APPENDIX A

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES EVALUATION

Jacobs

Memorandum

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Subject	**Pediatric Mental and Behavioral Health Campus Biological Resources Evaluation**
Attention	Melanie Tylke, County of San Diego, Department of General Services
From	Ava Edens, Jacobs Project Management Co.
Date	October 10, 2022

1 Introduction

Jacobs Project Management Co. (Jacobs) prepared this biological resources evaluation for the Pediatric Mental and Behavioral Health Campus (MBH) Project (Project). The Project site is located on land owned by the County of San Diego within the City of San Diego, located south of the Interstate (I-) 805 and State Route (SR) 163 interchange in the Serra Mesa Community (Figure 1). The 4.35-acre Project site is located along Birmingham Way within the San Diego County Youth Transition Campus (YTC) (formerly the Juvenile Justice Campus [JJC]) and is adjacent to the Rady Children's Hospital-San Diego (RCHSD) and Sharp Memorial Hospital campuses. The site is currently accessible from Meadow Lark Drive on the west (Figure 2).

The proposed Project (Project) is a Ground Lease and Operating Agreement enabling the construction and operation of the Pediatric MBH, a joint initiative between the County of San Diego and RCHSD. The Project site consists of a paved surface parking lot and an adjacent landscaped area along Birmingham Way and is located on the existing YTC (formerly known as the JJC). The Project would include the construction and operation of two new patient care buildings and a parking structure within the boundary of the existing surface parking lot. In addition, the Project includes roadway improvements along Birmingham Way and installation of a new underground sewer line within the right-of-way of Birmingham Drive and Children's Way (Figure 3). This memorandum discusses the potential biological resource issues related to the proposed Project.

2 Methods

Jacobs' biologist Ava Edens visited the site on August 16, 2021, from approximately 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Weather conditions were partly cloudy with temperatures around 85 degrees Fahrenheit with light winds (1 to 5 miles per hour). The site walk focused on areas adjacent to potential habitat for special status species. Habitat areas adjacent to the Project site, but not publicly accessible, were surveyed with binoculars.

The special status species with potential to occur within the Project area were reviewed through a search of California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Diversity Data Base Rarefind 5 application (CDFW 2021) for sensitive species within 1 mile of RCHSD.

3 Conditions

The Project is located entirely within an existing developed commercial-office area. Vegetation within the Project boundary is limited to landscape plantings along the south side of Birmingham Way between the road and the parking lot. Most of the Project site consists of a paved parking lot.

A City of San Diego Multi-Habitat Planning Area (MHPA) is adjacent to the east side of the Project site (see Figure 3). Several special status species have the potential to occur in the MHPA, including the federally listed threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*). Two special status plant species, Nuttall's scrub oak (*Quercus dumosa*), California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) 1B.1, and coast barrel cacti (*Ferocactus viridescens* var. *viridescens*), CRPR 2B.1, have been identified in the canyon area of the MHPA (AECOM 2018; CDFW 2021). CRPR 1B includes rare, threatened, or endangered species in California or elsewhere; and CRPR 2B plants are considered rare, threatened, or endangered in California but are more common elsewhere.

Native plant species observed adjacent to the Project site south of Birmingham Way during the site visit included coastal prickly pear (*Opuntia littoralis*), California encelia (*Encelia californica*), California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum*), California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*), and coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*). Non-native plants, both ornamental and invasive, were also observed, including pampas grass (*Cortaderia* sp.), black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), castor bean (*Ricinus communis*), jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*), eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.), and tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*).

Special status species known to occur within 1 mile of the Project are provided in Attachment A.

4 Considerations

The following sections discuss potential considerations regarding the proposed Project and the associated biological resources.

4.1 Project Site

The proposed Project site contains no significant native habitat for sensitive species; however, it does contain a limited amount of non-native vegetation that could be used for nesting by bird species protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). This area of vegetation is limited to the area between Birmingham Way and the paved parking lot. The majority of this vegetation would need to be removed to construct new driveways to the MBH from Birmingham Way and for roadway improvements along Birmingham Way (e.g., new turn lanes and sidewalks). Vegetation removal conducted as part of site construction during the nesting season between February 1 and September 15 could potentially affect bird species protected by the MBTA. Implementation of Mitigation Measure (MM) BR-1 would reduce the potential to affect nesting birds.

MM BR-1 Vegetation removal shall occur from September 16 through January 31, outside the breeding season for nesting birds, as feasible. Should vegetation removal need to occur within the breeding season (February 1 through September 15), a qualified biologist shall perform nesting bird surveys of all vegetation within the Project area prior to removal. At a minimum, nesting bird surveys shall include two survey efforts: (1) one survey 7 to 14 days prior to vegetation removal, and (2) another no more than three days prior to vegetation removal. If MBTA-protected nests are found, no vegetation removal shall occur until (1) the nest is determined by a qualified biologist to no longer be active, or (2) the Applicant and biologist consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) regarding the appropriate buffer that should be established. The Applicant and biologist shall provide the field monitoring notes when consulting with CDFW. If nesting birds are

not detected during the surveys or vegetation removal occurs outside the breeding season, then no further action is required.

4.2 Multi-Habitat Planning Area

The adjacent City of San Diego MHPA is preserved in perpetuity and managed under the City's Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP). Although no proposed Project activities would occur within the MHPA, Project activities would occur adjacent to the MHPA boundary. The MSCP requires land uses adjacent to the MHPA be managed to ensure minimal impacts to the MHPA. The MBH site is included in the site boundary for the YTC (former JJC) Redevelopment Project, which was analyzed in a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) prepared by the County of San Diego (County) and adopted on August 7, 2018 (SCH No. 2018041024; Project No. 1021131). That MND includes MM-BR-2 to implement MHPA land use adjacency guidelines. MM-BR-2 reduced impacts to the MHPA from the YTC Redevelopment Project to less than significant with mitigation incorporated and would also be implemented for the MBH Project. Impacts to special status animal or plant species in the MHPA would be avoided.

MM BR-2 Implement the following MHPA Land Use Adjacency Guidelines:

Drainage. All new and proposed parking lots and developed areas must not drain directly into the MHPA. All developed and paved areas must prevent the release of toxins, chemicals, petroleum products, exotic plant materials, and other elements that might degrade or harm the natural environment or ecosystem processes within the MHPA. This can be accomplished using a variety of methods including natural detention basins, grass swales, or mechanical trapping devices. These systems should be maintained approximately once a year, or as often as needed, to ensure proper functioning. Maintenance should include dredging out sediments if needed, removing exotic plant materials, and adding chemical-neutralizing compounds (e.g., clay compounds) when necessary and appropriate.

Toxics. Land uses, such as recreation and agriculture, that use chemicals or generate by-products such as manure, that are potentially toxic or impactive to wildlife, sensitive species, habitat, or water quality need to incorporate measures to reduce impacts caused by the application and/or drainage of such materials into the MHPA. Such measures should include drainage/detention basins, swales, or holding areas with non-invasive grasses or wetland-type native vegetation to filter out the toxic materials. Regular maintenance should be provided. Where applicable, this requirement should be incorporated into leases on publicly owned property as leases come up for renewal. During construction, the contractor should install construction best management practices (BMPs) such as silt fencing, sandbags, and others to prevent potentially toxic substances from entering the MHPA area.

Lighting. Lighting of all developed areas adjacent to the MHPA should be directed away from the MHPA. Where necessary, development should provide adequate shielding with non-invasive plant materials (preferably native), berming, and/or other methods to protect the MHPA and sensitive species from night lighting.

Project design should avoid the addition of permanent lighting or night-time construction that would require temporary lighting adjacent to the MHPA area. If lighting adjacent to the MHPA is necessary, the lighting should be shielded and focused away from the MHPA.

Noise. Uses in or adjacent to the MHPA should be designed to minimize noise impacts. Berms or walls should be constructed adjacent to commercial areas, recreational areas, and any other use that may introduce noises that could impact

or interfere with wildlife utilization of the MHPA. Excessively noisy uses or activities adjacent to breeding areas must incorporate noise reduction measures and be curtailed during the breeding season of sensitive species. Adequate noise reduction measures should also be incorporated for the remainder of the year.

To avoid impacts to sensitive avian and MBTA species, pre-construction nesting surveys will be conducted, and active nests will be identified and flagged for avoidance.

Barriers. New development adjacent to the MHPA may be required to provide barriers (e.g., noninvasive vegetation, rocks/boulders, fences, walls, and/or signage) along the MHPA boundaries to direct public access to appropriate locations and reduce domestic animal predation.

Invasives. No invasive non-native plant species shall be introduced into areas adjacent to the MHPA.

Grading/Land Development. Manufactured slopes associated with site development shall be included within the development footprint for projects within or adjacent to the MHPA.

5 Recommendations

No native vegetation or biological resources are present within the Project work area. Removal of the existing ornamental vegetation as part of project construction during the nesting season between February 1 and September 15 could potentially affect bird species protected by the MBTA. Implementation of MM BR-1 would reduce potential impacts to nesting birds.

No project activities would occur within the MHPA. However, because project activities would occur adjacent to the MHPA, and Land Use Adjacency Guidelines would be implemented through MM BR-2 to reduce potential impacts to resources in the MHPA.

6 References

AECOM. 2018. Final Initial Study: Juvenile Justice Campus Redevelopment Project. August 2018.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2021. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) – Commercial version September 2021. Retrieved from https://map.dfg.ca.gov/rarefind/view/RareFind.aspx#

Figure 1. Regional Map

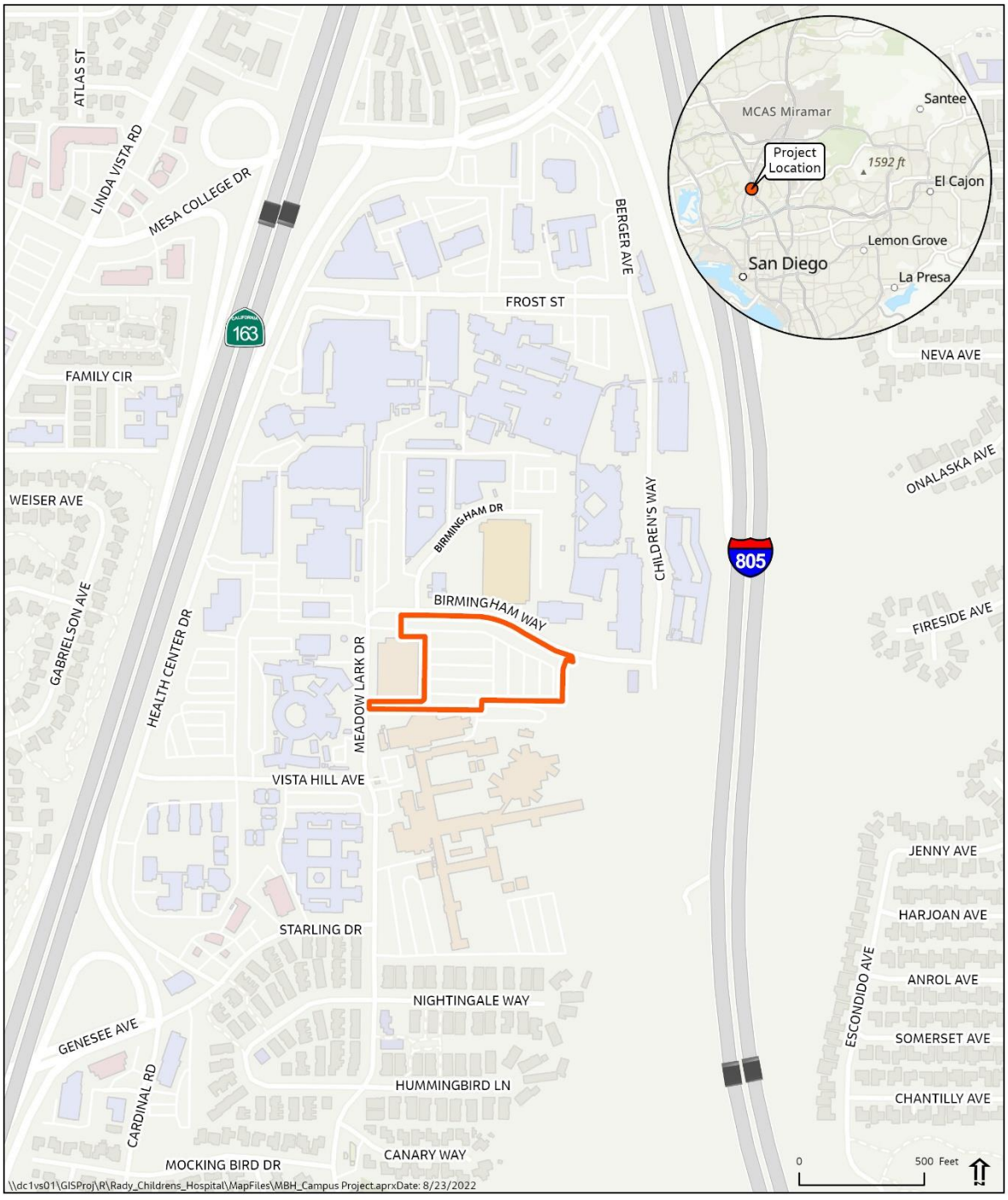

Figure 2. Existing Conditions Map

Figure 3. Proposed Site Map

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Attachment A

California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) for within a mile of Rady Children's Hospital

Common Name	Species Name	Taxonomic Group	Presence	Federal Listing	State Listing	CNPS Status[1]	CDFW Status[2]
western spadefoot	*Spea hammondii*	Amphibians	Possibly Extirpated				SSC
coastal California gnatcatcher	*Polioptila californica californica*	Birds	Presumed Extant	Threatened			SSC
San Diego fairy shrimp	*Branchinecta sandiegonensis*	Crustaceans	Possibly Extirpated	Endangered			
pocketed free-tailed bat	*Nyctinomops femorosaccus*	Mammals	Presumed Extant				SSC
Southern California legless lizard	*Anniella stebbinsi*	Reptiles	Possibly Extirpated				SSC
orange-throated whiptail	*Aspidoscelis hyperythra*	Reptiles	Presumed Extant				WL
California glossy snake	*Arizona elegans occidentalis*	Reptiles	Presumed Extant				SSC
decumbent goldenbush	*Isocoma menziesii var. decumbens*	Dicots	Presumed Extant			1B.2	
oil neststraw	*Stylocline citroleum*	Dicots	Presumed Extant			1B.1	
San Diego barrel cactus	*Ferocactus viridescens*	Dicots	Presumed Extant			2B.1	
Coulter's saltbush	*Atriplex coulteri*	Dicots	Presumed Extant			1B.2	
Nuttall's scrub oak	*Quercus dumosa*	Dicots	Presumed Extant			1B.1	
San Diego mesa mint	*Pogogyne abramsii*	Dicots	Extirpated	Endangered	Endangered	1B.1	
wart-stemmed ceanothus	*Ceanothus verrucosus*	Dicots	Presumed Extant			2B.2	
Orcutt's brodiaea	*Brodiaea orcuttii*	Monocots	Possibly Extirpated			1B.1	

Common Name	Species Name	Taxonomic Group	Presence	Federal Listing	State Listing	CNPS Status[1]	CDFW Status[2]
San Diego goldenstar	*Bloomeria clevelandii*	Monocots	Presumed Extant			1B.1	
Southern Riparian Scrub	*Southern Riparian Scrub*	Riparian	Presumed Extant				

Source: California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) for within a mile of Rady Children's Hospital (July 2021)

Notes:

[1] California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Status:

1B - Rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
2B - Rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
2B.1 - Seriously threatened in California (more than 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)
2B.2 - Fairly threatened in California (20 to 80% occurrences threatened / moderate degree and immediacy of threat)

[2] California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Status:

State Species of Special Concern (SSC)
Watch List (WL)