

California Environmental Quality Act
NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE
MISSION CANYON STREAM HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT

LEAD AGENCY: California Department Fish and Wildlife
CONTACT: Frederic (Fritz) Rieman, (858) 467-4210
SUBJECT: Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration pursuant to Sections 21092 and 21092.3 of the Public Resources Code and CEQA Guidelines Section 15072
PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: February 6, 2024, to March 7, 2024

Project Location: The Project site encompasses 7.24 acres within Mission Canyon along portions of Mission Creek, Santa Barbara County, California (Exhibit 1, Regional Vicinity). The Project site is within an unincorporated area of Santa Barbara County on two parcels: a majority of the Project site lies within Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 153-270-009 (owned by the City of Santa Barbara), while a small portion occurs within APN 153-270-028 (under private ownership) (Exhibit 2, Project Vicinity). The Project area is on the southern slopes of the Santa Ynez Mountains, between 900 and 1,500 feet above mean sea level.

Project Description: In December 2019, Southern California Edison (SCE) performed maintenance operations that consisted of road grading and vegetation management along the Tunnel Trail access road in the Mission Canyon area of Santa Barbara County, California (hereafter referenced as the "December 2019 work"). The December 2019 work went beyond the normal maintenance of the road prism and berms, resulting in unauthorized impacts to the stream and the adjacent upland habitats. While smaller rocks and fine sediment material have settled on the slopes above the creek, larger rocks and additional fine material from the grading discharge have settled in the creek and tributary bottoms. The unauthorized activities in December 2019 caused impacts to Mission Creek and its associated fish and wildlife resources and the native habitats on which they depend.

SCE proposes to implement the Proposed Project to satisfy its obligation to address impacts associated with the unauthorized December 2019 work in accordance with a December 4, 2020, settlement agreement between SCE and the Santa Barbara County District Attorney. The Proposed Project addresses the habitat restoration and remediation of resource impacts to native habitats, trees, sensitive plants, sensitive wildlife, and waters of Mission Creek and adjacent areas. The Proposed Project includes removal of all recoverable sidecast material remaining on the Project site at the time of Project construction, restoration of stream flows, stabilization of the creek bank, repair of habitat features such as pools within the stream bed, remediation of impacts to trees and sensitive plants, berm stabilization, and restoration of impacted woodland/forest and chaparral habitats.

The objectives of the Proposed Project are the removal of all recoverable sidecast material remaining on the Project site at the time of Project construction and restoration of impacted habitat within the Project area, including Mission Creek stream habitat, such that it may support native fish use to levels that existed prior to the December 2019 work.

Location of Mitigated Negative Declaration Available for Public Review: The Draft IS/MND may be viewed online at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Notices/CEQA>.

A hard copy of the Draft IS/MND is available for review at:

Santa Barbara Public Library
Reference-Government Docs.
40 E Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, California 93101

and

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
South Coast Region Office
3030 Old Ranch Parkway, Suite 400
Seal Beach, California 90740

Public Comment Period: By this notice, CDFW is announcing the opening of the 30-day comment period (February 6, 2024, to March 7, 2024). All written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on March 7, 2024 (end of the 30-day public review period).

Commenting on Mitigated Negative Declaration: Written comments on the MND must be addressed to:

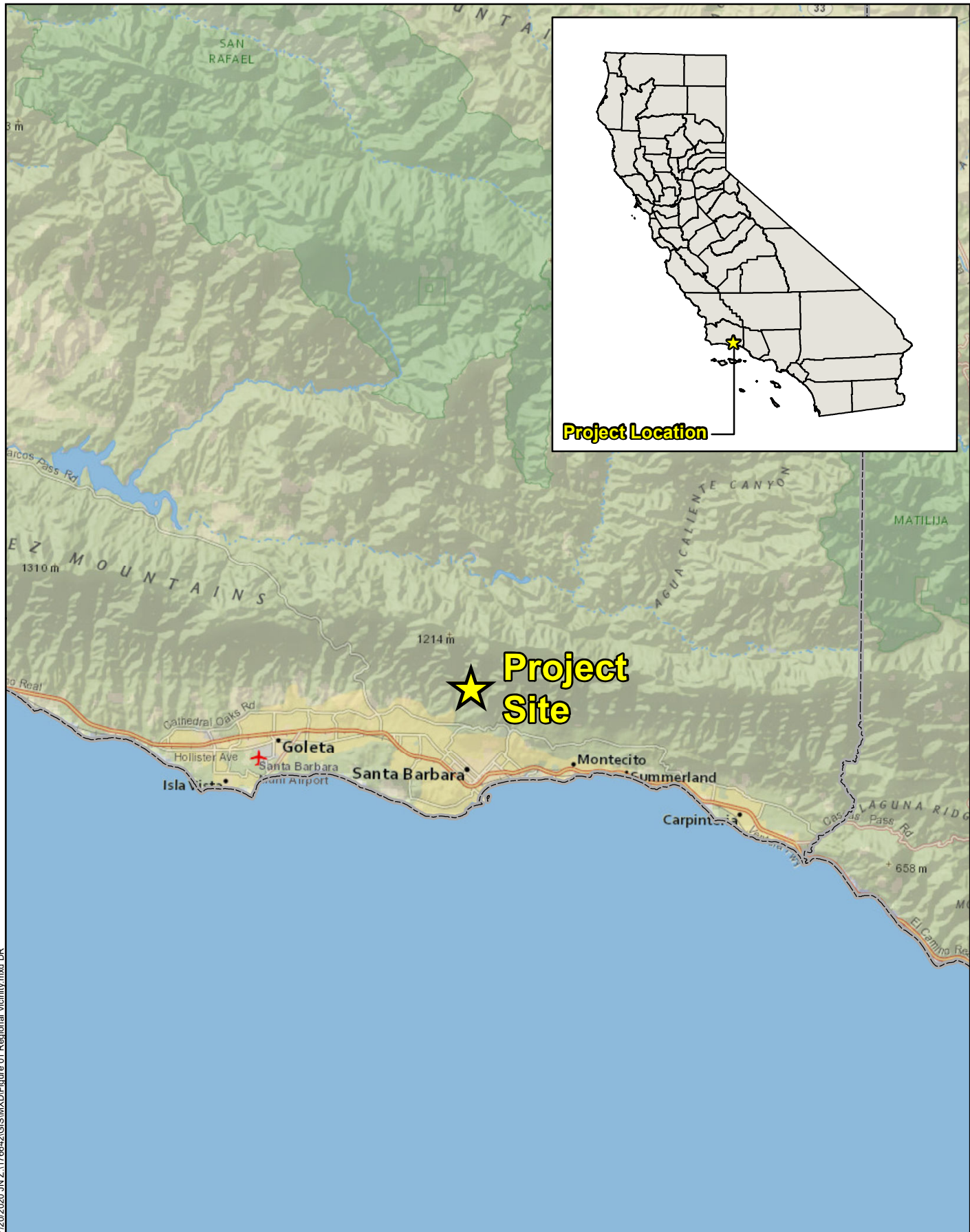
California Department of Fish and Wildlife, South Coast Region

Attention: Frederic Rieman, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), Project Lead

Mailing Address: 3030 Old Ranch Parkway, Suite 400, Seal Beach, California 90740

OR via email: AskR5@wildlife.ca.gov (subject line: "**Mission Creek Project MND Comments**").

The Project is not located on any list of places formally recorded as containing hazardous materials.

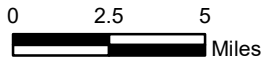


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MISSION CANYON STREAM HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT
INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

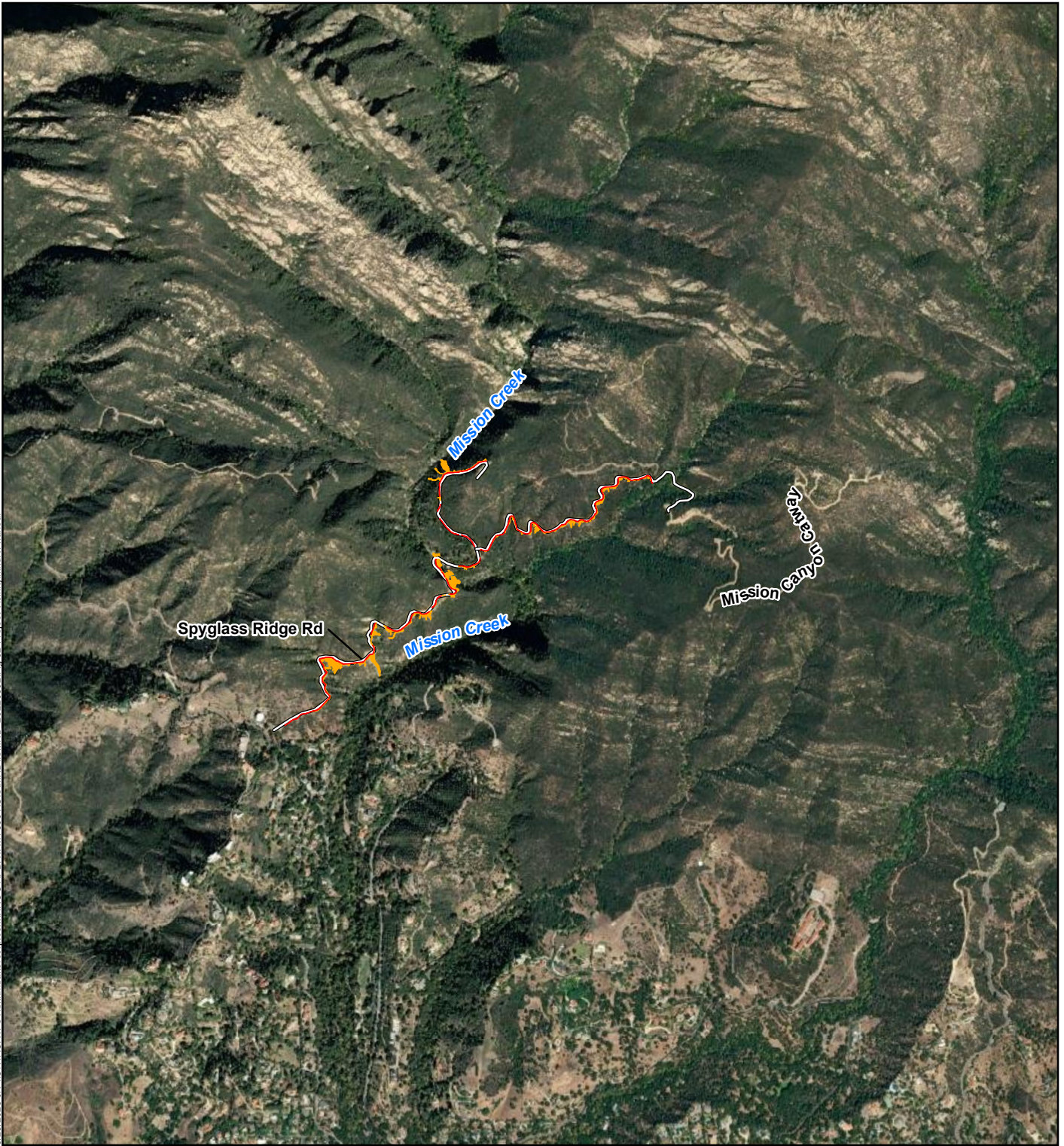
Regional Vicinity

Exhibit 1



Source: ArcGIS Online, 2020

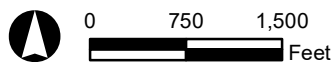
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Legend

- Project Site
- Sidecast Areas
- Earthen Berms

MISSION CANYON STREAM HABITAT RESTORATION PROJECT



Source: ArcGIS Online (2022)

Project Vicinity

Exhibit 2

