

**ADDENDUM TO THE
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
for the
Coastal Treatment Plant
Export Sludge Force Main Replacement Project
SCH #2011051010**

Prepared for:

South Orange County Wastewater Authority
34156 Del Obispo Street
Dana Point, California 92629
Contact: Brian Peck

Prepared by:

DUDEK
605 Third Street
Encinitas, California 92024
Contact: Shawn Shamlou, AICP, Principal

JANUARY 2015

**Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report
for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force
Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....	III
1 INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION	1
1.1 Project Background.....	1
1.2 Project Setting.....	2
1.3 Proposed Modifications to the Project.....	2
2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS.....	5
2.1 Biological Resources	5
2.2 Cultural Resources	6
3 DETERMINATION	9
4 REPORT PREPARERS.....	11
4.1 Dudek.....	11
5 REFERENCES.....	13
 FIGURES	
1 Project Region.....	15
2 Project Vicinity	17
3 Sewer Alignment Revision – North.....	19
4 Sewer Alignment Revision – South.....	21
5 Biologic Resources Map.....	23

**Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report
for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force
Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010**

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

**Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report
for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force
Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010**

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CTP	Coastal Treatment Plant
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
RTP	Regional Treatment Plant
AWCWP	Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park
SOCWA	South Orange County Wastewater Authority
JPA	Joint Powers Authority
mgd	Million gallons per day

**Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report
for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force
Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010**

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010

1 INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The South Orange County Wastewater Authority (SOCWA) proposes to replace approximately 16,600 feet of two existing parallel 4-inch pipelines between the Coastal Treatment Plant (CTP) and Alicia Parkway in Orange County, California (see Figure 1, Project Region). This project was analyzed within an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force Main Replacement Project (Dudek 2013). Since that EIR was prepared the SOCWA has proposed improving a section of the creek bank along Lower Aliso Creek to provide erosion protection and improved stability for the existing infrastructure in the area as well as for the proposed force main replacement pipeline (Creek Bank Protection or stabilization features). The location of the Creek Bank Protection project component is shown on Figure 2, Project Vicinity. These improvements also necessitated making minor changes to the pipeline alignment shown on Figure 3, Sewer Alignment Revision – North and Figure 4, Sewer Alignment Revision – South. The proposed improvements include constructing three (3) rock groins or dikes at selected locations to redirect flows along the channel bank away from the bank and allow for capture of sediment upstream of the groins/dikes resulting in the build-up of sediment at the lower bank. The groins/dikes would extend out from the channel bank approximately 20-feet across the berm to the edge of the low flow channel. The top-width of the groins/dike would be approximately 5-feet. The median size of the dike rock would be 24-inches with a maximum of 36-inches. This improvement allows for natural revegetation along the berm between the groins/dikes and does not require any fill in the low flow channel or removal of existing channel banks.

The minor modifications to stabilize the creek bank and modification to the pipeline alignment do not substantially alter the previous EIR prepared for the project, and do not warrant preparation of a subsequent or supplemental EIR pursuant to Section 15162 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

1.1 Project Background

The SOCWA was created on July 1, 2001, to facilitate and manage the collection, transmission, treatment, and disposal of wastewater for more than 500,000 homes and businesses across South Orange County. SOCWA is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) with ten member agencies, consisting of local retail water agencies and cities that provide water to their residents. SOCWA operates four wastewater treatment plants and approximately 36% of the water treated by SOCWA is treated to secondary standards and discharged to the ocean through one of two outfall pipes. The remaining water undergoes tertiary treatment and is reused throughout South Orange County as recycled water.

Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010

The CTP has been in operation since the 1940s for wastewater treatment. Construction of the current CTP began in 1967. In 1982, the plant was expanded from 2.5 million gallons per day (mgd) to its current capacity of 6.7 million gallons per day. During the expansion, two 4-inch force mains were constructed to convey the sludge from the CTP to the Regional Treatment Plant (RTP). This system was termed the export sludge handling system and is currently in operation.

The Final EIR for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force Main Replacement Project was certified and the project approved by SOCWA in March 2013 (SCH #2011051010). The EIR analyzed the environmental consequences associated with implementation and construction of approximately 16,600 feet of two existing parallel 4-inch pipelines between the CTP and Alicia Parkway. This is the third phase of a three-phase replacement project to replace the force mains between the CTP and RTP.

1.2 Project Setting

The Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force Main Replacement Project or approved project is located within the Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park (AWCWP), an Orange County-designated wilderness park which encompasses approximately 3,900 acres of natural open space lands within southwestern Orange County (County). The park includes the hills, canyons, and floodplain surrounding Aliso and Wood Canyons along with portions of Laguna Canyon. The CTP is located in the lower Aliso Canyon, approximately 1 mile inland from the Pacific Ocean; the Aliso Creek Golf Course is located immediately to the south of the CTP. Residential development primarily lines the rims of the canyons along the border of the AWCWP. Other land uses bordering the park include neighborhood parks, Soka University, a church, and an elementary school. The export sludge force main runs along the eastern side of Aliso Creek from its origin at the CTP in the southern region of the AWCWP to Alicia Parkway at the northeastern boundary of the park through Aliso Canyon. The force main continues through the Laguna Niguel Regional Park to its terminus at the RTP; however, this portion of the pipeline alignment is not part of the proposed project.

1.3 Proposed Modifications to the Project

The proposed modifications or stabilization features include constructing three (3) rock groins or dikes at selected locations to redirect flows along the channel bank away from the bank and allow for capture of sediment upstream of the groins resulting in the build-up of sediment at the lower bank. The groins would extend out from the channel bank approximately 20-feet across the berm to the edge of the low flow channel. The top width of the groins would be approximately 5 feet. The median size of the groin rock would be 24-inches with a maximum of

**Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report
for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force
Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010**

36 inches. This improvement allows for natural revegetation along the berm between the groins/ and does not require any fill in the low flow channel or removal of existing channel banks.

In addition to these stabilization features, the alignment of the pipeline would be slightly revised in two locations, as shown in Figures 3 and 4.

**Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report
for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force
Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010**

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

**Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report
for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force
Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010**

2 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

Implementation of the proposed creek bank protection features and alignment revisions do not change the conclusions of the certified EIR prepared for the approved project and would have no new significant environmental impacts. Specifically, the addition of this project element would not result in new impacts or change the severity of impacts analyzed in the following technical sections of the EIR:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gases
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials•
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Recreation

The proposed creek bank protection features and alignment revisions would not result in any impacts to the following issue areas. These issue areas were not analyzed in detail the certified EIR because it was determined due to the nature of the project there would be no impact in these areas. Therefore, the EIR focused on only those technical issues, listed above, where a potential impact may occur.

- Agricultural Resources
- Public Services
- Public Utilities
- Population, Employment and Housing
- Traffic

Due to the sensitivity of the project site from both a biologic as well as a historic perspective, an additional analysis was conducted as part of this Addendum to address potential impacts to biological resources and cultural resources associated with construction of the proposed creek protection features.

2.1 Biological Resources

The proposed creek bank protection features would impact approximately 0.17 acre of land located within southern cottonwood willow riparian forest (SCWRF) and a small sliver of disturbed habitat, as shown in Figure 5, Biologic Resources Map. Disturbance to the SCWRF was addressed in the certified EIR and Mitigation Measures BIO-4 and BIO-6 are required to address direct impacts to this habitat. Mitigation Measure BIO-4 requires temporary

Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010

(construction) direct impacts to 11.3 acres of special-status vegetation communities shall be mitigated through on-site restoration at a 1:1 ratio for the SCWRF habitat to restore impacted special-status vegetation communities to pre-construction conditions. In addition, a revegetation plan shall be developed, and submitted to the Orange County Parks Department prior to commencement of grading or trenching activities. Mitigation Measure BIO-6 requires SOCWA obtain a Section 401/404 permit for all project-related disturbances of water of the United States and/or associated wetlands and be required to comply with all the conditions of the permit. Compliance with these mitigation measures would ensure potential impacts to SCWRF habitat are reduced to a less-than-significant impact.

Also shown on Figure 5 is a mapped occurrence for yellow-breasted chat (*Icteria virens*). The chat is a nesting bird species, a CDFW Species of Special Concern. As detailed in the Final EIR, construction during this species' nesting season could both directly and indirectly disrupt breeding activity. Temporary, direct and indirect impacts to nesting special-status birds were hence disclosed to be a significant impact, and mitigation measure BIO-1 was recommended, in the Final EIR.

Temporary impacts to the project alignment are shown in Figures 3 and 4. As was conducted for the Final EIR, a 30-foot wide construction corridor is still assumed. The same vegetation communities as analyzed in the Final EIR would be impacted, and impacts would be reduced by 2.52 acres, from 15.00 to 12.48 acres. Hence, no new impacts would occur when compared to the analysis presented in the Final EIR.

Overall, the proposed project modifications would not result in new or increased biological resource impacts on or off the site from what was previously analyzed in the certified Final EIR. In addition, the minor changes in the pipeline alignment would not result in any new or more severe impacts to biological resources. No additional mitigation measures would be required.

2.2 Cultural Resources

An archeological survey report was prepared for the approved project. As identified in the certified EIR, based on the records search prepared for the approved project site, numerous cultural resources have been identified within a half mile of the pipeline alignment. Two prehistoric archaeological sites, CA-ORA-581 and CA-ORA-582, are recorded within the proposed force main alignment. A third site, CA-ORA-423, is located in the proposed alignment vicinity. A field survey of the proposed alignment was also conducted by qualified archeologists and no previously unrecorded archaeological sites or isolated artifacts were identified. In addition, an Extended Phase I Archaeological Investigation was conducted which included

Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010

excavation of six geoprobes along the proposed alignment within and adjacent to recorded archaeological site CA-ORA-581. The proposed creek bank protection features are not located near any of the recorded sites; however, the potential for inadvertent disturbances of cultural materials could result and Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-3 are required to ensure impacts are less than significant. Mitigation Measure CUL-1 requires training of all construction personnel in the event any resource is unearthed. Mitigation Measure CUL-3 requires work to cease in the event cultural materials are encountered during construction until the find can be assessed by a qualified archeologist and local Native American representative. Compliance with these mitigation measures would ensure potential impacts to any subsurface cultural resources in the area of the stabilization features would be reduced to a less-than-significant impact.

The proposed creek bank protection features as well as the minor change to the pipeline alignment would not result in new or an increase in severity of the cultural resource impacts on or off the site from what was analyzed in the certified EIR. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no additional mitigation measures would be required.

**Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report
for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force
Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010**

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010

3 DETERMINATION

Based on the additional information and analysis in this addendum associated with the proposed creek bank protection modifications to the approved project, and pursuant to Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines, SOCWA has determined the following:

1. There are no substantial changes to the project that would require major revisions to the certified EIR due to new, significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of impacts identified in the certified EIR.
2. Substantial changes have not occurred in the circumstances under which the project is being undertaken that would require major revisions to the certified EIR to disclose new, significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of the impacts identified in the Final EIR.
3. There is no new information of substantial importance that was not known at the time the EIR was certified that shows the project would have any new significant effects not discussed in the certified EIR or a substantial increase in the severity of the impacts identified in the EIR, or that mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not feasible, or that are considerably different from those analyzed in the EIR, would substantially reduce one or more significant effects.

**Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report
for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force
Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010**

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

**Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report
for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force
Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010**

4 REPORT PREPARERS

4.1 Dudek

Shawn Shamlou, AICP, Principal

Christine Kronenberg, AICP, Senior CEQA Analyst

David Mueller, Publications Specialist

**Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report
for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force
Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010**

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

**Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report
for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force
Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010**

5 REFERENCES

California Public Resources Code, Section 21000–21177. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as amended.

Dudek 2013. *Final Environmental Impact Report for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force Main Replacement Project*. State Clearinghouse No 2011051010. March 2013.

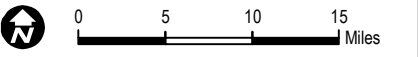
**Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report
for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force
Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010**

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



Project Site

Pacific
Ocean



Copyright: © 2014 Esri

FIGURE 1
Project Region

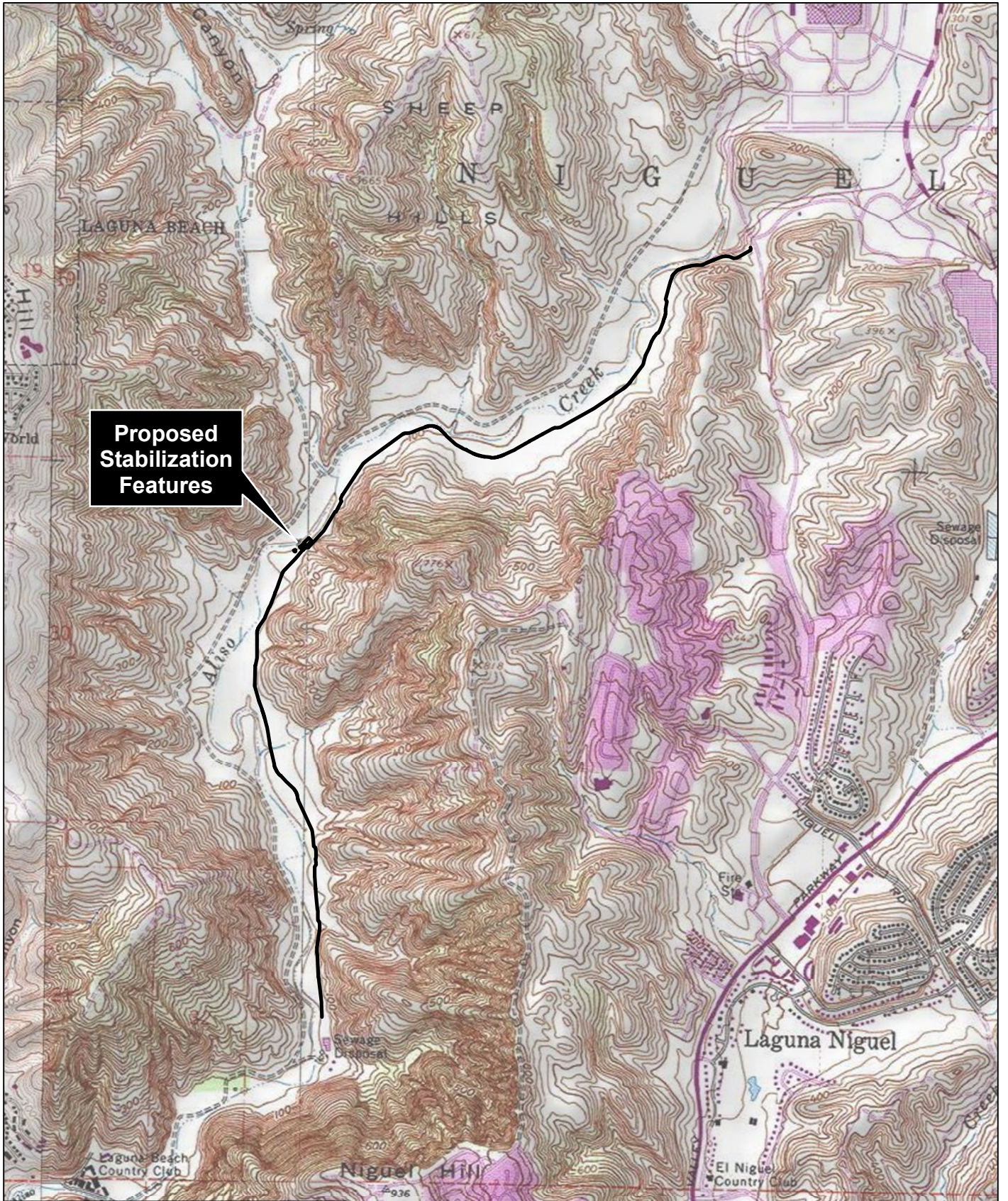
DUDEK

6731-01

CEQA Addendum

**Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report
for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force
Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010**

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



**Proposed
Stabilization
Features**



Copyright: © 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed

DUDEK

SOURCE: USGS 7.5-Minute Series San Juan Capistrano Quadrangle.

**FIGURE 2
Project Vicinity**

6731-01

CEQA Addendum

**Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report
for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force
Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010**

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



— Project Alignment - Current
— Project Alignment - Previous

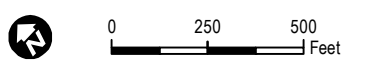


Image courtesy of USGS Image courtesy of LAR-IAC © 2014 Microsoft Corporation

DUDEK

SOURCE: Bing Maps 2014

FIGURE 3
Sewer Alignment Revision - North

6731-01

CEQA Addendum

**Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report
for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force
Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010**

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

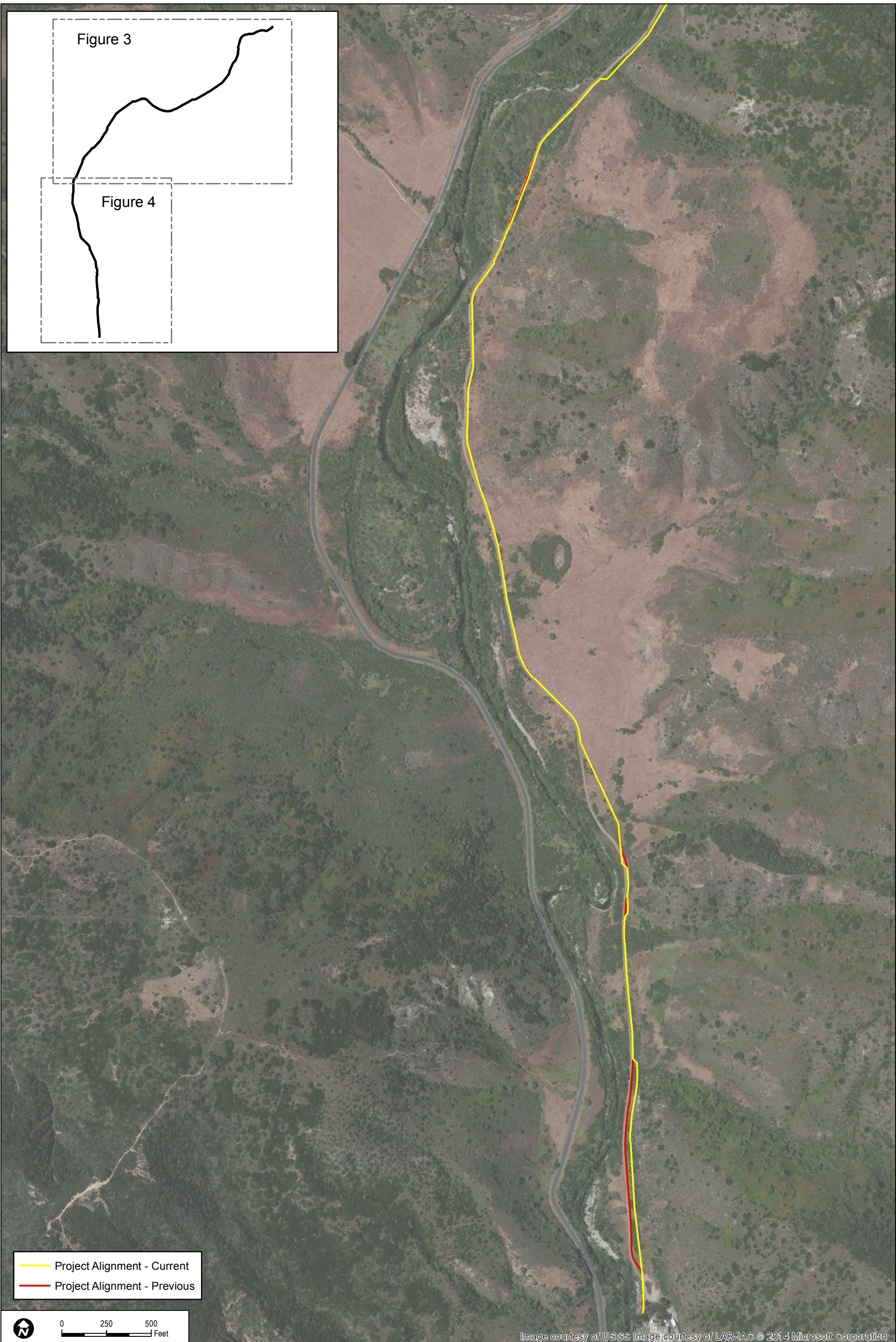



Image courtesy of USGS Image courtesy of LAR-IAC © 2014 Microsoft Corporation

— Project Alignment - Current
— Project Alignment - Previous


 0 250 500 Feet

DUDEK

SOURCE: Bing Maps 2014

6731-01

CEQA Addendum

FIGURE 4
Sewer Alignment Revision - South

**Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report
for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force
Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010**

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

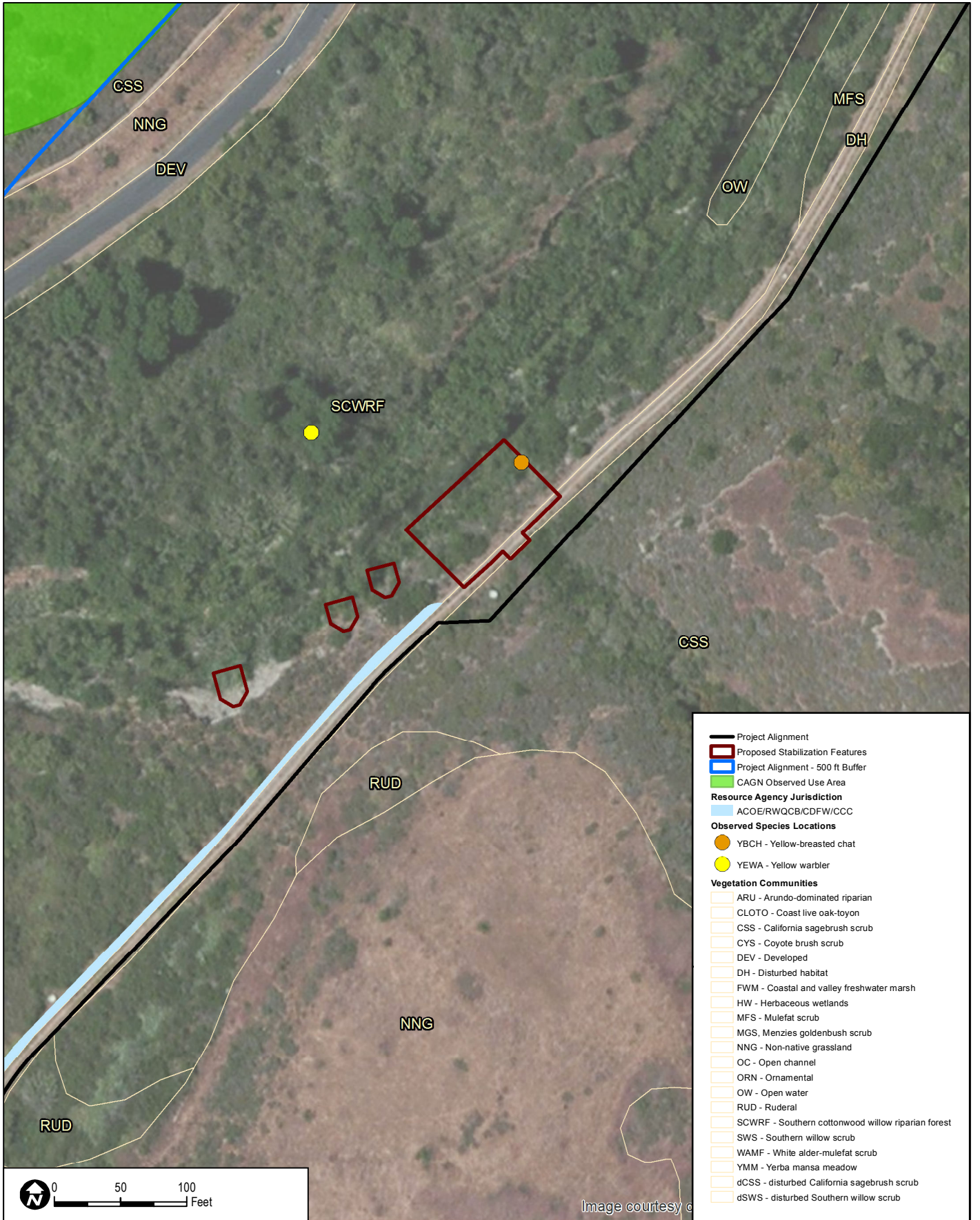


Image courtesy of

DUDEK

SOURCE: BING Maps 2014

6731-01

CEQA Addendum

FIGURE 5
Biological Resources Map

**Addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report
for the Coastal Treatment Plant Export Sludge Force
Main Replacement Project SCH #2011051010**

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK