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ADDENDUM to Visual Impact Assessment for Coastal Rail Trail – Gilman Drive Segment dated August 2018, prepared under California Department of Transportation, District 11, San Diego County Oversight, Rose Creek Bikeway to UCSD, dated August 2018.

To whom it may concern,

This letter is presented as an addendum to the Visual Impact Assessment for the Coastal Rail Trail Gilman Segment to address changes to the bike path and road widening that have arisen during further development of the project design.

The retaining wall on the west side of Gilman Drive from south of Gilman Court to the I-5 on-ramp (approximately 250 LF) that was previously proposed and evaluated in the VIA report, is no longer proposed as part of the project.

Slopes created by grading required in this area would require removal of some vegetation, as with other graded areas within the project. As addressed in the VIA on page 24, removal of vegetation would reduce the noticeable visual pattern of vegetated hillsides, thereby reducing the vividness and natural intactness of the corridor. Similarly, the visual quality of the area would be lessened until replacement vegetation matures. Overall, this change would moderately contrast with the setting.

Due to the relatively small distance where this change would occur (approximately 250 lf), the vegetation removal in this area would not increase contrasts to the visual quality of the corridor. Additionally, vegetated slopes would create less overall visual change to the visual quality of the specific area and the overall corridor than the previously proposed retaining wall.

Per the Visual Impact section Page 26, retaining walls would result in a moderately high adverse visual effect, as would the grading and vegetation removal. A moderately high adverse visual effect would result if the slopes were not replanted. Slope planting would reduce the effect of grading and vegetation removal and reduce the adversity to a moderate level.

Therefore, the change to the proposed project design due to replacing a retaining wall with vegetated slopes would reduce the overall anticipated visual impact of the project. No increase to visual impacts would occur due to this design change.

Respectfully submitted:

Michael Singleton, KTUA Planning and Landscape Architecture, CA PLA 2386; Project Landscape Architect

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Michael Singleton', written over a horizontal line.