

Memo

To: Castaic High School Site Selection Team
From: Donna Hebert
Date: June 02, 2010
Re: **Padre Update on Castaic School Site Selection for June 9, 2010 School District Board Presentation**

Cultural Resources

Reports submitted May 11, 2010, no new findings from Padre since the last Board meeting. (However, Romero property owners submitted a follow up study on prehistoric site WS08-1.)

Biological Resources

Report (covers both sites) submitted May 11, 2010. Findings that would or may necessitate mitigation that were not covered or where there are additional findings from that presented at the last Board meeting are summarized below. Note that additional detail including cost estimates for most of the mitigation that is expected to be required is provided in the report. Additional cost information was provided by Padre in the update memo dated May 11, 2010.

Special Status Plants

Oak Tree Replacement No oak tree permit required for School District on site, only off-site. (This is not part of our report, but is a finding made by the group in communications with LA County). Project would still need to mitigate for oak tree loss.

Slender Mariposa Lily Four individual plants identified at each of the sites. Both sites would require mitigation if determined significant based upon additional research and consultation with resource agencies. Mitigation may include seed collection and nursery propagation, and transplanting to cut or fill slopes on the site.

Special Status Wildlife

Spadefoot Toad Although not detected this year by Padre, previously identified spadefoot toad on Hasley-Sloan site will require mitigation unless five years of surveys are conducted that show no toads present. (map attached)

Coast horned Lizard and Western Whiptail

Hasley-Sloan – suitable habitat at site - possibly significant requires further study – If either species is present, **loss of about 35 acres** of occupied habitat would be considered a significant impact. Mitigation may include fee purchase of property (or a conservation easement) supporting similar habitat.

Romero Canyon – suitable habitat at site - more likely significant than at Hasley-Sloan - If either species is present, **loss of up to 80 acres** of occupied habitat would be considered a significant impact. Mitigation could include purchase of a mitigation parcel supporting similar habitat and permanent preservation (conservation easement).

Loggerhead Shrike and Southern California Rufous-crowned Sparrow. These birds were observed at both sites; however, they are likely to breed at the Romero Canyon site. Loss of habitat for these species would require mitigation which may include purchase of a conservation easement on similar habitat. The Hasely-Sloan site is disturbed and may not provide suitable breeding habitat for these species. Additional studies are required warranted to determine the status of these species at this site.

San Diego Black-tailed Jackrabbit. Suitable habitat at the Romero Canyon site. However, additional surveys warranted to determine status of the black-tailed jack rabbit on-site. If determined to be present, loss of habitat would need to be mitigated. Mitigation may include purchase of a conservation easement on similar habitat. This species is not likely to occur at the Hasley-Sloan site.

American Badger. This species is not likely to occur at the Hasley-Sloan site. Additional surveys warranted to determine status of the American Badger at the Romero Canyon site. If determined to be present, loss of habitat would need to be mitigated. Mitigation may include purchase of a conservation easement on similar habitat.

Waters of the US and Wetlands

Hasley – Sloan. Selection of the Hasley-Sloan site would require construction of a bridge over the Hasley Canyon drainage, and some form of bank protection along the northern bank. Permits and mitigation would be required from the Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) to authorize this work. Mitigation may consist of payment of an in lieu fee to the Los Angeles County Aquatic Resource

Romero Canyon. Selection of the Romero Canyon site would require filling in approximately 2.0 acres (about 7,726 linear feet) of streambeds. Permits and mitigation would be required from the Corps of Engineers, Regional Water Quality Control Board and California Department of Fish and Game to authorize this work.

Impacts to waters of the U.S. greater for the Romero Canyon site than Hasley-Sloan site.

Wildlife Movement - Migration Corridor

Hasely-Sloan not significant.

Romero Canyon may provide a significant wildlife movement corridor, further field investigation and analysis required potential mitigation - provide wildlife crossing at Romero Canyon Road and habitat enhancement at eastern tributary of Romero Canyon. To avoid this impact grading would need to be pulled back to leave streambed and access road alone.

Hazardous Materials

Report (Hasley-Sloan) submitted to District May 11, 2010 – SCE, AQMD and LAWWD36 responses outstanding).

Overall Constraints Report

Currently in progress.

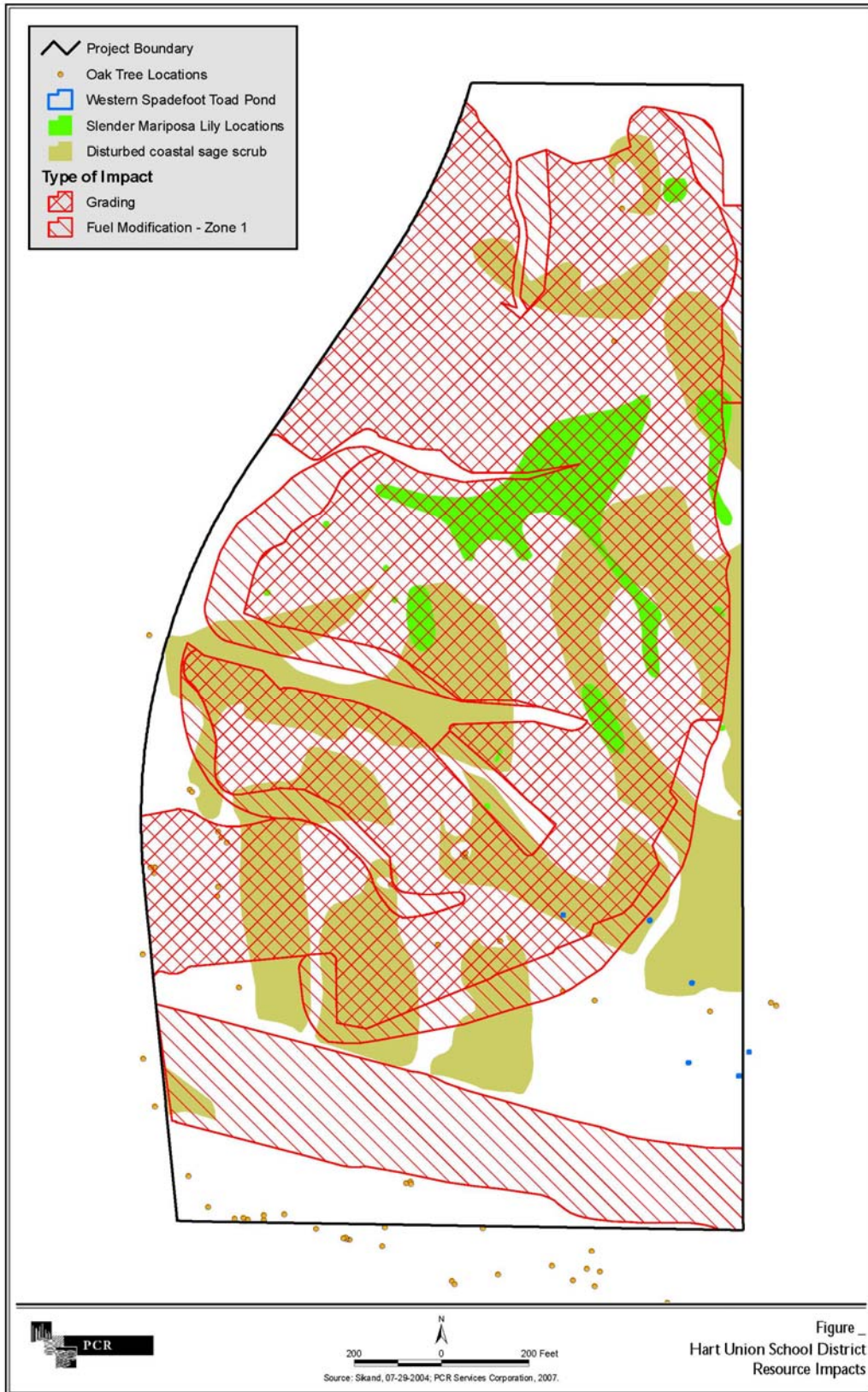


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Hart Union School District
Resource Impacts