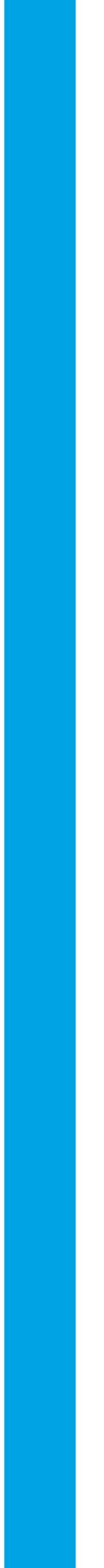


APPENDIX B – Biological Resources Report



Results of the Biological Resources, Jurisdictional Waters/ Wetlands and Endangered Species Act Assessment for the Avalon K-12 Campus



Long Beach Unified School District

Elston Soares, Facilities Development & Planning
Long Beach Unified School District
2425 Webster Avenue
Long Beach, California 90810

May 22, 2019
5 Hutton Centre Drive
Santa Ana CA 92707

Subject: CEQA Documentation Services for the Avalon K-12 HVAC, ADA, Contaminated Soil Removal, & New Synthetic Turf Field Project

Dear Elston Soares,

This letter report summarizes the results of the database search and literature review conducted for the Avalon K-12 campus located at 200 Falls Canyon Road in Avalon, California (Project site). The purpose of the review was to determine if there are any records of listed and/or sensitive plant and wildlife species and communities, and potential wetlands and/or waters under state or federal jurisdiction, occurring on or in the immediate vicinity of the Project site.

The Avalon K-12 campus was originally built in 1924 with the last set of buildings being added in 1998. The school is situated against a natural hillside on the south, with residential housing on the north, City warehouses on the west and a golf course on the east. This school accommodates students from Kindergarten to Grade 12. The site is approximately 11.5 acres in size and encompasses seven permanent buildings, one modular building, and 22 relocatable/portable buildings. The Project site is surrounded by urban, paved, and developed residential homes. The undeveloped land appears to be composed primarily of native vegetation.

The District proposes improvements to Avalon's K-12 HVAC system, ADA, and athletic field improvements. Prior to and during the HVAC, ADA and new turf field installation, delineated areas of contaminated soil within the Avalon K-12 school boundary would be removed and hauled offsite for disposal. The purpose of the Avalon K-12 School HVAC, ADA, New Synthetic Turf Field Project, and Contaminated Soil Removal Project is to provide: HVAC to permanent buildings, interior improvements to buildings on the campus, and ADA improvements. Additionally, the Project will replace the existing natural turf athletic field with a new synthetic turf field and remove a portion of the contaminated soil located on the campus. All work will occur within previously developed areas, no undeveloped areas surrounding the Project site will be impacted.

Data Search and Literature Review

Chambers Group conducted database searches to determine which sensitive species are known to occur within the Project vicinity. The database search and literature review are in support of the CEQA documentation being prepared by Long Beach Unified School District. The most recent records of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW 2019) and the US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) Sensitive Species Database (USFWS 2019a) were reviewed for the four quadrangles containing and surrounding the Project site, with a focus on results within the one quadrangle containing the Project site (*Santa Catalina East*, California U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle [USGS 2019]). The surrounding quadrangles include *Santa Catalina North*, *Santa Catalina South*, and *Santa Catalina West*. In addition, the California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory (CNPSEI) of Rare and Endangered was reviewed (CNPS 2019). These databases contain records of reported occurrences of federal- or state-listed endangered or



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threatened species, proposed endangered or threatened species, California State Species of Special Concern (SSC), or otherwise sensitive species or habitats that may occur within or in the immediate vicinity of the Project site. Existing critical habitat information from the USFWS was reviewed (USFWS 2019b). Topographic maps and aerial photographs containing the Project site also were reviewed.

The USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps (USFWS 2019c) were reviewed to identify potential areas within the Project site that could be under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) or Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The USGS *Santa Catalina East*, California 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (2019) was reviewed for blue-line features within and in the immediate vicinity of the Project site that may indicate the presence of streams or drainage features.

Results

Sensitive Plant Species

The Project site is completely developed. No work will occur outside of the previously developed areas and no impacts to native vegetation are anticipated to occur.

Current database searches (CDFW 2019, CNPSEI 2019, and USFWS 2019a) resulted in a list of 29 rare plants that have occurred in the area. Three federal-and/or state-listed threatened and/or endangered plant species, Santa Cruz Island winged-rockcress (*Sibara filifolia*; FE), beach spectaclepod (*Dithyrea maritima*, ST), and island rush-rose (*Crocantemum greenii*; FT), have a record of occurrence in the vicinity of the Project site and are presumed extant. The Santa Cruz Island winged-rockcress was recorded within the Project site; however, this species has not been observed within or adjacent to the Project site since 1901 and therefore is not expected to occur within or adjacent to the Project site. The island rush-rose was observed approximately 1.35 miles from the Project site in 2015; however, the Project site and surrounding area are highly developed and this species is not expected to occur within the Project site. The beach spectaclepod has been recorded within the Project site; however, this species has not been observed within or adjacent to the Project site since 1924 and therefore is not expected to occur within or adjacent to the Project site. In addition to these species, the following 24 rare plant species with a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 1A, 1B, 2B, or 3 ranking have a record of occurrence in the vicinity of the Project site and are presumed extant.

- south island bush-poppy (*Dendromecon harfordii* var. *rhamnoides*) – CRPR 3.1
- southern island mallow (*Lavatera assurgentiflora* ssp. *glabra*) – CRPR 1B.1
- southern tarplant (*Centromadia parryi* ssp. *australis*) – CRPR 1B.1
- Wallace's nightshade (*Solanum wallacei*) – CRPR 1B.1
- Aphanisma (*Aphanisma blitoides*) – CRPR 1B.2
- California dissanthelium (*Dissanthelium californicum*) – CRPR 1B.2
- Catalina crossosoma (*Crossosoma californicum*) – CRPR 1B.2
- Catalina Island dudleya (*Dudleya virens* ssp. *hassei*) – CRPR 1B.2
- coast woolly-heads (*Nemacaulis denudata* var. *denudata*) – CRPR 1B.2
- compact cobwebby thistle (*Cirsium occidentale* var. *compactum*) – CRPR 1B.2
- Coulter's saltbush (*Atriplex coulteri*) – CRPR 1B.2
- Davidson's saltscale (*Atriplex serenana* var. *davidsonii*) – CRPR 1B.2
- decumbent goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii* var. *decumbens*) – CRPR 1B.2
- Santa Barbara honeysuckle (*Lonicera subspicata* var. *subspicata*) – CRPR 1B.2



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- Santa Catalina figwort (*Scrophularia villosa*) – CRPR 1B.2
- Santa Catalina Island currant (*Ribes viburnifolium*) – CRPR 1B.2
- Santa Catalina Island ironwood (*Lyonothamnus floribundus* ssp. *floribundus*) – CRPR 1B.2
- Santa Catalina Island manzanita (*Arctostaphylos catalinae*) – CRPR 1B.2
- showy island snapdragon (*Gambelia speciosa*) – CRPR 1B.2
- south coast saltscale (*Atriplex pacifica*) – CRPR 1B.2
- Wiggins' cryptantha (*Cryptantha wigginsii*) – CRPR 1B.2
- Nevin's woolly sunflower (*Constancea nevinii*) – CRPR 1B.3
- Santa Catalina Island bedstraw (*Galium catalinense* ssp. *catalinense*) – CRPR 1B.3
- chaparral ragwort (*Senecio aphanactis*) – CRPR 2B.2

Two additional rare plant species, Santa Catalina Island desert-thorn (*Lycium brevipes* var. *hassei*) and Santa Catalina Island monkeyflower (*Diplacus traskiae*), were identified as extirpated or possibly extirpated.

The Project site is fully developed and no suitable habitat is present; therefore, no rare plants are expected to occur within the Project site.

Sensitive Wildlife Species

A total of 3 sensitive wildlife species were identified in the database searches. The CNDDB (CDFW 2018) and USFWS (USFWS 2019a) database searches resulted in a list of two federal- and state-listed threatened or endangered wildlife species that have records of occurrence in the vicinity of the Project site. The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*; SE) was recorded approximately 2.22 miles from the Project site in 2004; however, the Project site lacks suitable nesting habitat and therefore this species is not anticipated to occur within the Project site. The Santa Catalina island fox (*Urocyon littoralis catalinae*; FT, ST) was observed within the Project site in 2015. However; the Project site lacks suitable habitat and therefore this species is not expected to occur within the Project site except to potentially migrate to a more favorable destination.

In addition to these species, one SSC species, Santa Catalina island shrew (*Sorex ornatus willetti*) was identified within the Project site vicinity. However, this species has not been observed within or adjacent to the Project site since 1924. Due to the development of the Project site and lack of suitable habitat, this species is not anticipated to occur within the Project boundary.

Critical Habitat

The Project site does not occur within or adjacent to any USFWS-designated critical habitat (USFWS 2019b).

Jurisdictional Wetlands and Waters

The Project site is located within the San Nicholas Island-Santa Catalina Island Watershed. No blue-lines are indicated within the Project site. One drainage appears to be located below the Project site; however, the Project site is fully developed and no waterways occur within the Project site. Therefore, no impacts to waters are anticipated to occur as a result of work activities. According to the USFWS NWI Map, no mapped wetlands are located within or adjacent to the Project site.



Results of the Biological Resources, Jurisdictional Waters/Wetlands and Endangered Species Act Assessment for the Avalon K-12 Campus



Long Beach Unified School District

Conclusion

A field survey was not performed for biological resources or jurisdictional waters for this Project. Recent aerial maps were reviewed. The Project site has been completely developed since 1924. While sensitive species were historically identified as having known occurrences within the Project site, these records were dated prior to development of the Project site. Based on the lack of suitable habitat for any sensitive species, no sensitive plant or wildlife species are expected to occur within the Project site. No USFWS-designated critical habitat was identified within the vicinity of the Project site. In addition, no wetlands or waters under state or federal jurisdiction occur on the site. Therefore, impacts to jurisdictional waters are not anticipated. Therefore, permit authorizations from USACE (Section 404 permit program), from CDFW through a 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement, and from RWQCB through a 401 State Water Quality Certification are not required for Project authorization.

Please contact me if you have any questions or comments regarding this memo.

Sincerely,
CHAMBERS GROUP, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather R.", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Heather Franklin
Project Biologist
hfranklin@chambersgroupinc.com
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5 Hutton Centre Drive, Suite 750
Santa Ana, CA 92707



Results of the Biological Resources, Jurisdictional Waters/Wetlands and Endangered Species Act Assessment for the Avalon K-12 Campus

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References

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

2019 California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). RareFind Version 5. Database Query for the *Santa Catalina East, Santa Catalina North, Santa Catalina South, and Santa Catalina West*, California USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle. Wildlife and Habitat Data Analysis Branch.

California Native Plant Society, Rare Plant Program.

2019. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (online edition, v8-03 0.39). Website <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org> [accessed May 2019].

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

2019a Endangered Species Database. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. Assessed May 2019 from <https://www.fws.gov/endangered/>.

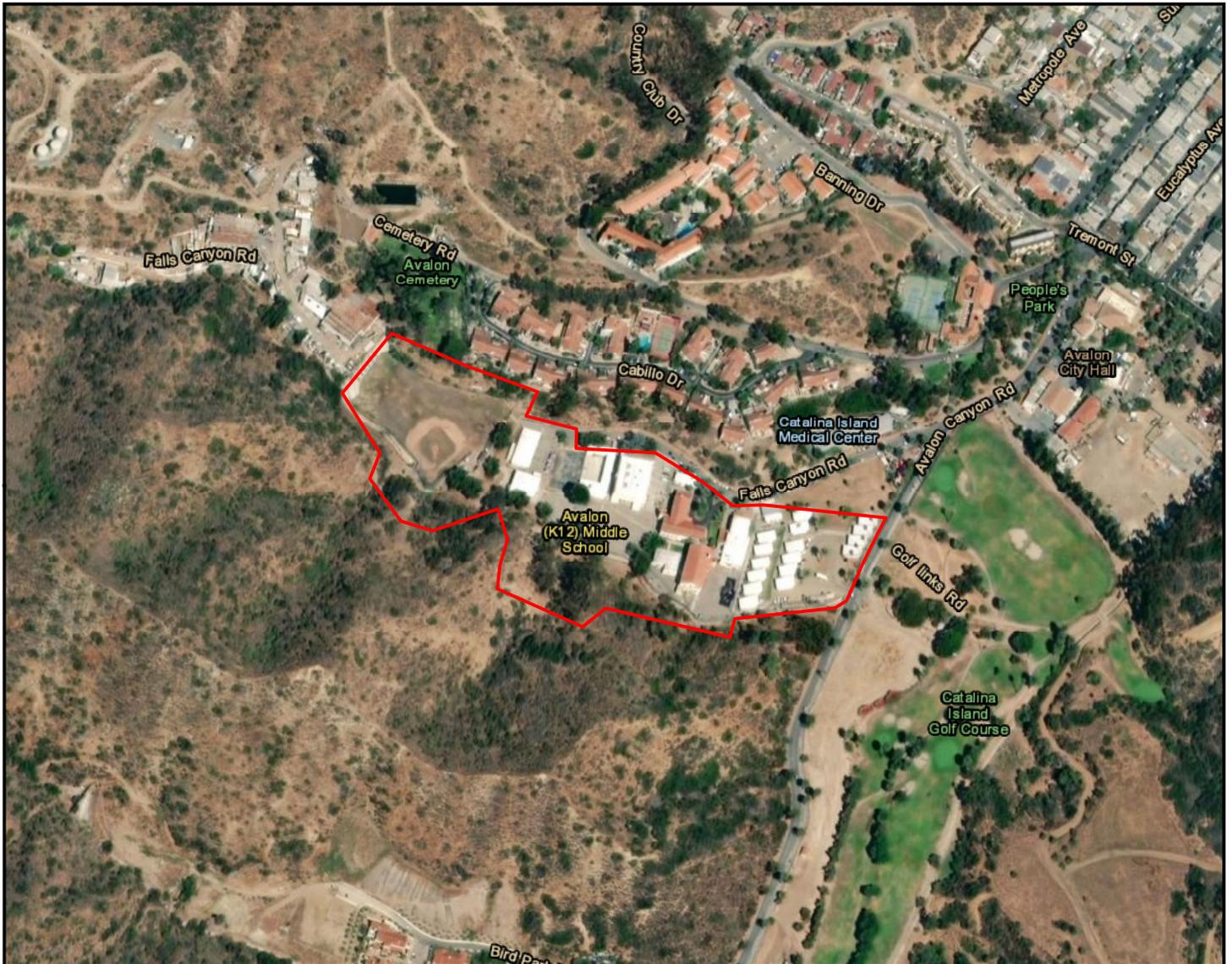
2019b Critical Habitat Portal. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. Accessed May 2019 from <http://criticalhabitat.fws.gov/crithab/>.

2019c National Wetlands Inventory website. U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. Accessed May 2019 from <http://www.fws.gov/wetlands/>.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

2019 *Santa Catalina East, Santa Catalina North, Santa Catalina South, and Santa Catalina West*, California, Los Angeles County 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle.





Legend

 Project Location

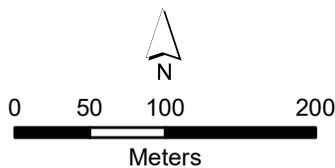
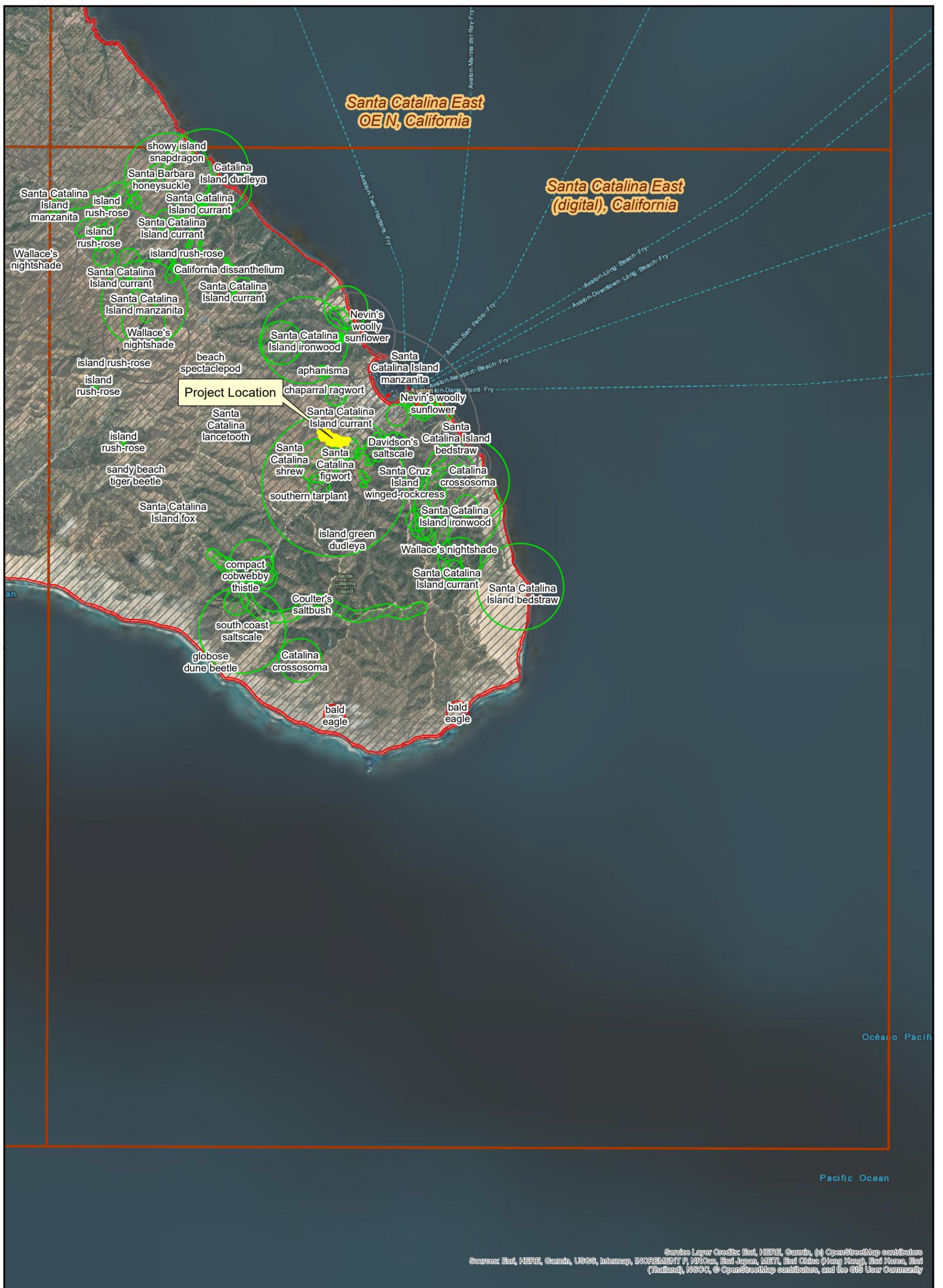


Figure 1
Avalon K-12
Project Location Map



Service Layer Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors
 Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



Legend

- Project Location
- USGS 7.5-min Quadrangle
- CNDDB Occurences**
- Plant (80m)
- Plant (specific)
- Plant (non-specific)
- Plant (circular)
- Animal (non-specific)
- Animal (circular)
- Multiple (non-specific)
- Multiple (circular)

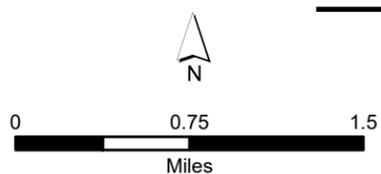
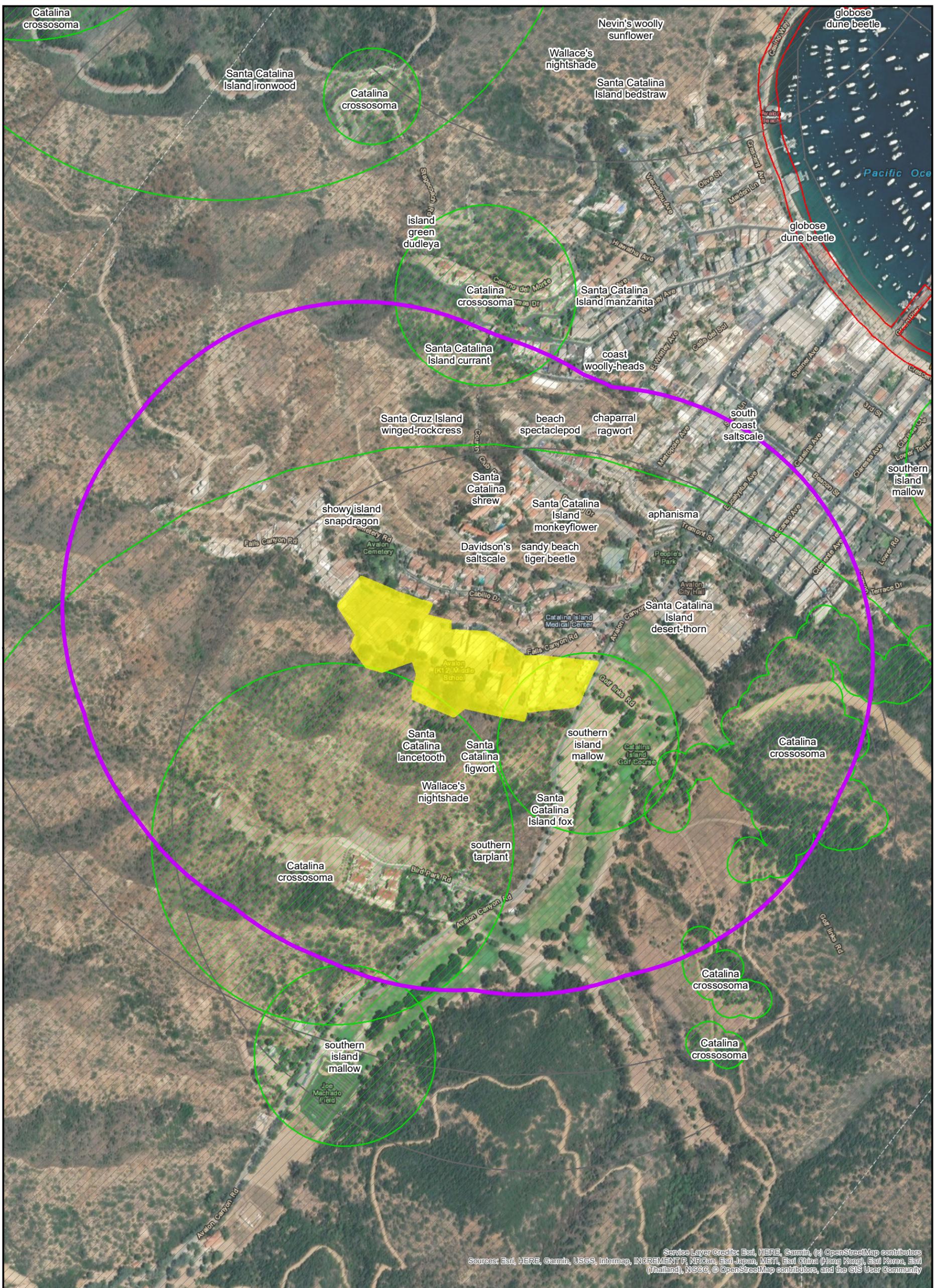


Figure 2a
 Avalon K-12 School
 Biological Resources



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 Print Date: 5/16/2019, Author: esimmons



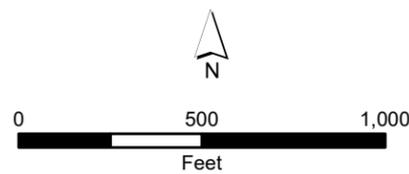
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 Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community



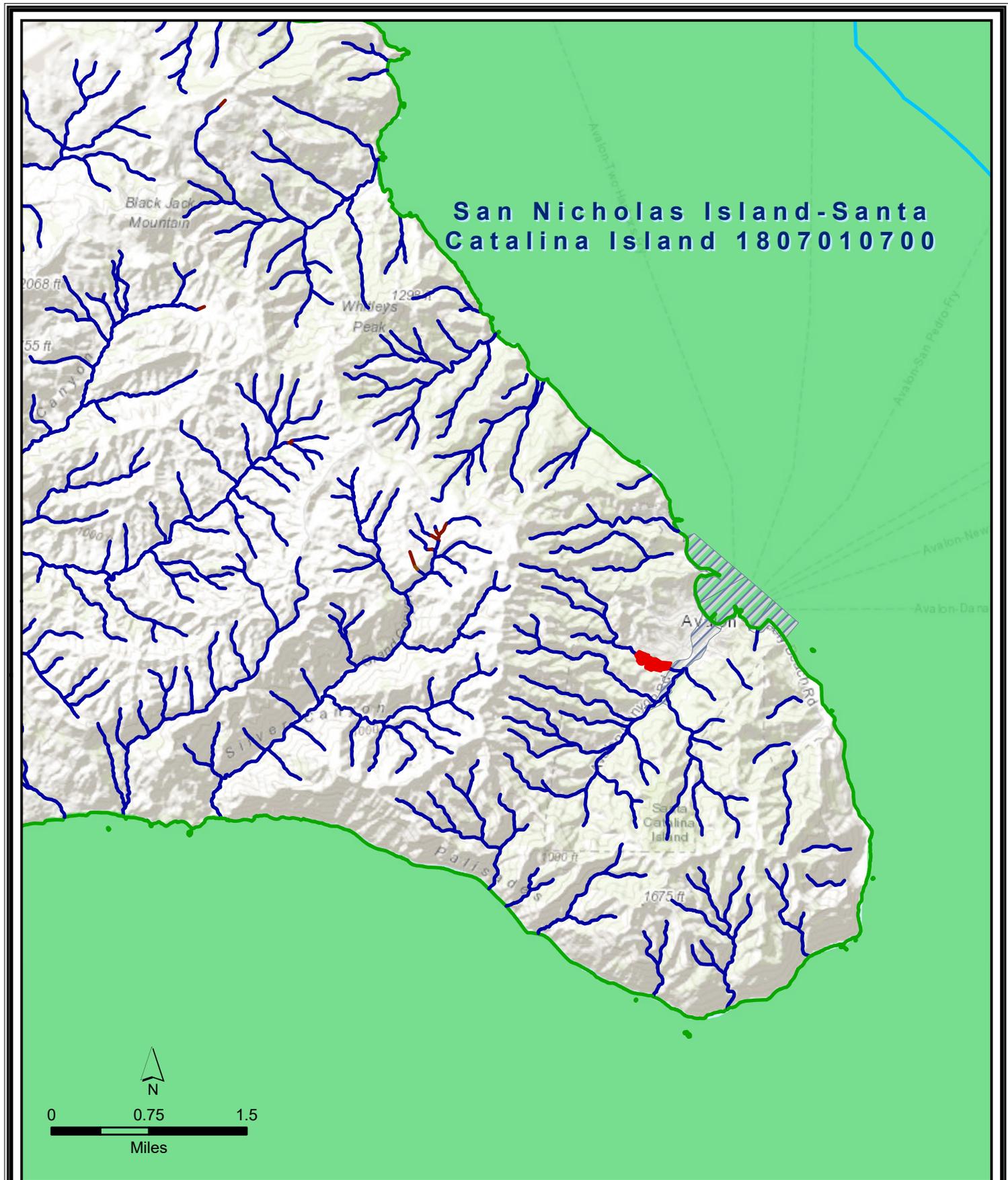
Legend

- Project Location
- 500-yard Buffer
- Multiple (non-specific)
- Multiple (circular)
- CNDDB Occurrences
- Plant (non-specific)
- Plant (circular)
- Animal (non-specific)

Figure 2b
 Avalon K-12 School
 Biological Resources



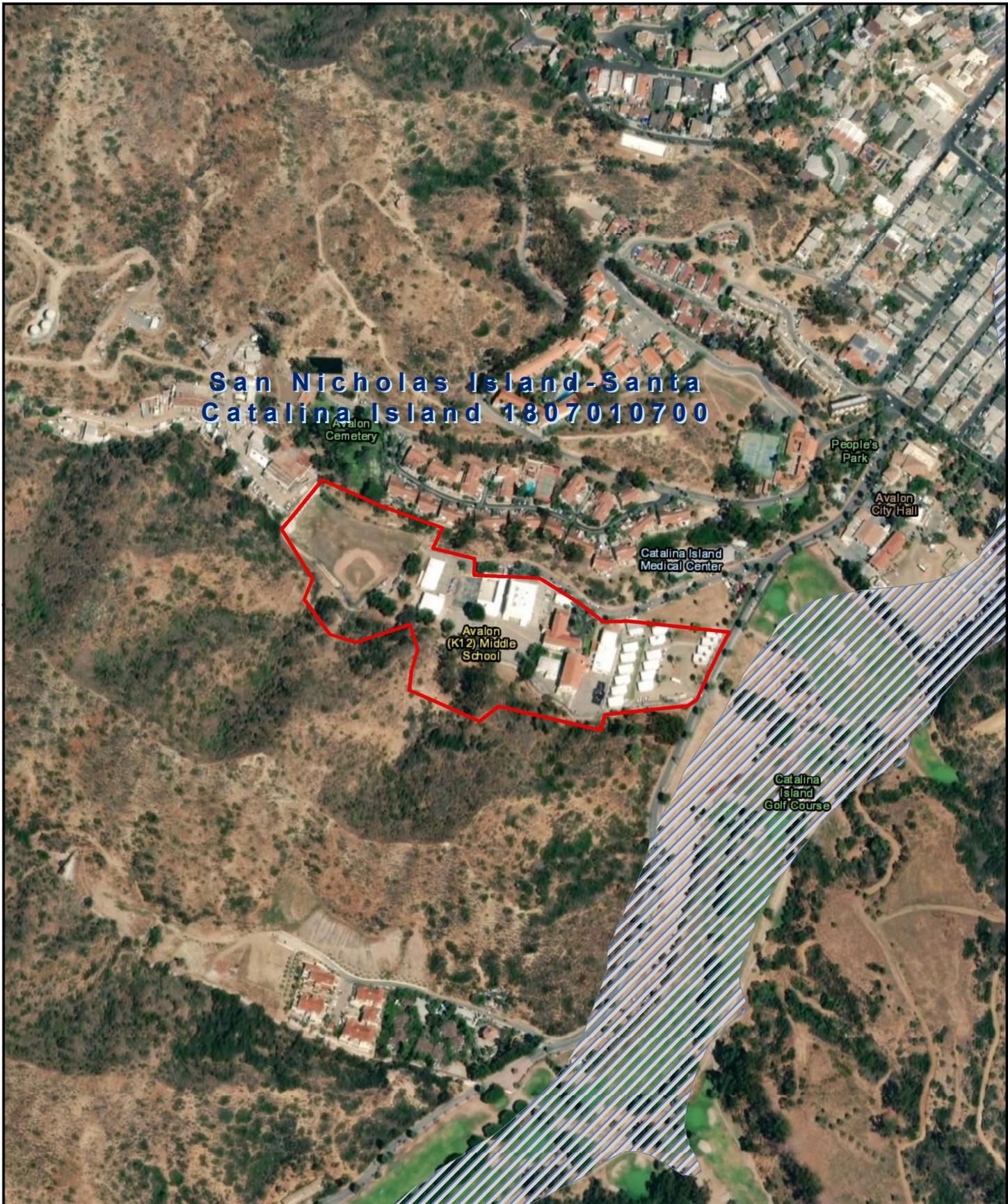
Name: 21131 BIO Fig 2b Bio Resource.Mxd
 Print Date: 5/16/2019, Author: esimmons



Legend

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Project Location | Coastline | Estuarine and Marine Wetland |
| HUC-10 Watershed Boundary | Connector | Freshwater Pond |
| FEMA 100-Year Flood Zone | Stream/River | |
| USGS NHD Flowlines | USFWS Mapped NWI Type | |
| Artificial Path | Estuarine and Marine Deepwater | |

Figure 3a
Avalon K-12 School
Jurisdictional Waters



Legend

-  Project Location
-  HUC-10 Watershed Boundary
-  FEMA 100-Year Flood Zone

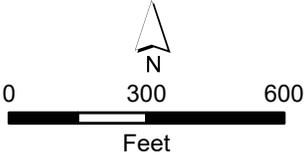


Figure 3b
Avalon K-12 School
Jurisdictional Waters