

July 31, 2013

Ms. Jemellee Cruz, P.E.
Department of Public Works, County of Los Angeles
Flood Maintenance Division
900 South Fremont Avenue, Annex Building, 2nd Floor
Alhambra, California 91802-1460

VIA EMAIL
jcruz@dpw.lacounty.gov

Subject: Results of a Focused Survey for Special Status Plants for the Giant Reed Removal Project at Los Angeles River Soft-Bottom Channel Reach 114 in Long Beach, Los Angeles County, California

Dear Ms. Cruz:

This Letter Report presents the findings of a focused survey for special status plants at the proposed Giant Reed Removal Project site located at Soft-bottom Channel (SBC) Reach No. 114 of the Los Angeles River Flood Control Channel in Long Beach. SBC Reach No. 114 extends from Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) downstream to west Anaheim Street. In order for construction equipment to access this area, temporary earthen ramps will be placed on both the east and west levees upstream of PCH in SBC Reach No. 25 of the channel. The Giant Reed Removal Project site will therefore include all of SBC Reach No. 114 and 750 feet upstream of PCH in SBC Reach No. 25 (hereinafter referred to as the Project Site). Both of these SBC Reaches are managed by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD), but only SBC Reach No. 25 is included in the current regulatory permits needed for annual fall maintenance activities. SBC Reach No. 114 is not included in the permits and, as a result, the vegetation in this channel reach has not been maintained for years. The LACFCD recently received a request from the Long Beach Police Department to clear vegetation at SBC Reach No. 114 of the Project Site due to the presence of numerous homeless encampments that are a safety concern to the local community.

SBC Reach No. 114 of the Project Site has been included in the annual pre- and post-clearing biological surveys conducted for the LACFCD's annual fall maintenance activities despite the lack of on-going maintenance (i.e. vegetation clearing) at this channel reach. These surveys have shown that SBC Reach No. 114 is heavily infested with non-native invasive species, particularly the giant reed (*Arundo donax*). In addition, more extensive biological surveys have been performed at the Project Site for the LACFCD including a constraints analysis (BonTerra Consulting 2009a) and a focused survey for special status plant species (BonTerra Consulting 2009b). This current focused survey for special status plants serves to update the previous plant surveys conducted at the Project Site.

METHODS

Prior to the field survey, a literature review was conducted to identify special status plants known from the general vicinity. This included a review of Inglewood, South Gate, Whittier, Torrance, Long Beach, Los Alamitos, San Pedro, and



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Seal Beach USGS 7.5-minute quadrangles in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CDFG 2013) and the CNPS Inventory (CNPS 2013). A reference population of southern tarplant was visited to confirm that this species was blooming during the survey. It was observed flowering in the Seal Beach area on July 22, 2013. Soil types generally consist of the Hanford and Tujunga-Soboba associations (USDA 1969).

According to the National Weather Service, Long Beach Airport (located about three miles from the Project Site) has received 6.74 inches of precipitation over the past year (since July 1, 2012), which is about 53 percent of the normal 12.9 inches based on 1971-2000 averages (National Weather Service 2013).

BonTerra Consulting Senior Botanist Kai Palenscar and Biologist Jonas Winbolt conducted the focused survey for special status plants on July 24, 2013. Meandering transects were used to search the survey area. All plant species observed were recorded in field notes. Plant species were identified in the field or collected for subsequent identification using keys in Baldwin et. al. (2012) and Munz (1974). Taxonomy follows Baldwin et. al. (2012) and current scientific data (e.g., scientific journals) for scientific and common names.

RESULTS

No special status plant species, including southern tarplant, were observed during the survey. A list of all plants observed within the survey area during focused surveys can be found in Attachment A.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact Marc Blain at (626) 351-2000.

Sincerely,

BONTERRA CONSULTING



Marc T. Blain
Associate, Biological Resources Manager

Kai Palenscar
Senior Botanist

Enclosures: Exhibit 1 – Local Vicinity
Exhibit 2 – Aerial Photograph
Attachment A – Plant Compendium

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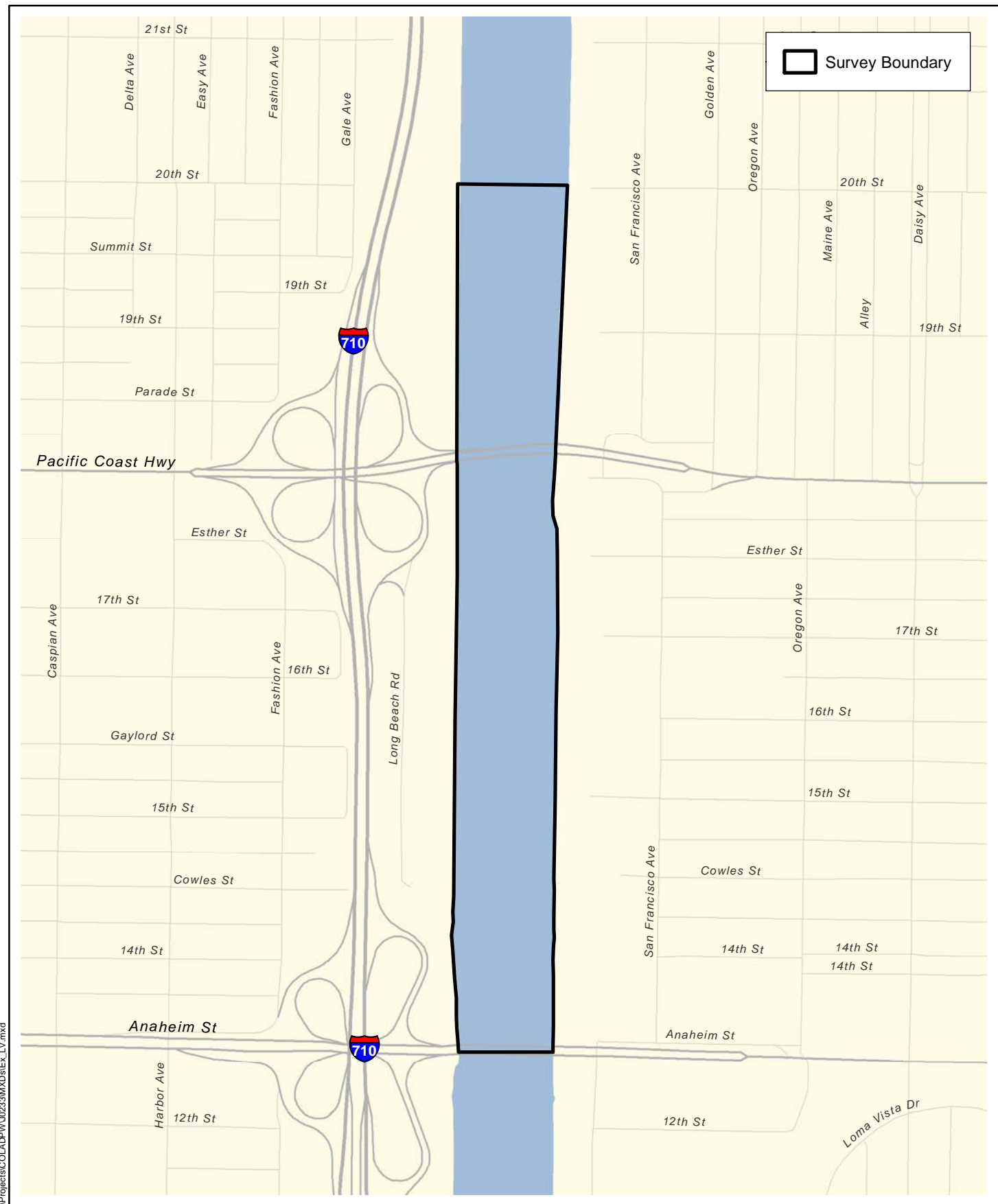
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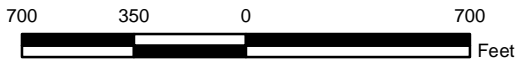


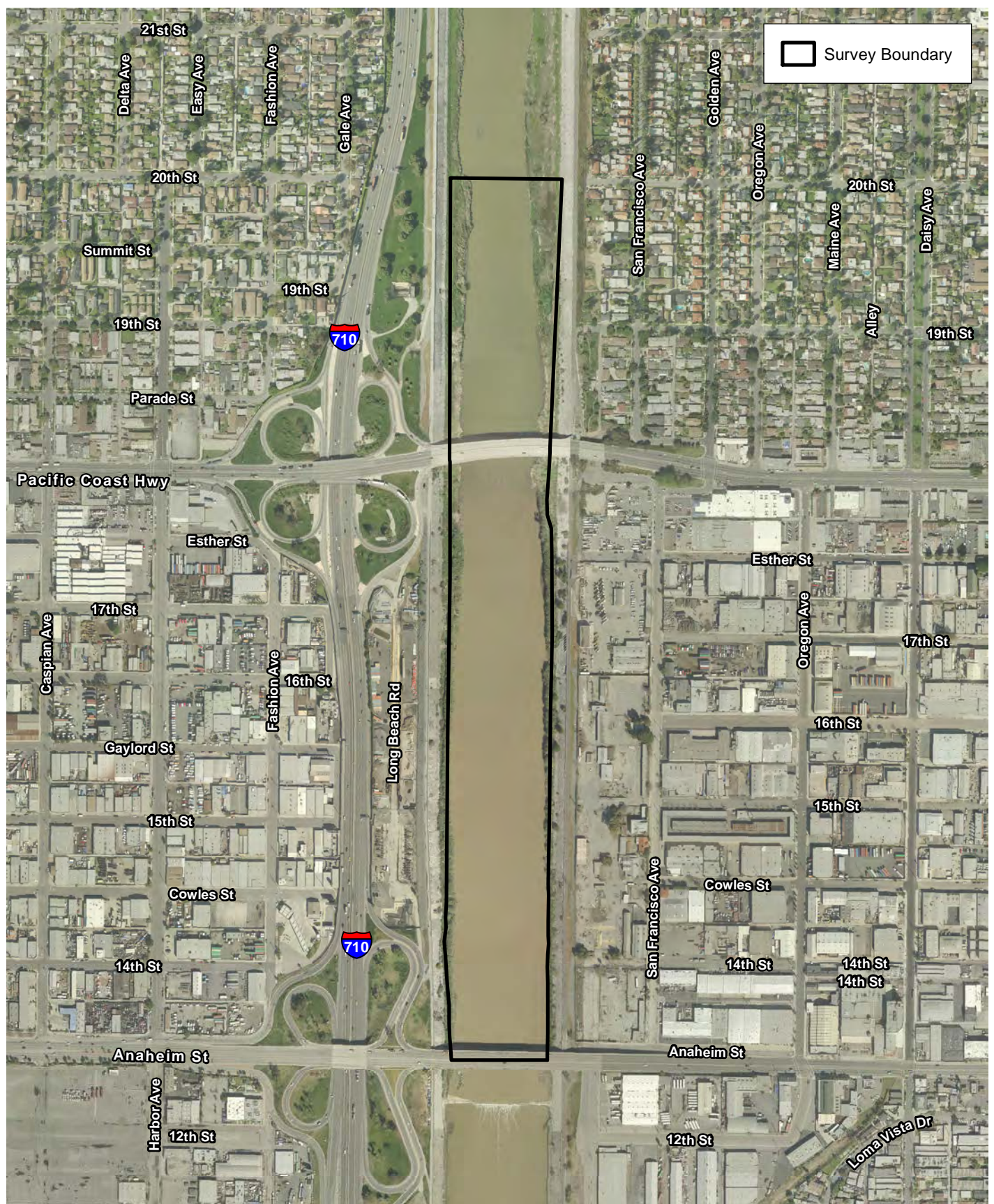
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Local Vicinity

Exhibit 1

*Giant Reed Removal Project at Los Angeles River Channel Reach 114,
Long Beach, Los Angeles County, California*



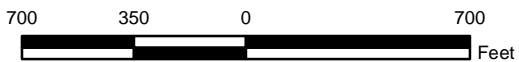


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Aerial Photograph

Exhibit 2

*Giant Reed Removal Project at Los Angeles River Channel Reach 114,
Long Beach, Los Angeles County, California*



Bonterra
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ATTACHMENT A
PLANT COMPENDIUM

ATTACHMENT A PLANT COMPENDIUM

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SPECIES	
ANGIOSPERMAE - FLOWERING PLANTS	
EUDICOTS	
ANACARDIACEAE - SUMAC FAMILY	
<i>Schinus terebinthifolius</i> *	Brazilian pepper tree
APIACEAE - CARROT FAMILY	
<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i> *	sweet fennel
ASTERACEAE - SUNFLOWER FAMILY	
<i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i>	western ragweed
<i>Artemisia douglasiana</i>	mugwort
<i>Baccharis salicifolia</i> ssp. <i>salicifolia</i> [<i>B. salicifolia</i>]	mule fat
<i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i> ssp. <i>pycnocephalus</i> *	Italian thistle
<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i> *	brass-buttons
<i>Erigeron bonariensis</i> [<i>Conyza b.</i>]*	flax-leaved horseweed
<i>Erigeron canadensis</i> [<i>Conyza c.</i>]	common horseweed
<i>Glebionis coronaria</i> [<i>Chrysanthemum coronarium</i>]*	garland daisy
<i>Helianthus annuus</i>	western sunflower
<i>Helminthotheca echioides</i> [<i>Picris e.</i>]*	bristly ox-tongue
<i>Heterotheca grandiflora</i>	telegraph weed
<i>Lactuca serriola</i> *	prickly lettuce
<i>Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum</i> [<i>Gnaphalium l.</i>]	white rabbit-tobacco
<i>Pulicaria paludosa</i> *	Spanish sunflower
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i> *	common groundsel
<i>Sonchus asper</i> ssp. <i>asper</i> *	prickly sow thistle
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i> *	common sow thistle
<i>Stephanomeria virgata</i> ssp. <i>virgata</i>	tall wreath plant
<i>Symphotrichum subulatum</i> var. <i>parviflorum</i> [<i>Aster s. var. ligulatum</i>]	slender aster
<i>Xanthium strumarium</i>	cocklebur
BRASSICACEAE - MUSTARD FAMILY	
<i>Hirschfeldia incana</i> *	shortpod mustard
<i>Lepidium latifolium</i> *	broad-leaved peppergrass
<i>Raphanus sativus</i> *	radish
<i>Sisymbrium irio</i> *	London rocket
CACTACEAE - CACTUS FAMILY	
<i>Opuntia</i> sp.	prickly-pear
CARYOPHYLLACEAE - PINK FAMILY	
<i>Spergularia marina</i>	saltmarsh sand-spurrey
CHENOPODIACEAE - GOOSEFOOT FAMILY	
<i>Atriplex prostrata</i> *	fat-hen
<i>Bassia hyssopifolia</i> *	five-hook bassia

SPECIES	
<i>Salsola tragus</i> *	Russian thistle
CONVOLVULACEAE - MORNING-GLORY FAMILY	
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i> *	bindweed
<i>Cressa truxillensis</i>	alkali weed
EUPHORBIACEAE - SPURGE FAMILY	
<i>Ricinus communis</i> *	castor bean
FABACEAE - LEGUME FAMILY	
<i>Acacia</i> sp.*	acacia
<i>Melilotus alba</i> *	white sweetclover
<i>Melilotus indicus</i> *	sourclover
MORACEAE - FIG FAMILY	
<i>Morus alba</i>	mulberry
MYRTACEAE - MYRTLE FAMILY	
<i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.*	gum
<i>Eucalyptus camaldulensis</i> *	river red gum
OLEACEAE - OLIVE FAMILY	
<i>Fraxinus</i> sp.*	ash
PASSIFLORACEAE - PASSION FRUIT FAMILY	
<i>Passiflora caerulea</i> *	blue passion flower
PLANTAGINACEAE - PLANTAIN FAMILY	
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i> *	English plantain
POLYGONACEAE - BUCKWHEAT FAMILY	
<i>Persicaria lapathifolia</i> [<i>Polygonum lapathifolium</i>]	willow weed
<i>Rumex crispus</i> *	curly dock
PORTULACACEAE - PURSLANE FAMILY	
<i>Portulaca oleracea</i> *	common purslane
SALICACEAE - WILLOW FAMILY	
<i>Salix exigua</i>	narrow-leaved willow
SAPINDACEAE - SOAP BERRY FAMILY	
<i>Koelreuteria paniculata</i> *	goldenrain tree
SIMAROUBACEAE - QUASSIA FAMILY	
<i>Ailanthus altissima</i> *	tree of heaven
SOLANACEAE - NIGHTSHADE FAMILY	
<i>Lycopersicon esculentum</i> *	tomato
<i>Nicotiana glauca</i> *	tree tobacco
<i>Solanum douglasii</i>	Douglas' nightshade
ULMACEAE - ELM FAMILY	
<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i> *	Chinese elm
URTICACEAE - NETTLE FAMILY	
<i>Parietaria judaica</i> *	spreading pellitory
<i>Urtica dioica</i> ssp. <i>holosericea</i>	hoary nettle
VITACEAE - GRAPE FAMILY	
<i>Parthenocissus quinquefolia</i> *	Virginia creeper
MONOCOTYLEDONES - MONOCOTS	
ARECACEAE - PALM FAMILY	
<i>Phoenix canariensis</i> *	Canary Island palm
<i>Washingtonia robusta</i> *	Mexican fan palm

SPECIES	
CYPERACEAE - SEDGE FAMILY	
<i>Bolboschoenus maritimus</i> [<i>Scirpus m.</i>]	alkali bulrush
<i>Schoenoplectus californicus</i> [<i>Scirpus c.</i>]	southern bulrush
POACEAE - GRASS FAMILY	
<i>Arundo donax</i> *	giant reed
<i>Avena barbata</i> *	slender wild oat
<i>Bromus diandrus</i> *	ripgut grass
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> *	bermuda grass
<i>Echinochloa crus-galli</i> *	barnyard grass
<i>Festuca perennis</i> [<i>Lolium perenne</i> , <i>L. multiflorum</i>]*	perennial ryegrass
<i>Hordeum murinum</i> *	barley
<i>Leptochloa fusca</i> ssp. <i>uninervia</i> [L.u.]	Mexican sprangletop
<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i> *	Kikuyu grass
<i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> *	crimson fountain grass
<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i> *	annual beard grass
<i>Sorghum halepense</i> *	Johnson grass
<i>Stipa miliacea</i> [<i>Piptatherum miliacea</i>]*	smilo grass
TYPHACEAE - CATTAIL FAMILY	
<i>Typha</i> sp.	southern cattail
* non-native to the region it was found	