gordon, Burton., 1996. *Monterey Bay Area: Natural History and Cultural Imprints*. Boxwood Press, Pacific Grove, CA.
- Jepson Flora Project. 2021. Jepson eFlora online database. <https://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/eflora/>
- Matthews, Mary Ann, and Michael Mitchell. 2015. *The Plants of Monterey County: An Illustrated Field Key*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Monterey Bay Chapter, California Native Plant Society.
- Mooney, Harold A., and Erika Zavaleta. *Ecosystems of California*. University of California Press, 2016. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1525/j.ctv1xxzp6>
- Sawyer, J. O., T. Keeler-Wolf, and J.M. Evens. 2009. *A Manual of California Vegetation*. California Native Plant Society, Sacramento, CA.
- Tietje, William D., William L. Preston, and Anne Y. Polyakov. 2019. *Natural History of the Central Coast Bioregion*. University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources. <https://oaks.cnr.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Nat-History-of-CC-BIO-2019.pdf>
- Yeager, Rod M., and Michael Mitchell. *Monterey County Wildflowers: A Field Guide*. Monterey Bay Chapter, California Native Plant Society, 2016.

APPENDIX C  
WILDLIFE ANALYSIS

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

DRAFT Wildlife Analysis for the Biological Resources Section of the Initial Study..... 1

    Introduction .....1

    Special-Status Amphibians and Reptiles .....2

*California Red-legged Frog* .....2

*Coast Range Newt* .....6

*Western Pond Turtle* .....7

    Special-Status Birds.....7

*Burrowing Owl*.....7

*Nesting Birds* .....9

*Tricolored Blackbird* .....10

    Special-Status Mammals .....11

*American Badger* .....11

*Monterey Dusky-Footed Woodrat* .....12

*Monterey Shrew*.....13

*Bats* .....13

Sources ..... 15

## Appendices

Appendix A      Special-Status Species in the Project Vicinity

## Figures

Figure 1-1      Special-Status Species Known to Occur in the Project Vicinity **Error! Bookmark not defined.**



# DRAFT WILDLIFE ANALYSIS FOR THE BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES SECTION OF THE INITIAL STUDY

## Introduction

This section is based on reconnaissance-level biological field surveys conducted by EMC Planning Group biologist Patrick Furtado, M.S., on May 18, May 24, and June 15, 2021, to document existing plant communities/wildlife habitats and evaluate the potential for special-status species to occur on the project site. Biological resources were documented in field notes, including species observed, dominant plant communities, significant wildlife habitat characteristics, and riparian and wetland habitat. Qualitative estimations of plant cover, structure, and spatial changes in species composition were used to determine plant communities and wildlife habitats. Habitat quality and disturbance levels were also described.

Prior to conducting the survey, Mr. Furtado reviewed aerial photographs, natural resource database mapping and reports, and other relevant scientific literature. This included searching the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Endangered Species Database (USFWS 2021), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CDFW 2021), and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CNPS 2021) to identify special-status plants, wildlife, and habitats known to occur in the vicinity of the project site. Special-status species in this report are those listed as Endangered, Threatened, or Rare, or as Candidates for listing by the USFWS and/or CDFW; as Species of Special Concern or Fully Protected species by the CDFW; or as Rare Plant Rank 1B or 2B species by the CNPS.

A search of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) was conducted for the target Seaside USGS quadrangle, and eight surrounding quadrangles (Monterey OE N, Marina, Salinas, Monterey, Spreckels, Soberanes Point, Mount Carmel, and Carmel Valley) to generate a list of potentially occurring special-status wildlife species in the project vicinity (CDFW 2021). Records of occurrence for special-status plants were also reviewed for those twelve USGS quadrangles in the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CNPS 2021). A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Endangered Species Program threatened and endangered species list was generated for San Benito County (USFWS 2021). [Appendix X, Special-Status Species in the Project Vicinity](#), presents tables with CNDDDB results, which lists special-status species documented within the project vicinity, their listing status and suitable habitat description, and their potential to occur on the site. [Figure X](#),

[Special-Status Species Known to Occur in the Project Vicinity](#), presents a map with CNDDDB results.

Critical habitat is a designation used by the USFWS for specific geographic areas that contain features essential to the conservation of an endangered or threatened species and that may require special management and protection. The project site is not within a critical habitat area.

Wildlife species identified with the potential to occur on the project site include:

- California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*);
- Coast Range newt (*Taricha torosa*);
- Western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*);
- Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*);
- Tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*);
- American badger (*Taxidea taxus*);
- Monterey dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes luciana*);
- Monterey shrew (*Sorex ornatus salarii*);
- Hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*); and
- Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*).

## Special-Status Amphibians and Reptiles

The following special-status amphibian and reptile species occur in the project vicinity and were assessed for the potential to occur on the project site:

- California red-legged frog, federally listed as Threatened and a California Species of Special Concern;
- Coast Range newt, California Species of Special Concern; and
- Western pond turtle, California Species of Special Concern.

### California Red-legged Frog

A federally-listed Threatened species and California Species of Special Concern, California red-legged frog occurs in lowlands and foothills primarily in perennial or ephemeral ponds, pools, and streams where water remains long enough (14-28 weeks) for breeding and metamorphosis of tadpoles. Specific breeding sites include streams, creeks, ponds, marshes, sag ponds, deep pools, backwater areas, dune ponds, lagoons, and estuaries. California red-legged frog may disperse from their aquatic breeding habitats to upland habitats during the dry season. They prefer upland habitats that provide

moisture to prevent desiccation and protection from predators, including downed logs, woody vegetation, boulders, moist leaf litter, or other refugia during the dry season. In areas where upland habitats do not contain structure, they take refuge in burrows. However, if there is sufficient water at their breeding location, they may remain in aquatic habitats year-round instead of moving to adjacent uplands.

During wet seasons, frogs can move long distances between habitats, traversing upland areas or ephemeral drainages. Dispersal distances are typically less than 0.3 mile, with a few individuals moving 1.2-2.2 miles. Seeps and springs in open grasslands can function as foraging habitat or refugia for wandering frogs.

CNDDDB records indicate that the closest known occurrence of California red-legged frog is approximately 2.5 miles south of the project site (Occurrence No. 939, CNDDDB 2021). There are no known occurrences within the project area lake or drainages, however breeding and upland habitat is potentially present. If impacts to California red-legged frog occur, they could be significant. Implementation of mitigation measures BIO-X and BIO-X would reduce this potential, significant impact to California red-legged frog to a less-than-significant level.

BIO-X Prior to ground disturbance, a qualified biologist shall conduct a training session for all construction personnel. At a minimum, the training shall include a description of special-status species potentially occurring in the project vicinity, including, but not limited to, California red-legged frog, Coast Range newt, western pond turtle, burrowing owl, tricolored blackbird, American badger, Monterey dusky-footed woodrat, Monterey shrew, special-status bats, and nesting birds and raptors. Their habitats, general measures that are being implemented to conserve species as they relate to the project, and the boundaries within which construction activities will occur will be explained. Informational handouts with photographs clearly illustrating the species' appearances shall be used in the training session. All new construction personnel shall undergo this mandatory environmental awareness training.

The qualified biologist will train biological monitors selected from the construction crew by the construction contractor (typically the project foreman). Before the start of work each day, the monitor will check for animals under any equipment such as vehicles and stored pipes within active construction zones. The monitor will also check all excavated steep-walled holes or trenches greater than one foot deep for trapped animals. If a special-status species is observed within an active construction zone, the qualified biologist will be notified immediately and all work within 50 feet of the individual will be halted and all equipment turned off until the individual has left the construction area.

The Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority shall document evidence of completion of this training prior to ground disturbance.

BIO-X A qualified biologist shall conduct preconstruction surveys following the guidance documented in the *Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the California Red-legged Frog* (USFWS 2005) no more than two weeks (14 days) prior to the start of construction activities. The project site will be surveyed for potential migratory and/or upland activity. The qualified biologist shall prepare a report documenting the results of the preconstruction surveys for submittal to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority prior to ground disturbance.

If California red-legged frog is found, the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority will coordinate with the USFWS and/or CDFW to determine the appropriate course of action per the requirements of FESA and/or CESA (e.g., obtaining Incidental Take Permits) and implement the permit requirements prior to ground disturbance.

3. The following measures from the *USFWS Programmatic Biological Opinion for Issuance of Permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, including Authorizations Under 22 Nationwide Permits, for Projects that May Affect the Threatened California Red-legged Frog in Nine San Francisco Bay Area Counties, California* (USFWS 2014) shall be implemented:
  - a. Construction documents shall delineate a 100-foot boundary from the outer edge of riparian vegetation along the lake and drainages.
  - b. A qualified biologist shall be on site during all activities within 100 feet from the outer edge of riparian vegetation along the lake or drainage that where California red-legged frog may be encountered.
  - c. To the extent possible, all ground-disturbing work within 100 feet from the outer edge of riparian vegetation along the lake and drainage shall be avoided between November 1 and March 31, the time period when California red-legged frogs are most likely to be moving through upland areas.
  - d. All ground-disturbing work within 100 feet from the outer edge of riparian vegetation should be accomplished during the dry season, with no construction activities occurring during rain events or within 24 hours following a rain event.

- e. Prior to construction activities, exclusionary fencing shall be placed to keep construction vehicles and personnel from impacting potentially jurisdictional waters and riparian/wetland habitat outside of work areas. A biological monitor shall supervise the installation of exclusionary fencing and monitor at least once per week until construction is complete to ensure that the protective exclusionary fencing remains intact. Exclusion fencing material shall be selected to avoid accidental entrapment of wildlife species, such as fencing with a smaller gauge or no gaps at all (e.g., Animex™ fencing).
- f. To minimize harassment, injury, death, and harm in the form of temporary habitat disturbances, all project-related vehicle traffic shall be restricted to established roads, construction areas, equipment staging, storage, parking, and stockpile areas.
- g. If a California red-legged frog is encountered, all activities which have the potential to result in the harassment, injury, or death of the individual shall be immediately halted. A qualified biologist shall then assess the situation and select a course of action that shall avoid or minimize adverse effects to the animal.
- h. Uneaten human food and trash attracts crows, ravens, coyotes, and other predators of the California red-legged frog. A litter control program shall be instituted at each project site. All workers shall ensure their food scraps, paper wrappers, food containers, cans, bottles, and other trash are deposited in covered or closed trash containers. The trash containers shall be removed from the project site at the end of each working day.
- i. Loss of soil from run-off or erosion shall be prevented with straw bales, straw wattles, or similar means provided they do not entangle, block escape or dispersal routes of the California red-legged frog.
- j. No insecticides or herbicides shall be used at the project site during construction or long-term operational maintenance where there is the potential for these chemical agents to enter the river, or uplands that contain potential habitat for the California red-legged frog.
- k. No pets shall be permitted at the project site, to avoid and minimize the potential for harassment, injury, and death of the California red-legged frog.

- l. For on-site storage of pipes, conduits, and other materials that could provide shelter for special-status species, an open-top trailer shall be used to elevate the materials above ground. This is intended to reduce the potential for animals to climb into the conduits and other materials.
- m. To the maximum extent possible, night-time construction shall be minimized or avoided because dusk and dawn are often the times when the California red-legged frog is most actively moving and foraging.
- n. Plastic monofilament netting (erosion control matting), loosely woven netting, or similar material in any form shall not be used at the project site because California red-legged frogs can become entangled and trapped in them. Materials utilizing fixed weaves (strands cannot move), polypropylene, polymer, or other synthetic materials shall not be used.
- o. Trenches or pits one foot or deeper that are going to be left unfilled for more than 48 hours shall be securely covered with boards or other material to prevent the California red-legged frog from falling into them.

### **Coast Range Newt**

Coast Range newt is a California Species of Special Concern. This species is endemic to California and distributed along the coast and coast range mountains from central Mendocino County south to San Diego County. It is found from sea level to at least 1,280 meters on Mt. Hamilton in Santa Clara County. Coast Range newt burrows in or uses soil, fallen logs, or debris for cover. Central California localities are found in wet forests, oak forests, chaparral, and rolling grasslands. It will occupy upland habitats when not breeding. During reproduction, Coast Range newts will migrate to intermittent streams, rivers, lakes, and ponds where they lay eggs in shallow water attached to submerged rocks or twigs. CNDDDB records indicate one occurrence of Coast Range newt approximately six miles southwest of the project site (Occurrence No. 70, CNDDDB 2021). There are no known occurrences within the project area lake or drainages, however breeding and upland habitat is potentially present. Mitigation measure BIO-X, presented above, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the construction site for all personnel, and BIO-X and BIO-X, which require preconstruction surveys and measures for the protection of California red-legged frog would also protect Coast Range newt, if present. Implementation of these measures would reduce the potential, significant impact to Coast Range newt to a less-than-significant level and no additional measures are recommended.

## **Western Pond Turtle**

Western pond turtle is a California Species of Special Concern. It is uncommon to common in suitable aquatic habitat throughout California including freshwater marshes, stock ponds, lakes, rivers, and streams. This species is considered omnivorous. Aquatic plant material, including pond lilies, beetles and a variety of aquatic invertebrates as well as fishes, frogs, and even carrion have been reported among their food. Pond turtles require basking sites such as partially submerged logs, rocks, mats of floating vegetation, or open mud banks. Turtles slip from basking sites to underwater retreats at the approach of humans or potential predators.

CNDDDB records indicate one occurrence of western pond turtle approximately 3.5 miles southwest of the project site (Occurrence No. 1014, CNDDDB 2021). There are no known occurrences within the lake or drainages, however breeding and upland habitat is potentially present. Mitigation measure BIO-X, presented above, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the construction site for all personnel, and BIO-X and BIO-X, which require preconstruction surveys and measures for the protection of California red-legged frog would also protect western pond turtle, if present. Implementation of these measures would reduce the potential, significant impact to western pond turtle to a less-than-significant level and no additional measures are recommended.

## **Special-Status Birds**

The following special-status bird species occur in the project vicinity and were assessed for the potential to occur on the project site:

- Burrowing owl, California Species of Special Concern;
- Nesting birds; protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code; and
- Tricolored blackbird, California Species of Special Concern.

## **Burrowing Owl**

Burrowing owl is a California Species of Special Concern. Burrowing owls live and breed in burrows in the ground, especially in abandoned California ground squirrel burrows. Optimal habitat conditions include large open, dry and nearly level grasslands or prairies with short to moderate vegetation height and cover, areas of bare ground, and populations of burrowing mammals. A general, non-specific record for this species has been recorded approximately 900 feet north and west of the project site (Occurrence No. 574, CNDDDB 2021). The project site's non-native grassland provides marginally suitable foraging habitat for burrowing owl, and a few scattered small mammal burrows on the site could be utilized for nesting habitat, but burrowing owl has low potential to occur on the site. If burrowing owl is present on or adjacent to the project site, construction activities could result in the loss or

disturbance of individual animals. This would be a significant adverse environmental impact. Implementation of mitigation measures BIO-X, presented earlier, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the construction site for all personnel, and BIO-X would reduce this potentially significant impact to less than significant.

### *Mitigation Measure*

BIO-X To avoid/minimize impacts to burrowing owls potentially occurring within the project site, a biologist qualified in ornithology shall conduct surveys for burrowing owl. The approved biologist shall conduct a two-visit (i.e., morning and evening) presence/absence survey at areas of suitable habitat on and adjacent to the project site boundary no less than 14 days prior to the start of construction or ground disturbance activities. Surveys shall be conducted according to the methods for take avoidance described in the *Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines* (California Burrowing Owl Consortium 1993) and the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFW 2012). If no burrowing owls are found, a letter report confirming absence will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.

Because burrowing owls occupy habitat year-round, seasonal no-disturbance buffers, as outlined in the *Burrowing Owl Survey Protocol and Mitigation Guidelines* (CBOC 1993) and the *Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (CDFW 2012), shall be in place around occupied habitat prior to and during any ground disturbance activities. The following table includes buffer areas based on the time of year and level of disturbance (CDFW 2012), unless a qualified biologist approved by the CDFW verifies through non-invasive measures that either: 1) birds have not begun egg laying and incubation; or 2) that juveniles from the occupied burrows are foraging independently and are capable of independent survival.

Location	Time of Year	Level of Disturbance Buffers (meters)		
		Low	Med	High
Nesting Sites	April 1 – Aug 15	200 m	500 m	500 m
Nesting Sites	Aug 16 – Oct 15	200 m	200 m	500 m
Nesting Sites	Oct 16 – Mar 31	50 m	100 m	500 m

If burrowing owl is found and avoidance is not possible, burrow exclusion may be conducted by qualified biologists only during the non-breeding season, before breeding behavior is exhibited and after

the burrow is confirmed empty through non-invasive methods, such as surveillance. Occupied burrows shall be replaced with artificial burrows at a ratio of one collapsed burrow to one constructed artificial burrow (1:1). Evicted burrowing owls may attempt to colonize or re-colonize an area that would be impacted, thus ongoing surveillance during project activities shall be conducted at a rate sufficient to detect burrowing owls if they return.

If surveys locate occupied burrows in or near construction areas, consultation with the CDFW shall occur to interpret survey results and develop a project-specific avoidance and minimization approach. Once the absence of burrowing owl has been confirmed, a letter report will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority.

## **Nesting Birds**

Protected nesting birds have the potential to nest in buildings or structures, on open ground, or in any type of vegetation, including trees, during the nesting bird season (January 15 through September 15). The project site contains a variety of potential habitats for nesting birds. Construction activities, including ground disturbance, can impact nesting birds protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and California Fish and Game Code, should nesting birds be present during construction. If protected bird species are nesting adjacent to the project site during the bird nesting season, then noise-generating construction activities could result in the loss of fertile eggs, nestlings, or otherwise lead to the abandonment of nests. Implementation of Mitigation Measures BIO-X, presented above, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the construction site for all personnel, and BIO-X would reduce potential, significant impacts to nesting birds to less than significant.

### ***Mitigation Measure***

BIO-X To avoid impacts to nesting birds during the nesting season (January 15 through September 15), all construction activities should be conducted between September 16 and January 14, which is outside of the bird nesting season. If construction occurs during the bird nesting season, then a qualified biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey for nesting birds to ensure that no nests would be disturbed during project construction.

If project-related work is scheduled during the nesting season (February 15 to August 30 for small bird species such as passerines; January 15 to September 15 for owls; and February 15 to September 15 for other raptors), a qualified biologist shall conduct nesting bird surveys.

- a. Two surveys for active bird nests will occur within 14 days prior to start of construction, with the final survey conducted within 48 hours prior to construction. Appropriate minimum survey radii surrounding each work area are typically 250 feet for passerines, 500 feet for smaller raptors, and 1,000 feet for larger raptors. Surveys will be conducted at the appropriate times of day to observe nesting activities. Locations off the site to which access is not available may be surveyed from within the site or from public areas. If no nesting birds are found, a letter report confirming absence will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.
- b. If the qualified biologist documents active nests within the project site or in nearby surrounding areas, an appropriate buffer between each nest and active construction shall be established. The buffer shall be clearly marked and maintained until the young have fledged and are foraging independently. Prior to construction, the qualified biologist shall conduct baseline monitoring of each nest to characterize “normal” bird behavior and establish a buffer distance, which allows the birds to exhibit normal behavior. The qualified biologist shall monitor the nesting birds daily during construction activities and increase the buffer if birds show signs of unusual or distressed behavior (e.g., defensive flights and vocalizations, standing up from a brooding position, and/or flying away from the nest). If buffer establishment is not possible, the qualified biologist or construction foreman shall have the authority to cease all construction work in the area until the young have fledged and the nest is no longer active. Once the absence of nesting birds has been confirmed, a letter report will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority.

### **Tricolored Blackbird**

Tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*) is a California Species of Special Concern found mostly throughout the Central Valley and San Francisco Bay Delta regions. Tricolored blackbirds forage in annual grasslands; wet and dry vernal pools and other seasonal wetlands; and croplands. They also forage occasionally in riparian scrub habitats and along marsh borders. Tricolored blackbirds nest near freshwater marshes. There are CNDDDB records indicating tricolored blackbird activity within five miles of the project site, and

riparian and wetland vegetation along the lake and drainage may support this species. Measures recommended for the protection of nesting birds (above) are anticipated to determine if tricolored blackbirds are present and provide protection during construction, if needed.

## **Special-Status Mammals**

The following special-status bird species occur in the project vicinity and were assessed for the potential to occur on the project site:

- American badger, California Species of Special Concern;
- Monterey dusky-footed woodrat, California Species of Special Concern;
- Hoary bat, California Species of Special Concern; and
- Townsend's big-eared bat, California Species of Special Concern.

### **American Badger**

American badger is a California Species of Special Concern. It is an uncommon, permanent resident found throughout most of the state, except in the northern North Coast area. This large member of the weasel family uses most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats with friable soils suitable for burrows. Prey species include fossorial rodents such as rats, mice, chipmunks, ground squirrels, and pocket gophers. Badger diet shifts seasonally depending on the availability of prey and may also include reptiles, insects, earthworms, eggs, birds, and carrion. Mixed oak woodland, coastal scrub, and grassland habitats provide cover, drier soils for burrowing, and prey resources for this species. A historic record for American badger was recorded approximately 700 feet east of the project site (Occurrence No. 171, CDFW 2021), and a more recent (1992) observation was recorded approximately 2.3 miles east of the project site (Occurrence No. 241, CDFW 2021). Open grassland areas and openings along trails provide suitable habitat for the American badger. American badgers are known to occur in the region and could den and forage on the project site. Ground disturbance could result in impacts to this species from direct mortality or injury. Loss or harm to American badger is considered a significant adverse impact. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-X, presented above, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the construction site for all personnel, and BIO-X would reduce potential, significant impacts to American badger to less than significant.

### ***Mitigation Measures***

BIO-X Not more than 14 days prior to the commencement of ground-disturbing activities, a qualified wildlife biologist shall conduct surveys of the grassland habitat on site to identify any potential American badger burrows/dens. If the survey results are negative (i.e., no badger dens observed), a letter report

confirming absence will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.

If the results are positive (badger dens are observed), the qualified biologist shall determine if the dens are active by installing a game camera for three days and three nights to determine if the den is in use.

- a. If the biologist determines that a den may be active, coordination with the CDFW shall be undertaken to develop a suitable strategy to avoid impacts to American badger. The strategy may include the following: the biologist shall install a one-way door in the den opening and continue use of the game camera. Once the camera captures the individual exiting the one-way door, the den can be excavated with hand tools to prevent badgers from reusing them. If the biologist determines that the den is a maternity den, construction activities shall be delayed during the maternity season (February to August), or until the badgers leave the den on their own accord or the biologist determines that the den is no longer in use.
- b. If the game camera does not capture an individual entering/exiting the den, the den can be excavated with hand tools to prevent badgers from reusing them.

After dens have been excavated and the absence of American badger confirmed, a letter report will be prepared and submitted to the Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority.

### **Monterey Dusky-Footed Woodrat**

The Monterey dusky-footed woodrat is a California species of Special Concern typically found within dens chaparral or oak woodland habitats with moderately dense understory growth and abundant dead wood for nest construction. Monterey dusky-footed woodrat is known to occur in the project vicinity and woodland and riparian habitat at the project site is considered potential habitat. Removal or disturbance of habitat during nesting season is considered a significant impact. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-X, presented above, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the construction site for all personnel, and BIO-X would reduce potential, significant impacts to Monterey dusky-footed woodrat to less than significant.

#### ***Mitigation Measure***

BIO-X A qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys for woodrat nests within the trail improvement area. All woodrat nests shall be flagged for avoidance of direct construction impacts where feasible. If impacts cannot be avoided, woodrat nests shall be dismantled no more than three days prior to

dismantling so that the occupants do not attempt to rebuild. Nests are to be slowly dismantled by hand in order to allow the occupants to disperse.

## **Monterey Shrew**

The Monterey shrew is a California species of Special Concern. This species is an endemic subspecies of shrew occurring only on the Monterey Peninsula. Preferred habitats include riparian areas and other moist microclimates with available insect prey. Little is known about this species, since it is difficult to locate and does not survive well in traps due to very high metabolic rates. A general observation of this species has been recorded to include the project site; however, the record is from 1919 and the current distribution of Monterey shrew in the area is unknown (Occurrence No. 3, CDFW 2021). Riparian and woodland habitats within the project area could support this species, if present. Construction activities at the project site could result in the loss of individuals on or adjacent to the project site. Mitigation measure BIO-X, presented above, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the construction site for all personnel, and BIO-X and BIO-X, which require preconstruction surveys and measures for the protection of California red-legged frog would also protect Monterey shrew, if present. Implementation of these measures would reduce the potential, significant impact to Monterey shrew to a less-than-significant level and no additional measures are recommended.

## **Bats**

Trees and/or buildings or structures on or adjacent to the project site could provide roosting habitat for state-listed species of special concern hoary bat and Townsend's big-eared bat. Hoary bat is a solitary species that generally prefers dense foliage of medium to large trees. Townsend's big-eared bat prefers roosting and nesting found in caves, tunnels, mines, and buildings. These species have been identified as occurring within 1.2 and seven miles to the west and east of the project site, however little is known about their distribution in the project vicinity (CNDDDB 2021). Construction activities at the project site could result in the disturbance of roost and natal sites occupied by special-status bats on or adjacent to the project site, if present. Implementation of mitigation measures BIO-X, presented earlier, which requires a training session on special-status species potentially present on the construction site for all personnel, and BIO-X would reduce this potential, significant impact to special-status bats to a less-than-significant level.

## ***Mitigation Measure***

BIO-X      Approximately 14 days prior to tree removal or construction activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct a habitat assessment for bats and potential roosting sites in trees to be removed, in trees within 50 feet of the construction easement. These surveys shall include a visual inspection of potential roosting features (bats need not be present) and a search for presence of guano within the project site,

construction access routes, and 50 feet around these areas. Cavities, crevices, exfoliating bark, and bark fissures that could provide suitable potential nest or roost habitat for bats shall be surveyed. Assumptions can be made on what species is present due to observed visual characteristics along with habitat use, or the bats can be identified to the species level with the use of a bat echolocation detector such as an "Anabat" unit. Potential roosting features found during the survey shall be flagged or marked.

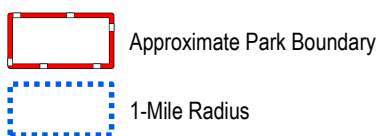
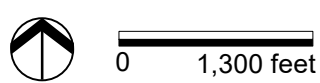
If no roosting sites or bats are found, a letter report confirming absence shall be prepared and submitted to Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Authority and no further mitigation is required.

If bats or roosting sites are found, bats shall not be disturbed without specific notice to and consultation with CDFW.

If bats are found roosting outside of the nursery season (May 1 through October 1), CDFW shall be consulted prior to any eviction or other action. If avoidance or postponement is not feasible, a Bat Eviction Plan will be submitted to CDFW for written approval prior to project implementation. A request to evict bats from a roost includes details for excluding bats from the roost site and monitoring to ensure that all bats have exited the roost prior to the start of activity and are unable to re-enter the roost until activity is completed. Any bat eviction shall be timed to avoid lactation and young-rearing. If bats are found roosting during the nursery season, they shall be monitored to determine if the roost site is a maternal roost. This could occur by either visual inspection of the roost bat pups, if possible, or by monitoring the roost after the adults leave for the night to listen for bat pups. Because bat pups cannot leave the roost until they are mature enough, eviction of a maternal roost cannot occur during the nursery season. Therefore, if a maternal roost is present, a 50-foot buffer zone (or different size if determined in consultation with the CDFW) shall be established around the roosting site within which no construction activities including tree removal or structure disturbance shall occur until after the nursery season.

## SOURCES

1. California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2012. Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation. State of California Natural Resources Agency.
2. CDFW. 2018. Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities. <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=18959&inline>.
3. CDFW. 2021. Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS) online database. <http://bios.dfg.ca.gov>
4. CDFW. 2021. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) online database. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/data/cnddb>
5. California Native Plant Society (CNPS). 2001. CNPS Botanical Survey Guidelines. [https://cnps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/cnps\\_survey\\_guidelines.pdf](https://cnps.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/cnps_survey_guidelines.pdf).
6. California Native Plant Society. 2021. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California online database. <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org>
7. Jameson, E. W., and Hans J. Peeters. 2004. Mammals of California. University of California Press.
8. Thomson, R. C. 2016. California Amphibian and Reptile Species of Special Concern, University of California Press.
9. United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2005. *Revised Guidance on Site Assessments and Field Surveys for the California Red-legged Frog*.
10. USFWS. 2014. *USFWS Programmatic Biological Opinion for Issuance of Permits under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, including Authorizations Under 22 Nationwide Permits, for Projects that May Affect the Threatened California Red-legged Frog in Nine San Francisco Bay Area Counties, California*.
11. USFWS. 2021. National Wetlands Inventory online database. U.S. Department of the Interior. Washington, D.C. <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/>
12. USFWS. 2021. Endangered Species Program online database. Species list for San Benito County. Washington, D.C. <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>



Source: ESRI 2021, CDFW CNDDDB 2021



Figure X  
Special-Status Species Known to Occur in the Project Vicinity

Laguna Grande Trail Maintenance CEQA

APPENDIX D  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
MATERIALS



# Laguna Grande Park Virtual Town Hall

Wednesday, July 28, 2021  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

A town hall meeting to discuss  
maintenance of trails and vegetation  
at Laguna Grande Park.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86977507440>

Meeting ID: 869 7750 7440

Call-In (English): +1(669)900-6833

ID: 869 7750 7440#



# Laguna Grande Park Junta Comunitaria

Miercoles, 28 de julio de 2021  
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Una junta comunitaria para discutir el  
mantenimiento de los senderos y la  
vegetación en Laguna Grande Park

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86977507440>

Meeting ID: 869 7750 7440

Llamada (Ingles ): +1(669)900-6833

ID: 869 7750 7440#

August 02, 2021



MEMO TO: Chris Schmidt / Planner  
City of Monterey

CC: City of Seaside and Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District  
FROM: Beth Matz, BFS Landscape Architects

**RE: LAGUNA GRANDE VIRTUAL TOWNHALL JULY 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – MEETING MINUTES & PUBLIC COMMENTS**

6:30- 6:50: BFS and City of Monterey presented presentation virtually to the community. BFS counted 40 attendees in the meeting.

6:50 – 7:30: Community members were given a forum to either ask questions or provide comments. Community members could talk virtually or leave comments in the chat box. The following comments were provided virtually:

7:30: Community was invited to the next community event- The site walk around Laguna Grande Park on August 14, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

1. Laura Nagel –
  - a. Does not feel safe in the park
  - b. Need balance of nature with habitat
  - c. Need to keep eyes on / in the park
  - d. Is Roberts Lake included?

Response: Roberts Lake is not included in the project scope.

2. Esther Malkin –
  - a. Lighting?
  - b. Acquisition of additional property
  - c. Park needs playground upgrade like Montecito Park
  - d. Need bathrooms on both sides of the park
  - e. Senior workout area
  - f. Has a sketch – available at the state level

Response: Due to sensitive habitat lighting will have to be studied carefully and will be part of the CEQA review process.

3. Tammy Jennings –
  - a. Wheel chair accessibility needed
  - b. Not safe in early morning or late evening

4. Diane Nielsen –
  - a. Concern with more planting!
  - b. Eucalyptus trees – fire risk, Elkhorn Slough is removing trees
  - c. Take care of community planting @ Canyon Del Rey and Fremont Blvd
  
5. Kevin Roskoff (MPRPD)
  - a. Schedule to get started!
  - b. Community concerns
  
6. Joseph –
  - a. Lives behind soccer field
  - b. Likes proposed pruning
  
7. Kay Cline (Seaside Resident) –
  - a. Is this jointly supported?
  - b. Who are city staff?
  - c. Park is a gem to be cared for
  
8. Mayor Clyde Roberson (Monterey) -
  - a. No notes
  
9. Anne –
  - a. Goose excrement a super big problem!
  - b. Bridge condition, upgrade?
  
10. Scott Hanson (Monterey Resident near park) –
  - a. North Fremont area is most problematic
  - b. City of Monterey does a good job
  
11. Chris Parsons (Villa Del Monte / Monterey) –
  - a. What I like – city maintenance does a great job
  - b. Get businesses involved!!
  - c. Native plants for wildlife and safety
  - d. Likes mixed recreation uses
  - e. Trash along water edge is an issue
  
12. Online chat –
  - a. Goose excrement!
  - b. Stop removing water fountains and fix the existing ones
  
13. Stephen –
  - a. Funding source?

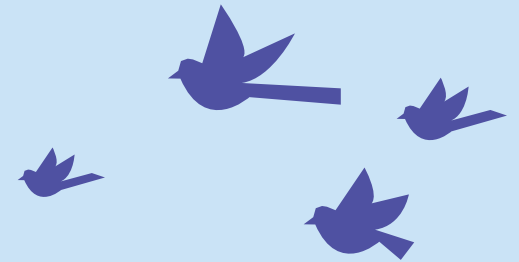
Response: Funding to be provide through the JPA-which is a comprised of City of Monterey, City of Seaside and Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District
  
14. 277-0563 Chuck Hallbeck –

- a. Add shade at playground and parcourse equipment
- b. Basketball court
- c. Lighting
- d. Likes Montecito Park
- e. Questions if people want to see the encampments
- f. Does not like dogs on the bike path

The following comments were provided through the chat function:

1. Carmen: Will be the recording be emailed;  
Response: We will post the link on the Have your Say Website
2. Susi Allen: Add more garbage cans
3. Esther Malkin: Has a budget been set? Where is the funding coming from?  
Response: A budget will be developed as a part of this project. We are looking at the entire park. We will be working with all jurisdictions on funding options.
4. Esther Malkin: Hoping the picnic area on the Monterey Side will get an upgrade. Upgrade tables, trash cans, bbqs, The whole area is ratty looking. The kids playground by the soccer field could use an upgrade like Montecito Park got and the bathrooms on both sides of the park.
5. Esther Malkin: I approached Chili's & IN/Out yrs ago to join the effort (ie vegetation maintenance).  
Scott Hanson: I lobbied the manager at Holiday Inn to become involved-he was helpful but more can be done.
6. Mayor Roberson: thank you everyone for your concern and care for the park. We will continue to work together as neighbors and concerned citizens.
7. Esther Malkin: I'm happy to engage more on the work we've done over the past 7 yrs to get to this point. [esthermalkin@yahoo.com](mailto:esthermalkin@yahoo.com). We looked at adding some senior workout equipment that would be great to get in
8. Chuck H: I do always carry pepper spray or a knife while walking. There was a bear in the park once. Precautions. Work tickets are not easy to put in
9. Gina Garcia: Can you speak on what is the current status of the structure near the kids playground on the Seaside side? Looks like a church or hall? Any plans for that structure?  
Response: The structure is a church – St. Seraphim of Sarov Parish

–END–



# Laguna Grande Park Community Site Walk

Saturday, August 14th 2021  
10 AM - 12:00 PM

Meet at Hillside BBQ Space #1  
Parking at the Eucalyptus Lot

Seeking public input on the maintenance of  
trails and vegetation at Laguna Grande Park

<https://haveyoursaymonterey.org/laguna-grande-park-plan>



# Caminata por el sitio de la comunidad Laguna Grande

Sábado, 14 de agosto de 2021  
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Nos reuniremos en Hillside BBQ, espacio #1  
Estacionamiento en Eucalyptus

Estamos buscando ideas y sugerencias  
sobre el mantenimiento de los senderos y de  
la vegetación del parque Laguna Grande

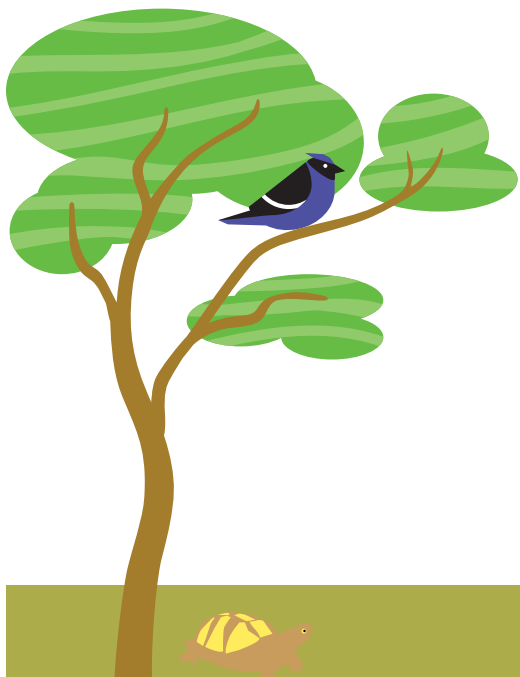
<https://haveyoursaymonterey.org/laguna-grande-park-plan>





# Laguna Grande Park Site Walk

August 14th, 2021



Site walk notes

Stop #1

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Stop #2

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Stop #3

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Site walk notes

Stop #4

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Stop #5

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

Stop #6

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....



# Laguna Grande Park



# LAGUNA GRANDE



MONTEREY

SEASIDE

## FORTAG TRAIL ALIGNMENT OPTIONS



# LAGUNA GRANDE



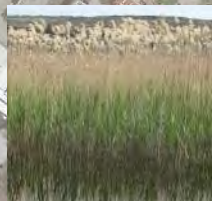
WHERE DO YOU LIVE?



# LAGUNA GRANDE



*Alnus rhombifolia* - White Alder



*Phragmites australis* - Common Reed



*Salix lasiolepis* - Arroyo Willow



*Schoenoplectus acutus* - Tule

 Invasive Species

## HABITAT COMMUNITIES



August 23, 2021

MEMO TO: Chris Schmidt / Planner  
City of Monterey

CC: City of Seaside and Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District  
FROM: Beth Matz, BFS Landscape Architects

**RE: LAGUNA GRANDE SITE WALK AUGUST 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – MEETING NOTES & PUBLIC COMMENTS**

ATTENDEES:

City of Seaside:  
Ian Oglesby  
Dave Pacheco  
Daniel Meewis

MPPRD:  
Kevin Raskoff  
Caine Camarillo

City of Monterey:  
Thys Norton  
Louie Marcuzzo  
Chris Schmidt

BFS Landscape Architects:  
Mike Bellinger  
Beth Matz  
Payam Ostovar  
Daniel Zuercher

MEETING AGENDA MINUTES:

10:15 – 10:30: Attendees gathered at the Hillside BBQ space in the Eucalyptus parking lot. While waiting attendees were able to review maps of the park outlining habitat communities and showing proposed FORTAG trail alignment options. Attendees were asked to identify areas of concern with orange stickers. See maps below. See Sign-in Sheets for event participants.

10:30 – 11:15: The (32) attendees were split into two groups to begin the site walk around the lake and discuss key points of the park. See map below for key points:

11:15: The two groups reconvened at the south bridge to walk and discuss the forebay section of the park.

12:15 – 12:30: The group returned to the Hillside BBQ space, finishing the site walk.

MEETING SUMMARY:

1. Primary urgency for residents was the forebay area
2. Participants favored both accessibility improvements and vegetation maintenance
3. Participants were not overly interested in adding 'more' lake access points or extending sightlines across the lake
4. Participants desire to have sightlines along the main path be clear and vegetation be managed to open up views around the curves of the path and where the paths or lake access points branch off of trail
5. Participants were supportive to protect habitat areas and extend habitat resources
6. Participants want a transparent decision-making process and the opportunity to review materials and decisions being made

7. Participants want clear delineation on where the City of Seaside and City of Monterey boundary occurs in the park
8. Aesthetics of the park was not a priority; many participants enjoy the park character as is
9. Participants are frustrated by the slow-moving process for mitigating and reducing illegal camping. Participants feel like they've been put on the backburner for 10 years.

#### ACTION ITEMS AND NEXT STEPS

1. BFS and JPA staff to respond to participant questions by September 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - a. Where are the City property lines
  - b. Is trail resurfacing apart of the project
  - c. What is the schedule for the project
  - d. What lighting levels are optimal for park safety
  - e. What is the budget for the strategy plan and for the maintenance work to occur? Where is funding coming from?
2. Action Item: BFS to provide schedule for project webpage to show deliverables, public meetings, and process
3. Action Item: BFS to provide meeting minutes and site video for project webpage
4. Action Item: JPA provide noticing for next public meeting

#### SITE WALK COMMENTS:

##### Stop 1: Eucalyptus Parking Lot and Picnic Area

- Concern about the JPA making decisions without the community's input
- Concern about water quality of lake and the ditch around the perimeter of the forebay
- Comment: Adjust benches to enhance visibility
- Question: Are trails to be resurfaced as part of maintenance plan?
- Question: What is the maintenance plan for the bridge?

##### Stop 2: Lakeside Parking Lot and Picnic Area

- Comment: Preference for consistent paving materials throughout the park
- Comment: Repair all trails and pathways within the park
- Comment: Preference for D.G. paving materials due to its natural look and maintenance
- Comment: Improve visibility of docks from path, need to be able to see if someone is using the dock
- Comment: Improve accessibility to docks from pathway
- Comment: Open up views to the lake, add more benches for better views
- Comment: Cut back vegetation at curves in pathway to open-up sightlines
- Comment: Sightlines across lake not as important as sightlines along path
- Comment: There are not enough trash cans
- Question: Why is there wire fence along lake edge?

##### Stop 3: North Bridge adjacent to Holiday Inn Express

- Comment: There are not enough trash cans and litter is thrown in the reeds/vegetation
- Comment; Adding benches and picnic tables would be nice along the trail
- Question: What level of lighting is allowed in habitat areas
- Comment: Current light fixtures are not attractive

- Comment: Light fixtures need to be tamper proof
- Comment: The section of park path near the large viewing dock is low and floods during wet season
- Comment: Nearby businesses need to get involved
- Comment: Clear out vegetation around the dock
- Comment: There is so much vegetation around the lake that you can't tell there is a trail. Open up site lines to rest of trail to help draw people into the park
- Question: Will the plan address accessibility issues? (ie gap at bridge and trail)
- Question: Is it feasible to use goats for vegetation maintenance?
- Question: Who is responsible for maintenance?
- Question: How is maintenance funded and budgeted?

#### Stop 4: North-Western Habitat Area at English Street

- Comment: Clean up understory and limb up canopy to allow views around corners of trail
- Comment: Culverts are eroded and need repair / replacement
- Comment: Thys Norton from Monterey Parks does a good job keeping trail areas clear
- Comment: Monterey did major clearing along the informal trails to access illegal camping in this area; residents were not happy, but it has grown back very quickly
- Comment: Mowing the bull rush is good, but it does grow back quickly
- Comment: The mulched trails in the area helped reduce the encampments
- Comment: Check out the website [birdability.org](http://birdability.org)-Advocates to create birding opportunities for everyone
- Comment: Monterey Audobon members acknowledge this as a prime bird area
- Concern: Accessibility varies through the park and the trails. Habitat area is not accessible
- Question: Are there noise abatement options?
- Comment: There are several feral cats that live with in the park
- Question: Is boardwalk decking an option in low lying areas?
- Comment: There is car camping around the perimeter of the park and the parking lots
- Comment: Resident still doesn't go into the habitat areas where trails have been cleared. Resident doesn't like not being able to see what she is walking up too (ie people congregated or hanging out)
- Comment: Strong support for the habitat area from Monterey Audobon member-would like more park spaces like this space

#### Stop 5: Laguna Grande Park Soccer Field/Playground/Picnic Area at Virgin Street

- Comment: Move playfield fence to the water side of the trail
- Comment: This is a good area to install senior work out equipment, similar to El Estero Park
- Comment: There are issues with soccer balls going over the fence and into the lake . People go past fence to access the lake
- Question: Should the pathway fence taller?
- Comment: Lift understory and canopy to open up views to lake
- Concern that the reeds will fill in the lake
- Comment: Eating areas and trash cans should be in one place
- Comment: Add benches or picnic table for watching soccer and enjoying the area
- Comment: Pathway sightlines are well maintained in this stretch of the park

- Comment: Not a priority to add more lake access along western side of park
- Question: Where are the city property lines?

#### Stop 6: Southern Park Extents

- General consensus: Majority of group do not go back into this space, most do not feel comfortable or safe in this space
- General Consensus: Deter illegal camping, open sightlines and provide access for emergency services
- Comment: Pathway width is comfortable and D.G. material is consistent with park character
- Comment: Lack of comfort is due to the limited outlet
- Question: Is the water quality of the ditch going to be tested?
- Discussion: Re-alignment of existing pathway (potentially to become the FORTAG trail connector) to be closer to Canyon Del Rey
  - Opportunities: improve pathway visibility
  - Opportunities: expand habitat space to offset mitigation required to further develop trails within sensitive habitat areas
  - Opportunities: adding more bioswales and drainage features will continue to add to habitat diversity
  - Clarification: The FORTAG Trail connector is not a part of the project and development of the trail will not be given priority over mitigating the safety issues of concerned residents
  - Comment: Residents were promised for multiple years an action plan to deal with illegal camping
  - Comment: Vegetation maintenance and new trail development in the 'forebay' habitat area should be the number one priority for the strategy plan
- Comment: Trails in the forebay area can be much similar to the north-west habitat area.
- Question: Who manages the forebay area? Which City is the forebay area located in?
- Comment: Residents have proposed to City staff the desire for a dog park in the Seaside maintenance/storage area. Dog Park would provide "eyes on" / visibility and extra egress from the forebay
- Comment: Adding lighting would help with safety concerns.
- Comment: Noise from the illegal camping does impact residents
- Comment: Fire danger from illegal camping is a concern. Residents acknowledge improvements due to consistent vegetation maintenance – but they want to know the plan
- Comment: Provide accessible route from corner of N. Fremont down into the park.
- Comment: Illegal camping has noticeably been reduced, thanks to the municipalities
- Comment: Prioritize the forebay – that's what has been promised
- Question: What is the project schedule?
- Question: What happened to the MPRPD budget of \$65,000 that was set aside for the project
- Question: How much is the consultant getting paid
- Question: When is the masterplan scheduled to occur?
- Question: What is the next step? How does the review process work



## LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL JOINT POWERS AGENCY

---

### AGENDA REPORT

**ITEM #:** 4C

**TO:** Agency Members

**FROM:** Kimberly Cole, AICP, Community Development Director, City of Monterey

**DATE:** March 30, 2023

**SUBJECT:** AMEND THE BUDGET FOR THE LAGUNA GRANDE REGIONAL PARK TRAIL AND MAINTENANCE STRATEGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Joint Powers Agency (JPA) adopt a Resolution amending the budget for the Laguna Grande Regional Park (LGRP) Trail and Maintenance Strategy and associated environmental review.

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS:**

The project provides a comprehensive strategy on how to approach park maintenance and evaluation of the project's environmental impacts pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. The budget adjustment accounts for the final presentations and report edits that were not anticipated in the original budget.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:**

See Discussion Section

**ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:**

The JPA determined that the proposed budget amendment is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)(CCR, Title 14, Chapter 3 ("CEQA Guidelines), Article 20, Section 15378). In addition, CEQA Guidelines Section 15061 includes the general rule that CEQA applies only to activities which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA. Because the proposed action and this matter have no potential to cause any effect on the environment, or because it falls within a category of activities excluded as projects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378, this matter is not a project. Because the matter does not cause a direct or any reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change on or in the environment,

this matter is not a project. Any subsequent discretionary projects resulting from this action will be assessed for CEQA applicability.

**ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:**

The JPA could choose to not request that the member agencies pay the increase in project costs. In that case, the City of Monterey will pay the full cost of the budget adjustment. However, this is not recommended because the Seaside City Council approved a Resolution approving \$6,200 and the Regional Park District staff indicated that they could pay the \$6,200 administratively. In addition, the City of Monterey has provided in-kind services as lead agency on this project.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Laguna Grande Regional Park Joint Powers Agency (JPA) includes a representative from the City of Monterey, City of Seaside, and Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District. The JPA was initially formed in 1976 and re-invigorated in 2019. In 2021, the JPA adopted Resolution 2021-01 awarding the contract to BFS to prepare a trail maintenance strategy and environmental document to address some of the community concerns about the park. The original contract of \$109,965 divided costs between the three agencies as follows: Cities of Seaside and Monterey \$24,982.50 each, and Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District \$60,000.

In 2022, the Trail and Maintenance Strategy was drafted and environmental review initiated. During the project's environmental review, discrepancies between the park boundary and ownership were discovered. The consultant indicated the cost to correct the documents and conduct additional site research would cost \$18,600. To prevent further project delays, the Monterey City Council adopted Resolution 22-166 to pay the cost increase but retroactively requested the other JPA agencies split the costs. The total project cost is now \$128,565.

Monterey City staff reached out to our staff partners at the City of Seaside and Park District to discuss the Monterey City Council decision. In response, the Seaside City Council approved a Resolution approving \$6,200 and the Regional Park District staff indicated that they could pay the \$6,200 administratively. In order for the City of Monterey (fiscal agent) to pay BFS, the formal contract will also need to be amended to include the budget increase.

In conclusion, staff recommends that the Joint Powers Agency (JPA) adopt a Resolution amending the budget for the Laguna Grande Regional Park (LGRP) Trail and Maintenance Strategy and environmental review.

Attachments: 1. Resolution Amending Budget for the Laguna Grande Regional Park Trail and Maintenance Strategy and Environmental Review

- e: Dan Meewis, City of Seaside
- Dave Fortune, City of Seaside
- Rafael Payan, Monterey Regional Park District
- Cris Sarabia, California Native Plant Society
- Michael Zeller, Transportation Agency for Monterey County
- Laguna Grande Neighborhood Association
- North Fremont Business Association
- Casanova Oak Knoll Neighborhood Association



APPROVED:

ATTEST:

---

Board Chair

---

Dominique L. Davis, Agency Clerk