



Addendum

to the “Natural Environment Study” dated July 2011

Route 1/Route 9 Intersection Improvement Project

City of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County, California

05-SCr-1 PM 17.5/17.7 and 05-SCr-9 PM 00.0/0.2

EA #465800

January 30, 2015

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EA #465800

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Department of Transportation

Prepared By:



Date:

2-3-15

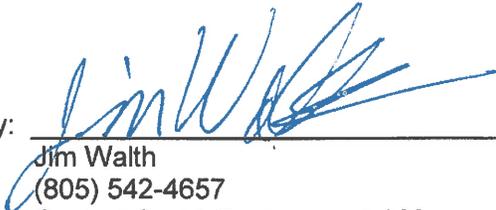
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This document is an addendum to the July 2011 “Natural Environment Study” (NES) for the Route 1/Route 9 Intersection Improvement Project in the City of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz County. This addendum documents updated information provided for clarification. This document incorporates by reference all contents of the July 2011 “Natural Environment Study” with the following updates:

Chapter 3 Results: Environmental Setting

3.1.3 Biological Conditions

[This paragraph replaces paragraph 1 under “[3.1.3 Biological Conditions](#)” on page 3-1 of the NES]

Three natural communities (creek channel, riparian, and ruderal grassland) are present in the study area (Table 1). Approximately 8 trees that meet the City’s definition of a “heritage tree” are within the project limits. In addition, a large portion of the study area is developed (paved roadways, road shoulders, and sidewalks). Figure 3 shows the locations of natural communities and other biological resources in the study area.

3.1.3.2 Coast Live Oak-Arroyo Willow Riparian Forest

[This paragraph replaces paragraph 1 under “[3.1.3.2 Coast Live Oak-Arroyo William Riparian Forest](#)” on page 3-2 of the NES]

Riparian trees, including coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) and arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) grow on the south bank of the creek, however most of the dominant trees are eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.), several of which may meet the heritage criterion. The understory of the riparian forest is dominated by non-native species, including Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), and sticky eupatorium (*Ageratina adenophora*). Riparian habitat in the study area is heavily disturbed from foot traffic along the creek associated with an abandoned homeless encampment near the intersection. The riparian habitat includes more native species downstream of the project area.

3.2.5 Heritage Trees

[This paragraph replaces paragraph 1 under “[3.2.5 Heritage Trees](#)” on page 3-5 of the NES]

Heritage trees include all species of trees with a circumference of 44 inches or more (equivalent to a diameter of approximately 14 inches or more) measured at 54 inches

above the existing grade. A coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) with a diameter at breast height (dbh) greater than 14 inches is located directly on the border between City of Santa Cruz property and private property. Several eucalyptus trees within the riparian forest in the study area also meet the heritage tree size criterion. Of the approximately 25 trees in the study area, approximately 8 trees meet the heritage tree size criterion, including the aforementioned coast redwood.

Chapter 4 Results: Biological Resources, Discussion of Impacts and Mitigation

4.5.1.1 Survey Results

[This paragraph replaces paragraph 1 under “[4.5.1.1 Survey Results](#)” on page 4-23 of the NES]

A coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) with a diameter at breast height (dbh) greater than 14 inches is located directly on the border between City of Santa Cruz property and private property in the southeast quadrant. Other roadside trees and several eucalyptus trees within the riparian forest in northeast quadrant of the study area meet the heritage tree size criterion. Of the approximately 25 trees in the study area, it is estimated that up to 8 meet the heritage tree size criterion, including the coast redwood and eucalyptus trees.

Measure 14: Comply with City of Santa Cruz’s Heritage Tree Ordinance

[This paragraph replaces paragraph 1 under “[Measure 14: Comply with City of Santa Cruz’s Heritage Tree Ordinance](#)” on page 4-23 of the NES]

Removal of the heritage-size trees in the construction area would be subject to the permit and mitigation requirements of the City, which includes one of the following two options for each heritage tree removed.

- Three (3) fifteen (15) gallon trees (representing a 3:1 ratio) or one (1) twenty-four inch (24”) box size specimen tree (representing a 1:1 ratio) must be replanted for each heritage tree removed. A \$250 bond must be placed with the permit application, which will be returned when the replacement trees are planted and certified by the city arborist; or
- Monetary contribution of \$150 for each heritage tree removed to the Santa Cruz Tree Trust Fund.