STATE OF CALIFORNIA – CALIFORNIA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
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March 9, 2017

To: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District

Subject: File Number: SPL-2010-00142-LLC
Restoration Memorandum for the Salton Sea Species Conservation Habitat Project

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide information pertaining to revegetation activities for the California Natural Resources Agency Salton Sea Species Conservation Habitat Project (Project) being implemented by the Department of Water Resources (DWR). This Memorandum includes three sections–Introduction, Schedule, and Revegetation–as described below.

Introduction

Declining water inflows in future years will result in the collapse of the Salton Sea's ecosystem due to increasing salinity and decreasing water quality. The Project was developed in an effort to create a sustainable, productive aquatic community with appropriate foraging habitat for piscivorus birds. DWR plans to construct a pair of shallow ponds, contained by low berms, to provide shallow water habitat to support the fish and wildlife dependent upon the Salton Sea. The project consists of approximately 875 acres of shallow ponds, berms, drainage ditches, sedimentation basins, pumping stations, water control structures, staging areas, stockpile areas, dredging spoil disposal areas and an intake channel.

The Project area is located at the southern end of the Salton Sea, near the mouth of the New River, in Imperial County, California. The Project is approximately 875 acres, which includes 23 acres of staging areas, 5 acres of stockpile locations, and 63 acres of playa for dredging spoil disposal area. The Project will utilize the large playa immediately northeast of the New River to construct the ponds. An intake channel will route water from the interior of the Sea to the ponds via a saline pump station and the force main that runs along Kornbloom Road, Bowles Road, the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) Levee Road, and connects with the New River pump station at the southwestern end of the project area.

The project requires three staging areas: the saline pump station staging area, office trailer staging area, and the initial construction staging area (Table 1). All three staging areas comprise a total of 23 acres which will be temporarily disturbed during construction (Figures 1a and 1b). Staging areas will be restored to pre-project

conditions and best management practices for erosion control, including hydroseeding, will be implemented.

As detailed in Section 3.4 of the EIR/EIS, passive revegetation of non-native plant communities (such as tamarisk woodland or scrub) is likely to occur via natural colonization with no planting needed. Temporarily disturbed areas will be monitored to document restoration and regulatory agencies will be consulted if passive revegetation is not successful.

Schedule

Revegetation of the three staging areas at the Project site will occur after demobilization has been completed. Demobilization includes site cleanup of equipment, removal of temporary structures, and other facilities assembled on the site specifically for the Project. Revegetation activities would directly follow completion of demobilization activities. The optimum season for direct seeding is fall, when moisture, temperatures, and plant physiology are most favorable for establishment. If revegetation is delayed more than 60 days, irrigation and/or reseeding may be required. Delayed implementation may require temporary erosion control measures to be implemented in the interim period. If necessary after grading, all bare soil areas should be seeded with a nurse crop of sterile wheat grass to stabilize the freshly graded areas prior to seeding with the recommended mix.

Revegetation

DWR only authorizes the use of native species for the revegetation effort. Revegetation will be accomplished using a seed mix of grass and herbaceous plant species (see Table 2). DWR will approve any proposed modifications to the seed mix at least 15 days prior to revegetation implementation.

Local sources of seed shall be used to the greatest extent feasible. Plant and seed materials shall be sourced within a 100-mile radius and shall be from similar watershed conditions. DWR shall review proposals to use stock that does not originate from this area. Seed mixes shall be 99% weed free and 100% free of any prohibited and restricted noxious weeds. Seed shall be protected from wind, heat, and other conditions which could damage or impair viability, both during delivery and if temporarily stored on site prior to planting.

Prior to seeding, planting areas shall be scarified to a depth of six inches or greater, in two directions. Fertilizer shall not be applied at the time of seeding. Seed application shall be accomplished by hydroseeding.

Table 1. Temporary Impacts: Staging Areas

Feature	Area (Acres)
Initial Staging Area	3.07
Saline Pump Station Staging Area	18.75
Office Trailer and Parking Staging Area	1.37
Total	**23.19**

Table 2. Proposed Seed Mix

Common Name	Scientific Name	Pure Live Seed (lbs/acre)	Purity %	Germination %
Amsinckia tessellata	Tessellate fiddleneck	3.0	40	60
Aristida purpurea	Purple three-awn	3.0	90	70
Cryptantha angustifolia	Narrow-leaved cryptantha	4.0	20	40
Distichlis spicata	Saltgrass	3.0	80	75
Encelia farinosa	Brittlebush	3.0	40	50
Festuca microstachys	Small fescue	3.0	90	80
Lasthenia californica	California goldfields	4.0	55	70
Lupinus sparsiflorus	Mojave lupine	3.0	98	85
Salvia columbariae	Chia	4.0	90	75
Stipa speciosa	Desert needlegrass	2.0	70	60
Total		**32.0**		

Hydroseeding applications shall be uniformly broadcast at the prescribed application rate and shall consist of the above specified seed mix, 2000 pounds per acre of hydromulch, and 80 pounds per acre of tackifier applied as a slurry. After hydroseeding applications, 150 pounds per acre of stabilizer shall be applied with 2,000 pounds per acre of hydromulch without seed in order to anchor the straw mulch in place. Mulch shall be mold-free, air-dry uncut straw, and certified weed free. Additional erosion control measures may be necessary to protect any adjacent waterways or wetland habitat. Consideration of stormwater pollution prevention best management practices that may be required are not included in this memo, but a stormwater pollution prevention plan will be required for the project.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact me at at (916) 653-9190 or Kent.Nelson@water.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Kent Nelson, Program Manager II
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
California Department of Water Resources

Figure 1a. SCH Project Site Plan
Source Data: NAD_1983_StatePlane_California_VI_FIPS_0406_Feet
NAIP 2014 World Imagery

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

Author: S. Paiva-Lowry
California Dept. Water Resources
Preparation Date: 3/9/17
1:33,405

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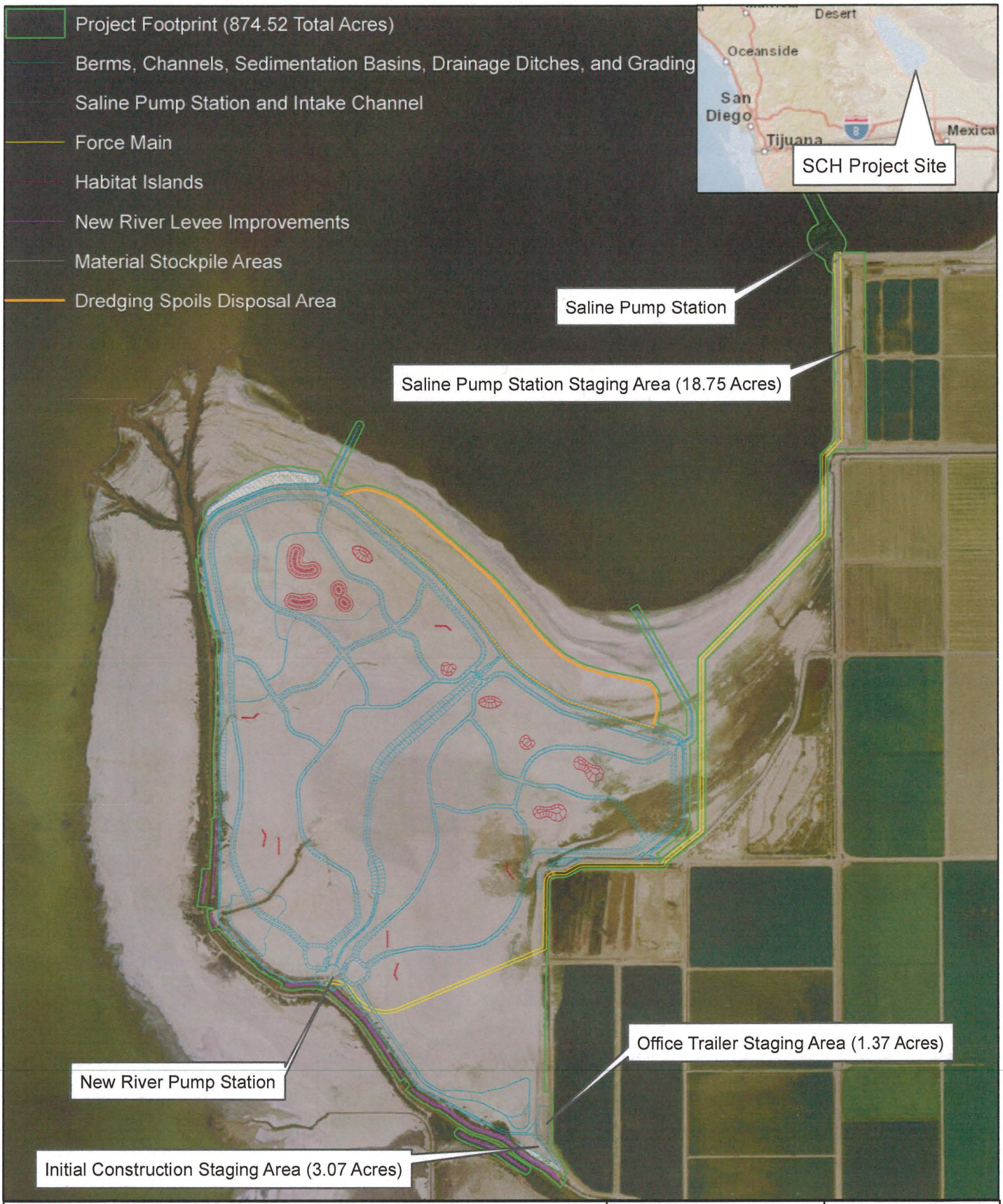

Figure 1b. SCH Project Detail
Source Data: NAD_1983_StatePlane_California_VI_FIPS_0406_Feet
NAIP 2014 World Imagery

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles

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