



December 30, 2019

Ms. Heather Pert

Habitat Conservation

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

3602 Inland Empire Blvd., Suite C-220

Ontario, CA 91764


Re: Annual Reports 2019: Permit No. 1600-2012-0014-R6

Dear Ms. Pert:

Enclosed you will find a hard copy of our Annual Reports for 2018 as well as the Annual Fees for the eleven Flood Control projects and our two Conservation Easements. Please note that only monitoring and photos were done on the Conservation easements.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 909-208-7848.

Best Regards,



Rose Corona

President

TEAM RCD

P.O. Box 2078 ♦ Temecula, CA 92593-2078
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TEAM RCD-RIVERSIDE FLOOD CONTROL FACILITIES PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT NAME/LOCATION	PRIORITY	STAFF TOTALS	MILEAGE	HERBICIDE	F&W FEE	TOTAL COST-NTE	TEAM RCD %	PROJECT ADMIN	FC TOTAL
Project Planning, Assessments & Regulatory Compliance - As of 8/27/2018						\$10,457.60	15%		\$ 12,026.24
Project Planning, Assessments & Regulatory Compliance -Projected Total for Project						\$ 11,678.20	15%		\$ 13,429.93
IMMEDIATE									
BI-MONTHLY TRANSIENT MONITORING	HIGH	10,481.90	1,701.70	0.00	0.00	12,183.60	1.827.54	609.18	14,620.32
HELASH MITIGATION SITE	MEDIUM	22,955.02	813.96	335.68	289.25	24,393.91	3,659.09	1,147.75	29,200.75
MURRIETA CREEK-LINE F	LOW	4,862.56	171.36	128.64	289.25	5,451.81	817.77	243.13	6,512.71
PALOMAR CORYDON CHANNEL	LOW	6,541.16	238.00	141.76	289.25	7,210.17	1,081.53	327.06	8,618.75
TUCALOTA CREEK PHASE I & II	LOW	6,541.16	214.20	128.64	289.25	7,173.25	1,075.99	327.06	8,576.30
TUCALOTA CREEK PHASE III	HIGH	29,352.00	566.44	362.88	289.25	30,570.57	4,585.59	1,467.60	36,623.76
GRAND TOTALS		70,251.90	2,003.96	1,097.60	1,446.25	74,799.71	11,219.96	3,512.60	\$104,152.58
* CDFW fee for LSA based on Annual Fee schedule rates-SUBJECT TO CHANGE									
DISCUSSION/CONCERNS F&W									
TEMECULA CREEK/PECHANGA	HIGH								
NEXT-BASED ON PERFORMANCE (ESTIMATES ONLY)									
WARM SPRINGS/FRENCH VALLEY	HIGH	\$ 29,731.13	\$ 968.66	\$ 232.32	289.25	\$ 31,221.36	\$ 4,683.20		\$ 35,904.56
SANTA GERTRUDIS CREEK	HIGH	\$ 119,742.80	\$ 2,784.60	\$ 1,324.60	289.25	\$ 124,141.25	\$ 18,621.19		\$ 142,762.44
TEMECULA CREEK AD 159	MEDIUM	\$ 16,827.47	\$ 671.16	\$ 283.20	289.25	\$ 18,071.08	\$ 2,710.66		\$ 20,781.74
WARM SPRINGS/BENTON CHNL	MEDIUM	\$ 47,372.05	\$ 1,447.04	\$ 725.18	289.25	\$ 49,833.52	\$ 7,475.03		\$ 57,308.55
HILDY	LOW	\$ 5,444.43	\$ 308.21	\$ 181.44	289.25	\$ 7,223.33	\$ 1,083.50		\$ 8,306.83
WILDOMAR CHANNEL	LOW	\$ 10,506.46	\$ 417.69	\$ 83.92	289.25	\$ 11,297.32	\$ 1,694.60		\$ 12,991.92
GRAND TOTALS					\$ 1,735.50				\$ 278,056.04
					\$ 3,181.75				
MONITORING FOR HOMELESS - Discussion									
To Be Conducted First - Fall 2018									
Bi-monthly monitoring x 26 weeks									
Future Projects to be Completed After Green Projects									



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ADELINE FARMS 2019 ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

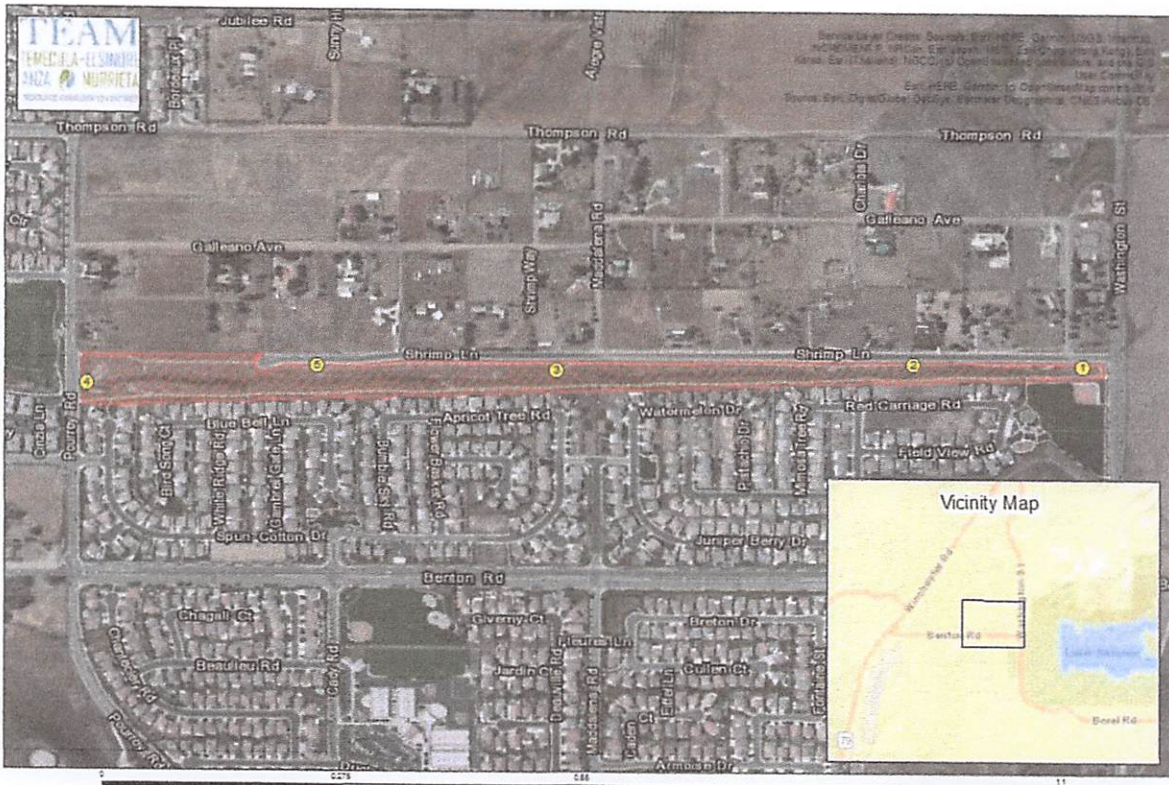
INTRODUCTION

The Adeline Farms Conservation Easement (CE) is located in the City of Winchester and County of Riverside, north of Benton Road, south of Shrimp Lane, west of Washington Street, and east of Pourroy Road. It provides mitigation for certain impacts of the project by the Grantor (Shea Homes Limited Partnership) pursuant to the requirements of the (1) California Department of Fish and Wildlife Streambed Alteration Agreement #1600-2003-5039-R6, (2) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit No. 200301453-JPL, (3) Regional Water Quality Control Board Section 401 Water Quality Certification File No.03C-099 and (4) United States Fish and Wildlife Service formal Section 7 Concurrence for the Stephens' kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys stephensi*).

Grantee interest in the Adeline Farms conservation easement was recorded in favor of the Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District (TEAMRCD), requiring TEAM to accept perpetuity responsibility for protecting conservation value of the CE, specifically to "...ensure the Property will be retained forever in a natural condition and to prevent any use of the Property that will impair or interfere with the conservation values of the Property. Grantor intends that this Conservation Easement will confine the use of the Property to such activities, including without limitation, those involving the preservation and enhancement of native species and their habitat in a manner consistent with the habitat purposes of this Conservation Easement."

To ensure the Conservation Values are retained as defined by the CE and that the Grantor or its agents has not engaged in Prohibited Uses as defined in Section 3 of the CE, TEAMRCD has performed regular site monitoring using a combination of TEAM employee support and contract staff from the Santa Ana Watershed Association. In the 2019 reporting period, TEAM RCD contracted the Inland Empire Resource Conservation District (IERCD) to perform annual monitoring of the property. On December 17, 2019 IERCD Field Ecologist Kevin Harrington was on site to perform a quarterly site visit in order to assess and document the conditions of the easement areas and determine whether or not the conditions as outlined in the CE are being followed.

The following report provides photos and detailed monitoring data from each of the five points established within the Adeline Farms CE. Recommended actions will be evaluated within the scope of available project funding as part of 2020 annual site monitoring. The next visit will take place on or before December 17th, 2020.

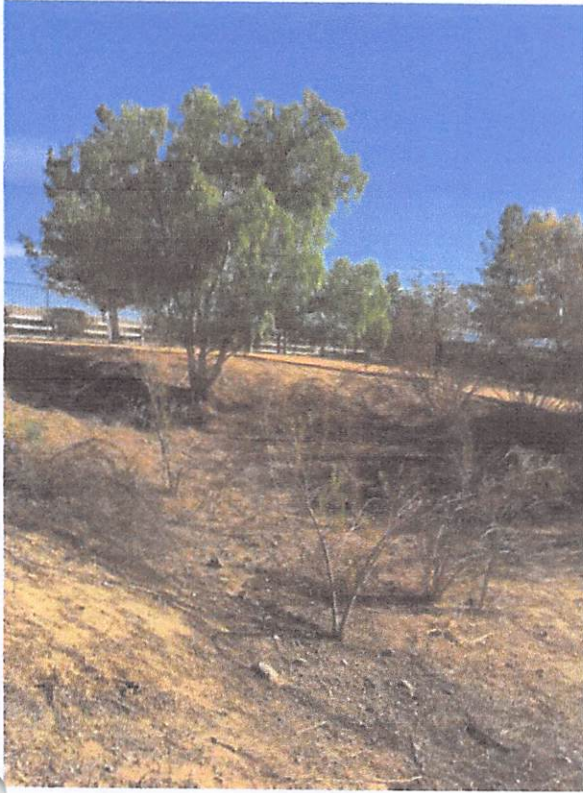


Adeline Farms Monitoring Map

 Property Boundary
 Photo Points

Photo Point #	Direction	Coordinates (Lat, Lon)
1	107°	(33.59439°, -117.08416°)
2	236°	(33.59443, -117.08709°)
3	254°	(33.59430°, -117.09301°)
4	290°	(33.5903°, -117.10081°)
5	141°	(33.59435°, -117.09699°)

PHOTO POINT 1



Photos:

- (L): 12/15/18 Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA) monitoring photo
- (R): 12/17/19 by IERCD Field Ecologist Kevin Harrington.

Summary of Conditions: Native vegetation cover on the east end of the CE represented by PP₁ is much less dense compared to the rest of the site; however, it appears total cover has remained consistent based on comparison of 2018 and 2019 monitoring photos. No additional mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) has died back since the last site visit but does not seem to be recruiting either. Conversely, California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) is successfully recruiting and spreading in this area as shown in the 2019 monitoring photo. In addition to native vegetation, multiple species of non-natives were observed, primarily in the center of the CE channel, including:

- Storksbill filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*); California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) Rating: Limited
- Short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*); Cal-IPC Rating: Moderate
- Milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*); Cal-IPC Rating: Limited
- Tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*); Cal-IPC Rating: Moderate
- Spiny sowthistle (*Sonchus asper*); Cal-IPC rating pending

Estimate of ground cover around PP:

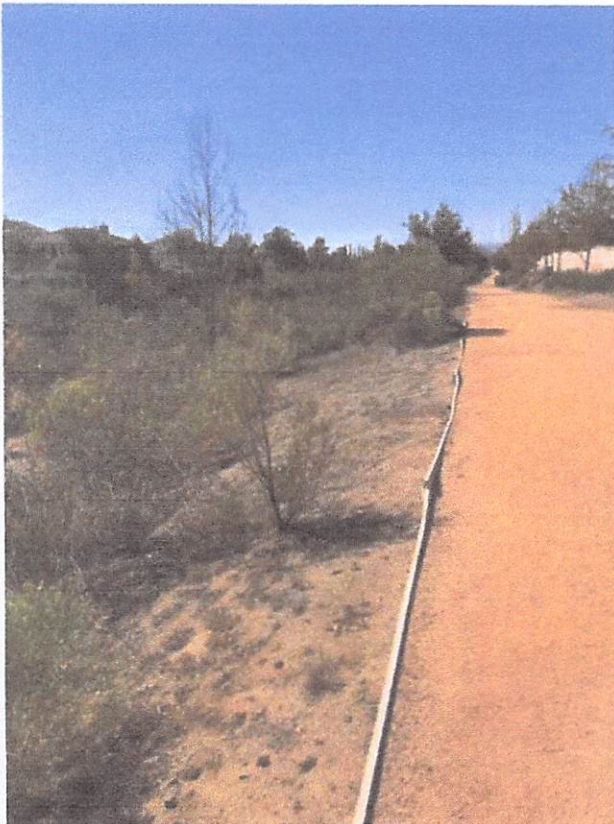
- Native: 20%
- Non-native: 80%

Final Assessment and Recommendations:

The slight increase in native cover around PP1 demonstrates success in CE compliance requiring ongoing preservation of conservation values of the property. However, the presence of non-native vegetation and overall lack of native cover on the east end of the site should be addressed to prevent further spread of invasive species. Specific recommendations include:

- Removals: storksbill filaree, short-pod mustard, milk thistle, spiny sowthistle and tocalote
 - Method: herbicide application for all but short-pod mustard which may need to be hand-pulled, depending on time of year treated.
 - Timing: mid to late spring, prior to seed production
 - Execution notes: the IERCD or similarly qualified conservation entity should provide treatments in this area due to proximity to native buckwheat, and the corresponding need to avoid overspray.
- Restoration: future monitoring efforts could easily be supplemented with a native seed mix comprised of natives observed in this area and in surrounding reference site. The 2020 Q1 monitoring effort will include evaluation of site fitness for installation of additional mulefat cuttings, and if found appropriate, will be placed in late fall/winter of 2020 to increase potential for success.

PHOTO POINT 2



Photos:

- (L): 10/15/17 by TEAM RCD
- (R): 12/17/19 by IERCD Field Ecologist Kevin Harrington

Summary of Conditions: Native vegetation cover represented in PP2 has increased, primarily due to natural recruitment of coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*); however, there was also an increase in non-native presence, with primary species including :

- Storksbill filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*); Cal-IPC Rating: Limited
- Short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*); Cal-IPC Rating: Moderate
- Tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*); Cal-IPC Rating: Moderate

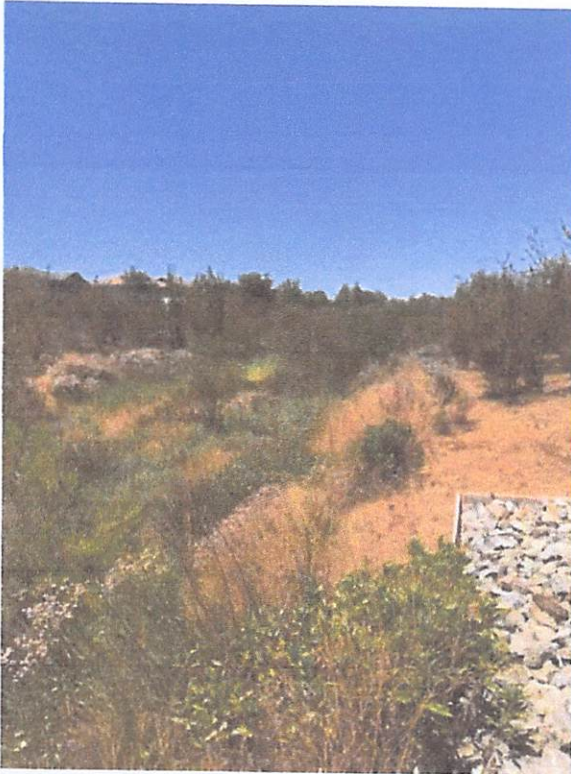
Estimate of ground cover around PP2:

- Native: 95%
- Non-native: 5%

Final Assessment and Recommendations: Conditions at PP2 are similar to those at PP1, and for that reason the summary and recommendations are similar. As with PP1, PP2 native cover has increased, demonstrating TEAM RCD compliance with terms of CE stewardship. However, presence of invasives and lack of cover in much of PP2 leave it vulnerable to continues non-native spread, and for that reason should be treated with the following actions in 2020:

- Removals: storksbill filaree, short-pod mustard, and tocalote
 - Method: herbicide application, with the exception of short-pod mustard which may be hand-pulled depending on time of treatment.
 - Timing: mid to late spring, prior to seed production
 - Execution notes: the IERCD or similarly qualified conservation entity should provide treatments in this area due to proximity to native species and water conveyance.
- Restoration: the native seed mix comprised of natives observed in this area and in surrounding reference sites will also be applied to PP2 areas during 2020 monitoring visits.

PHOTO POINT 3



Photos:

- (L) 10/15/18 by TEAM RCD
- (R) 12/17/19 by IERCD Field Ecologist Kevin Harrington.

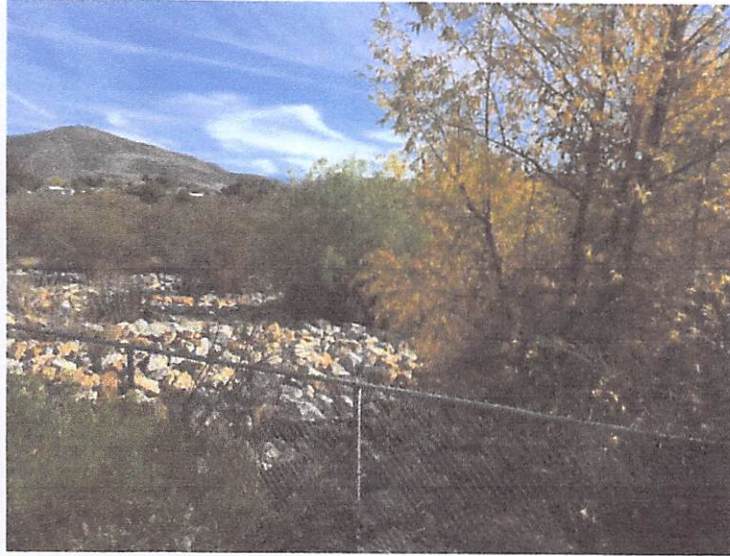
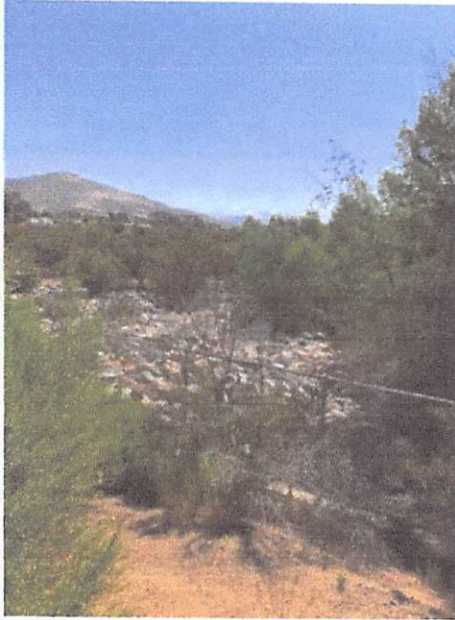
Summary of Conditions: At PP₃, there was an observable reduction in invasive grass cover. Brome (*Bromus sp.*) and common Mediterranean grass (*Shismus barbatus*) were still observed to be germinating on site but total cover was down; however, the amount of tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*) germinating appeared to remain somewhat constant. Native cover increased through recruitment by both mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*) and mixed willows (*Salix sp.*) sprouts. Estimate of ground cover around PP:

- Native: 85%
- Non-native: 15%

Final Assessment and Recommendations: PP₃ was recorded as a relatively intact portion of the Adeline Farms CE, with action items for 2020 including:

- Removals: tocalote
 - Method: herbicide application
 - Timing: mid to late spring, prior to seed production
 - Execution notes: the IERCD or similarly qualified conservation entity should provide treatments in this area due to proximity to native species and water conveyance.
- Restoration: the native seed mix comprised of natives observed in this area and in surrounding reference sites will also be applied to PP₃ areas during 2020 monitoring visits. There is no need for additional placement of pole cuttings due to ongoing voluntary recruitment in the immediate area.

PHOTO POINT 4



Photos:

- (L): 10/15/18 by TEAM RCD
- (R): 12/17/19 by IERCD Field Ecologist Kevin Harrington

Summary of Conditions: PP₄ can be characterized by consistent presence of native cover dominated by coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*) and non-native cover dominated by short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*) and storksbill filaree (*Erodium cictarium*). Other significant components of PP₄ included one large mature dead willow observed due to unknown causes.

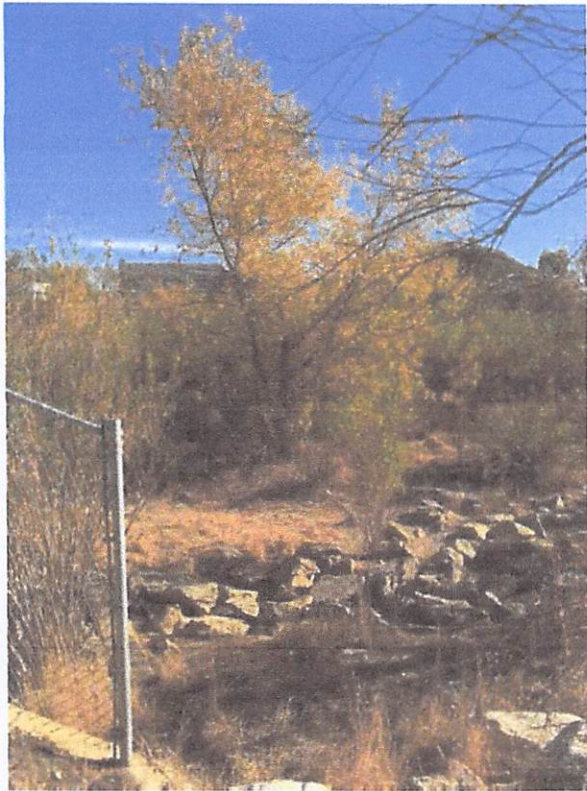
Estimate of ground cover around PP₄:

- Native: 95%
- Non-native: 5%

Final Assessment and Recommendations:

- General site maintenance: prior to 2020 nesting season, the IERCD will work with TEAMRCD to remove the dead willow from the site given proximity to the public right of way. The potential for pole cutting installation will be completed during removal and included in the 2020 scope of work, funding permitting.
- Removals: tocalote, short-pod mustard, and storksbill filaree
 - Method: herbicide application or hand-pulling for short-pod mustard, depending on time of treatment.
 - Timing: mid to late spring, prior to seed production
 - Execution notes: the IERCD or similarly qualified conservation entity should provide treatments in this area due to proximity to native species and water conveyance.
- Restoration: the native seed mix comprised of natives observed in this area and in surrounding reference sites will also be applied to PP₄ areas during 2020 monitoring visits.

PHOTO POINT 5



Photos:

- (L): 12/15/18 by SAWA
- (R): 12/17/19 by IERCD Field Ecologist Kevin Harrington

Summary of Conditions: Overall cover of invasive annual grasses decreased between 2018 and 2019, with two most common species observed including brome (*Bromus sp.*) and common Mediterranean grass (*Shismus barbatus*). However, the area around the cement culvert was observed to be highly disturbed and is attracting invasive plants such as tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), and water appears to be pooling in the lower section of the site.

Estimate of ground cover around PP:

- Native: 98%
- Non-native: 2%

Final Assessment and Recommendations:

- General maintenance: the IERCD will assist TEAM RCD in securing a site assessment by the Vector Control District to evaluate pooling water and potentially recommend actions for ongoing management. This visit should take place within Q1 to increase likelihood of presence of water in the channel at the time of the site visit.
- Removals: tocalote
 - Method: herbicide application

- Timing: mid to late spring, prior to seed production
- Execution notes: the IERCD or similarly qualified conservation entity should provide treatments in this area due to proximity to native species and water conveyance.
- Restoration: the native seed mix comprised of natives observed in this area and in surrounding reference sites will also be applied to PP4 areas during 2020 monitoring visits.

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS

- Construction involving installation of underground pipes was occurring on the same day as site visit. The landscape crew was present on day of site visit. They appeared to be fixing irrigation.
- An access ramp is being constructed on the west end of the easement between photo points 1 and 2. Gated off area surrounding the cement walkway will need to be revegetated (seed or container stock) upon completion of construction.
- Salt cedars (*Tamarix ramosissima*) were observed during the site walk (33.59442°, -117.08498°), (33.58421°, -117.09939°), and (33.59439°, -117.09221°). There may be more on site that were not noted so special care should be taken to identify and remove these trees due to their Cal-IPC Rating of high.
- Multiple areas of bare ground were observed where heavy machinery was used to access the center wash portion of the site, both on the east and west end of the easement.

NEXT STEPS

The IERCD will schedule a time to meet with TEAM RCD representatives to go over budgeting and order of importance recommendations for actions on-site. Once the order is finalized, the IERCD will present a workplan to TEAMRCD which will be implemented in connection with 2020 annual site monitoring visits. A report of 2020 actions and monitoring observations will be made available to TEAM RCD prior to December 31st, 2020.

GREER RANCH 2019 ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT

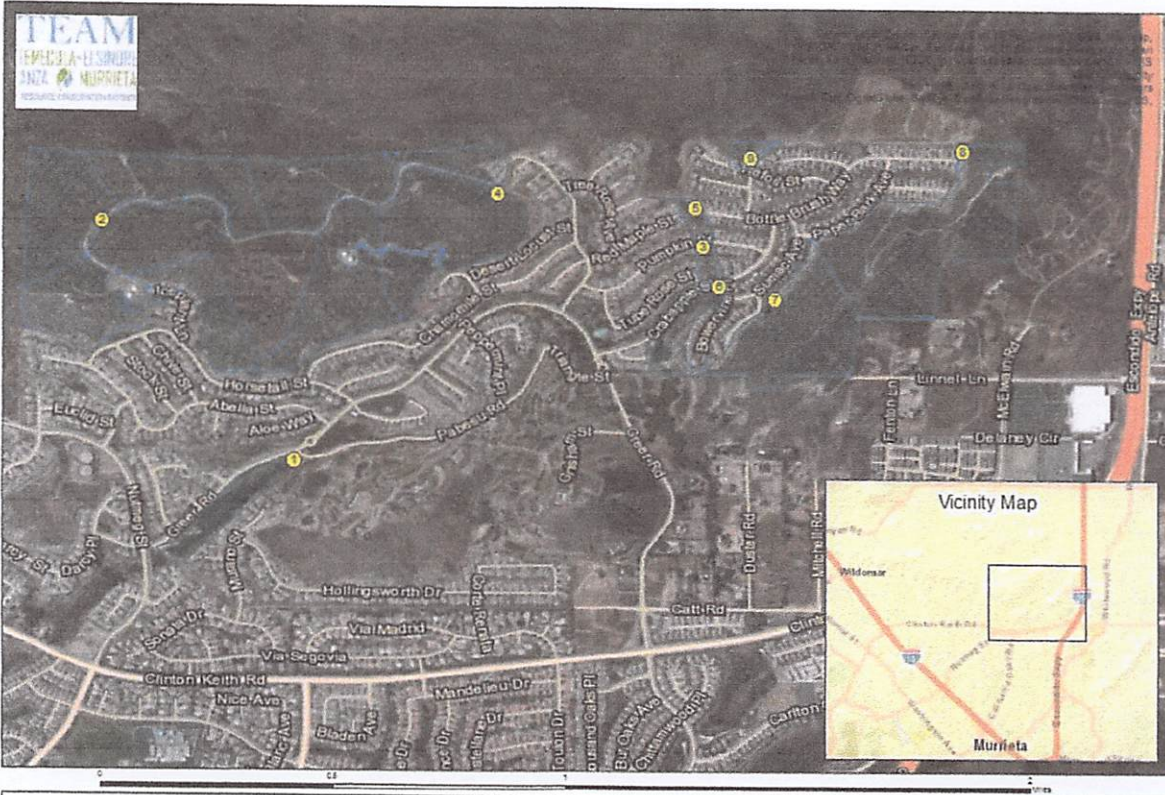
INTRODUCTION

The Greer Ranch conservation easement is located in the City of Murrieta and County of Riverside, Sections 32 and 33, Range West, Township 6 South, USGS Murrieta quadrangle. Pursuant to requirements of the (1) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Section 404 Permit No. 200000122 and amendments thereto, (2) the ACOE's Section 404 Permit No. 200101313 and amendments thereto and (3) the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Biological Opinion No. FWS-WRIV-3059.1, approximately 267.98 acres of natural areas were established to mitigate for certain impacts of the Project by the Grantor (Lennar Greer Ranch Venture, LLC).

Grantee interest was conveyed to the Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District (TEAM RCD), resulting in perpetuity responsibility for ensuring that the property contained within the CE be preserved in its natural condition and retains conservation values. Specifically, they are required to "...ensure the Property will be preserved in a Natural Condition, as defined herein, in perpetuity, for gnatcatcher, vireo, and other wildlife conservation, and to prevent, subject to the duties and rights retained by Grantor hereunder, any other use of the Property that will impair or interfere with the Conservation Values of the Property, as long as such uses or restrictions are consistent with the maintenance and management activities associated with the detention basins, brow ditches, rip-rap, and drain inlets shown on Exhibit E attached hereto and are consistent with the concepts contained in this Section 1(a)."

To ensure the Conservation Values are retained as defined by the CE, TEAM RCD has performed necessary monitoring and reporting using a combination of District staff and contract staff from the Santa Ana Watershed Association (SAWA). In 2019, TEAM RCD contracted with the Inland Empire Resource Conservation (IERCD) to perform annual monitoring of the property and to provide a report on current conditions and recommended actions. The IERCD evaluated previous monitoring reports and maps and created an updated suite of photo points and protocols for maximizing both data collection and corrective action on the property. For this reason, photo points are new with no comparison picture from 2018.

The following report provides photos and detailed monitoring data from each of the nine points established within the Greer Ranch CE. Recommended actions will be evaluated within the scope of available project funding as part of 2020 quarterly site monitoring. The next visit will take place on or before March 31st, 2020.



Greer Ranch Monitoring Map

 Greer Ranch Parcels
 Greer Ranch Photo Points

Photo Point #	Direction	Coordinates (Lat, Lon)
1	50°	(33.60244°, -117.19772°)
2	60°	(33.60973°, -117.20375°)
3	130°	(33.60908°, -117.18504°)
4	120°	(33.61069°, -117.19140°)
5	150°	(33.61028°, -117.18527°)
6	200°	(33.60783°, -117.18452°)
7	50°	(33.601742°, -117.18276°)
8	145°	(33.61206°, -117.17697°)
9	290°	(33.61182°, -117.18356°)

PHOTO POINT 1

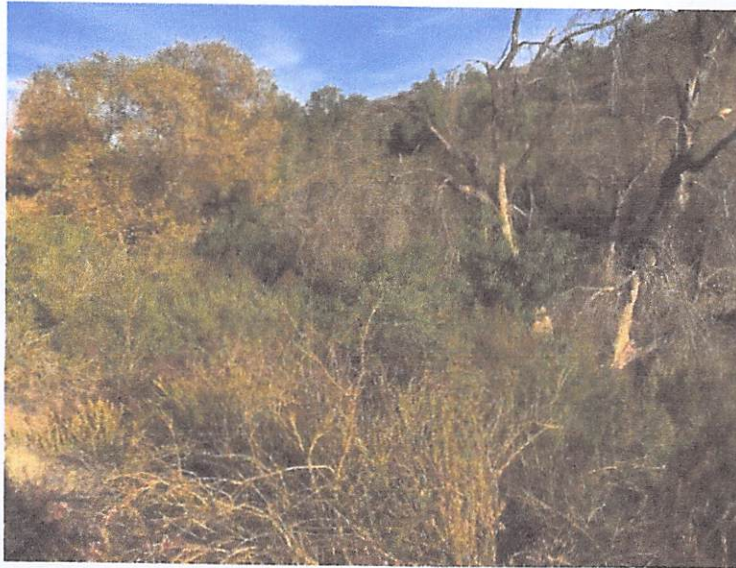


Photo: 12/17/19 by IERCD Field Ecologist Kevin Harrington

Summary of Conditions: This PP is an example of healthy California sycamore woodland, dominated by native vegetation including sycamore trees (*Platanus racemosa*) with scattered cottonwood trees (*Populus fremontii*), and a California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*) and chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) shrub layer. There is some invasive cover consisting primarily of tumbleweed (*Salsola tragus*) observed infrequently between shrubs, with no other significant invasive presence noted within PP1. One dead sycamore tree that appeared to be killed during a fire event was observed in this photo point.

Estimate of ground cover around PP:

- Native: 95%
- Non-native: 5%

Final Assessment and Recommendations: PP1 is highly functional, characterized by healthy native cover and limited invasive presence. Recommended actions for 2020 include:

- **General maintenance:** the IERCD will assess condition of the dead sycamore tree during the 2020 annual site visit. If no threat to public safety is observed, the tree will be left standing; if not, the process for removal will be initiated.
- **Removals:** Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*)
 - Method: herbicide application
 - Timing: mid to late spring, prior to seed production
 - Execution notes: the IERCD or similarly qualified conservation entity should provide treatments in this area due to proximity to native species.

PHOTO POINT 2



Photo: 12/17/19 by IERCD Field Ecologist Kevin Harrington

Summary of Conditions: As with PP₁, this PP consisted primarily of native vegetation, with dominant species including chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), and manzanita (*Arctostaphylos spp.*). In addition to native cover, there was limited invasive presence, with dominant species including short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) located primarily along the sides of the easement service road, and brome (*Hordium sp.*) and storksbill filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*) germinating between shrubs.

Estimate of ground cover around PP:

- Native: 95%
- Non-native: 5%

Final Assessment and Recommendations: PPs is also highly functional, characterized by healthy native cover and limited invasive presence. Recommended actions for 2020 include:

- Removals: short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), brome (*Hordium sp.*) and storksbill filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*).
 - Method: herbicide application
 - Timing: varies; effective between early and late spring depending on life cycle of plant
 - Execution notes: the IERCD or similarly qualified conservation entity should provide treatments in this area due to proximity to native species.
- Restoration: none recommended due to health of native cover.

PHOTO POINT 3



Photo: 12/17/19 by IERCD Field Ecologist Kevin Harrington

Summary of Conditions: This PP included another primarily functional habitat dominated by western sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), manzanita (*Arctostaphylos sp.*), red willow (*Salix laevigata*), and coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*). In addition to native cover, the highly invasive salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) was observed in the center channel.

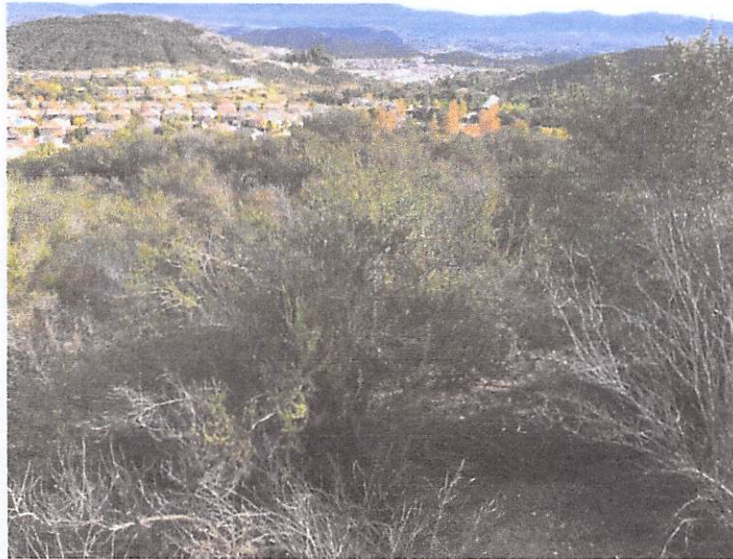
Estimate of ground cover around PP:

- Native: 95%
- Non-native: 5%

Final Assessment and Recommendations: PPs is also highly functional, characterized by healthy native cover and limited invasive presence. Recommended actions for 2020 include:

- **Removals:** salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*) should be prioritized due to its year-round treatment susceptibility and potential to very rapidly spread.
 - **Method:** cut-stump application of herbicide, with re-treatment using a foliar herbicide in the spring
 - **Timing:** cut-stump can occur year-round, with foliar treatments most effective when plant has green leaves.
 - **Execution notes:** the IERCD or similarly qualified conservation entity should provide treatments in this area due to proximity to native species, and should schedule within Q1 of 2020 to begin process of controlling this species so close to water conveyance.
- **Restoration:** none recommended due to health of native cover.

PHOTO POINT 4



Photos: 12/17/19 by IERCD Field Ecologist Kevin Harrington

Summary of Conditions: PP₄ has a larger presence of invasives in comparison with PP 1, 2, and 3; however, it is still 90% native cover with dominant species including chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*), and California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*). All natives observed appeared to be engaging in voluntary recruitment as evidenced by multiple sprouts found within the PP₄ segment of the CE. In addition to native cover, invasives were also located throughout this segment of the easement, with dominant species including short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), storksbill filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), and brome (*Bromus sp.*).

Estimate of ground cover around PP:

- Native: 90%
- Non-native: 10%

Final Assessment and Recommendations: Recommended actions for 2020 include:

- Removals: short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), brome (*Hordium sp.*) and storksbill filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*).
 - Method: herbicide application
 - Timing: varies; effective between early and late spring depending on life cycle of plant
 - Execution notes: the IERCD or similarly qualified conservation entity should provide treatments in this area due to proximity to native species.
- Restoration: none recommended due to health of native cover.

PHOTO POINT 5



Photo: 12/17/19 by IERCD Field Ecologist Kevin Harrington

Summary of Conditions: Photo point 5 represented some of the most diverse habitat observed in Greer Ranch, dominated by western sycamores (*Platanus racemosa*), cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii*), mixed willows (*Salix sp.*), brittlebush (*Encelia farinosa*), coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*), deerweed (*Acmispon glaber*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), and telegraphweed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*). In addition to natives, there was some invasive cover dominated by tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*) and short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) in addition to a single pampas grass observed at (33.60996°, -117.18496°). There was also a trail observed at this PP indicating somewhat regular access by local residents.

Estimate of ground cover around PP:

- Native: 95%
- Non-native: 5%

Final Assessment and Recommendations: Recommended actions for 2020 include:

- General maintenance: the trail through the easement does not appear to be reducing site function as there was no trash or other impacts from access observed; however, trespass should be discouraged to be consistent with easement requirements. The IERCD will work with TEAM RCD to elevate action if necessary in and around areas where illegal access is occurring.
- Removals: short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*).
 - Method: herbicide application for short-pod mustard and tocalote; cut-stump treatment for pampas grass
 - Timing: varies; effective between early and late spring depending on life cycle of plant
 - Execution notes: the IERCD or similarly qualified conservation entity should provide treatments in this area due to proximity to native species.
- Restoration: none recommended due to health of native cover.

PHOTO POINT 6



Photo: 12/17/19 by Kevin Harrington

Summary of Conditions: This easement section consisted mainly of red willow (*Salix laevigata*) and Pacific blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), in addition to one large dead willow observed. The willow may have died due to the fact that it was established on a thin layer of soil on top of a cement culvert which may have caused a decline in health, subsequently followed by other potential pathogens. No Invasive Shot Hole Borer (ISHB) was detected on the dead tree. In addition to natives, one large Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*) was located within PP6.

Estimate of ground cover around PP:

- Native: 95%
- Non-native: 5%

Final Assessment and Recommendations: Recommended actions for 2020 include:

- General maintenance: the IERCD will coordinate with TEAM RCD to schedule time to assess the dead willow tree for possible removal in conjunction with the Q1 site visit in December.
- Removals: Mexican fan palm
 - Method: herbicide injection
 - Timing: varies; effective any time; should be done as soon as possible to prevent further spread
 - Execution notes: the IERCD or similarly qualified conservation entity should provide treatments in this area due to proximity to native species.
- Restoration: none recommended due to health of native cover.

PHOTO POINT 7



Photo: 12/17/19 by IERCD Field Ecologist Kevin Harrington

Summary of Conditions: Most of this easement PP is composed of dense chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), and scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*). A “buffer” like area inside of the easement separates the dense woody shrubs from the residential homes. In this “buffer” area many California buckwheat were observed recruiting. In addition to native cover, there were invasive observed, dominated by short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) and storksbill filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*).

Estimate of ground cover around PP:

- Native: 98%
- Non-native: 2%

Final Assessment and Recommendations: Recommended actions for 2020 include:

- Removals: short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), storksbill filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*)
 - Method: herbicide application
 - Timing: varies; effective between early and late spring depending on life cycle of plant
 - Execution notes: the IERCD or similarly qualified conservation entity should provide treatments in this area due to proximity to native species.
- Restoration: none recommended due to health of native cover.

PHOTO POINT 8



Photo: 12/17/19 by IERCD Field Ecologist Kevin Harrington

Summary of Conditions: PP8 is dominated by native cover, including California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), and scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*) and California Native Plant Society (CNPS)-listed paniculate tarplant (*Deinandra paniculata*); however, segments of PP8 without native cover contained emerging populations of invasive vegetation including short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) and storkbill fillaree (*Erodium cicutarium*) were among the invasive cotyledons present .

Estimate of ground cover around PP:

Native: 98%

Non-native: 2%

Final Assessment and Recommendations: Recommended actions for 2020 include:

- Removals: short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), storkbill fillaree (*Erodium cicutarium*)
 - Method: herbicide application
 - Timing: varies; effective between early and late spring depending on life cycle of plant
 - Execution notes: the IERCD or similarly qualified conservation entity should provide treatments in this area due to proximity to native species and due to the presence of rare plant 4.2 (CNPS) paniculate tarplant.
- Restoration: none recommended due to health of native cover.

PHOTO POINT 9



Photo: 12/17/19 by Kevin Harrington

Summary of Conditions: This PP represented the lease functional segment of the Greer Ranch easement. Patches of mature California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), and black sage (*Salvia apiana*) were located; however, spreading populations of Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*) and short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) sprouts were observed on open areas of the slope. Germinating tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), brome (*Bromus sp.*), and, storkbill filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*) were also observed outside and in-between established native shrubbery.

Estimate of ground cover around PP:

- Native: 70%
- Non-native: 30 %

Final Assessment and Recommendations: Recommended actions for 2020 include:

- Removals: short-pod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*), storkbill filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), brome (*Bromus spp.*) and tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*)
 - Method: herbicide application
 - Timing: varies; effective between early and late spring depending on life cycle of plant
 - Execution notes: the IERCD or similarly qualified conservation entity should provide treatments in this area due to proximity to native species.
- Restoration: none recommended due to health of native cover.

NEXT STEPS

The IERCD will schedule a time to meet with TEAM RCD representatives to go over budgeting and order of importance recommendations for actions on-site. Once the order is finalized, the IERCD will present a workplan to TEAMRCD which will be implemented in connection with 2020 quarterly site monitoring visits. A report of 2020 actions and monitoring observations will be made available to TEAM RCD prior to December 31st, 2020.

CDFW REPORTS: TEAM RCD – RIV FLOOD TRANSIENT MONITORING

REPORT AREA I: LIST OF ALL HABITAT CREATION, RESTORATION, ENHANCEMENT, AND CONSERVATION PROJECT AREAS CURRENTLY BEING MANAGED BY PERMITTEE

SAWA acted as a contractor on this project, and will only report on activities and impacts performed by staff.

REPORT AREA II: DESCRIPTION OF THE HABITAT RESTORATION, ENHANCEMENT, AND CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES PERFORMED WITHIN EACH PROJECT AREA

Current site conditions: Encampments are currently active on Helash, Tualota Creek 1 & 2, and Tualota Creek III. At Helash, there are multiple tents set up on the northern end of the project with multiple transients living in those tents. At Tualota Creek 1 & 2, there is one tent underneath the bridge between the two projects with 2 transients. At Tualota Creek III there is currently one tent alongside the creek bed with 1 transient. Points were used to mark the locations of transients within project boundaries with photos on each point.

Enhancement Activities: SAWA recommends trash and waste removal on all Team RCD projects in the future following transient removal.

The frequency and timing transient monitoring: Monitoring occurred bi-weekly to current, starting from January 16th, 2019.

HOMELESS MONITORED AT HELASH

Homeless encampments were discovered in this area (blue polygon position: 33.58762 -117.25479) on 1/16/2019. Multiple tents and a large quantity of waste including mattresses, clothing and scattered plastic.



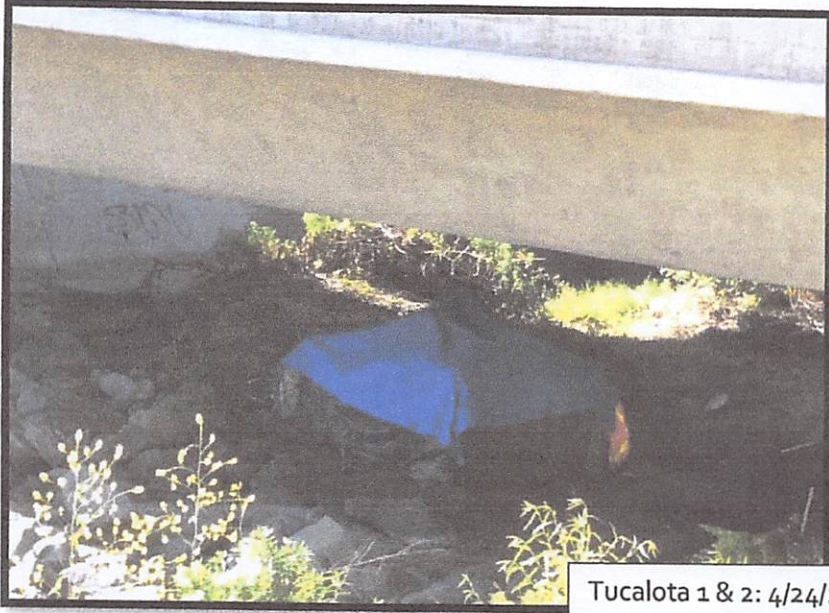




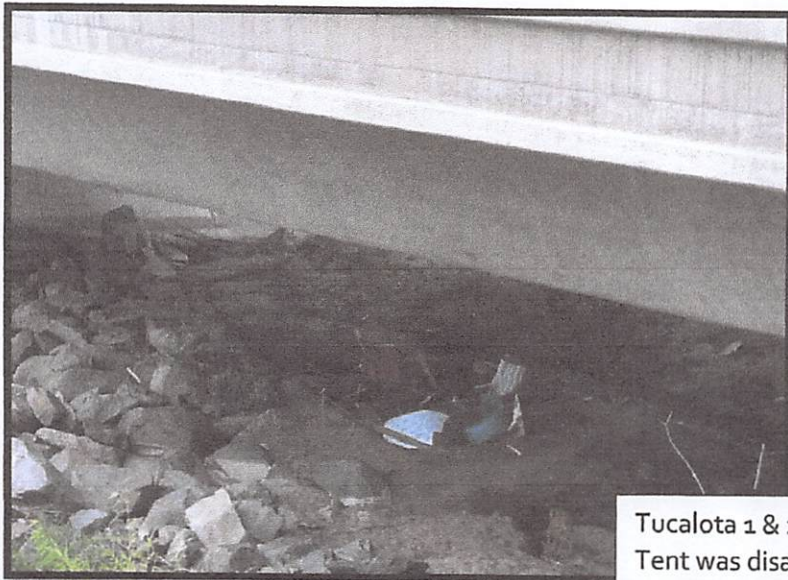
HOMELESS MONITORED AT TUCALOTA CREEK 1 & 2

Homeless encampments were discovered in this area (blue polygon position: 33.55242 -117.13619) on 4/24/2019. Tents made of wooden boards and tarps underneath the street bridge.

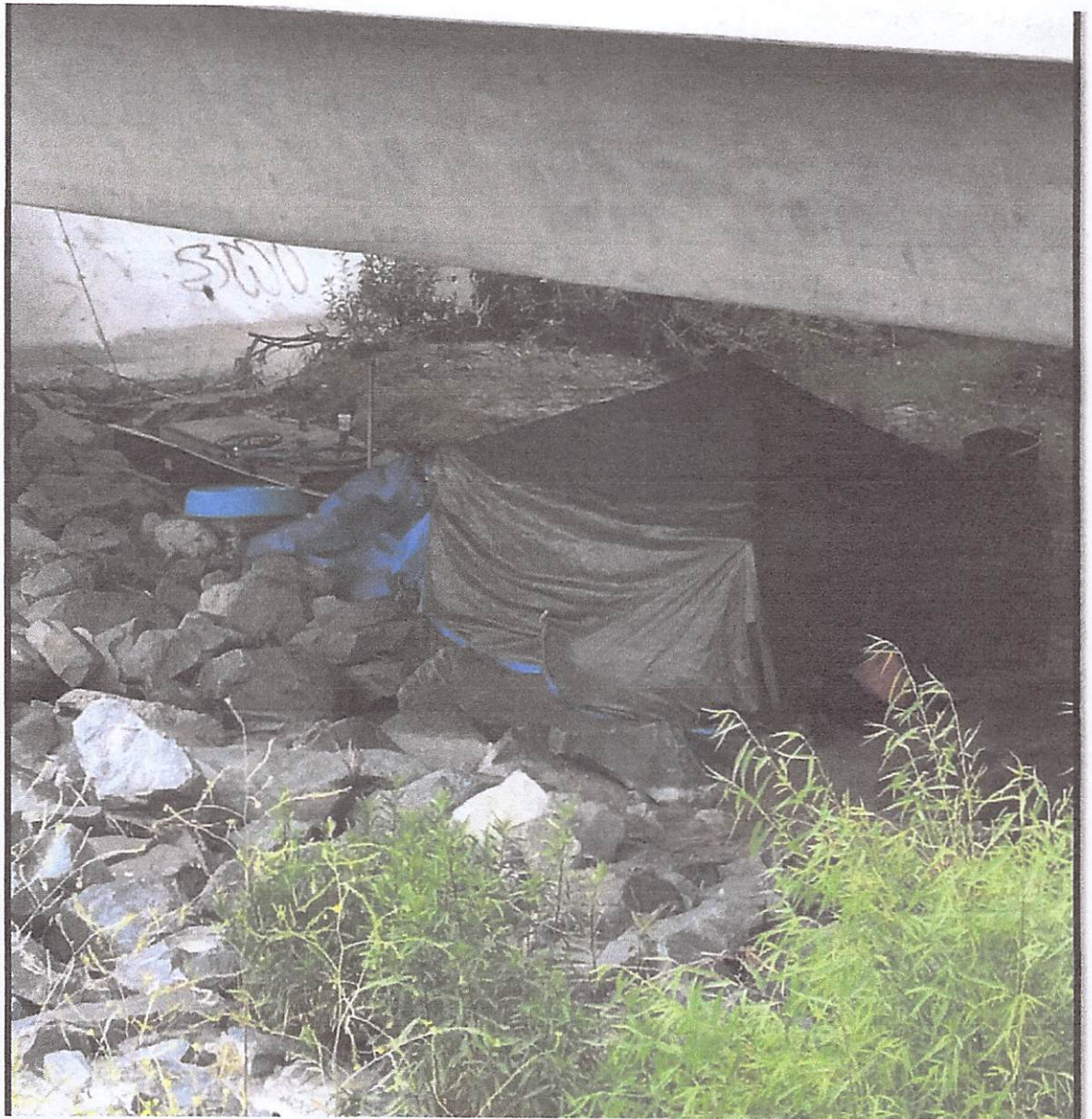




Tucalota 1 & 2: 4/24/2019:
Tent made of tarp and wood,
2 homeless.



Tucalota 1 & 2: 5/7/2019:
Tent was disassembled but
homeless are still around.

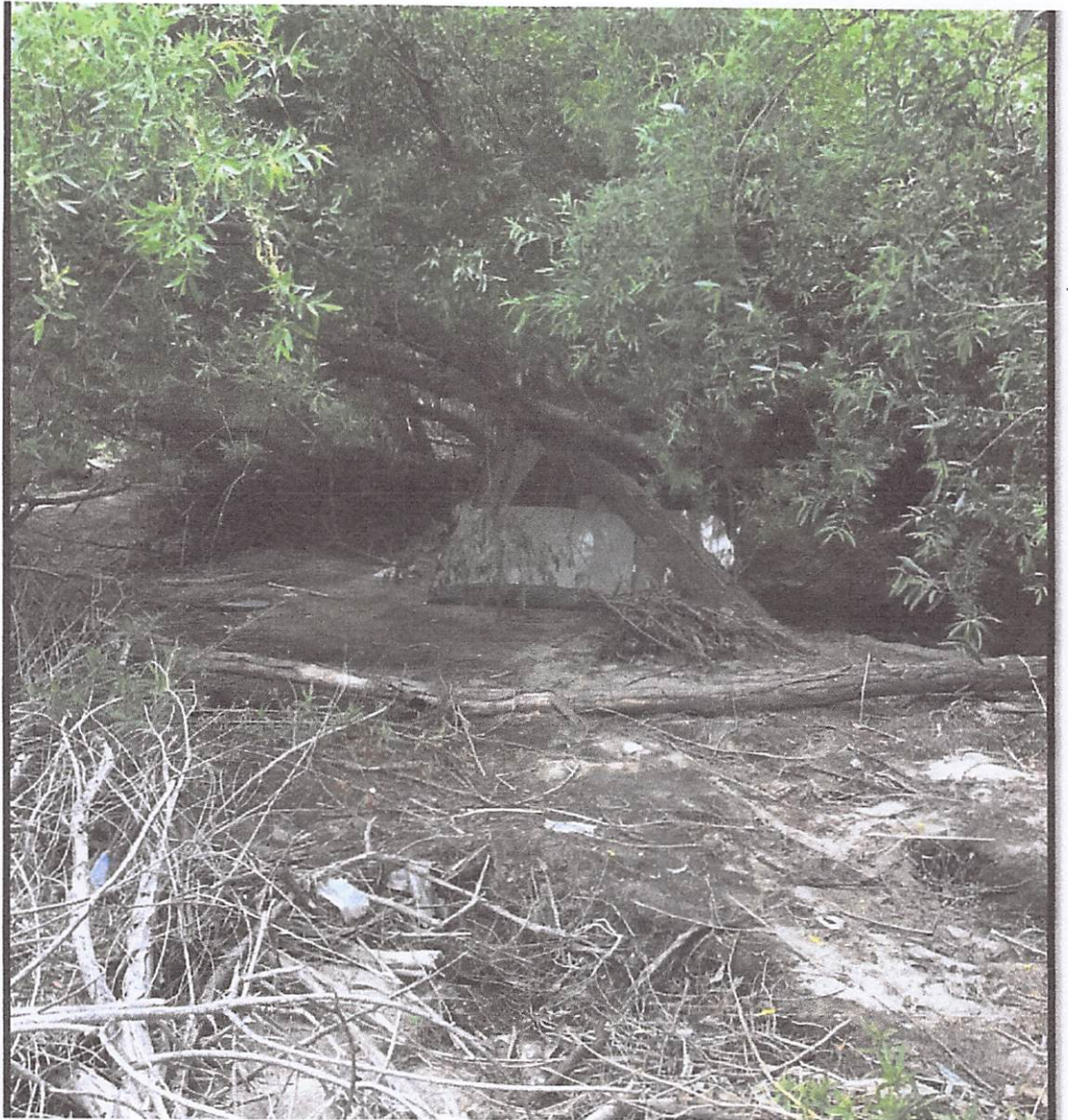


Tucalota 1 & 2: 5/22/2019: Camp is re-assembled with 2 homeless occupying it.

HOMELESS MONITORED AT TUCALOTA CREEK III

Homeless encampments were discovered in this area (blue polygon position: 33.54603 - 117.14107) on 5/22/2019. Tent sitting on the creek bed.





Tucalota III: 5/22/2019: Homeless camp in creek bed.

TEAM RCD – RIVERSIDE FLOOD FACILITIES MONITORING

PROJECT BACKGROUND

SAWA has conducted site assessments at the 11 project locations and below are the current site conditions and recommendations for treatments.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND NON-NATIVE REMOVAL

Palomar-Corydon Channels

Project Location: The Palomar-Corydon Channels site is located along a Riverside Flood Control drainage in the City of Lake Elsinore near the intersection of Palomar Street & Old Coach Road. The site is ~ 3.67 acres and has ~ 0.22 acres of salt cedar (*Tamarisk ssp.*) mixed throughout the site.

Enhancement Activities: During this reporting period, herbicide treatments occurred on 10-1-2019. The species treated was salt cedar (*Tamarisk ssp.*). A cut-stump treatment was utilized for this project. A total of 10.25 hours were spent on enhancement activities.

The methods used for removal: All herbicide treatments were conducted using a foliar application method using 4 gallon backpack sprayers. A total of 76.75 ounces of Garlon 3A and 76.75 ounces of Competitor were used during this reporting period. These treatments were conducted by SAWA's Invasive Species Removal (ISR) crew.

The amount removed and/or treated: The total project acreage was 3.67 acres.

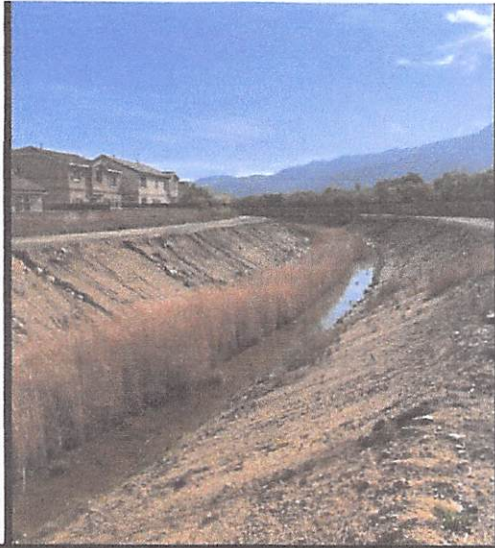
The frequency and timing of removal/treatment: Riverside County Flood hired SAWA as a contractor to specifically treat salt cedar (*Tamarisk ssp.*) in the project area. All treatments were conducted outside migratory bird season.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

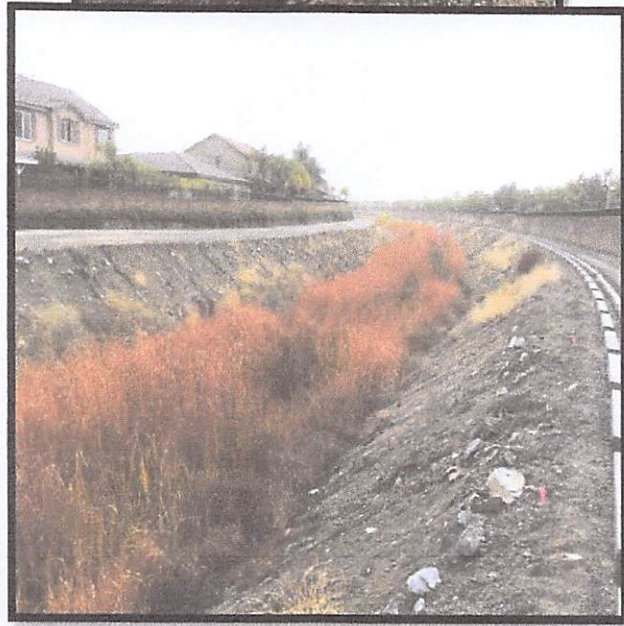
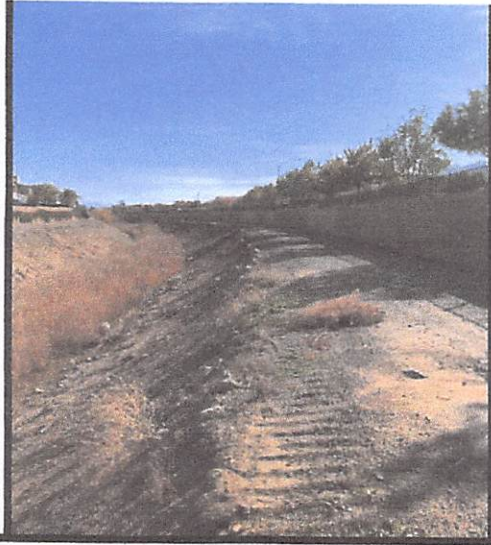
Current Site Conditions: The dominant native species on-site were: 5-15% arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), 25-50% cattails (*Typha domingensis*), 1-5% mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*). The dominant non-native species located on-site were: 5-15% salt cedar (*Tamarisk ssp.*), 1-5% sow thistle (*Sonchus asper*), and 1-5% mustard (*Brassica ssp.*). See complete species and percent cover table below.

Wildlife Species: None were reported during this period.

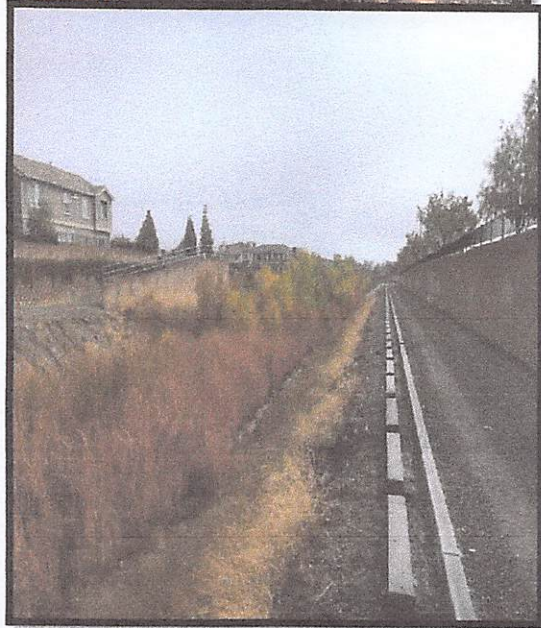
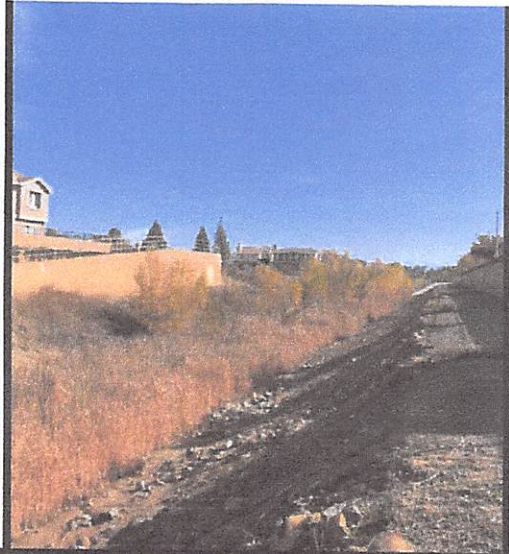
PHOTOS



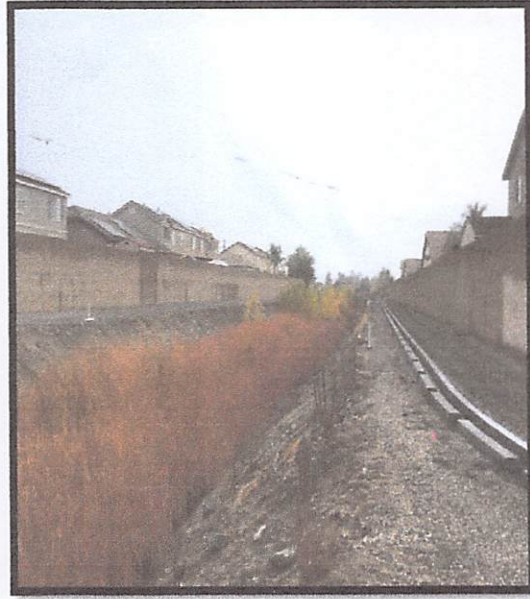
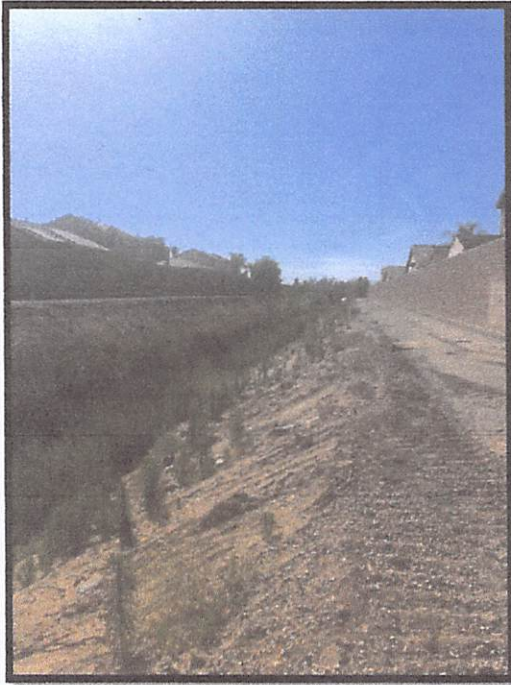
GPS Photo Point 1 – Heading 270 W 471396, 3720522



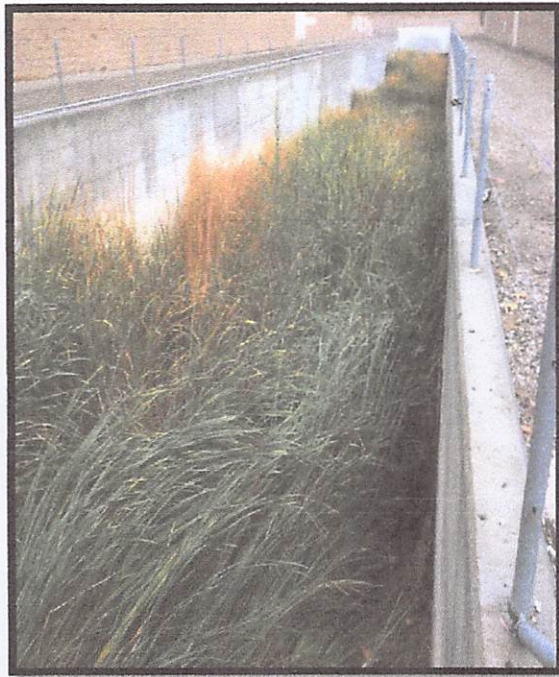
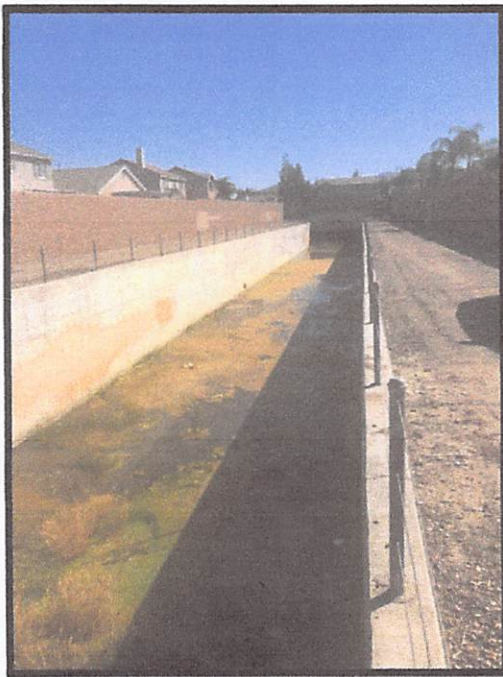
GPS Photo Point 2 – Heading 147 SE 471398, 3720429



GPS Photo Point 3 – Heading 255 W 471543, 3720249



GPS Photo Point 4 – Heading 112 E 471717, 3720122



GPS Photo Point 5 – Heading 12 N 471654, 3720522

Palomar-Corydon Channels

MAP



NAD 83
7-18-18 JL
Palomar-Corydon Channels
Map produced by SAWA

**PALOMAR-CORYDON CHANNELS SPECIES & PERCENT COVER
TABLE**

Native Species (Common Name)	Native Species (Scientific Name)	% Cover	Non-Native Species (Common Name)	Non-Native Species (Scientific Name)	% Cover
Arrow weed	<i>Pluchea sericea</i>	1-5%	castorbean	<i>Ricinus communis</i>	<1%
arroyo willow	<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	5-15%	Mouse barley	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	<1%
Bulrush ssp.		1-5%	mustard ssp.	<i>Brassica ssp.</i>	1-5%
common cattail	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	25-50%	Russian thistle	<i>Salsola tragus</i>	<1%
hoary nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	1-5%	saltcedar	<i>Tamarisk ssp.</i>	5-15%
jimsonweed	<i>Datura stramonium</i>	<1%	sow thistle	<i>Sanchus oleraceus</i>	1-5%
mulefat	<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	1-5%	tocolote	<i>Centaurea melitensis</i>	<1%
			tree tobacco	<i>Nicotiana glauca</i>	<1%

TEAM RCD – RIVERSIDE FLOOD FACILITIES

PROJECT BACKGROUND

SAWA has conducted site assessments at the 11 project locations and below are the current site conditions and recommendations for treatments.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND NON-NATIVE REMOVAL

Murrieta Creek Line F

Project Location: The Murrieta Creek Line F site is located along a Riverside Flood Control drainage in the City of Murrieta near the intersection of Kalmia St & Washington Ave. SAWA Mileage for this site is 1.47 miles. The site is ~ 1.12 acres and has ~ 0.07 acres of salt cedar (*Tamarisk ssp.*) mixed throughout the site.

Enhancement Activities: During this reporting period, herbicide treatments occurred on 10-1-19. The species treated was salt cedar (*Tamarisk ssp.*). A cut-stump treatment was utilized for this project. A total of 10.25 hours were spent on enhancement activities.

The methods used for removal: All herbicide treatments were conducted using a foliar application method using 4 gallon backpack sprayers. A total of 76.75 ounces of Garlon 3A and 76.75 ounces of Competitor were used during this reporting period. These treatments were conducted by SAWA's Invasive Species Removal (ISR) crew.

The amount removed and/or treated: The total project acreage was 1.12 acres.

The frequency and timing of removal/treatment: Riverside County Flood hired SAWA as a contractor to specifically treat salt cedar (*Tamarisk ssp.*) in the project area. All treatments were conducted outside migratory bird season.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

Current Site Conditions: The dominant native species on-site were: 1-5% Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), 5-15% willow species (*Salix spp.*), 1-5% cattails (*Typha domingensis*), 5-15% mulefat (*Baccharis salicifolia*). The dominant non-native species located on-site were: 5-15% salt cedar (*Tamarisk ssp.*), 1-5% blue gum eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*) and 1-5% mustard (*Brassica ssp.*). See complete species and percent cover table below.

Wildlife Species: None were reported during this period.

PHOTOS



GPS Photo Point 1 – Heading 250 W 479735, 3713057






GPS Photo Point 2 – Heading 260 W 479673, 3712982

Murrieta Creek Line F

MAP



Legend

-  GPS Photo Points
-  Tamarisk - 5% Cover
-  Murrieta Creek Line F Boundary - 1.12 Acres

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community



NAD 83
8-1-18 JL
Murrieta Creek Line F
Map produced by SAWA

**MURRIETA CREEK LINE F - SPECIES & PERCENT COVER
TABLE**

Native Species (Common Name)	Native Species (Scientific Name)	% Cover	Non-Native Species (Common Name)	Non-Native Species (Scientific Name)	% Cover
arroyo willow	<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	5-15%	eucalyptus ssp.	<i>Eucalyptus</i> ssp.	1-5%
California mugwort	<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	<1%	mustard ssp.	<i>Brassica</i> ssp.	1-5%
California plantain	<i>Plantagoerecta</i>	<1%	Russian thistle	<i>Salsola tragus</i>	<1%
coast live oak	<i>Quercusagrifolia</i>	<1%	saltcedar	<i>Tamarisk</i> ssp.	5-15%
common cattail	<i>Typha latifolia</i>	1-5%			
Fremont's cottonwood	<i>Populus fremontii</i>	1-5%			
hoary nettle	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	<1%			
jimson weed	<i>Daturawrightii</i>	<1%			
mulefat	<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i>	5-15%			

January 29, 2020

Ms. Rose Corona
President
Temecula-Elsinore-Anza-Murrieta Resource Conservation District
Post Office Box 2078
Temecula, California 92593

Dear Ms. Corona,

Annually, SDRMA requires agencies to complete and submit a Renewal Questionnaire. This information is very important to us, and your participation in providing updated, accurate and timely information ensures our members will receive the highest quality coverage at the lowest possible cost.

The 2020-21 Renewal Questionnaire (RQ) will be available February 1 in the MemberPlus™ Online portal at www.sdrma.org (click on Member Login at the top of any page on our website). For member convenience, a copy of the RQ can be viewed or printed while online, and important online instructions can be viewed or printed for each section. To ensure proper coverage, please review all information to ensure that it is complete, accurate and current. Please contact our office if you do not have internet access and are unable to complete and submit the RQ electronically.

Please review the enclosed checklist along with additional information including key dates for 2020 and current Credit Incentive Program criteria and status. Members considering withdrawal from the Property/Liability Program are required to submit a "Notice of Intent to Withdraw" according to SDRMA Bylaws by April 1 or the notice will not be valid.

The RQ may be completed and submitted electronically by February 15, 2020 to receive a \$75 incentive credit on your 2020-21 renewal invoice. However, the RQ must be completed and submitted electronically by March 1, 2020 in order to ensure complete accuracy in coverage.

On behalf of the SDRMA Board of Directors and our entire risk management team, thank you for completing this annual information requirement! Please do not hesitate to contact Member Services at memberplus@sdрма.org or 800.537.7790 for assistance.

Sincerely,
Special District Risk Management Authority



Laura S. Gill
Chief Executive Officer



RECEIVE A DISCOUNT!
FILE THE RENEWAL QUESTIONNAIRE EARLY

MEMBERPLUS ONLINE™ IS A CONVENIENT AND EASY WAY TO COMPLETE AND FILE THE RENEWAL QUESTIONNAIRE!

- MEMBERS' PARTICIPATING IN THE PROPERTY/LIABILITY PROGRAM WILL RECEIVE \$75^(*) FOR ELECTRONICALLY COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING THEIR RENEWAL QUESTIONNAIRE ONLINE BY **FEBRUARY 15, 2020**.

(*) MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED ONLINE BY FEBRUARY 15, 2020. DISCOUNT WILL BE APPLIED TO THE 2020-21 PREMIUM.



February 3, 2020

To: Resource Conservation District Board Members

Subject: New State-Level Memorandum of Agreement between NRCS, CARCD and individual Resource Conservations Districts

We are excited to report our joint efforts to finalize a new state-level Memorandum of Agreement between CA-NRCS, the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) and each individual Resource Conservation District (RCD) has been completed. The original national MOA template has been reviewed and edited by the CARCD board members after which, a draft copy was distributed to all RCDs in July/August 2019 for their review and concurrence. Attached is the final RCD-MOA, MOA attachments and a MOA fact sheet.


NRCS District Conservationists across the State will present this MOA to the RCD Directors with the appropriate RCD name in the agreement for signature. After the RCD signs the MOA, we will provide the agreement to Don Butz, President, CARCD, for signature and he will return the agreement to Carlos Suarez, State Conservationist. A copy of the final signed agreement will be returned to each RCD. The original copy of each agreement will be kept at the CA-NRCS state office.

For the board's information, attached is a MOA fact sheet which includes the following:

- Background information;
- Why a new agreement is necessary;
- Why a name change;
- What's in the new agreement, and are there any negative impacts;
- History of our partnerships;
- What we can do together, and the intent.

If you have any questions please contact Gayle Barry, Special Assistant to the State Conservationist at 530-792-5661 or gayle.barry@usda.gov.

Thank you so much for your continued partnership.


Carlos Suarez
State Conservationist

with attachments:
RCD-MOA
MOA Attachments
MOA Fact Sheet

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ATTACHMENTS
Which Include
The Full Text of Appendix B and Appendix C

Appendix B and C are available upon request to the California NRCS State Office or can be downloaded at the following source/link

- ❖ **Appendix B:** 7 CFR 610, Part C: The language for the State Technical Committee authorized by 7 CFR 610, Part C may change, in the future, with a new farm bill. To see the latest State Technical Committee authorization, go to:

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/7/part-610/subpart-C>

Legal Information Institute; Electronic Code of Federal Regulations; Title 7. Agriculture; Subtitle B. Regulations for the Department of Agriculture; Chapter VI NRCS, Subpart B, Conservation Programs; NRCS 7 CFR Subpart C-State Technical Committees.

- ❖ **Appendix C:** Title 440, Part 500 - Conservation Programs Manual., Locally Led Conservation may be revised in the future. To see the latest Title 440, Part 500 - Conservation Programs Manual, Locally Led Conservation go to:

<https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/RollupViewer.aspx?hid=27712>

Appendix B

7 CFR 610, Part C

610.21 Purpose and scope.

This subpart sets forth the procedures for establishing and using the advice of State Technical Committees. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will establish in each State a Technical Committee to assist in making recommendations relating to the implementation and technical aspects of natural resource conservation activities and programs. The Department of Agriculture (USDA) will use State Technical Committees in an advisory capacity in the administration of certain conservation programs and initiatives. Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 3862(d), these State Technical Committees and Local Working Groups are exempt from the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. 2).

610.22 State Technical Committee membership.

- a. State Technical Committees will include agricultural producers, nonindustrial private forest land owners, and other professionals who represent a variety of disciplines in soil, water, wetlands, plant, and wildlife sciences. The State Conservationist in each State will serve as chairperson. The State Technical Committee for each State will include representatives from among the following, if willing to serve:
 - 1. NRCS, USDA;
 - 2. Farm Service Agency, USDA;
 - 3. State Farm Service Agency Committee, USDA;
 - 4. Forest Service, USDA;
 - 5. National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA;
 - 6. Each of the Federally recognized Indian Tribes in the State;
 - 7. State departments and agencies within the State, including the:
 - i. Fish and wildlife agency;
 - ii. Forestry agency;
 - iii. Water resources agency;

- iv. Department of agriculture;
 - v. Association of soil and water conservation districts; and
 - vi. Soil and water conservation agency;
 - 8. Agricultural producers representing the variety of crops and livestock or poultry raised within the State;
 - 9. Owners of nonindustrial private forest land;
 - 10. Nonprofit organizations, within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, with demonstrable conservation expertise and experience working with agriculture producers in the State;
 - 11. Agribusiness; and
 - 12. The State Cooperative Extension Service and land grant universities in the State.
- a. The State Conservationist will invite other relevant Federal, State, and regional agencies, organizations, and persons knowledgeable about economic and environmental impacts of natural resource conservation techniques and programs to participate as needed.
 - b. To ensure that recommendations of State Technical Committees take into account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership will include, to the extent practicable, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent the conservation and related technical concerns of particular historically underserved groups and individuals; i.e., minorities, women, persons with disabilities, socially and economically disadvantaged groups, and beginning farmers and ranchers.
 - c. In accordance with the guidelines in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) of this section, it is the responsibility of the State Conservationist to seek a balanced representation of interests among the membership on the State Technical Committee. Individuals or groups wanting to participate on a State Technical Committee within a specific State may submit a request to the State Conservationist that explains their interest and outlines their credentials which they believe are relevant to becoming a member. Decisions regarding membership are at the discretion of the State Conservationist. State Conservationist decisions on membership are final and not appealable to any other individual or group within USDA.

[74 FR 66912, Dec. 17, 2009, as amended at 84 FR 19702, May 6, 2019]

610.23 State Technical Committee meetings.

- a. The State Conservationist, as Chairperson, schedules and conducts the meetings, although a meeting may be requested by any USDA agency or State Technical Committee member.
- b. NRCS will establish and maintain national standard operating procedures governing the operation of State Technical Committees and Local Working Groups in its directive system. The standard operating procedures will outline items such as: The best practice approach to establishing, organizing, and effectively utilizing State Technical Committees and Local Working Groups; direction on publication of State Technical Committee and Local Working Group meeting notices and agendas; State Technical Committee meeting summaries; how to provide feedback on State Conservationist decisions regarding State Technical Committee recommendations; and other items as determined by the Chief.
- c. In addition to the standard operating procedures established under paragraph (b) of this section, the State Conservationist will provide public notice and allow public attendance at State Technical Committee and Local Working Group meetings. The State Conservationist will publish a meeting notice no later than 14 calendar days prior to a State Technical Committee meeting. Notification may exceed this 14-day minimum where State open meeting laws exist and provide for a longer notification period. This minimum 14-day notice requirement may be waived in the case of exceptional conditions, as determined by the State Conservationist. The State Conservationist will publish this notice in at least one or more newspaper(s), including recommended Tribal publications, to attain statewide circulation.

§ 610.24 Responsibilities of State Technical Committees.

- a. Each State Technical Committee established under this subpart will meet on a regular basis, as determined by the State Conservationist, to provide information, analysis, and recommendations to appropriate officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) who are charged with implementing and establishing priorities and criteria for natural resources conservation activities and programs under Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 including, but not limited to, the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, Conservation Reserve Program, Conservation Security Program, Conservation Stewardship Program, Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Conservation Innovation Grants, Conservation of Private Grazing Land, Grassroots Source Water Protection Program, the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program, and the Regional Conservation Partnership Program. The members of the State Technical Committee may also provide input on

other natural resource conservation programs and issues as may be requested by NRCS or other USDA agency heads at the State level as long as they are within the programs authorized by Title XII. Such recommendations may include, but are not limited to, recommendations on:

1. The criteria to be used in prioritizing program applications;
 2. The State-specific application criteria;
 3. Priority natural resource concerns in the State;
 4. Emerging natural resource concerns and program needs; and
 5. Conservation practice standards and specifications.
- a. The role of the State Technical Committee is advisory in nature, and the committee will have no implementation or enforcement authority. The implementing agency reserves the authority to accept or reject the committee's recommendations. However, the implementing USDA agency will give strong consideration to the State Technical Committee's recommendations.
- b. State Technical Committees will review whether Local Working Groups are addressing State priorities.

[74 FR 66912, Dec. 17, 2009, as amended at 79 FR 44639, Aug. 1, 2014]

610.25 Subcommittees and Local Working Groups.

- a. **Subcommittees.** In some situations, specialized subcommittees, made up of State Technical Committee members, may be needed to analyze and examine specific issues. The State Conservationist may assemble certain members, including members of Local Working Groups and other knowledgeable individuals, to discuss, examine, and focus on a particular technical or programmatic topic. The subcommittee may seek public participation, but it is not required to do so. Nevertheless, recommendations resulting from these subcommittee sessions, other than sessions of Local Working Groups, will be made only in a general session of the State Technical Committee where the public is notified and invited to attend. Decisions resulting from recommendations of Local Working Groups will be communicated to NRCS in accordance with the standard operating procedures described in § 610.23(b).
- b. **Local Working Groups.**
1. Local Working Groups will be composed of conservation district officials, agricultural producers representing the variety of crops and livestock or poultry raised within the local area, nonindustrial private forest land owners, and other professionals representing relevant agricultural and conservation interests and a variety of disciplines in the soil, water, plant, wetland, and wildlife sciences who are familiar with private land agricultural and natural resource issues in the local community;
 2. Local Working Groups will provide recommendations on local natural resource priorities and criteria for conservation activities and programs; and
 3. Local Working Groups will follow the standard operating procedures described in § 610.23(b).

etc.), groups based on operator type (limited-resource, family-owned farms, retirees, etc.), or groups based on other mutual resource concerns.

D. Primary Focus: Resource Concerns

(1) It is important to keep in mind that locally led conservation must be driven by natural resource conservation needs rather than by programs. Its primary focus should be to identify natural resource concerns, along with related economic and social concerns. Once the natural resource concerns are identified, appropriate Federal, State, local, and nongovernmental program tools can be used, both individually and in combination, to address these resource concerns and attempt to meet the established goals of the community stakeholders.

500.2 Locally Led Leadership and Public Involvement

A. Locally Led Leadership

(1) While there is a wide range of groups that may be in a position to lead a local conservation effort, conservation districts, under State or Tribal law, are charged with facilitating cooperation and agreements between agencies, landowners, and others; developing comprehensive conservation plans; and bringing those plans to the attention of landowners and others in their district. Thus, conservation districts are experienced in assessing resource needs, determining priorities, and coordinating programs to meet those needs and priorities.

(2) Conservation districts are the logical group to coordinate locally led conservation due to their connections to Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments; private resources; and the public. Therefore, further discussion of the locally led effort presumes that districts will provide primary leadership; however, leadership can come from any willing and interested group.

(3) Refer to section 500.10 for the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) guidance document, "Locally Led Conservation: An Overview for Conservation Districts."

B. Public Involvement

(1) Input from a broad range of agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals in the local area that have an interest in natural resource management and are familiar with local resource needs and conditions is an essential element of locally led conservation. These representatives should reflect the diversity of the residents, landowners, and land operators in the local area.

(2) The NACD documents "Locally Led Conservation: An Overview for Conservation Districts" and "Conservation District Board Member Recruitment and Community Outreach Guide" provide suggested guidelines for public outreach efforts and ways to reach out to underserved communities.

C. NRCS Role and Responsibilities

NRCS will support the locally led conservation effort by—

- (i) Providing assistance in identifying conservation needs.
- (ii) Providing technical and program advice to the community stakeholders throughout the effort.
- (iii) Assisting in developing and implementing strategies to include socially and economically disadvantaged groups in the locally led effort.

Note: It is not the responsibility of the designated conservationist to lead the locally led effort. NRCS's task is to support the process and provide technical information upon request.

500.3 The Conservation Needs Assessment

A. Introduction

A conservation needs assessment is the first step and a critical element of locally led conservation. With input and resource data from all interested parties, this assessment should provide a comprehensive evaluation of the condition of the area's natural resource base and will be the platform for making decisions about local priorities and policies for conservation programs delivered at the local level.

B. Definition of a Conservation Needs Assessment

(1) The conservation needs assessment is a comprehensive analysis of the work that needs to be done to achieve broad conservation goals set by community stakeholders and to solve natural resource problems. This assessment should be based on public input and science-based information. It should include a detailed analysis of natural resource concerns within the area. To ensure versatility in all program areas, it is important that this needs assessment be resource-based, not program-based.

(2) The conservation action plan that results from the conservation needs assessment will identify the tools that can be used to satisfy the needs.

C. Purpose of the Conservation Needs Assessment

(1) The purpose of the conservation needs assessment is to ensure that conservation efforts address the most important local resource needs. The assessment will be the basis for selecting the type and extent of needed conservation systems and practices. It will also be the basis for making recommendations on funding priorities and priority areas to be addressed by the various conservation programs available.

(2) The conservation needs assessment is the foundation for carrying out Federal programs such as the USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). From a resource concern identification standpoint, this conservation needs assessment may also be used to assist localities in implementing the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, as well as many State, Tribal, and local programs that provide assistance to private land owners and managers.

D. NRCS Roles and Responsibilities

(1) The NRCS designated conservationist will support, where requested, the development of the conservation needs assessment by—

- (i) Providing assistance in assembling natural resource inventories and data.
- (ii) Assisting in analyzing the data and other information.
- (iii) Providing information on socioeconomic factors involved in determining the conservation needs.

(2) For specific guidance on resource assessment, consult steps one through four of the areawide planning process in the National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH).

500.4 The Conservation Action Plan

A. Introduction and Identification of Leadership

Using the conservation needs assessment, the conservation district involves community stakeholders to develop and agree on an action plan, generally referred to as a "conservation action plan."

B. The Conservation Action Plan

This plan will—

- (i) Identify natural resource conservation priorities.
- (ii) Set measurable conservation goals and objectives.
- (iii) Identify conservation technology needed to achieve these goals and objectives.
- (iv) Identify responsibility for action and create a time schedule for completion of elements.
- (v) Identify Federal, State, Tribal, local, and nongovernment programs and services needed to address specific conservation needs.
- (vi) Identify a need to develop new programs or processes to address those problems not covered by existing programs.

C. NRCS Roles and Responsibilities

(1) The NRCS designated conservationist will support the development of the conservation action plan by—

- (i) Providing overall planning assistance.
- (ii) Identifying non-USDA programs that may be of assistance.
- (iii) Explaining appropriate USDA conservation programs and services.

(2) For specific guidance on planning assistance, consult steps five through seven of the areawide planning process in the NPPH.

500.5 Implementing the Conservation Action Plan

A. Introduction

(1) Implementation of the conservation action plan means that the community stakeholders, with the leadership of the conservation district, obtain the needed programs and services to address the problems identified by their conservation needs assessment.

(2) In this step, they coordinate existing assistance, available through private organizations, Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies, including USDA; ensure that appropriate program application processes are followed; develop detailed proposals for new programs; and seek financial, educational, and technical assistance as necessary.

B. NRCS Roles and Responsibilities

(1) The NRCS designated conservationist will support the implementation of the conservation action plan by—

- (i) Explaining, interpreting, and clarifying USDA rules, regulations, and procedures.
 - (ii) Providing input on other potential sources of assistance from Federal, State, Tribal, and local government or private sources.
 - (iii) Implementing designated roles and responsibilities as defined in Part 502, "USDA Conservation Program Delivery."
- (2) For specific guidance, see step eight of the areawide planning process in the NPPH.

500.6 Evaluating Results

A. Introduction

Locally led conservation does not end when the conservation action plan has been implemented. The effectiveness of plan implementation should be evaluated to ensure that the community stakeholders' planned goals and objectives are achieved. An evaluation should be made to determine where the actual results differ from those anticipated. This difference may result in retracing one or more of the steps in the locally led conservation effort.

B. NRCS Roles and Responsibilities

- (1) The NRCS designated conservationist will support the conservation district and the community stakeholders in evaluating the results of their locally led conservation efforts by—
- (i) Assisting in the evaluation process.
 - (ii) Providing updated natural resources information and assessments.
 - (iii) Keeping them aware of changes in the USDA programs and the program delivery process.
 - (iv) Assisting in interpreting the impact of conservation action plan implementation on the condition of the natural resources.
- (2) Refer to step nine of the areawide planning process in the NPPH for specific guidance.

[M_440_500__A - Amend. 70 - September 2010]

Subpart B - Exhibits

500.10 NACD Guidance Document, "Locally Led Conservation: An Overview for Conservation Districts" for a copy of this document go to:

<https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/OpenNonWebContent.aspx?content=27918.wba>

500.11 NACD Guidance Document, "Conservation District Board Member Recruitment" for a copy of this document go to:

<https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/OpenNonWebContent.aspx?content=27714.wba>

[M_440_500__B - Amend. 70 - September 2010]



Memorandum of Agreement Fact Sheet

Background Information:

NRCS is in the process of replacing the current State Level Cooperative Working Agreement (CWA) (signed in 1999), with each Resource Conservation District, with a new **Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)**.

- Currently NRCS has a state level Cooperative Working Agreement with each Resource Conservation District. These Cooperative Working Agreements will be replaced with a new Memorandum of Agreement.
- The Memorandum of Agreement is between California-NRCS, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, and each Resource Conservation District.
 - The Memorandum of Agreement documents the relationship and basic framework for the cooperation between NRCS, and the Resource Conservation District on a statewide basis.
 - Neither funding nor things of value can be transferred through the Memorandum of Agreement.
 - The Memorandum of Agreement is not a legally or financially binding document.

Why New Agreements with Resource Conservation Districts:

- NRCS now falls under a new branch of USDA called Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC). The administrative functions of the component Agencies (NRCS, FSA and RMA) have been merged. Thus, numerous supporting documents are being looked at with fresh eyes, including the Agreements that Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and NRCS have operated under with conservation districts for the last 80 years. Now we are being directed to reformat and re-sign these documents to bring them up-to-date and make them consistent with the language used across FPAC.

Why a Name Change:

- The reason to change the name from Cooperative Working Agreement to Memorandum of Agreement is to ensure the correct and legal use of the partnership agreement.
 - The state level Cooperative Working Agreement was previously improperly used as a Memorandum of Agreement, which documents the working relationship between NRCS and RCD's but is not legally or financially binding
 - Memorandum of Agreements are very different from Cooperative Agreements, which are used for securing agreements of monetary



Memorandum of Agreement Fact Sheet

- value or imply transfer of funds. Memorandum of Agreements cannot be used in exchange of monetary value or transfer of funds.
- Cooperative Agreements are legally or financially binding and imply there is some type of monetary transfer and is a legal or financial binding document.

What's in the New Memorandum of Agreement:

- Several additions have been made to the Memorandum of Agreement which were highlighted in the 2018 Farm Bill and subsequently prompted NRCS to review the Cooperative Working Agreement for quality assurance. The Memorandum of Agreement has been updated nationally with a statement of mutual benefit. The following language additions have been made:
 - Emphasis on locally-led voluntary conservation has been added;
 - Specific language on what NRCS and the RCD's shall do regarding locally-led voluntary conservation and adherence to technical standards;
 - To include language on data and information sharing; and
 - A section on general provisions that address period of performance, amendments and transfer of funding or non-monetary resources.

Are there any negative impacts?

- *We do not expect this to have any negative impacts* on our relationship with the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, or individual Resource Conservation Districts. In fact, this is a positive thing that we will be codifying in current terms the historic relationship between NRCS and our District partners. It's not surprising that across 50 states, 2 territories and 85 years our many agreements have gotten a bit "individualized." FPAC is developing a standard template and now our agreements will be similar from Alabama to Wyoming.

History of Partnerships:

- The Brown Creek Soil Conservation District in North Carolina signed the first Memorandum of Understanding, (currently called a Cooperative Working Agreement and soon to be replaced by a new Memorandum of Agreement) with USDA in 1937. The acreage in districts topped the two billion mark in 1973. Beginning in 1980, Native Americans organized districts and began receiving assistance from NRCS as well.
- Partnerships expand the reach and depth of conservation on the land. It is our duty to provide quality assistance to farmers, ranchers and landowners to ensure protection of our nation's lands. Individually the federal and state agencies, nonprofit groups, and Resource Conservation Districts that comprise our conservation partnerships have a diversity of expertise in discipline,

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location/area, and focus. As partners in conservation, these groups share their unique areas of expertise and conservation work to put more conservation on the land.

What we can do together:

- Approve conservation plans, in accordance with conservation policy;
- Provide technical assistance;
- Provide administrative support;
- Lead the locally led process;
- Provide input on local natural resource concerns and recommendations to NRCS for Conservation Technical Assistance programs;
- Lead local communication and public participation;
- Assist with outreach programs;
- Convene the USDA local working group; and,
- Become a certified TSP.

The intent is:

- Continued support of customer service;
- Strengthen and modernize conservation delivery;
- Outreach to new and existing farmers and partners;
- Encourage a voluntary approach; and,
- Practical approach to conservation of water, soil and environment

If there are any questions concerning the new state-level Memorandum of Agreement, please contact the local District Conservationist or the Area Assistant State Conservationist. Assistant State Conservationist contact info:

- Area 1, Tony Sunseri, 530-737-5217 or tony.sunseri@usda.gov
- Area 2, Kay Joy Barge, 893-975-7763 or kay.joybarge@usda.gov
- Area 3, Sharon Nance, 559-490-5218 or Sharon.nance@usda.gov
- Area 4, Curtis Tarver, 951-684-3722 or Curtis.tarver@usda.gov