

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
County Clerk
County of: Los Angeles
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650

From: (Public Agency): City of Rolling Hills
2 Portuguese Bend Road
Rolling Hills, CA 90274
(Address)

Project Title: Rolling Hills Vegetative Management Mitigation Project

Project Applicant: City of Rolling Hills

Project Location - Specific:

Approximately 25 acres of Rolling Hills on the north and south side of Crest Road West at Quail Ridge Road. The proposed treatment area would focus on the area 100 feet to 200 feet from structures, extending into the canyon up to 1,000 feet where necessary.

Project Location - City: Rolling Hills Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The City of Rolling Hills is required to satisfy the environmental requirements for the Vegetative Management Mitigation Project funded by the Federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The project would create defensible space/fuel breaks to protect homeowners from wildfires. The project would limit fire spread and intensity of fire in the steep canyons by strategically removing vegetation, trimming and liming trees, and creating proper spacing for less fuel continuity.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Rolling Hills

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Rolling Hills

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
[X] Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Title 14 CCR § 15301 Existing Facilities
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is categorically exempt from CEQA guidelines Section 15301 Class 1 (h) maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, and water supply reservoirs. Based on the information and analysis summarized in the CEQA memorandum (attached), the proposed project would not result in a significant effect on the environment. The removal of the dead, dying and hazardous vegetation is a maintenance activity of an existing facility involving no expansion of use.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Ashford Ball Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (310) 377-1521

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: [Signature] Date: 1/13/2022 Title: Senior Management Analyst

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR:

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Memorandum

Date: January 05, 2022

For: Ashford Ball, Senior Management Analyst
2 Portuguese Bend Road
Rolling Hills, CA 90274

From: Catherine Saint, Senior Environmental Planner

Subject: Rolling Hills Vegetative Management Mitigation Project,
Categorical Exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act

Introduction

This memorandum is provided as confirmation that the Rolling Hills Vegetative Management Mitigation Project (Project) is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Categorical Exemptions, Section 15301, Existing Facilities (Class 1) (h) maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, and water supply reservoirs. The Project consists of the minor alteration of topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing.

As specified in CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Categorical Exemptions, Section 15300.2, the exemption is negated by an exception under any of the following circumstances:

- a) **Location.** Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment, be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.
- b) **Cumulative Impact.** All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time, is significant.
- c) **Significant Effect.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.
- d) **Scenic Highways.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. This does not apply to improvements which are required as mitigation by an adopted negative declaration or certified EIR.
- e) **Hazardous Waste Sites.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

- f) **Historical Resources.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Project Description

The City of Rolling Hills (City) is required to satisfy the environmental requirements for the Vegetative Management Mitigation Project funded by the Federal Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The City of Rolling Hills (Rolling Hills) is located in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone designated by Cal Fire and considered at-risk for wildfire events. Rolling Hills has historically been subject to fires/wildfires, threatening loss of life and property. The City applied for funding through the HMGP to create defensible space/fuel breaks to protect homeowners from wildfires. The City was awarded funds for Phase 1 of the Project, which includes design, a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) assessment, and legal services. The Project would limit fire spread and intensity of fire in the steep canyons by strategically removing vegetation, trimming and liming trees, and creating proper spacing for less fuel continuity. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)/California Governor's Office of Emergency Services will consider releasing additional grant funds for Phase 2 for implementation based on satisfactory work on completing Phase 1.

The Project area is located within approximately 106 acres of Rolling Hills on the north and south side of Crest Road West at Quail Ridge Road. The site is located in an unsectioned portion of Township 5 South, Ranch 14 West in what would be Sections 9 and 16, as shown on the United States Geological Survey (USGS) San Pedro and Torrance, California. 7.5-minute quadrangles (see **Attachment A**, Regional Location Map and **Attachment B**, Project Location Map). The Project area is along the following roads: Quail Ridge Road North, Crest Road West, Quail Ridge Road South, Cinchring Road, Wrangler Road, Running Brand Road, Portuguese Bend Road, and Rancho Road. The Project area is bounded by residential properties to the north and west, Hesse's Gap (open space) and residential properties to the east, and Portuguese Bend Reserved (open space) to the south and west. The proposed treatment area within the Project area would be approximately 20 to 25 acres and would focus on the area 100 feet to 200 feet from structures, extending into the canyon where necessary. The focus of work for the Project would take place within the four treatment areas, Project Area 1 through Project Area 4 (see **Attachment C**, Vegetation Communities and Cover Classes).

Methodology

The methodology of the Project was prepared in close consult with representatives from the LA County Fire Department, City of Rolling Hills, and GPA Consulting (see **Attachment D**, Methodology). Each canyon and property would be looked at as its own prescription for vegetation management. Prescription would include the thinning, trimming, and/or the removal of up to 50 percent vegetation within the proposed treatment areas. The following treatment areas are ranked in order of focus: Disturbed areas; Non-native trees; Ornamental/Landscapes; and Lemonade berry and Toyon Alliance (see **Attachment C**, Vegetation Communities and Cover Classes). The Project would focus primarily on the removal of invasive species and dead, dying trees and/or shrubs. Construction duration is anticipated to be approximately one to three months depending on the contractor's work force and crew availability. Construction equipment would include chain saws, woodchippers, weed whips, mowers, hand tools, and possibly diesel engine machinery to enhance fuel spacing.

Duke Cultural Resources Management (CRM) prepared a Cultural Resources Assessment to assess the Project area for the presence of and impacts to historical or archaeological resources according to CEQA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Duke CRM, 2021). The assessment did not identify any cultural resources within the Project area. The assessment concluded that there is a low sensitivity for prehistoric cultural resources and a low sensitivity for historic cultural resources.

GPA Consulting has prepared a Biological Technical Memorandum to describe the existing biological resources in the Project area and assess the potential impacts associated with implementation of the Project (GPA Consulting, 2021). The memorandum concluded that the project would not result in impacts on jurisdictional resources. Impacts on special-status natural communities, special-status plants, and special-status wildlife species, including nesting birds, roosting bats, small mammals, and protected trees would be less than significant with adherence to the County of Los Angeles Significant Ecological Areas (SEA) Ordinance, and implementation of regulatory compliance measures and avoidance and minimization measures (see **Attachment E**, Avoidance & Minimization Measures). Environmental sensitive areas will be avoided to the extent feasible (see **Attachment F**, Environmental Sensitive Areas).

Findings and Conclusions

a. Location.

A Class 1 exemption is defined as the operation, repair maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The Project is a vegetation management project that would create defensible space/fuel breaks to protect homeowners from wildfires. Since the Project is minimally altering and includes the maintenance of existing landscaping, the project would qualify for a Class 1 Existing Facility exemption (CEQA Guidelines, Article 19, Categorical Exemptions, Section 15301). This exception would not be applicable because the project is not a Class 3, 4, 5, 6, or 11 exemption.

b. Cumulative Impact.

This exception applies when, although a particular project may not have a significant impact, the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant. In this case, the Project would not result in any impacts that are cumulatively considerable; therefore, this exception would not apply.

c. Significant Effect.

This exception applies when, although the project may otherwise be exempt, there is a reasonable possibility that the project would have a significant effect due to unusual circumstances. The Project would not include any permanent right of way (ROW) acquisition, require full road closures, create excessive noise, encroach on wetlands or waterways, significantly alter the views from the adjacent roadways or the existing visual setting, or encroach on tribal land. There is not a reasonable possibility that the activity could have a significant effect on the environment; therefore, this exception would not apply.

d. Scenic Highways.

A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. The Project is not located within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. The nearest scenic highway is State Route 1, located approximately 13 miles east of the Project area (California Department of Transportation, 2021). Therefore, this exception would not apply.

e. Hazardous Waste Sites.

This exception applies when a project is located on a site listed as a hazardous waste site under Government Code Section 65962.5. According to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) GeoTracker database and the California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC), there are four hazardous waste/materials sites located within a one-mile radius of the Project area: four Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) sites (State Water Resources Control Board, 2021) (see **Attachment G**, Hazardous Waste Sites Map). The four LUST cleanup sites have received a Case Closed status. According to the California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) EnviroStor, there is a DTSC cleanup site within a one-mile radius of the Project area, located near Vanderlip Drive and Narcissa Drive (California Department of Toxic Substances Control, 2022). The DTSC cleanup site has a status of Inactive – Needs Evaluation as of July 01, 2005 (California Department of Toxic Substances Control, 2022). The Project would not require the acquisition of ROW from any parcels adjacent to the Project area containing hazardous waste/materials sites or permitted underground storage tank sites. Since the Project is not located on a site listed as a hazardous waste site under Government Code Section 65962.5, this exception would not apply.

f. Historical Resources.

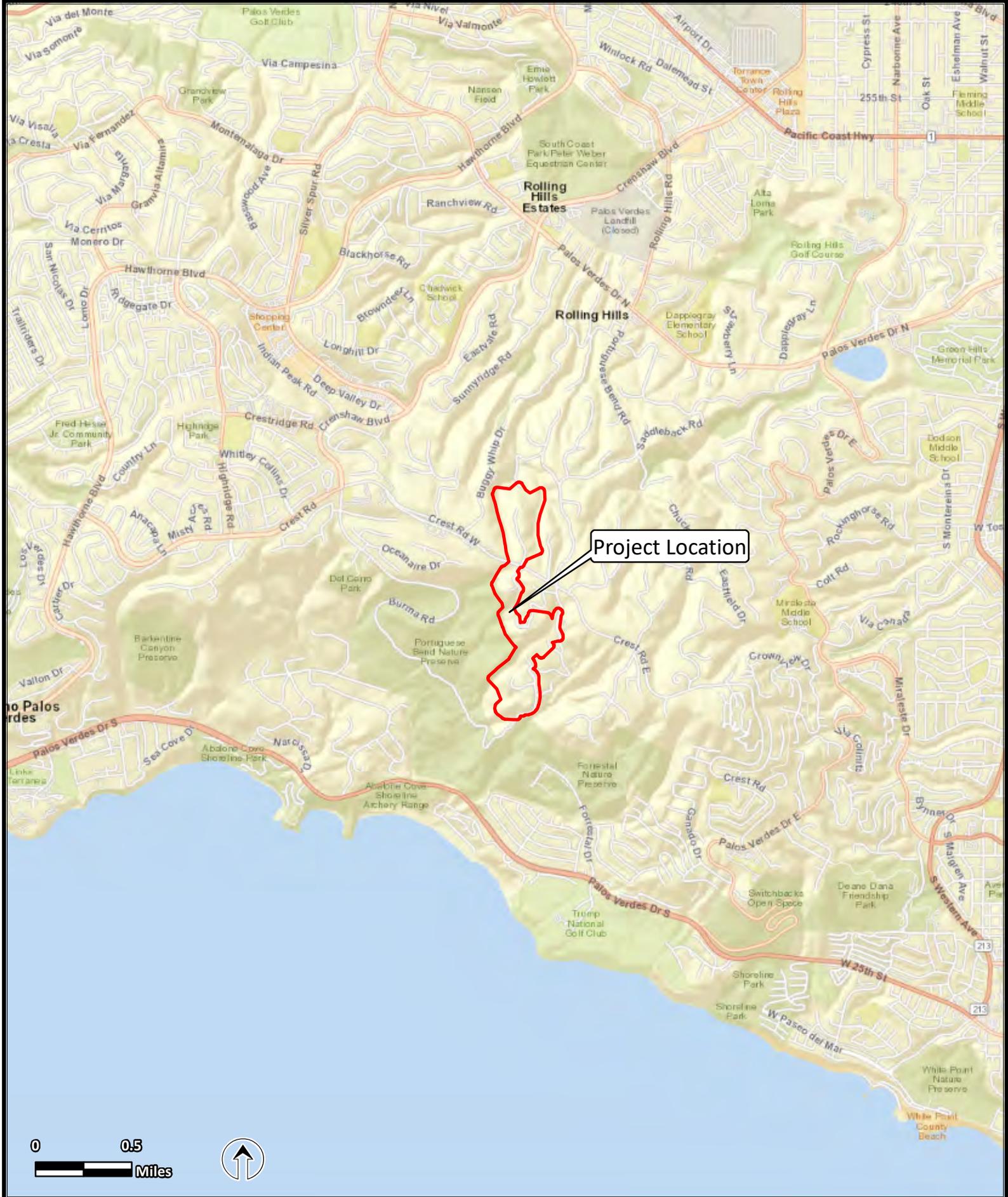
This exception applies when a project may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. The Cultural Resources Assessment included a records search for cultural resources at the South Central Coastal Information Center (SCCIC), an inquiry to the National American Heritage Commissions (NAHC), and other published resources. The Cultural Resources Assessment did not identify cultural resources within the Project area; however, six cultural resources were identified within a half-mile of the Project area (Duke CRM, 2021). The assessment concluded that there is a low sensitivity for prehistoric cultural resources and a low sensitivity for historic cultural resources (Duke CRM, 2021). The Project would not have the potential to impact any known historical resources and would not require any ROW acquisition. Therefore, this exception would not apply.

References

- California Department of Toxic Substances Control. (2022). EnviroStor. Retrieved from https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/profile_report.asp?global_id=80000246
- California Department of Transportation. (2021). California State Scenic Highways. Retrieved from <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>
- Duke CRM. (2021). *Cultural Resources Assessment - Vegetation Management Mitigation Project*.
- GPA Consulting. (2021). *Biological Technical Memorandum for the Vegetation Management Mitigation Project*.
- State Water Resources Control Board. (2021). Geotracker. Retrieved from <http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov>.

Attachment A Regional Location

Attachment B Project Location

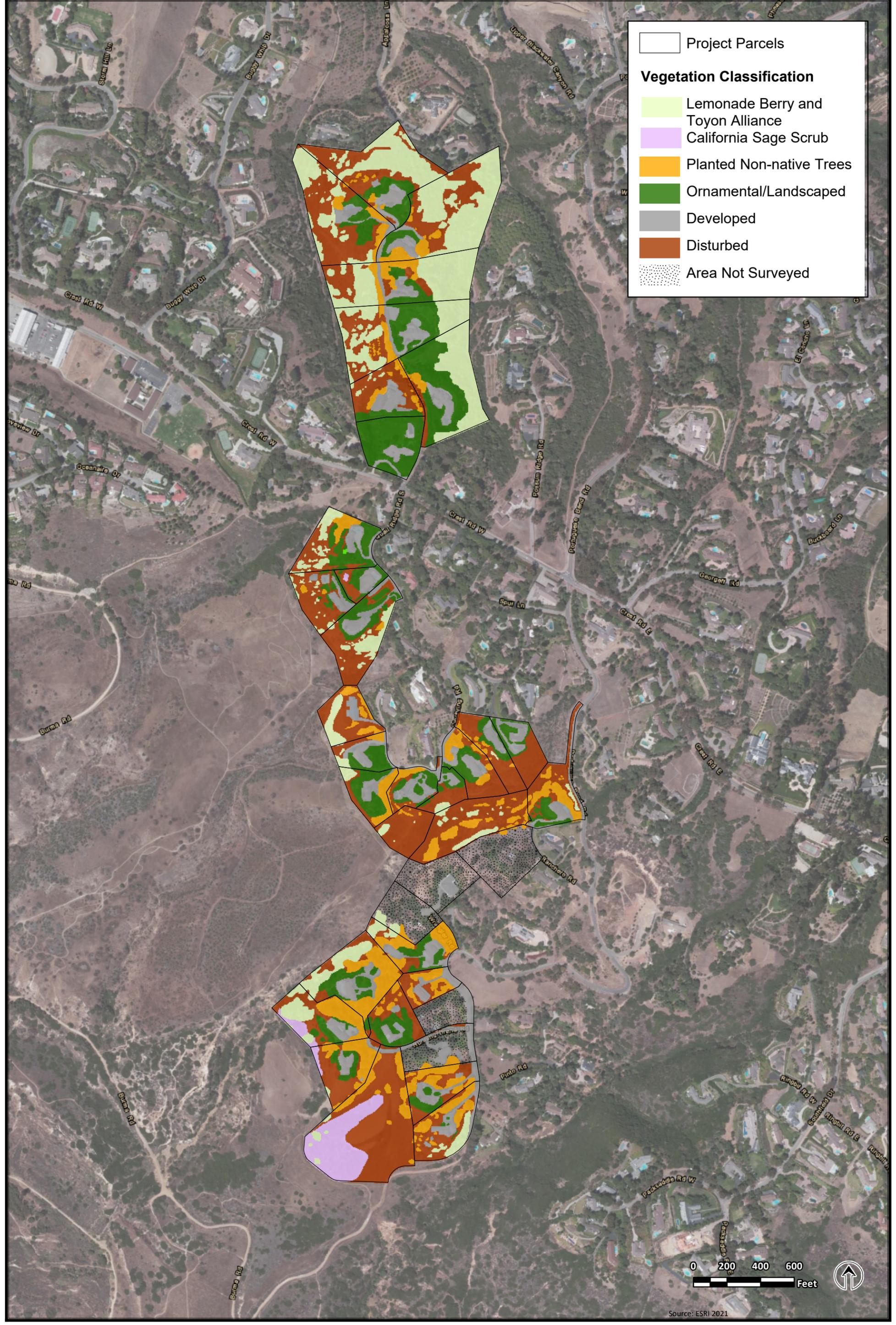


Source: ESRI 2021
CONSULTING

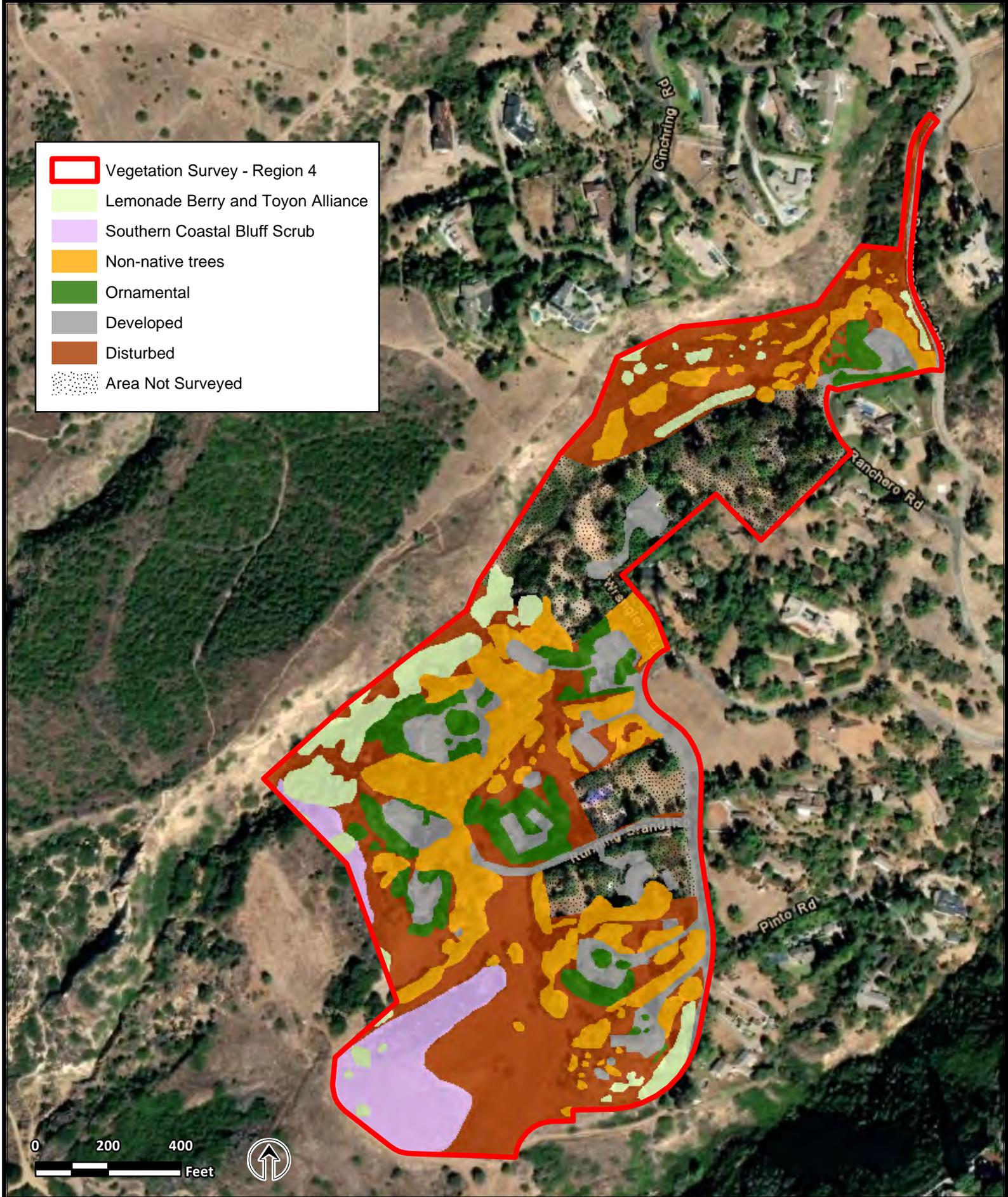


ATTACHMENT B. PROJECT LOCATION
City of Rolling Hills - Vegetative Management Mitigation Project

Attachment C Vegetation Communities and Cover Classes

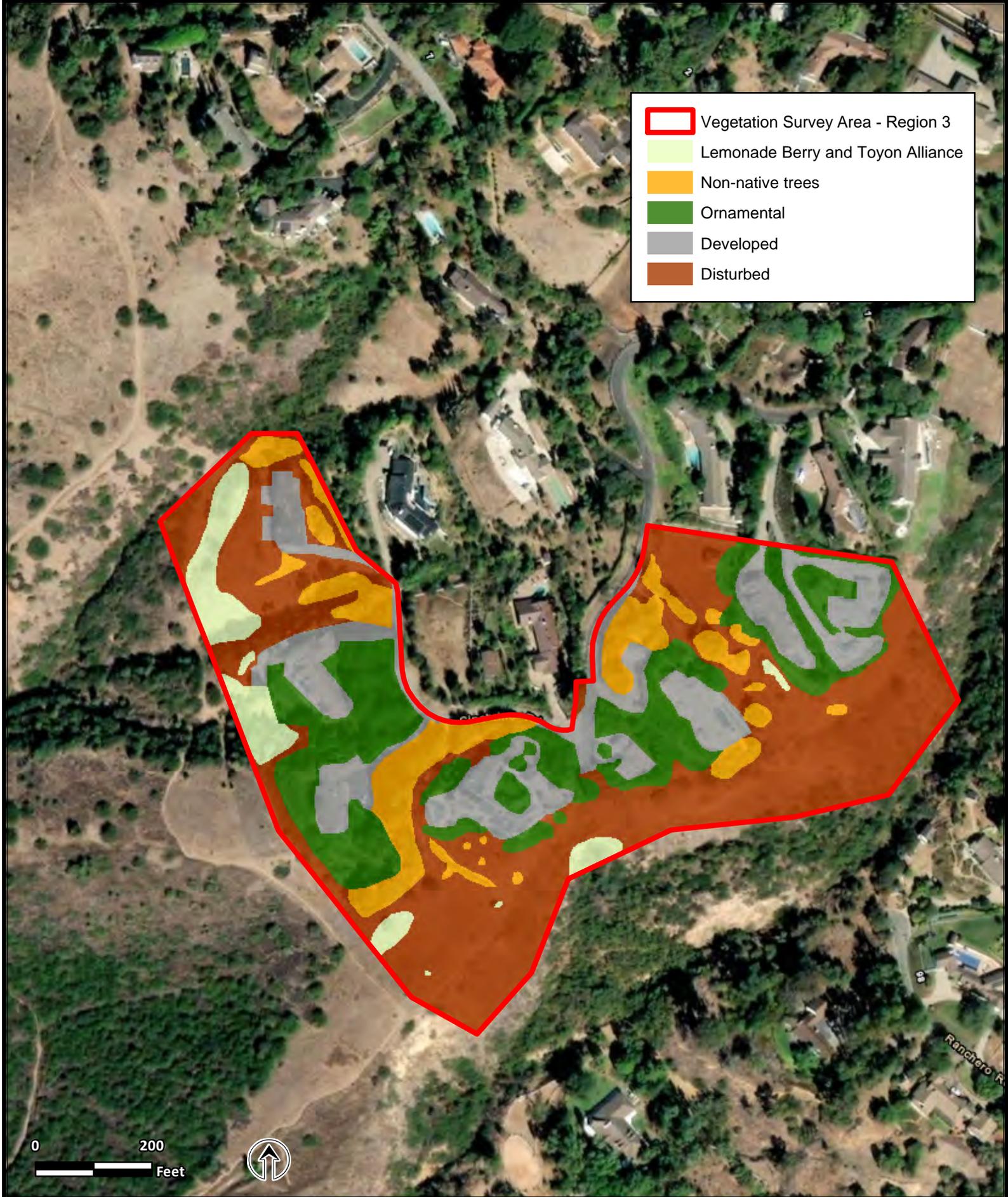


ATTACHMENT C. VEGETATION COMMUNITIES AND COVER CLASSES OVERVIEW
City of Rolling Hills - Vegetation Management Plan



Source: ESRI 2021

**VEGETATION COMMUNITIES AND COVER CLASSES (PROJECT AREA 1)
 City of Rolling Hills - Vegetative Management Mitigation Project**



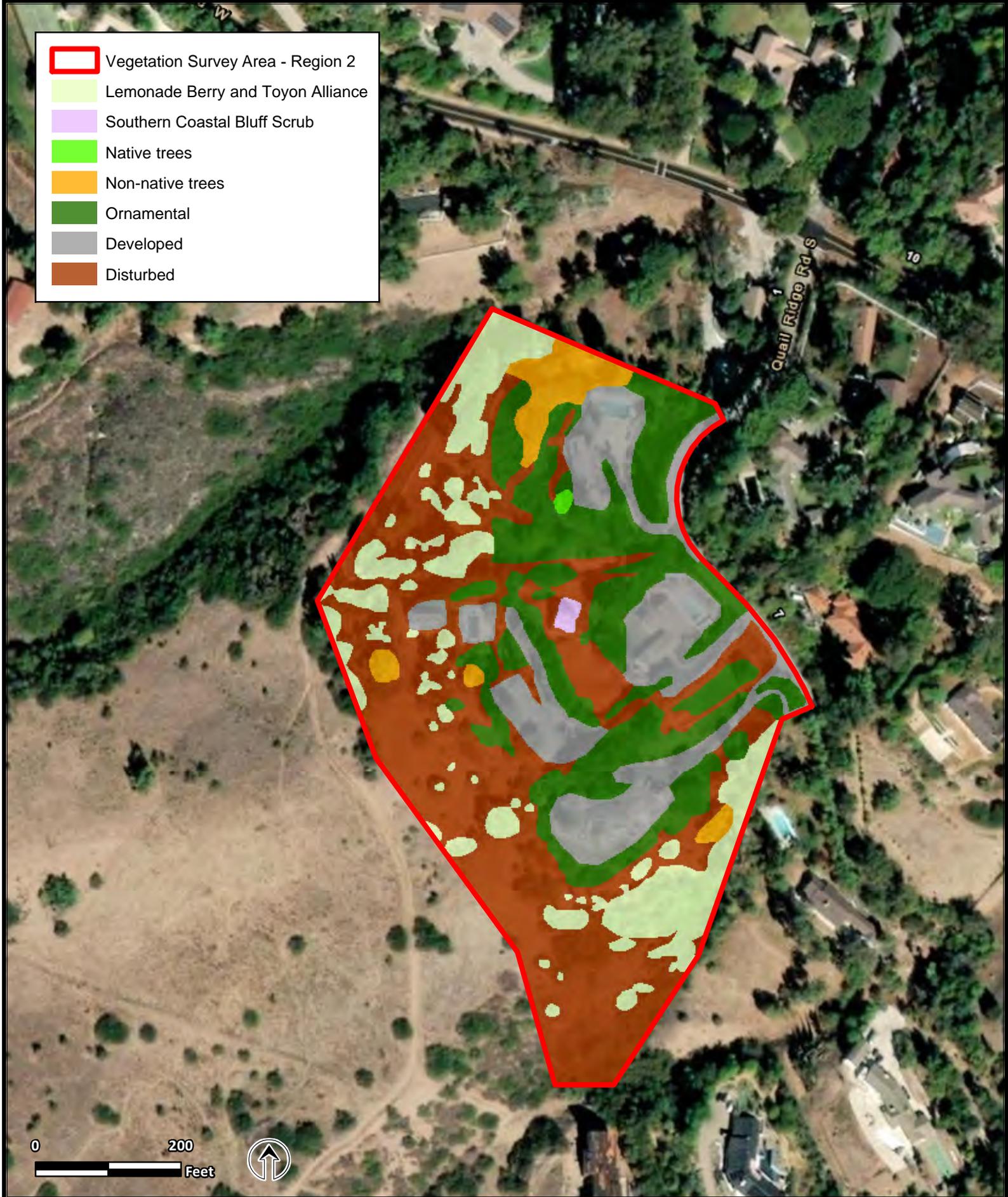
- Vegetation Survey Area - Region 3
- Lemonade Berry and Toyon Alliance
- Non-native trees
- Ornamental
- Developed
- Disturbed

0 200 Feet



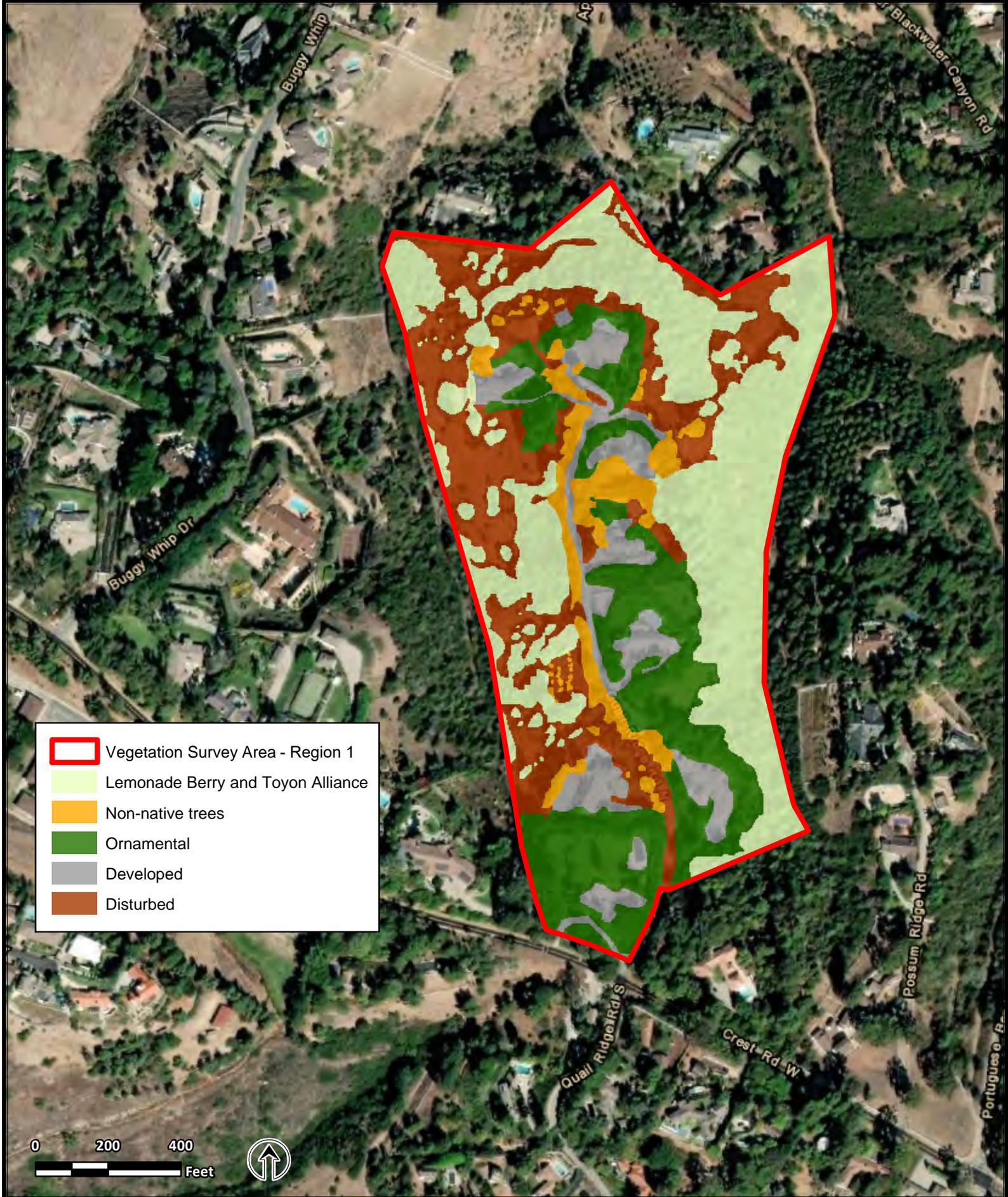
Source: ESRI 2021

VEGETATION COMMUNITIES AND COVER CLASSES (PROJECT AREA 2) City of Rolling Hills - Vegetative Management Mitigation Project



Source: ESRI 2021

**VEGETATION COMMUNITIES AND COVER CLASSES (PROJECT AREA 3)
City of Rolling Hills - Vegetative Management Mitigation Project**



Source: ESRI 2021

VEGETATION COMMUNITIES AND COVER CLASSES (PROJECT AREA 4)
City of Rolling Hills - Vegetative Management Mitigation Project

Attachment D Methodology

Methodology: Treatments identified for specific vegetation categories

The methodology was prepared in close consult with representatives from the LA County Fire Department. The following treatment areas are ranked in order of focus: Disturbed areas; Non-native trees; Ornamental/Landscapes; and Lemonade berry and Toyon Alliance. The Project would not result in any impacts to native trees.

Disturbed Areas

The main focus would be the Disturbed Areas with the Project area. Targets would include invasive species removal and removal of dead or dying trees/shrubs. In this treatment, work would include the thinning of shrubs and trees with the use of chain saws and clippers. Plants and shrubs would be removed using a spacing method with a 2 to 1 ratio (e.g., 5 'shrub with 10' space to the next shrub). This spacing of vegetation would be focused near developed areas such as structures or roads and would be accomplished by hand with the use of chain saws. The spacing would prevent the branches from touching other branches and/or vegetation around it.

Chipped material would be removed and some of the vegetation would be left as mulch or lop and scattered for erosion control. There is a possibility of mechanical treatment at the south end of **Project Area 4 – Rancho**; however, this would be dependent on vendor equipment and bid.

Disturbed Areas can vary from property to property. The Disturbed areas would make up 50-70 percent of all the area to be treated within the project area. Each property is unique and would have its own prescription based on the vegetation type and location of structures.

Non-Native Trees and Ornamental/Landscape Areas

The second focus would be Non-native trees and Ornamental / landscape vegetation within the Project area. Many of the non-native trees were planted to enhance the ornamental landscape for aesthetic beauty, shade, and privacy. These two categories are the closest to developed areas of the parcels and most have been maintained by property owners. This area of focus would include the removal of any dead and dying trees/ shrubs and the thinning of any dead/dying limbs. Palms, eucalyptus, and other non-native species produce large amounts of dead material and have to be maintained to keep clean of ignitable material. Several non-native trees would be removed to create good crown separation and spacing. The project would include thinning and/or removing lower branches and cleaning the base of trees in order to prevent issues of ladder fires (*Fire climbs from ground up into tree tops*). This work would involve the use of chain saws and chippers.

Lemonade Berry and Toyon Alliance

The third focus would be Lemonade berry and toyon alliance within the Project area. In this area, vegetation management would be conservative, and removal of vegetation would only occur if shrubs are dead. This would prevent any type conversion with less desirable species. Lemonade berry and toyon alliance are not protected species but they serve as a great drought tolerant fire-adapted species. These species provide great wildlife habitat, cooler ground temperatures, and stabilizes erosion. In this focus, work would include thinning branches to create more space with the use of chain saws and chippers. The

species, Lemonade berry and toyon alliance, can be cut back quite a bit and still remain healthy. Thinning would start at the base and move towards the main branches from there.

Construction Duration, Equipment, and Phasing

Construction duration is anticipated to be approximately one to three months. The southern portion, **Project Area 1**, would be prioritized first. All areas of focus would be completed in **Project Area 1** before moving north to the next geographic area. The majority of access points would come off the roads and through disturbed areas. A portion of access points would be from developed areas. Based on the contractor's work force and crew availability, **Project Area 1** through **Project Area 4** could be worked on at the same time (see **Attachment C**, Vegetation Communities and Cover Classes).

Construction equipment would include chain saws, woodchippers, weed whips, mowers, and hand tools. Construction equipment could include diesel engine machinery such as a brush hog or masticator that are typically attachments that go on skid steers or small excavators.

Project Area 1

For the southern portion of **Project Area 1**, Burma Road would be the access point to target the invasive species in the disturbed area. Burma Road is an unimproved road up and around the knoll and would be a good access point throughout the disturbed area. In addition, the southern portion of **Project Area 1** would be a potential location to stage a chipper since it is more cost effective. This area is one of the areas where some machinery could be used, Brush hog, masticator, off of the dozer line and disturbed area, vegetation type is mustard and could be good candidate for mechanical removal.

Running Brand Road would be the access point to target the middle portion of **Project Area 1**. The middle section would be mostly hand work with the use of chain saws and weed whips. Removal of dead and/or dying trees and the thinning of toyon and lemonade berry deeper would take place near the bottom of the canyon.

The end of Wrangler Road would be a potential access point since the canyon gets steep at the bottom. Some material may be easier removed down to Running Brand road residence and station. The Project could include chipping there upon homeowner's approval.

Project Area 2

In **Project Area 2**, the end of Ranchero Road and Cinchring Road would be potential access points to target the disturbed area. The Contractor's crew could utilize the disturbed area gain access through the canyon. Work would include removal of vegetation and/or trees for spacing and limbing of larger trees with the use of chain saws and chippers.

Project Area 3

In **Project Area 3**, work would target non-native species and disturbed areas in the lower canyon. Crest Road would be a potential access point for the Contractor's crew and equipment. **Project Area 3** would include limbing of larger trees and bucking to create spacing with the use of hand tools and chain saws.

Project Area 4

On the east side of **Project Area 4**, the Contractor's crew would use hand treatments to thin lemonade berry and toyon alliance in order to create spacing. In the northern portion, the main focus would be the disturbed areas.

On the west side of **Project Area 4**, the Contractor's crew would focus on nonnatives near developed areas and would implement thinning and spacing (2:1 ratio and 1:1 ratio on disturbed areas) as defined in methodology and treatments. There would be minimal thinning of toyon and lemonade on the western side of canyon (1:1 ratio or 1:1/2 ratio with little to no full removal). The Contractor's crew would not be permitted to disturb the bottom of the canyon on the western side of the canyon and a buffer of 50' to the bottom of the canyon would be implemented to avoid any possible blue line conflicts.

Attachment E Avoidance & Minimization Measures

Rolling Hills Vegetation Management Avoidance & Minimization Measures

Jurisdictional Resources

To avoid/minimize impacts on jurisdictional areas, the following measures would be implemented:

- Prior to the initiation of any work, including installation of Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) fencing or clearing and grubbing activities, a qualified biologist would conduct an environmental worker awareness training for all project personnel. The training would discuss the sensitive habitats and special-status species with the potential to be within the construction site and would review the project's avoidance and minimization measures, and permitting conditions associated with biological resources.
- Work areas would be reduced to the maximum extent feasible, and staging areas would be located away from the creeks.
- Best management practices (BMP), such as silt fencing, fiber rolls, straw bales, or other measures would be implemented during construction to minimize dust, dirt, and construction debris from entering the creeks and/or leaving the construction area.
- Appropriate hazardous material BMPs would be implemented to reduce the potential for chemical spills or contaminant releases into the creeks including any non-stormwater discharge.
- All equipment refueling and maintenance would be conducted in the staging area away from the creeks. In addition, vehicles and equipment would be checked daily for fluid and fuel leaks, and drip pans would be placed under all equipment that is parked and not in operation.
- Access routes would be limited to pre-existing trails or deer paths to the extent feasible to avoid further disturbance of the hillside.
- Work areas, access routes, and vegetation removal would be minimized to the maximum extent feasible to prevent further erosion of the hillsides and further disturbance of the jurisdictional areas.

Special-Status Natural Resource Communities

To avoid/minimize impacts on the lemonade berry scrubland alliance community and the California sagebrush – black sage scrubland community, the following measures would be implemented:

- Removal of the lemonade berry scrubland alliance community and the California sagebrush – black sage scrub community would be avoided to the maximum extent possible.
- Prior to vegetation management activities, high visibility Environmental Sensitive Area (ESA) protective fencing would be installed at the limits of work to prevent staff or equipment from further encroaching on the lemonade berry scrubland alliance community and the California sagebrush – black sage scrubland community.

Special-Status Plant Species

To avoid/minimize impacts on special-status plants, the following measures would be implemented:

- Prior to construction, a qualified botanist would conduct focused surveys for Catalina mariposa lily, suffrutescent wallflower, California box-thorn, and Lyon's pentachaeta within the construction area. Surveys would be conducted during the appropriate blooming period, as feasible, for these species.
- In the event that a special-status plant species is found during surveys, the plants would be avoided. If the plants are within or near the active vegetation removal area, they would be protected in place, if feasible, and monitored by a qualified biologist during removal activities to ensure they would not be directly or indirectly impacted.
- ESA fencing would be installed around the southern California black walnut trees to be preserved. The ESA fencing would be placed as far from the base of the trees as possible, at least 0.75 foot per inch of trunk diameter for trees less than eight inches diameter breast height (DBH), one foot per inch of trunk diameter for trees eight to 18 inches DBH, and 1.25 feet per inch of trunk diameter for trees over 18 inches DBH, beyond the drip-line. The fencing would be maintained in good repair throughout the duration of the project and would not be removed, relocated, or encroached upon without permission from a qualified biologist.

SEA Protected Trees and Shrubs

To avoid/minimize impacts on SEA Protected Trees and Shrubs, the following measures would be implemented:

- If the SEA protected tree or shrub is within or near the active vegetation removal area, they would be protected in place, if feasible, and monitored by a qualified biologist during removal activities to ensure they would not be directly or indirectly impacted.

Special-Status Wildlife Species

Migratory Birds and Raptors

To avoid/minimize impacts on migratory birds and raptors the following measures would be implemented:

- Trimming and removal of trees and vegetation would be minimized and performed outside of the bird nesting season (typically February 1 to September 15), to the extent feasible.
- In the event trimming or removal of trees and vegetation must be conducted during the bird nesting season, nesting bird surveys would be completed within 300 feet (for song birds) and 500 feet (for raptors) of the project area by a qualified biologist no more than 48 hours prior to trimming or removal activities to determine if nesting birds are within the affected vegetation. In the event nesting birds/raptors are found within 500 feet of the project area during the nesting bird survey, appropriate buffers (typically 300 feet for songbirds and 500 feet for raptors) as determined by a qualified biologist, would be implemented, to ensure that nesting birds and active nests are not harmed. Buffers shall include fencing or other barriers around the nests to prevent any access to these areas

and shall remain in place until birds have fledged and/or the nest is no longer active, as determined by a qualified biologist. Nesting bird surveys would be repeated if trimming or removal activities are suspended for five days or more.

- A qualified biologist will complete coastal California gnatcatcher focused surveys no more than 48 hours prior trimming or removal of trees and vegetation within the critical habitat of coastal California gnatcatcher to determine presence or absence in the work area. Surveys would be repeated if vegetation activities are suspended for five days or more. If coastal California gnatcatcher is identified, a no-work buffer will be installed around the species. The size of the buffer will be determined by the qualified biologist. Work will be suspended until the species leaves the site on their own or is relocated by a qualified biologist to an area of suitable habitat at least 100 feet outside of the construction area. Work will be resumed only once it has been determined that coastal California gnatcatcher has left the site, as determined by the qualified biologist.
- A qualified biologist will complete coastal cactus wren focused surveys no more than 48 hours prior trimming or removal of trees and vegetation within the potential habitat containing prickly pear cactus to determine presence or absence in the work area. Surveys would be repeated if vegetation activities are suspended for five days or more. If coastal cactus wren is identified, a no-work buffer will be installed around the species. The size of the buffer will be determined by the qualified biologist. Work will be suspended until the species leaves the site on their own or is relocated by a qualified biologist to an area of suitable habitat at least 100 feet outside of the construction area. Work will be resumed only once it has been determined that coastal cactus wren has left the site, as determined by the qualified biologist.

Mammals

To avoid and/or minimize impacts on bats, the following measures would be implemented:

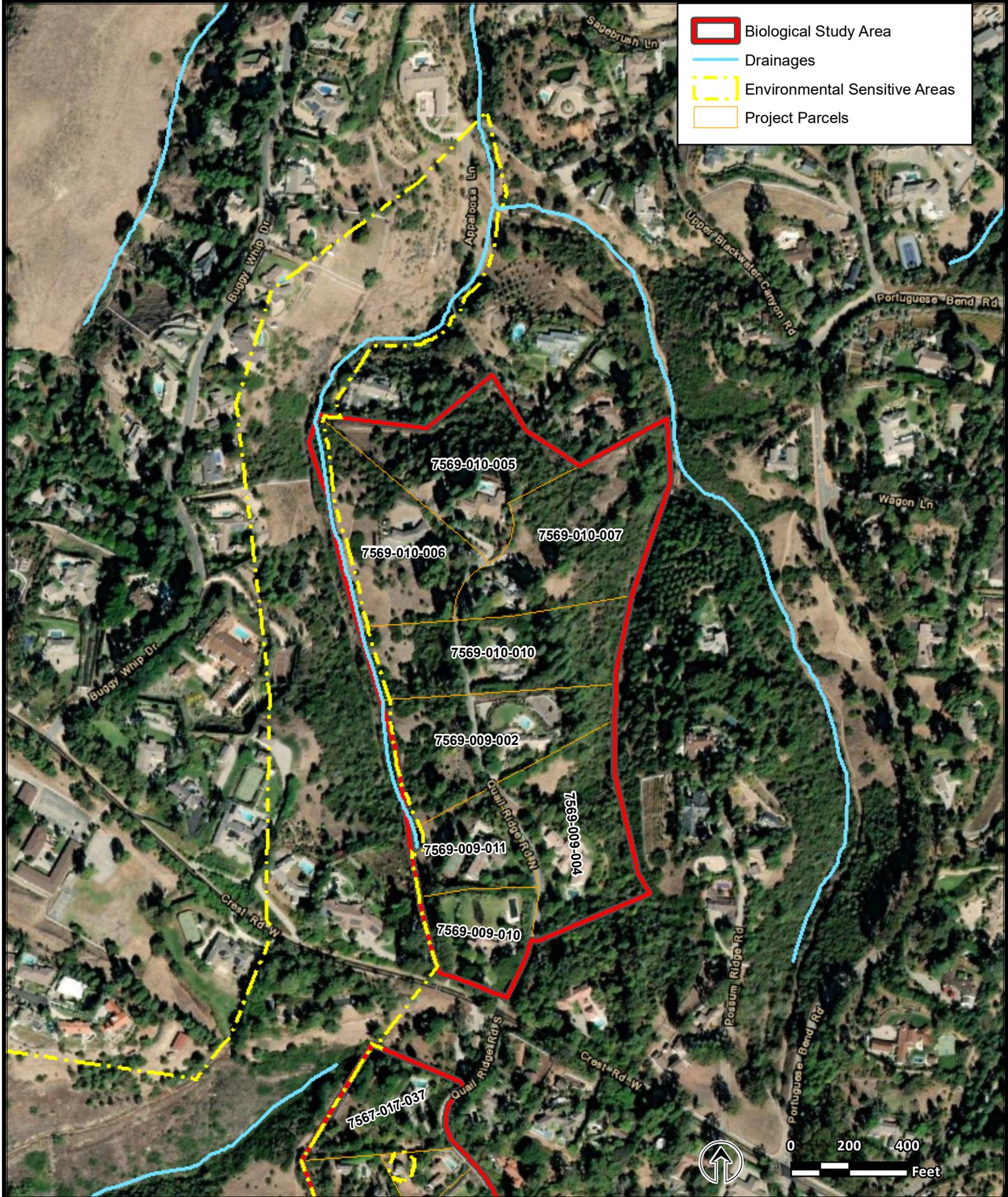
- Where feasible, tree removal would be conducted in October, which is outside of the maternal and non-active seasons for bats.
- Prior to vegetation management activities, a thorough bat roosting habitat assessment would be conducted of all proposed trees and within 500 feet of the proposed removal or vegetation maintenance location. Visual surveys would be conducted five days prior to tree removal or maintenance. If presence is detected, a count and species analysis would be completed to help assess the type of colony and usage.
- All removal of trees with potential bat habitat would be conducted using a 2-step process over two consecutive days under the supervision of a qualified biologist. On the first day, any trees that do not contain crevice or cavity roosting habitat, as determined by a qualified biologist, will be trimmed or removed (only if necessary). In addition, limited trimming of trees (branches and small limbs with no potential roosting features) would be completed. Construction crews would only use hand tools (i.e. chainsaws or similar). On the calendar day immediately following the trimming, all trees that were previously trimmed would be removed (only if necessary).

- If the presence or absence of bats cannot be confirmed in potential roosting habitat, a qualified biologist would be onsite during habitat removal or disturbance of this area. If the biologist determines that bats are being disturbed during this work, work would be suspended until bats have left the vicinity on their own or can be safely excluded under direction of the biologist. Work would resume only once all bats have left the site and/or approval to resume work is given by a qualified biologist.
- A qualified biologist will complete pre-construction surveys no more than 48 hours prior to vegetation activities within the BSA to determine presence or absence of wildlife in the work area. Surveys will be repeated if vegetation activities are suspended for five days or more. If sensitive wildlife species are identified, a no-work buffer will be installed around the species. The size of the buffer will be determined by the qualified biologist and will be species specific. Work will be suspended until the species leaves the site on their own or is relocated by a qualified biologist to an area of suitable habitat at least 100 feet outside of the construction area. Work will be resumed only once it has been determined that all sensitive wildlife species have left the site, as determined by the qualified biologist.

Cultural Resources

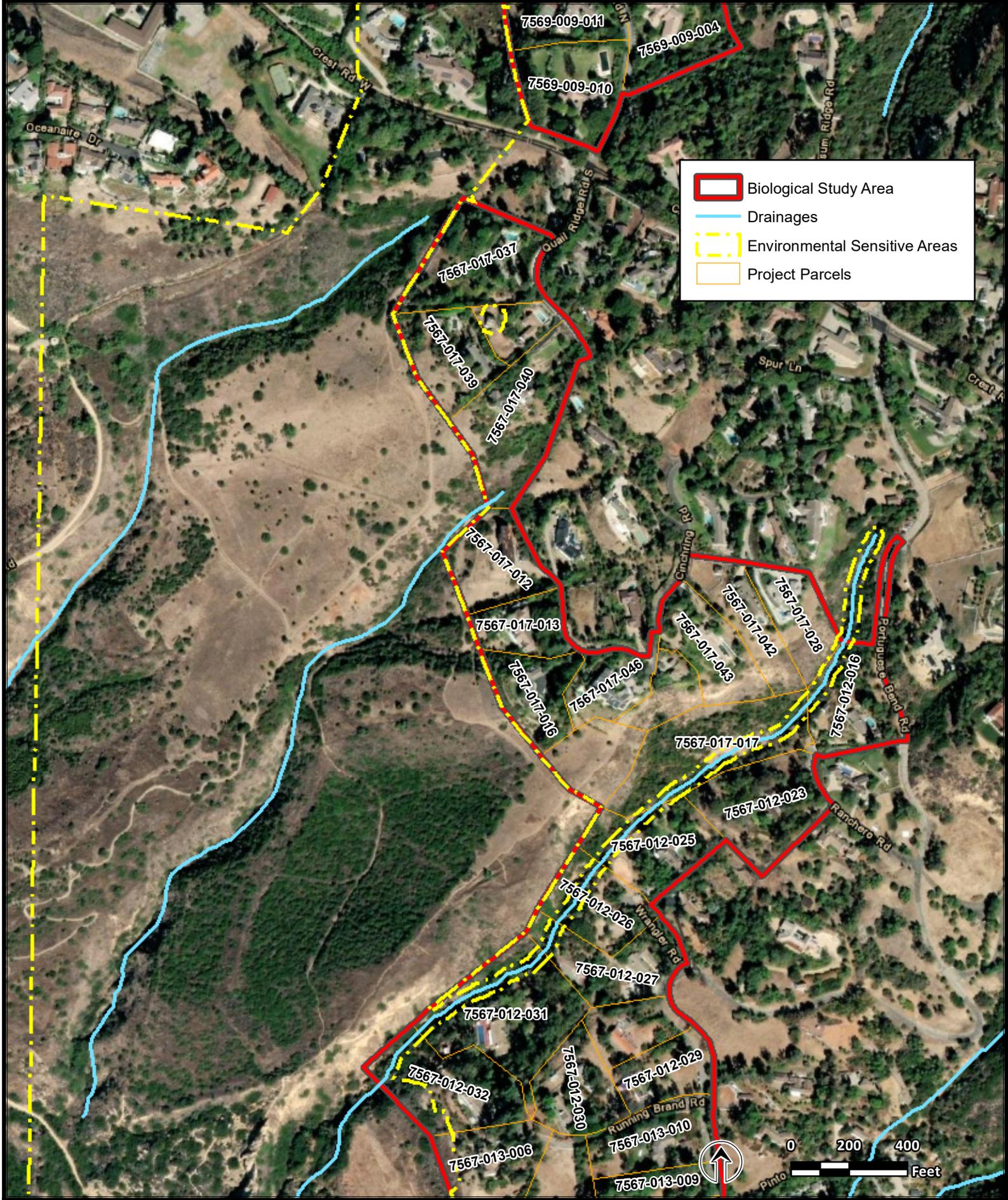
If cultural resources are discovered during project development no further disturbance shall occur until an archaeologist is retained to assess the nature and significance of the discovery. If human remains are encountered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). With the permission of the landowner or his/her authorized representative, the MLD may inspect the site of the discovery. The MLD shall complete the inspection within 48 hours of notification by the NAHC. The MLD may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

Attachment F Environmental Sensitive Areas



Source: ESRI 2021

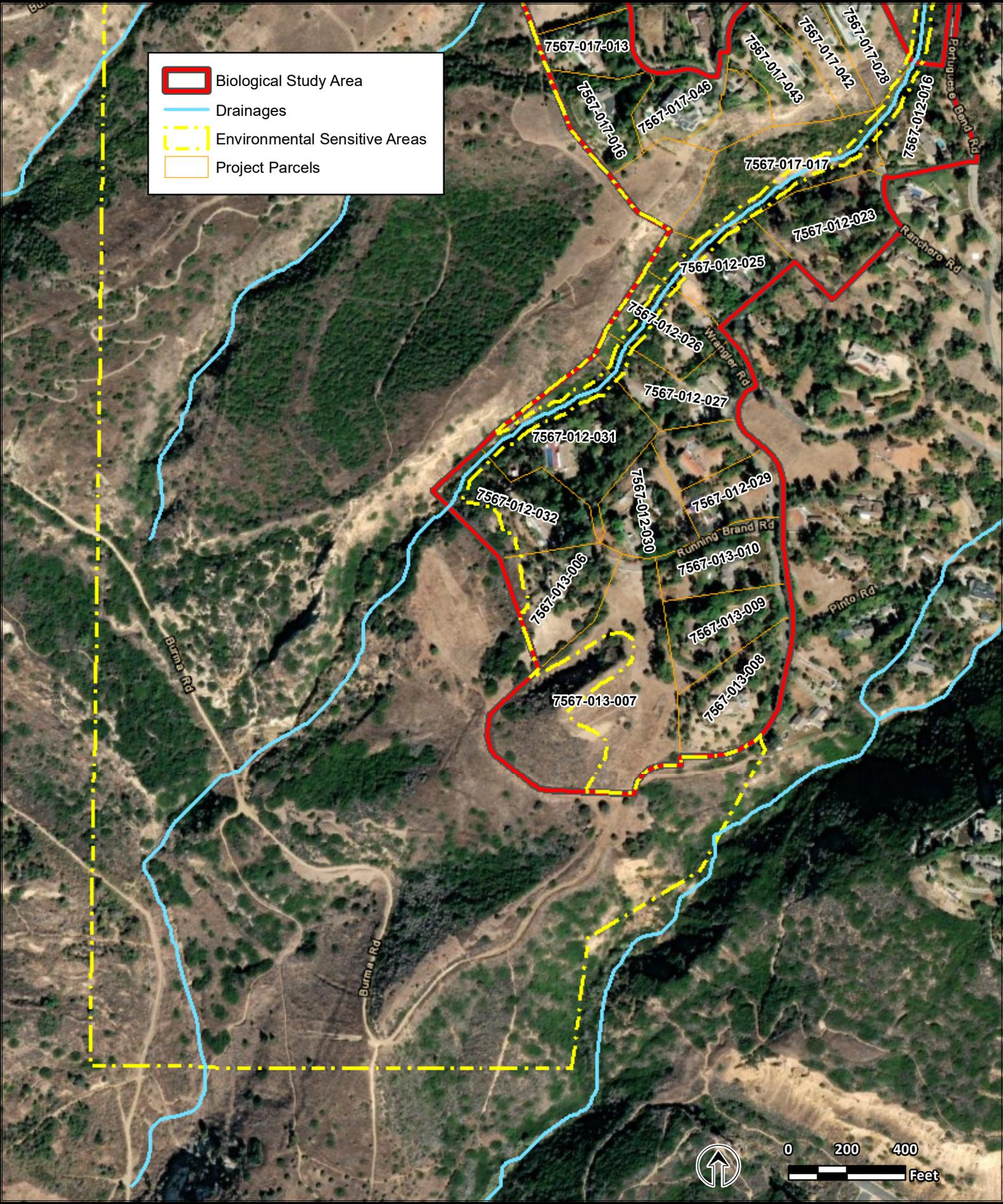




Source: ESRI 2021



Environmental Sensitive Areas (Sheet 2 of 3)
City of Rolling Hills

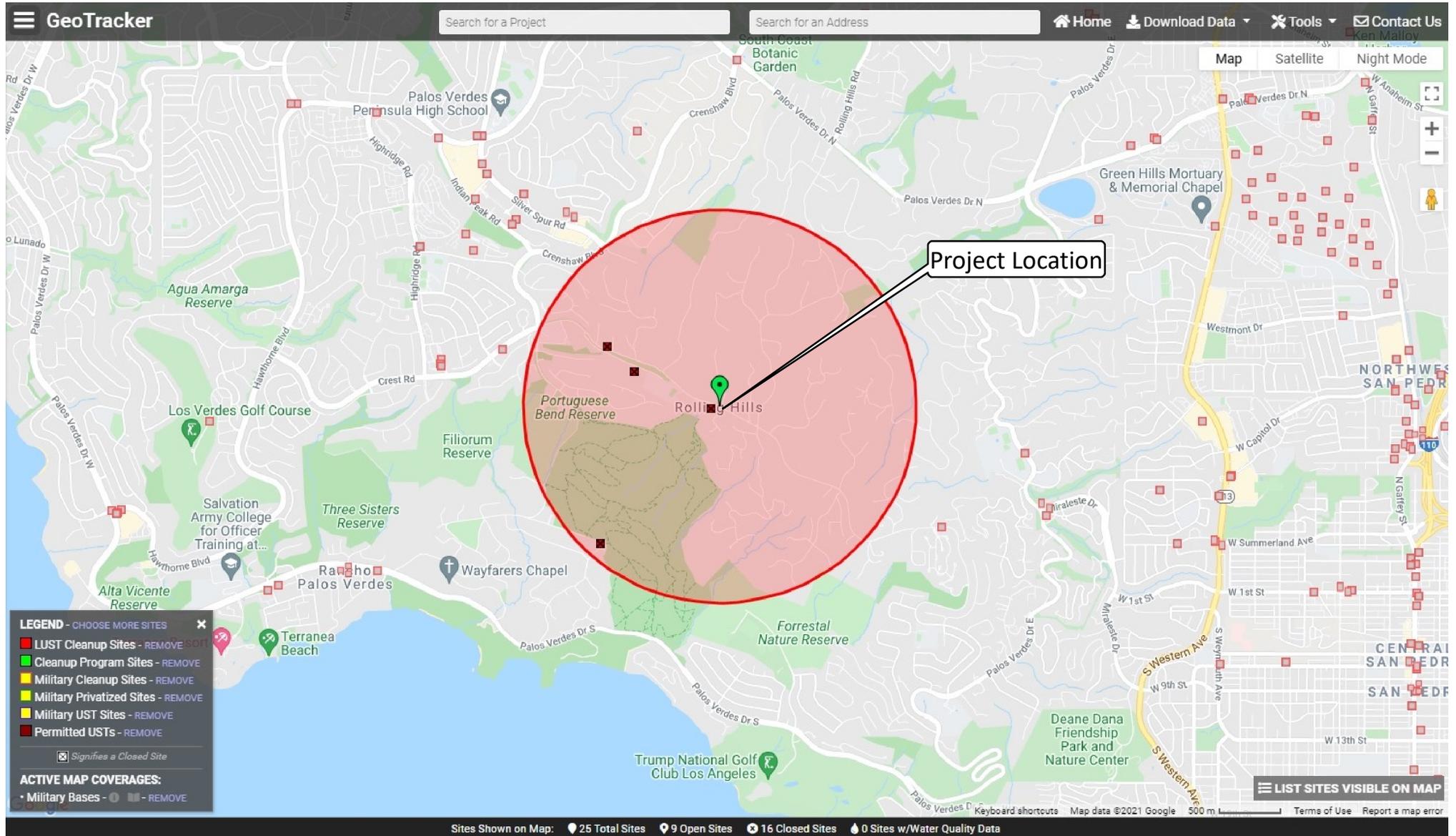


Source: ESRI 2021



Environmental Sensitive Areas (Sheet 3 of 3)
City of Rolling Hills

Attachment G Hazardous Waste Sites Map



Sources: CA State Water Resources Control Board 2021.

ATTACHMENT G. HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES City of Rolling Hills - Vegetative Management Mitigation Project



City of Rolling Hills

INCORPORATED JANUARY 24, 1957

NO. 2 PORTUGUESE BEND ROAD
ROLLING HILLS, CA 90274
(310) 377-1521
FAX (310) 377-7288

AGENDA
Regular City Council Meeting

CITY COUNCIL
Monday, January 10, 2022

CITY OF ROLLING HILLS
7:00 PM

All Councilmembers will participate in-person wearing masks per Los Angeles County Health Department's Health Officer Order effective Saturday, July 17, 2021. The meeting agenda is available on the City's website. The City Council meeting will be live-streamed on the City's website. Both the agenda and the live-streamed video can be found here:

<https://www.rolling-hills.org/government/agenda/index.php>

Members of the public may submit written comments in real-time by emailing the City Clerk's office at cityclerk@cityofrh.net. Your comments will become part of the official meeting record. You must provide your full name, but please do not provide any other personal information that you do not want to be published.

Recordings to City Council meetings can be found here:

<https://cms5.revize.com/revize/rollinghillsca/government/agenda/index.php>

Next Resolution No. 1286

Next Ordinance No. 374

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

*This is the appropriate time for members of the public to make comments regarding the items on the consent calendar or items **not** listed on this agenda. Pursuant to the Brown Act, no action will take place on any items not on the agenda.*

5. CONSENT CALENDAR

Matters which may be acted upon by the City Council in a single motion. Any Councilmember may request removal of any item from the Consent Calendar causing it to be considered under Council Actions.

5.A. APPROVE AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING FOR THE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 10, 2022

RECOMMENDATION: Approve.

- 5.B. APPROVE MOTION TO READ BY TITLE ONLY AND WAIVE FURTHER READING OF ALL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS LISTED ON THE AGENDA
RECOMMENDATION: Approve.
- 5.C. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CITY COUNCIL MINUTES: DECEMBER 14, 2021 ADJOURNED REGULAR MEETING
RECOMMENDATION: Approve as presented.
2021-12-14_CCMinutes.pdf
- 5.D. PAYMENT OF BILLS.
RECOMMENDATION: Approve as presented.
Council report 12-14-2021 to 01-10-2022.pdf
- 5.E. REPUBLIC SERVICES RECYCLING TONNAGE REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2021.
RECOMMENDATION: Approve as presented.
1121 - Rolling Hills YTD Tonnage Report.pdf
- 5.F. CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022
RECOMMENDATION: Approve as presented.
CL_AGN_2022_Council_MeetingDates.pdf
- 5.G. CITY COUNCIL BUDGET CALENDAR FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023
RECOMMENDATION: Approve as presented.
FN_BUD_220110_Calendar_FY22-23_F.pdf
- 5.H. ANNUAL VENDOR LIST FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2022
RECOMMENDATION: Approve as presented.
CC_AGN_220110_AnnualVendorList_2022.pdf
- 5.I. ADOPT BY TITLE ONLY ORDINANCE NO. 372 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROLLING HILLS ADDING CHAPTERS 16.50 (SB 9 URBAN LOT SPLITS) AND 17.45 (SB 9 TWO-UNIT PROJECTS) TO THE ROLLING HILLS MUNICIPAL CODE; AND ORDINANCE NUMBER 373 - AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROLLING HILLS AMENDING CHAPTER 15.04 (BUILDING CODE) TO ADOPT THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FIRE CODE BY REFERENCE AND MAKE LOCAL AMENDMENTS THERETO. FOR SECOND READING AND ADOPTION.
RECOMMENDATION: Approve.
372_SB9_Ordinance.pdf
373_SB9_FireCode_Ordinance.pdf
- 5.J. RECEIVE AND FILE AN UPDATE TO THE DESIGN OF THE 8" SEWER MAIN ALONG ROLLING HILLS ROAD.
RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file.
Portuguese Bend Sewer Main_Cost Estimate_11222021.pdf
- 5.K. RECEIVE AND FILE AN UPDATE ON THE CREST ROAD EAST UTILITY UNDERGROUNDING GRANT PROJECT.
RECOMMENDATION: Receive and File.
Exhibit A - Underground Utility District Limits Exhibit_Parcels_V1.pdf

Crest Road Underground Utility District Letter No.2.pdf
Frontier- Rule 33 Tariff A.1.a..pdf

5.L. **FILING OF CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION PER CEQA REQUIREMENTS FOR THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT IN THE CANYONS GRANT PROJECT.**

RECOMMENDATION: Approve as presented.

Environmental Assessment Process Flow Chart.pdf
Categorical Exemption Memo.pdf
Notice Of Exemption Form.pdf

6. **EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS**

7. **COMMISSION ITEMS**

8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

8.A. **6TH CYCLE DRAFT HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE**

RECOMMENDATION: Authorize staff to forward the “HCD Draft” 6th Cycle Housing Element to HCD for review and comment.

RollingHillsHCDDraftHousingElement-120321.pdf
HousingElementPresentation-011022.pdf

9. **OLD BUSINESS**

9.A. **RECEIVE AND FILE THE FINAL FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR SEWER CONNECTIONS ALONG PALOS VERDES DRIVE NORTH (WILLIAMSBURG AND MIDDLE RIDGE LANE) AND PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF.**

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file study and provide direction to staff.

RH Sewer Feasibility Study Ph III 09-3-2021-Complete (1).pdf

9.B. **RECEIVE AND FILE FINAL FEASIBILITY REPORT FROM HQE SYSTEMS (SIREN STUDY) AND DIRECT STAFF CONDUCT A COMMUNITY SURVEY.**

RECOMMENDATION: Receive and file report and direct staff to conduct a community survey.

HQE Systems - Mass Notification Systems Installation Report - The City of Rolling Hills - Final JW (Email Version 2).pdf

10. **NEW BUSINESS**

10.A. **DISCUSS THE ROLLING HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION'S REQUEST RELATING TO THE CITY HALL CAMPUS EMERGENCY POWER PROJECT AND PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF.**

RECOMMENDATION: Provide direction to staff.

Rolling Hill Maintenance Buildings One Two- SFR V3_Review.pdf
2021.12.07 RH Architectural Review_Solar Panels.pdf

10.B. **CONSIDER CONTRACT FOR SERVICES TO TEMPORARILY STAFF THE PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT.**

RECOMMENDATION: Direct staff to engage professional services.

PSA_with_MICHAEL_BAKER-_executed_10.13.21.pdf
Rolling Hills First Amendment Michael Baker-c1_12.01.21_executed.pdf
Michael Baker Letter Proposal for additional hours Updated_11.29.21.pdf
Rolling Hills Second Amendment Michael Baker_01.10.22-c1.pdf

10.C. CONSIDER HIRING A PENINSULA CITIES JOINT HOUSING/LOCAL CONTROL LOBBYIST.

RECOMMENDATION: Consider and provide direction to staff.

RFP_JointPeninsulaLobbyist_2021-08-27_assembled.pdf
Renne Public Policy Law Group Proposal.pdf
Joe A. Gonsalves & Son Lobbyist Proposal- Received 9.10.21.pdf

11. **MATTERS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL AND MEETING ATTENDANCE REPORTS**

11.A. REPORT BY THE FIRE FUEL COMMITTEE ON THE DECEMBER 15, 2021 COMMITTEE MEETING; APPROVE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION TO HOLD A SECOND COMMUNAL BIN EVENT PROPOSED FOR JANUARY 24, 2022 THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2022; AND APPROVE COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION TO HIRE WILDLAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.

RECOMMENDATION: Receive report, consider Committee's recommendations and provide direction to staff.

Agenda FF Committee Meeting 12.15.21.pdf
Proposal from Wildland Res Mgt-City of RH.pdf
Communal Bin 1st Event & 2nd Event Placement.pdf

11.B. REVIEW THE ADOPTED COVID-19 PREVENTION PROGRAM AND CONSIDER ADJUSTMENTS PER LATEST CHANGES TO THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY HEALTH ORDERS (MAYOR PRO TEM BLACK).

RECOMMENDATION: Review and provide direction to staff.

CL_AGN_220110_CC_AttachA_BestPracticesOffices.pdf
CL_AGN_220110_CC_AttachB_HOO_SaferReturnWorkCommunity.pdf
CL_AGN_220110_CC_AttachC_HOO_Coronavirus_Blanket_Isolation.pdf
CL_AGN_220110_CC_AttachD_HOO_Coronavirus_Blanket_Quarantine.pdf
CL_AGN_220110_CC_AttachE_PressRelease_AddMaskin Requirements.pdf
CL_AGN_220110_CC_AttachF_01-05-22_HOO_SaferReturnWorkCommunity.pdf
CL_AGN_220110_CC_AttachG_Continuing_Safety_Measures .pdf

11.C. DISCUSS PROPOSED CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (CPUC) DECISION REVISING NET ENERGY METERING TARIFF AND SUBTARIFFS (MAYOR DIERINGER).

RECOMMENDATION: Receive a presentation from Mayor Dieringer and provide direction to staff.

CL_AGN_220110_CC_NetMetering_SRA__AttachA.pdf
CL_AGN_220110_CC_NetMetering_LAT2_AttachB.pdf
CL_AGN_220110_CC_NetMetering_LAT1_AttachC.pdf

12. **MATTERS FROM STAFF**

12.A. PARTICIPATION IN CALIFORNIA'S DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES RECYCLING AND RECOVER (CAL-RECYCLE) BEVERAGE CONTAINER RECYCLING CITY

PAYMENT PROGRAM.

RECOMMENDATION: Approve participation in program and direct City Attorney to draft multi-year resolution authorizing submittal of application for the January 24, 2022 City Council meeting.

[PW_REF_220118_CRC_BevGrant_DualBinExamples_AttachA.pdf](#)

13. CLOSED SESSION

14. ADJOURNMENT

Next regular meeting: Monday, January 24, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, Rolling Hills City Hall, 2 Portuguese Bend Road, Rolling Hills, California, 90274.

Notice:

Public Comment is welcome on any item prior to City Council action on the item.

Documents pertaining to an agenda item received after the posting of the agenda are available for review in the City Clerk's office or at the meeting at which the item will be considered.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting due to your disability, please contact the City Clerk at (310) 377-1521 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting to enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility and accommodation for your review of this agenda and attendance at this meeting.