

May 12, 2016

TO: Members of the Facility & Plan Review Subcommittee
Los Angeles County Solid Waste Management Committee/
Integrated Waste Management Task Force

 FROM: Russell Bukoff, Staff

**STAFF REPORT
FIRST QUARTER 2016 VEGETATION PROJECT STATUS REPORT
AT SUNSHINE CANYON CITY/COUNTY LANDFILL**

Republic Services, Inc. (Republic) submitted the First Quarter 2016 Vegetation Project Status Report for the Sunshine Canyon City/County Landfill, dated April 27, 2016 (attached). The Status Report is a requirement of Condition No. 18 of the Finding of Conformance granted to the Landfill by the Task Force on December 18, 2008.

The Status Report provides the progress of revegetation projects undertaken during the first quarter of 2016.

General Update

- No hydroseeding activities were conducted in the first quarter of 2016 or are planned for the second quarter of 2016. It is anticipated hydroseeding will occur during the latter part of the third quarter of 2016 or during the early part of the fourth quarter.

County Side Sage Mitigation Area

- Conditions remain unchanged in the County Side Sage Mitigation Pilot Project Area.

City Side Sage Mitigation Pilot Project Area (Pilot Project Area)

- No vegetation activities were conducted in the Pilot Project Area during the first quarter of 2016.
- Soil samples were collected in the Pilot Project on January 12, 2016, by Architerria Design Group (ADG), Republic's consultant on vegetation, from areas where there is little to no growth. Results of the analyses were compared to those of the pre-plant sampling that was done in May 2013. Although the results indicate that there is an elevated level of salinity in all soils sampled, and that there is an elevated level of boron in the middle deck sample, ADG concludes that the salinity and boron levels remain well below the levels found in May 2013. Soil remediation actions provide a short-term benefit; however, the chemistry of the parent soils will continue to dominate the species success and hierarchy of growth across the site.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (626) 458-2186, Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

RWB
Attach.

SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL

April 27, 2016

Mr. Martins Aiyetiwa
Senior Civil Engineer, Environmental Programs Division
County of Los Angeles| Department of Public Works,
900 S. Fremont
Alhambra, CA 91803

Subject: Sunshine Canyon Landfill, Quarterly Vegetation Report
First Quarter 2016 Vegetation Report

Mr. Aiyetiwa,

This report has been prepared in accordance with the following:

- Condition 18B of the Finding of Conformance;
- Condition 44A of the Condition Use Permit (CUP)
- Los Angeles City Condition [Q] C.8 of the Ordinance No. 172,933.

This report presents the progress of the site's landscaping and revegetation activities for the first quarter of 2016. The intent of these reports will continue to be to provide detailed information regarding the site's efforts related to vegetation including vegetation of interim and permanent slopes and activities conducted for the on-site sage mitigation areas.

Architerra Design Group continues to assist site personnel in evaluating current site conditions relating to vegetation and provide recommendations for future efforts. This report includes their assessment of the pilot sage vegetation area as well as recommendations for this area. Architerra's evaluation is in addition to the required quarterly monitoring performed by our consulting biologist.

1.0 Interim Slopes

For the purposes of this report, interim slopes are those defined as slope areas where no activities have taken place for 180 days or longer. CUP Condition 44A requires "a temporary hydroseed vegetation cover on any slope or landfill area that is projected to be inactive for a period of greater than 180 days".

1.1 Hydroseeding Activities

No hydroseeding activities were conducted in the first quarter of 2016. No hydroseeding activities are planned for the second quarter of 2016. It is anticipated hydroseeding will occur either during the latter part of the third quarter of 2016 or during the early part of the fourth quarter.

2.0 Permanent Slopes

Permanent slopes are defined as those where no landfilling activities will be conducted in the future.

2.1 City

The permanent slopes on the City portion of Sunshine Canyon Landfill are located on the closed City South and City North areas of the site where no overliner will be placed during future cell development (Drawing 1 – Sage Mitigation Area). No vegetation activities were conducted on the permanent slopes on the City portion of the site during the first quarter of 2016.

2.2 County

No vegetation activities were conducted on the permanent slope areas on the County portion of the site during the first quarter of 2016. Slope areas at the site formerly designated as permanent are being reviewed to determine which of these slopes are in fact permanent and require vegetation efforts.

3.0 Non-Permanent Cut Slopes

Prior quarterly vegetation reports have illustrated areas located just north of the County portion of the site and one area above the front terminal sedimentation basin as “non-permanent cut slopes”. An evaluation of these areas will be conducted to determine if these areas have been categorized correctly, and what, if any vegetation activities are appropriate for these areas. Non-permanent cut slopes are shown on Drawing 1.

4.0 Activities Conducted in Sage Mitigation Areas – 1Q2016

During the first quarter of 2016, the following activities were conducted in the sage mitigation areas at the landfill.

4.1 City South Sage Pilot Project Area – Deck C

The following activities were conducted:

- Weeding activities.
- Selective pruning of Saltbush.
- Soil samples collected by Architerra personnel from areas where there is little to no growth.

4.2 City South Decks B and A

No activities were conducted on City South Decks A and B.

4.3 County Sage Mitigation Area

The County sage mitigation area is located on the western side of the County portion of Sunshine Canyon Landfill (Drawing 1). No revegetation activities were conducted in this area during the first quarter of 2016, and, as noted in multiple JMA progress reports, the conditions in this mitigation area have remained unchanged for some time.

5.0 Assessments of Sage Mitigation Areas

Assessments of the site's sage mitigation areas are conducted by a qualified biologist on a quarterly basis. The following sections present a summary of the recommendations for the sage mitigation areas from JMA (City and County sage mitigation areas) and Architerra (City South Sage Pilot Project Area (Deck C) and the proposed actions in response to the recommendations.

5.1 JMA Recommendations for City Sage Mitigation Areas

JMA's progress reports for the City Sage Mitigation Areas for the first quarter of 2016 are provided in Attachment 1. These reports include recommendations based on the assessments. Table 1 presents a summary of these recommendations and the proposed actions.

Table 1 – JMA Recommendations and Proposed Actions – City Sage Mitigation Areas, First Quarter 2016

AREA		RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION
LOWER DECK (Deck C)	1	Selectively thin Atriplex vegetation where coastal sage scrub seedlings are present	The contractor hired to perform maintenance activities will continue to address this recommendation throughout 2016
LOWER DECK (Deck C)	2	Terminate irrigation and monitor. Shut off all irrigation	Irrigation was shut off in October 2015
DECKS B AND A (Middle and Upper Decks)	3	Improve root zone and soil conditions	This will be addressed when the plans for Decks B and A are developed. Actions were taken to address improving the root zone in the pilot project area (Deck C); it is expected these same actions will be incorporated into the plans for Decks B and A
DECKS B AND A (Middle and Upper Decks)	4	Plant Natives in Areas Dominated with Non-Natives. Use various planting methods (i.e. container plants and hydroseeding) to re-establish native plants on the middle and upper decks where non-natives currently dominate	This will be addressed when the plans for Decks B and A are developed. Various planting methods were used for the construction of the Pilot project on Deck C; it is expected these same actions will be incorporated into the plans for Decks B and A
DECKS B AND A	5	Weed Control - implement a year-round weed control program to control non-native species	A weed control program is currently in place on Deck C as part of the pilot project and will continue for the duration of the pilot project. A weed control program on Decks B and A will be implemented along with the mitigation plans for these areas
DECKS B AND A	6	Reseeding - apply native seeds during the rainy season after soil mounds have been established	This will be addressed when the plans for Decks B and A are developed
DECKS B AND A	7	Prohibit access - continue to prohibit vehicle access to mitigation areas	Repairs to the T-post fencing will be made as needed

JMA also recommended that a monitoring biologist should be present during weed control activities or the native plants should be flagged to ensure only non-native species are removed. A monitoring biologist will be consulted prior to any weed control activities to ensure native plants are protected.

5.2 JMA Recommendations for County Sage Mitigation Area

Table 2 presents a summary of the recommendations proposed by JMA based on the assessment of the County Sage Mitigation Area and the proposed actions. Please refer to the full recommendations in the JMA reports in Attachment 2.

Table 2 – JMA Recommendations and Proposed Actions – County Sage Mitigation Area, First Quarter 2016

AREA	RECOMMENDATION		PROPOSED ACTION
COUNTY SAGE MITIGATION AREA	1	Create benches to control soil erosion and improve soil conditions to improve plant establishment and seed dispersal	This recommendation will be considered at a later date
COUNTY SAGE MITIGATION AREA	2	Reseed and plant container plants	This recommendation will be considered at a later date
COUNTY SAGE MITIGATION AREA	3	Plant within view sheds	This recommendation will be considered at a later date
COUNTY SAGE MITIGATION AREA	4	Use soil amendments	This recommendation will be considered at a later date
COUNTY SAGE MITIGATION AREA	5	Signage	This recommendation will be considered at a later date
COUNTY SAGE MITIGATION AREA	6	Weed control	This recommendation will be considered at a later date
COUNTY SAGE MITIGATION AREA	7	Prohibit access	This recommendation will be considered at a later date
COUNTY SAGE MITIGATION AREA	8	Employee awareness	This recommendation will be considered at a later date

5.3 Architerra Inspection and Recommendations for City South Sage Mitigation Pilot Project Area – First Quarter 2016

Architerra personnel inspected the pilot project area during the first quarter of 2016. The inspection report is included in Attachment 3 along with photos of the area taken at the photo stations. Recommendations from Architerra are presented in Table 3 below along with the proposed actions.

Table 3 – Architerra Recommendations and Proposed Actions – City South Sage Pilot Project Area, First Quarter 2016

RECOMMENDATION		PROPOSED ACTION
1	Remove the wire cages and staking from the Sambucus Mexicana – Mexican Elderberry.	The landscape maintenance contractor will be informed to remove the wire cages from the Sambucus Mexicana.

5.4 Architerra Design Group, Soil Sample Results, South City Sage Mitigation Pilot Project – First Quarter 2016

Soil samples were collected on January 12, 2015 from areas where there is little to no growth. A map showing the locations where soil samples were collected is included in Attachment 3. Results of the soil analyses are included in Attachment 3.

5.5 Quarterly Assessment of City South Sage Pilot Project Area

The methodology for assessment of the City South Sage Pilot Project Area developed by JMA was included in the first quarter 2015 Vegetation Report. The evaluation report for the first quarter of 2016 based on this methodology is included in Attachment 4.

6.0 Status of Other Vegetated Areas

Big Cone Douglas Fir Tree Mitigation

As reported in the vegetation report for the first quarter of 2015, 200 Big Cone Douglas fir tree saplings were planted the third week of March 2015. These trees continue to be monitored and maintenance activities will be conducted in this mitigation area for the remainder of 2016.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (818) 362-2075 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Ricky Dhupar
Environmental Specialist
Sunshine Canyon Landfill

Cc: Mr. David Thompson, SCL LEA
Mr. Gerardo Villalobos, SCL LEA
Ms. Ly Lam, City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning
Mr. Nicholas Hendricks, City of Los Angeles, Department of City Planning
Dr. Wen Yang, Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Ms. Maria Masis, County of Los Angeles, Department of Regional Planning
Mr. Wayde Hunter, SCL CAC
Mr. Jim Aidukus, UltraSystems
County DPW Landfill Unit

Attachments

Attachment 1	JMA Progress Report, City-Side Sage Mitigation Area
Attachment 2	JMA Progress Report, County-Side Sage Mitigation Area
Attachment 3	Architerra Design Group, Field Observation Report, South City Sage Mitigation Pilot Project – 1Q2016
Attachment 4	JMA Quarterly Monitoring Report - Coastal Sage Scrub Pilot Study, 1Q2016

Drawings

Drawing 1	1Q2016 Site Vegetation Areas
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ATTACHMENT 1



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SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL MITIGATION SITES

Progress Report

City-Side Sage Mitigation Area

Submittal Date: April 7, 2016		Inspection Date: April 25, 2016	
To: Patti Costa		From: Greg Ainsworth, Monitoring Biologist <i>*Prepared on behalf of Republic Services</i>	
Lower Deck			
<p>General Comments: Based on a qualitative visual assessment, the saltbush (<i>Atriplex polycarpa</i> and <i>A. lentiformis</i>) cover continues to increase and is the dominate cover. Other native species such as <i>Encelia Californica</i>, <i>Artemisia californica</i>, and <i>Salvia sp.</i> are also prevalent and interspersed throughout; however, in much less densities. Seedlings of native plants can be found within the Atriplex canopy. Previous thinning activities of <i>Atriplex sp.</i> by the maintenance crew has helped the native species establish. Based on visual observations, the Atriplex appears to provide a good cover for seedlings, but after seedlings are over 10 inches or so, thinning of Atriplex allows for direct sunlight and the plants appear to fill the space rather quickly. Select thinning of Atriplex is proven to be beneficial for recruitment and should continue in select areas as-needed.</p> <p>Numerous wildlife species were observed within the lower deck including spotted towhee, California towhee, black phoebe, western kingbird, sage sparrow, song sparrow, northern mocking bird, Anna's humming bird, and California quail, as well as evidence of small mammals including rodent burrows, rabbit scat, and deer tracks, and reptiles including side-blotched lizard, western whiptail, and western fence lizard.</p>			
Native Plant Cover: <input type="checkbox"/> Dense <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Minimal	Plant Health Issues: <input type="checkbox"/> Disease/pests <input type="checkbox"/> Plant stress <input type="checkbox"/> Herbivory	Height of Native Species: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 0" – 12" <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12" – 24" <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 24" and above	Native Species Richness: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Weed Conditions			
<input type="checkbox"/> Dense weed coverage <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate weed coverage (seeding in high density) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimal weed coverage		<input type="checkbox"/> Weeds germinating /vegetative growth <input type="checkbox"/> Weeds flowering <input type="checkbox"/> Weeds setting seed <input type="checkbox"/> Weed desiccant/dormant	
Comments: Russian thistle (<i>Salsola kali</i>) seedlings are evident throughout the lower deck.			



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Middle Deck

General Comments:

There is no change to report on the Middle Deck from previous monitoring reports. Evidence of seed mix coverage is no longer discernible.

Currently, approximately 30% of the middle deck is dominated by sage scrub plantings/seedlings, 35% by non-native grasses, and approximately 35% is bare ground, much of which appears to be a result of recent grading near the southwest corner for an apparent installation of a gas pipeline. The vegetated areas within the Middle Deck continue to be dominated by non-native herbaceous species such as (but not limited to) brome grasses, wild oats, mustards, and Russian thistle. Russian thistle and desiccant and emergent mustard plants and brome grasses currently dominate the non-native cover. There is a decent mixture of native species to note consisting of California buckwheat (*Eriogonum fasciculatum foliosium*), black sage (*Salvia mellifera*), purple needlegrass (*Nessella pulchra*), California sagebrush, and chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*).

Native Plant Cover:	Plant Health Issues:	Height of Species:	Native Species Richness:
<input type="checkbox"/> Dense	<input type="checkbox"/> Disease/pests	<input type="checkbox"/> 0" – 12"	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low
<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate	<input type="checkbox"/> Plant stress	<input type="checkbox"/> 12" – 24"	<input type="checkbox"/> Medium
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimal	<input type="checkbox"/> Excessive herbivory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 24" and above	<input type="checkbox"/> High

Weed Conditions

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dense weed coverage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weeds germinating /vegetative growth
<input type="checkbox"/> Moderate weed coverage (seeding in high density)	<input type="checkbox"/> Weeds flowering
<input type="checkbox"/> Minimal weed coverage	<input type="checkbox"/> Weeds setting seed
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weed desiccant/dormant

Comments: Non-native grasses and forbs consisting of brome grasses, wild oats (*Avena fatua*), mustard, and Russian thistle dominate the vegetation cover within the middle deck. Annual grasses are currently dormant, while Russian thistle is thriving.

UPPER DECK

General Comments: Overall, the upper deck continues to be sparsely covered with native vegetation, and total vegetation coverage is sparse due to compacted and poor soil conditions. Specifically, the soils to the north of the central access road are heavily compacted and gravelly and vegetation coverage in this area is especially sparse. Evidence of previous seeding is no longer discernible.

Russian thistle and brome grasses generally dominate the non-native cover throughout the upper deck. Buckwheat dominates areas where natives are present. Natural recruitment is low, due to poor soil conditions and a general lack of water. Russian thistle and brome grass seedlings are currently present throughout the upper deck where vegetation is present.



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Native Plant Cover: <input type="checkbox"/> Dense <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minimal	Plant Health Issues: <input type="checkbox"/> Disease/pests <input type="checkbox"/> Plant stress <input type="checkbox"/> Excessive herbivory	Height of Species: <input type="checkbox"/> 0" – 12" <input type="checkbox"/> 12" – 24" <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 24" and above	Native Species Richness: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Weed Conditions			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dense weed coverage <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate weed coverage (seeding in high density) <input type="checkbox"/> Minimal weed coverage		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weeds germinating /vegetative growth <input type="checkbox"/> Weeds flowering <input type="checkbox"/> Weeds setting seed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Weed desiccant/dormant	
Comments: Weeds continue to grow without any level of control within the upper deck. Currently, Russian thistle is abundant.			



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RECOMMENDATIONS

Lower Deck

- **Selectively thin Atriplex vegetation where coastal sage scrub seedlings are present.**

Closely monitor the seedlings that are growing within the understory of the Atriplex plants. Currently, the Atriplex plants are providing shade and good growing conditions for seedlings of coastal sage scrub species to become established. However, as the seedlings grow, the Atriplex plants should be thinned to reduce competition for space, water and available nutrients and to allow sunlight to reach the seedlings to increase photosynthesis.

- **Terminate irrigation and monitor.** Shut off all irrigation. It may be necessary to irrigate during extensive periods of hot and dry weather conditions; however, this should be determined based on close inspection of the soil moisture.

Middle and Upper Decks

- **Improve root zone and soil conditions.** Continue to investigate ways to import the soil layer to improve the root penetration and saturation zone to enable plant growth in heavily compacted areas. Consider applying soil in random undulations or uneven mounds to improve soil porosity and filtration and to control soluble salts from leaching from existing layer.

If permissible, prior to seeding (broadcast, hydroseeding, or drilling) native species, incorporate a soil amendment or mulch with high organic content by tilling into the top 12 inches of the existing compacted soils to improve soil texture, drainage, porosity, and aerobic conditions. If an organic mulch or soil amendment is not feasible or available, incorporate available soil from on-borrow sites within the landfill that have the appropriate, so long as these borrowed soils have been determined to not have toxic conditions such as boron or high salinity.

- **Plant Natives in Areas Dominated with Non-natives.** The vegetated areas on the middle deck that are currently dominated with annual, non-native species have decent soil-texture conditions. These areas are not near as compacted as adjacent areas that are gravelly and mostly void of vegetation. In general, the soil texture within the vegetated areas with non-native vegetation is friable down to approximately 8-12 inches in depth. Various planting methods (i.e., planting container plants and hydroseeding) may be used to re-establish native plants on the middle and upper decks where non-natives currently dominate. A temporary irrigation source would aid in establishing container plants and a consistent weed abatement program is important to control non-native species so that native can thrive and regenerate.

- **Weed control.** Implement a year-round weed control program to control non-native species. The weed control program should incorporate both chemical and mechanical control practices. Following weed control, any dead material harboring seeds should be removed to an off-site location to the extent feasible.

A monitoring biologist should be present during weed control activities or flag the native plants that should remain to ensure only non-native species are removed. A biologist should verify that



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the weed removal methodology is sound and does not encourage re-colonizing of non-natives. Weeding is best performed just before, or at the onset of flowering, but before seed set. If seeds are already present, additional care should be taken to remove the plants with the seeds attached, or the seeds should be removed from the plants prior to the plant removal. A consistent weed abatement schedule will reduce the potential for non-natives to set seed. Soil disturbance should be limited by hand weeding, where possible, and weeds should be disposed of off-site to avoid any reinfestation through reseeding or from plant propagules. If hand weeding is not possible, the monitoring biologist should be consulted regarding the appropriate method of weed removal. If there continues to be high incidence of weed infestation, weed control may need to be increased to every four to six weeks. Otherwise, weeds should continue to be monitored and controlled on a quarterly basis.

- **Reseeding.** Following the application of soil mounds as previously described, apply native seed (by means of broadcast seeding, hydroseeding or drilling) during the rainy season, between December and March, or prior to a forecasted rain event.
- **Prohibit access.** Continue to prohibit vehicle access to mitigation areas.



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Progress Report

City-Side Sage Mitigation Area

Photo Locations





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Progress Report

City-Side Sage Mitigation Area



Photo 1. Facing west at lower deck at Atriplex species that dominate the vegetation cover.



Photo 2. Facing east at lower deck from western boundary.



Photo 3. Facing east at middle deck with lower deck visible in background. View of non-native and native plant composition with areas of bare ground in the foreground.






Photo 4. Facing west at the easterly-facing slope located between middle and upper decks. The vegetation on the slopes below the upper deck are dominated with mustard and brome grasses. Buckwheat is present in patches as depicted in the foreground of this photograph.



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Progress Report

City-Side Sage Mitigation Area

	
<p>Photo 5. Facing northeast at upper deck. This area is compacted and gravelly and continues to be problematic for supporting vegetation. Non-native grasses and some CA buckwheat shrubs are evident in the background.</p>	<p>Photo 6. Facing southwest at upper deck. The area shown in this photo is dominated by annual non-native grasses; however, some natives such as California buckwheat are present.</p>
	
<p>Photo 7. Facing south at the upper deck at the disturbed area that is currently dominated with Russian thistle seedlings and brome grasses.</p>	

ATTACHMENT 2



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SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL MITIGATION SITES

Progress Report

County-Side Sage Mitigation Area

Submittal Date: April 7, 2016	Inspection Date: April 25, 2016
To: Patti Costa	From: Greg Ainsworth, Monitoring Biologist <i>*Prepared on behalf of Republic Services</i>
STATUS OF HYDROSEEDING	
Conditions: <input type="checkbox"/> Fully covered <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately covered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Barely covered	
Comments: Conditions on the county-side sage mitigation area remain unchanged. Areas that are moderately covered with vegetation (native and non-native) are concentrated. A substantial portion of the county-side mitigation area continues to be bare and problematic for establishment of vegetation, primarily because of highly eroded soils, steep slopes and toxic soils (See Recommendations). Native plant coverage is similar to the previous quarterly monitoring reports. The southern-half of the mitigation area contains the most vegetation that is noteworthy, which consists of the highest concentration of native species (mostly buckwheat, <i>Eriogonum</i>). Native plant coverage is assumed to be a direct result of hydroseeding; however, some natural recruitment is apparent based on the dense cover where native vegetation is present and the various sizes of shrubs. Due to rocky (hydrophobic) soil conditions, soil erosion and Boron toxic soils on the northern-half of the county-side mitigation area, minimal plant growth is present.	
SEED MIX	
Conditions: <input type="checkbox"/> No sign of germination <input type="checkbox"/> No cover of native plants from seed mix <input type="checkbox"/> Sparse cover of native plants from seed mix	<input type="checkbox"/> Dense cover of native plants from seed mix <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moderate cover of native plants from seed mix (where vegetation is present)
Comments: Similar to the hydroseeded areas, the other areas that are moderately covered with vegetation are concentrated. A substantial portion of the county-side mitigation area continues to be bare and problematic for vegetation to become established. However, in areas where vegetation is present, there is a moderate coverage of native species, mostly California buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum fasciculatum</i>).	



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Germination and plant growth from hydroseeding or seed mix is not discernible. Similar to previous monitoring periods, a moderate cover of native plants exists within vegetated areas. Annual non-native grasses and forbs currently dominate the understory and serve as ground cover in most of the vegetated areas. Brome grasses and shortpod mustard (*Hirschfeldia incana*) comprise approximately 25 percent of the total cover. California buckwheat dominates the native vegetation with California sagebrush (*Artemisia californica*) as a co-dominant; comprising of approximately 75 percent of the native vegetation cover (in areas where vegetation is present). Other less dominant native species observed include golden bush (*Ericameria linearifolia*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), black sage (*Salvia millifera*), laurel sumac (*Malosma laurina*) and a small cluster of arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) trees that continue to thrive along the v-ditch that extends east-west through the center of the mitigation site.

OVERALL NATIVE PLANT CONDITIONS

Plant Cover: [] Dense [X] Moderate [] Minimal	Plant Health Issues: [] Disease/pests [] Plant stress [] Excessive herbivory	Height: [] 0" – 12" [X] 12" – 24" [] 24" and above	Species Richness: [] Low [X] Medium [] High
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Comments:

It should be noted that the plant cover rating above applies where vegetation is dominant in the southeastern portion of the mitigation area. Vegetation cover is moderate in the southeastern portion of the county-sage mitigation area and sparser along the upper slopes where rocky conditions occur. The majority of the northern and upper portions of the mitigation area continue to have minimal coverage. Bare areas and non-native annual grasses are intermixed; however, the northern and upper areas continue to be mostly bare where erosion and rocks are apparent. Native vegetation coverage is good in vegetated areas and the amount of non-native grasses that are present is expected when compared to sparsely covered areas of California buckwheat in the region.

As indicated previously, California buckwheat dominates the native cover with *Encelia californica* as a co-dominant. Establishment of vegetation is problematic due to rocky soils with poor soil structure, and boron toxicity has made plant growth (i.e., seed germination and recruitment) difficult. The species richness is low to medium within vegetated areas; however, species richness is considerably low when considering the entire county-sage mitigation area.

WEED CONDITIONS

Conditions: [] Dense weed coverage [X] Moderate weed coverage (seeding in high density) [] Minimal weed coverage	[] Weeds germinating [] Weeds flowering [] Weeds setting seed [X] Weed desiccant/dormant
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Comments:

Annual, non-native weed species consist primarily of brome grasses (*Bromus* sp.), shortpod mustard, and wild oats (*Avena fatua*). Other established weeds that were observed include red-stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*) and (native) telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*).



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Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*) and tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), which are scattered within the vegetated areas, but in less densities.

MISCELLANEOUS

Conditions:☐ Trash☐ Vandalism☐ Erosion**Comments:**

None

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Create benches.** Consider creation of benches throughout the mitigation area to control soil erosion and to improve soil conditions to improve plant establishment and seed dispersal. This technique has been widely used on steep slopes and in areas where soil erosion is problematic. This technique also allows for opportunities to introduce a high quality soil layer above the poor soils that exist.
- **Reseed and plant container plants.** If creation of benches is feasible, planting methods should include Hydroseeding and broadcast seeding just before a forecasted rain event and planting with container plants with supplemental irrigation during the period of establishment. Container plants should only be planted if temporary irrigation source is available.
- **Plant within view sheds.** Consider planting native species on upper portion of the slope that is visible from public view sheds with appropriate native species. Planting should occur prior to fall/winter rains.
- **Use soil amendments.** Incorporate a soil amendment or mulch with high organic content in select areas as determined by a restoration specialist.
- **Signage.** Install signs indicating that the area is undergoing revegetation.
- **Weed control.** Continue weed control program as needed on a quarterly basis.
- **Prohibit access.** Continue to prohibit vehicle access to mitigation area. Extend fencing around southeastern and southern boundary of lower deck and review fencing on the upper deck to determine if additional area can be reasonably enclosed.
- **Employee awareness.** Conduct an employee awareness program to inform staff on the importance of preserving all restoration areas.



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Progress Report

County-Side Sage Mitigation Area

Photo Locations



Progress Report

County-Side Sage Mitigation Area



Photo 1. Facing west at established sage scrub on the southern half of the county-side mitigation area. Vegetation is dominated with CA buckwheat, with scattered California sunflower (*Encelia californica*). Annual, non-native grasses and forbs dominate the ground cover, as well as Russian thistle.



Photo 2. Facing west at the bare slope on the northern-half of the county-sage mitigation area. Plant growth remains to be problematic due to erosion, a hard soil surface layer, and boron toxicity.

ATTACHMENT 3



ARCHITERRA design group

landscape architecture and planning

ARCHITERRA DESIGN GROUP

FIELD OBSERVATION REPORT

DATE OF VISIT:	4/12/16
PROJECT:	Sunshine Canyon Mitigation Sites
PROJECT NUMBER:	1214
PROJECT MANAGER:	Gregg Denson
SITE INSPECTION #:	
PURPOSE OF VISIT:	Review site conditions/Photo Catalog/Soil Sampling
TIME OF SITE VISIT:	10:00am
WEATHER/TEMPERATURE:	Clear, Warm 70°
ESTIMATED % COMPLETED:	100%
CONFORMANCE WITH SCHEDULE (+, -)	

WORK IN PROGRESS:	Weed abatement / Monitoring Period
PRESENT ON SITE:	Gregg Denson

A walk through was held this date to review plant establishment of Trial Site, Photo Catalog current growth and review weed abatement. Additional items noted during the site visit are as follows:

City-Side Sage Mitigation (Trial Site):

- Many of the CSS species that have emerged from the canopy of the Saltbush are significantly benefitting from the selective pruning. While there was some defoliation in the Fall due to the change in solar exposure, many of the plants have rebounded and are flourishing with new growth and bloom. Selective pruning has proven to help these plants expand their growth. We recommend a review of the site with the landscape maintenance personnel so that additional locations can be tagged and identified for future removals.
- The drainage swales within the trial site appear to have the most biodiversity of plant species and continue to expand outward, helping to fill in more of the deck area. However, there are still a few areas where vegetation is limited and new germination is non-existent. This may be a result of the existing soil conditions or limited saturation due to runoff.
- There are some areas where Russian Thistle (*Salsola* spp.) and *Hirschfeldia incana* – Shortpod Mustard is actively growing and sprouting within the trial site area. Ample weeding/spraying needs to occur to reduce numbers. Also present, is the *Hordeum murinum* – False Barley/Mouse Barley, an invasive grass. This grass should be removed as soon as possible to reduce increased weed seed. Tree Tobacco and Eucalyptus seedlings should also be removed.
- Soil samples were collected and tested to compare the current soils conditions to those of the pre-plant sampling that was done in May 2013. The May 2013 results were collected prior to any leaching done by irrigation. The March 2016 results can be found at the end of this report. In general, the soils have remained for the most part unchanged since the pre-plant tests of May 2013. All soils tests came back with elevated salinity in the soils and slightly acidic pH values with the middle deck portion coming in with a moderately acidic pH value of 5.1. In addition, Boron is elevated on the middle deck sample. When comparing these recent results to the pre-construction soils tests completed in June 2012, the salinity and boron levels remain well below those negative levels found prior to the application of soil amendments. It is safe to say that the soil amendments helped to correct some of the existing conditions, however leeching by irrigation and natural rainfall has not continued to lower the salinity. As noted in the soils report and in Robert Perry's write up from March 2014, "the soil remediation actions provide a short-term benefit...ultimately the chemistry of the parent soils will continue to dominate the species success and hierarchy of growth across the site."

- It is recommended that the landscape maintenance personnel remove the wire cages and staking from the *Sambucus Mexicana* - Mexican Elderberry. At this time the remaining living plants have established and do not require protection from browsing.
- Prior to planting the Trial Site in 2013, the following species were noted as "poor performers from seed" by the seed provider S&S Seeds: *Hazardia squarrosa*, *Baccharis pilularis*, *Adenostoma fasciculatum*, *Eriodictyon trichocalyx*, *Castilleja exserta*, *Leymus triticoides*, *Chrysothamnus nauseosus* and *Isomeris arborea*. With the exception of *Leymus triticoides*, the other varieties have not been observed at the Trial Site. Future efforts to reseed the remaining decks and slopes may consider either removing these species from the seed list or planting some of the species via containers, such as the case with the *Baccharis pilularis*. The more salt-tolerant *Leymus triticoides* has established well within the lower swale zone along the north edge of the Trial Site.
- Ants were observed at the east end of the trial site and appear to be a different species than the Western Harvester Ants noticed last Fall.
- Overall, the Trial Site looks healthy with blooming CSS natives and new seedlings emerging from this last winter's rain. Selective pruning has helped provide the exposure needed for the natives to expand, bloom and eventually seed. Site continues to fill in on cover density and is expanding in biodiversity of species and quantities of CSS plants.



Example of invasive Russian Thistle (*Salsola* spp.) emerging from seed.



Blooming California Poppy.



Example of invasive *Hordeum murinum* – False Barley/Mouse Barley and Shortpod Mustard - *Hirschfeldia incana*

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Example of Coast Sunflower (*Encelia californica*) benefitting from more exposure from selective pruning

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Blooming Sticky Monkey Flower



Blooming Coast Sunflower and Purple Sage.

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Blooming Purple Sage (*Salvia leucophylla*)


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Established native *Leymus triticoides* – Creeping Wild Rye within swale on north side of Trial Site.



Red ants observed at the eastern side of the Trial Site.

Signed:  Date: 4/18/16

DISTRIBUTION

Republic Services



Contractor



File ☒ Project Manager (Gregg Denson)



Other ☐



Photo Station #1 - April 2015 (East)



Photo Station #1 - April 2016 (East)



Photo Station #1 - April 2015 (North)



Photo Station #1 - April 2016 (North)



Photo Station #1 - April 2015 (West)



Photo Station #1 - April 2016 (West)



Photo Station #2 - April 2015 (East)



Photo Station #2 - April 2016 (East)



Photo Station #2 - April 2015 (North)



Photo Station #2 - April 2016 (North)



Photo Station #2 - April 2015 (South)



Photo Station #2 - April 2015 (South)



Photo Station #3 - April 2015 (East)



Photo Station #3 - April 2016 (East)



Photo Station #3 - April 2015 (North)



Photo Station #3 - April 2016 (North)



Photo Station #3 - April 2015 (West)



Photo Station #3 - April 2016 (West)



Photo Station #4 - April 2015 (South)



Photo Station #4 - April 2016 (South)



Photo Station #4 - April 2015 (East)



Photo Station #4 - April 2016 (East)



Photo Station #4 - April 2015 (West)



Photo Station #4 - April 2016 (West)



Photo Station #5 - April 2015 (East)



Photo Station #5 - April 2016 (East)



Photo Station #5 April 2015 (North)



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Photo Station #8 - April 2016 (South)



Photo Station #8 - April 2015 (West)



Photo Station #8 - April (West)



Photo Station #9 - April 2015 (East)



Photo Station #9 - April 2016 (East)



Photo Station #9 - April 2015 (North)



Photo Station #9 - April 2016 (North)



Photo Station #9 - April 2015 (West)



Photo Station #9 - April 2016 (West)



Anaheim office
Lab No: 16-062-0008
March 11, 2016

Architerra Design Group, Inc.
10221-A Trademark ST.
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Attn: Gregg

SUNSHINE CANYON TRAIL - SYLMAR

Attached are the results of the analyses performed on three soil samples that were collected from the above mentioned project site by the client and received by our laboratory on March 2, 2016. These samples represent areas in which California natives have been installed and were analyzed for general chemistry and nutrients.

Analytical Results:

Salinity is elevated in all three samples at levels that could cause a broad range of plants to show burning of foliage and poor growth performance. These levels range from 7.0 dS/m in the 'Lower Deck' sample to 11.9 dS/m in the 'Mid Deck' sample. The greatest contributors to elevated salinity in all three samples are elevated soluble magnesium and sulfate. This, along with pH values that are lower than typical for our area, strongly suggests that these soils are derived, at least in part, from the Capistrano formation. These soils are typically high in salts, particularly magnesium and sulfate, and sometimes boron. A low pH value is also commonly seen in that soil type.

In the 'Lower Deck' and 'Upper Deck' samples, boron is safely low. Boron is elevated in the 'Mid Deck' sample at 1.37 parts per million (ppm), which could cause some plants to show tip and edge burning of foliage, beginning on the oldest growth.

The sodium adsorption ratio (SAR) values are safely low throughout, indicating that sodium is properly balanced by calcium and magnesium in regards to its effect on soil structure and water infiltration.

All of the major and minor nutrients are present at levels that would be at or above sufficient ranges for general ornamentals and are, in fact, higher than preferred for native species.

The 'Lower Deck' and 'Upper Deck' samples are slightly acidic in reaction with pH values of 6.9 and 6.6, respectively. This should not present an issue for native plants. The moderately acidic pH of 5.1 in the 'Mid Deck' sample is lower than preferred for most plants, including natives.

Comments

To address elevated salinity levels, thorough leaching irrigations should be applied. Be sure to allow the soil to dry slightly between irrigations to avoid creating anaerobic soil conditions and/or an environment that favors root diseases. Drainage must be sufficient for leaching to be effective.

We estimate that approximately 4 inches of water should move through the soil profile in the 'Lower Deck' and 'Upper Deck' areas and approximately 6 inches of water in the 'Mid Deck' area, to bring salinity to safely low levels in the root zone. This amount of leaching should also bring boron to a safely low level in the root zone in the 'Mid Deck' area.



Page 2
Architerra Design Group
March 11, 2016

Comments Continued

Keep in mind that as salts are flushed out of the root zone, the subsoil likely to remain saline. After leaching, you may wish to consider to submit additional samples to be analyzed for salinity only (Waypoint Analytical testing code A11) to determine if additional leaching is necessary.

In the 'Mid Deck' area, consider broadcasting calcium carbonate lime at a rate of 10 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. prior to leaching. This should help to adjust the pH upward in that area. However, lime does not move through the soil readily and will likely only affect the top few inches. The pH through much of the root zone is likely to remain moderately acidic but a pH adjustment in the top few inches may provide some benefit.

If we can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact us.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason Gihring".

Jason Gihring

Emailed: gdenison@architerraesigngroup.com

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SOIL FERTILITY AND MICRONUTRIENT ANALYSIS

Project :Sunshine Canyon Trial
Site Job: #1214

Report No : 16-062-0008
Purchase Order 1214
: Date Printed : 03/09/2016
Date Recd : 03/02/2016

Sample Description - Sample Id - Plant Name	HalfSat %	pH s.u.	NO ₃ -N ppm	NH ₄ -N ppm	PO ₄ -P ppm	K ppm	Ca ppm	Mg ppm	Cu ppm	Zn ppm	Mn ppm	Fe ppm	B ppm	SO ₄ meq/L	Na meq/L	Sat'dn K meq/L	Excd Ca meq/L	Cl meq/L	ECE ds/m	OM %	Lab No
	TEC	Qual. Lime	Sufficiency Factor										Sufficiency Factor	meq/L	(SAR)	meq/L	Mg meq/L				
Lower Deck	16	6.9	53	24	17	173	450	294	1.3	3.6	23	55	0.51	91.1	21.8	2.0	19.8		7.0		30947
	32	None	2.5		0.9	2.3	0.8	3.8	3.3	2.3	6.6	3.6	1.7	30.4	(3.62)		52.9				
Upper Deck	13	6.6	20	13	14	150	708	276	1.0	2.7	23	90	0.49	92.0	20.8	3.1	19.3		7.5		30948
	43	None	1.3		0.9	1.9	1.0	2.8	1.8	1.2	4.8	4.3	1.6	30.7	(3.21)		64.5				
Mid Deck	15	5.1	18	22	14	95	607	383	1.6	5.3	84	143	1.37	238.0	32.4	2.3	25.5		11.9		30949
	44	None	1.4		0.8	1.5	0.8	3.8	2.8	2.5	17.8	6.8	4.6	79.3	(4.90)		62.1				

Sufficiency factor (1.0=sufficient for average crop) below each nutrient value. N factor based on 200 ppm constant feed. The value below sodium (Na) result is the SAR = Sodium adsorption ratio. Half Saturation %=approx field moisture capacity. Major elements, Nitrogen(N), Potassium(K), Calcium(Ca) and Magnesium(Mg) by sodium chloride extraction. Phosphorus(P) by sodium bicarbonate extraction. Copper(Cu), Zinc(Zn), Manganese(Mn) & Iron(Fe) by DTPA extraction. TEC(listed below Half Sat.) = Est.Total Exchangeable Cations (meq/kg).

* **LOW**, SUFFICIENT, **HIGH**



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Preferred Soils Testing Sampling Areas

GRADING NOTES

1. ALL GRADING SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LA COUNTY GRADING CODE AND ANY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS OF THE GRADING PERMIT.
2. ALL DRAIN SWALES SHALL HAVE A 1% MINIMUM SLOPE @ FLOWLINE.
3. PRIOR TO GRADING AND IMPORTING OF SOILS, ALL EXISTING GAS LINES AND RELATED UTILITIES SHALL BE LOCATED AND MARKED. OPEN CUTOFFS FOR OR PLACEMENT OF WHICH SOILS, STAKES SHALL BE PLACED. ALL PLANTING MATERIAL IS TO BE PLACED AND INSTALLED.
4. FINISH GRADE SHALL BE ONE FOOT BELOW FINISH SURFACE OF SIDEWALK, CURB, OR PAVED AREAS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.
5. FINISH GRADE SHALL HAVE A UNIFORM SURFACE, FREE FROM ALL DEPRESSIONS AND ALL DEPRESSIONS SHALL BE A MINIMUM OF 10% TO CORRECTION, PLANTING OR MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS.
6. ALL AREAS ARE TO BE FREE OF ROCKS, DEBRIS, ETC. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. ALL EXISTING UTILITIES SHALL BE REMOVED PRIOR TO GRADING OR IMPORTING OF SOILS.
7. IMPORT SOIL SHALL ONLY OCCUR WITHIN THE PLANTING AREA OF THE GRADED AREA. IMPORT SOIL SHALL NOT BE PLACED ON THE GRADING OR PLANTING AREA. DO NOT IMPORT SOILS WITHIN THE GRADING OR PLANTING AREA.
8. IMPORT SOIL GRADING SHALL NOT COVER ANY OF THE EXISTING ON-GRADE GAS LINES. CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LOCATION OF ALL EXISTING GAS LINES. FIELD CONDITIONS MAY VARY FROM THE GRADING PLAN PRIOR TO IMPORTING OF SOILS.

GRADING ABBREVIATIONS

AD	AREA DRAIN	OC	ON CENTER
BL	BLIND	PA	PLAN AREA
BR	BOTTOM RAMP	R	RADIUS
CL	CENTERLINE	SQ	SQUARE
EL	ELEVATION	TC	TOP OF CURB
FF	FINISH FLOOR FINISH	TCB	TOP OF CATCH BASIN
FG	FINISH GRADE	TCF	TOP OF FINISH
FL	FLOWLINE	TCC	TOP OF CURB
FS	FINISH SURFACE	TCP	TOP OF PLANTING
FP	FINISH PAVEMENT	TSP	TOP OF STEP
FW	FINISH WALL	TW	TYPICAL
MC	MEET IN CONTRACT		

GRADING LEGEND

- 1725 EXISTING GROUND LINE
- 1725 PROPOSED GROUND LINE
- 1725 PROPOSED FINISH GRADE
- 1725 PROPOSED FINISH GRADE

EARTHWORK NOTES:
IMPORT SOILS REQUIRED FOR GRADING OPERATIONS INDICATED HEREON WILL BE PROVIDED BY OWNER AND DELIVERED TO SITE. CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CALCULATING EARTHWORK QUANTITIES FOR BUDGET. QUANTITIES SHOWN BELOW ARE APPROXIMATE.

SOIL PREPARATION/AMENDMENT NOTES:

- PRIOR TO GRADING:**
APPLY CALCIUM GARDENITE LINE, INCORPORATE INTO THE TOP OF THE EXISTING SOIL OR CLAY. APPLY A 1% MINIMUM SLOPE TO THE EXISTING SOIL OR CLAY. DO NOT LET THE SOIL OR CLAY BE EXPOSED TO THE AIR. DO NOT LET THE SOIL OR CLAY BE EXPOSED TO THE AIR. DO NOT LET THE SOIL OR CLAY BE EXPOSED TO THE AIR.
- AFTER IMPORT OF SOIL:**
APPLY TRIPLE SUPER PHOSPHATE (0-45-0) TO THE TOP OF THE EXISTING SOIL OR CLAY. APPLY A 1% MINIMUM SLOPE TO THE EXISTING SOIL OR CLAY. DO NOT LET THE SOIL OR CLAY BE EXPOSED TO THE AIR. DO NOT LET THE SOIL OR CLAY BE EXPOSED TO THE AIR. DO NOT LET THE SOIL OR CLAY BE EXPOSED TO THE AIR.
- AFTER FINE GRADING:**
APPLY TRIPLE SUPER PHOSPHATE (0-45-0) TO THE TOP OF THE EXISTING SOIL OR CLAY. APPLY A 1% MINIMUM SLOPE TO THE EXISTING SOIL OR CLAY. DO NOT LET THE SOIL OR CLAY BE EXPOSED TO THE AIR. DO NOT LET THE SOIL OR CLAY BE EXPOSED TO THE AIR. DO NOT LET THE SOIL OR CLAY BE EXPOSED TO THE AIR.
- IMPROVE NITROGEN LEVELS:**
APPLY NITROGEN FERTILIZER TO THE TOP OF THE EXISTING SOIL OR CLAY. APPLY A 1% MINIMUM SLOPE TO THE EXISTING SOIL OR CLAY. DO NOT LET THE SOIL OR CLAY BE EXPOSED TO THE AIR. DO NOT LET THE SOIL OR CLAY BE EXPOSED TO THE AIR. DO NOT LET THE SOIL OR CLAY BE EXPOSED TO THE AIR.

CONSTRUCTION LEGEND

1. FENCING ENCLOSURE USING T-SHAPE POSTS AND RAILING BY OTHERS.
2. PAVED ACCESS POINT TO VEHICULAR ACCESS ROAD BY OTHERS.
3. INSTALL 2" LONG 1/4" DIA. FENCING POSTS AT 6' ON CENTER ALONG THE PERIMETER OF THE GRADING AREA. INSTALL 1/4" DIA. FENCING POSTS AT 6' ON CENTER ALONG THE PERIMETER OF THE GRADING AREA. INSTALL 1/4" DIA. FENCING POSTS AT 6' ON CENTER ALONG THE PERIMETER OF THE GRADING AREA.
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BOULDER SIZING CHART

SIZE RANGE	BOULDER SIZE
18" x 24"	A
24" x 36"	B
36" x 48"	C
48" x 60"	D

Underground Service Alert

Call TOLL FREE
1-800
422-4133
TWO WORKING DAYS BEFORE YOU DIG

PLAN CROSS REFERENCES

FOR NOTES AND LEGENDS, SEE THIS SHEET
FOR DETAILS, SEE SHEET L-3
FOR CORRESPONDING IRRIGATION PLAN SEE SHEET L-5
FOR CORRESPONDING PLANTING PLAN SEE SHEET L-7



CITY SOUTH C TRAIL PLOT
SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL
14747 SAN FERNANDO ROAD
SYLMAR, CA 91342

SHEET TITLE

GRADING AND
CONSTRUCTION PLAN

REVISION

1. 1/20/2011
2. 1/20/2011
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ATTACHMENT 4

memorandum



date April 26, 2016

to Patty Costa, Sunshine Canyon Landfill

from Greg Ainsworth, Consulting Biologist

subject Coastal Sage Scrub City South C Trial Plot Monitoring Report, Sunshine Canyon Landfill – 1st Quarter, 2016

INTRODUCTION

On April 7, 2016, biologist Greg Ainsworth monitored the coastal sage scrub revegetation area at the Landfill's City South 'C' Trial Plot, which constitutes the first quarter monitoring of the trial plot for 2016. The sampling generally followed the methodology described in the *Methodology for Monitoring Percent Cover and Species Richness within Each Seeded Application Method on the Coastal Sage Scrub Pilot Project at the Sunshine Canyon Landfill* (JMA, April 23, 2014). However, some modifications to the methodology were implemented. The **quadrat** sampling included four 50-meter quadrats that were randomly sampled within each of the three seeded areas: hydroseed, imprint and hand broadcast. These quadrats were randomly selected from a grid that was placed over the entire trial plot and each quadrat was delineated with wood stakes and flagging prior to sampling. As shown on the attached planting plan, each quadrat that was sampled was given a corresponding letter from AL.

A total of 200 meters was sampled for each of the three seeded areas. The following data was collected for each quadrat:

- **Percent basil cover (shrubs)** – Visual estimate of the amount of basil cover within each quadrat for all shrub species.
- **Percent basil cover (herbs)** – Visual estimate of the amount of basil cover within each quadrat for all herb species.
- **Percent bare ground** – Visual estimate of the amount of available bare ground with no vegetation, but suitable for plant growth.
- **Percent rock or other** – Visual estimate of the amount of unavailable ground for supporting plant growth. Inhibitors generally included rocks and boulders, irrigation lines and valve boxes, and mulch.
- **Percent canopy** – Visual estimate of the percent canopy of each shrub and herbaceous species.
- **Photographs** – A photograph was taken from the southwest corner (facing northeast) of each quadrat.

To obtain estimate cover of each species, the **point intercept** method was conducted at 50 meter transects along the perimeter of each 50 square meter quadrats (A-L). A total of four transects were walked within each planting method (hydroseed, imprint and hand broadcast). Points were taken at approximately every 0.5 meters, while moving clockwise from the southwest corner of each quadrat. The species located precisely at every 0.5 meter point was noted.

RESULTS

Below are the average data collected for the hydroseed, imprint, and hand broadcast application areas. The number in parenthesis represents the previous quarterly monitoring results.

Quadrat Sampling:

Average Hydroseed – Quadrats A, B, C, D

Percent basil cover (shrubs) – 11% (11%)

Percent basil cover (herbs) – 3% (4%)

Percent bare ground – 46% (48%)

Percent rock or other – 4% (4%)

Percent canopy (shrub) – 60% (58%)

Percent canopy (herb) – 2% (1%)

Average Imprint – Quadrats E, F, G H

Percent basil cover (shrubs) – 15% (15%)

Percent basil cover (herbs) – 5% (6%)

Percent bare ground – 60% (61%)

Percent rock or other – 7% (6%)

Percent canopy (shrub) – 50% (47%)

Percent canopy (herb) – 2% (1%)

Average Hand Broadcast – Quadrats I, J, K L (average)

Percent basil cover (shrubs) – 23% (21%)

Percent basil cover (herbs) – 20% (19%)

Percent bare ground – 30% (34%)

Percent rock or other – 4% (4%)

Percent canopy (shrub) – 70%

(68%) Percent canopy (herb) – 15%

(13%) **Point Intercept**

The representation of each species within a quadrat was estimated by broad cover classes (<1%, 1-5%, 5-25%, 25-50%, 50-75% and >75%). The percent cover of each species based on the point intercept method is as follows:

Hydroseed– Quadrats A, B, C, D (average)

Species	% Cover Shrub	% Cover Herb
Acmispon glaber	1%	
Adenostema fasciculatum		
Achillia mellifoluim		
Artemisia californica	1%	
Atriplex lentiformis	37%	
Atriplex polycarpa	15%	
Atriplex spinosa	1%	
Baccharis pilularis	1%	
Encelia californica	1%	
Eschscholzia californica		
Leymus triticoides		1%
Mimulus aurantiacus longiflorus		
Nasella pulchra		
Other herb		2%
Salvia mellifera	1%	
Sisyrinchium bellum		
Vulpia microstachys		
Echinochloa crus-galli		
Salsola kali	1%	

Imprint – Quadrats E, F, G H (average)

Species	% Cover Shrub	% Cover Herb
Adenostema fasciculatum		
Achillia mellifoluim		
Artemisia californica	1%	
Atriplex lentiformis	23%	
Atriplex polycarpa	20%	
Atriplex spinosa	1%	
Baccharis pilularis	1%	
Encelia californica	1%	
Eschscholzia californica		
Eriogonum fasciculatum	1%	
Leymus triticoides		
Mimulus aurantiacus longiflorus		
Nasella pulchra		
Other herb		4%

Sisyrinchium bellum	
Salvia apiana	1%
Salvia leucophylla	1%
Salvia mellifera	1%
Echinochloa crus-galli	
Salsola kali	1%

Hand Broadcast – Quadrats I, J, K L (average)

Species	% Cover Shrub	% Cover Herb
Adenostema fasciculatum	1%	
Achillia mellifoluim		
Artemisia californica	1%	
Atriplex lentiformis	40%	
Atriplex polycarpa	16%	
Atriplex spinosa		
Baccharis pilularis	5%	
Encelia californica		
Eschscholzia californica		
Leymus triticoides		1%
Mimulus aurantiacus longiflorus		
Nasella pulchra		
Other herb		4%
Salvia apiana	1%	
Salvia leucophylla	1%	
Salvia mellifera	1%	
Sisyrinchium bellum		
Echinochloa crus-galli		
Vulpia microstachys		
Salsola kali		

DISCUSSION

There was little noticeable change in the percent cover of shrub species overall. Annual grass seedlings were present, predominantly in low-lying areas where water pools; and seeding of non-native species, such as Russian thistle (*Salsola kali*) were also prevalent. The overall native shrub canopy continues to be overwhelmingly dominated by saltbush throughout the pilot study area, and densities have increased in areas where water flows in quadrats J and K. Selective thinning of *Atriplex* has helped native shrubs to fill out; whereas dense stands are suppressing native seedlings from establishing. Previous weed removal has maintained the spread non-native barnyard grass and Russian thistle from the pilot study area. The shrub cover is dominated by *Atriplex* and has increased in most test plots. Natives such as *Encelia californica* were in bloom and have filled in areas where adjacent *Atriplex* had been thinned. Quadrat H continues to have the greatest amount of relative cover, mostly comprised of *Atriplex lentiformis*, and *Encelia californica* is co-dominant in quadrat I. Both the quadrat method and the point intercept method confirm that *Atriplex lentiformis* has the greatest amount of relative cover throughout the trial site, with *Atriplex polycarpa* as a co-dominant overall. The abundant cover of these two *Atriplex* species is also evident by a general visual observation of the plant cover throughout the trial site. Seedlings of planted coastal sage scrub natives are visible within the canopy of *Atriplex* in several of the plots where *Atriplex* is dominant, and appear to be thriving following the select thinning of *Atriplex* from the pilot study

area. Continued thinning of dense stands of *Atriplex* will be beneficial, allowing the natives to continue to fill in and regenerate the study area. Photographs of each quadrat are provided on the following pages, as well as the raw data obtained within each quadrat sampled.



Quadrat A. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Quadrat B. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Q



Quadrat D. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Quadrat E. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Quadrat F. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Quadrat G. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Quadrat H. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Quadrat I. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Quadrat J. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Quadrat K. Facing northeast from southwest corner.



Quadrat L. Facing northeast from southwest corner.

Quadrat Method: Raw Data

Quadrat	Species	Size (sq. meters)	% basal	% basal (herb.)	% Bar	% Rock/ unusable	% canopy	% canopy	Photo #
A		50	7%	3%	49%	10%			1
	Atriplex lentiformis						36%		
	Atriplex polycarpa						22%		
	Atriplex spinosa						1%		
	Baccharis pilularis						1%		
	Echinochloa crus-galli								
	Other herb							2%	
Quadrat	Species	Size (sq. meters)	% basal	% basal (herb.)	% Bar	% Rock/ unusable	% canopy	% canopy	Photo #
B		50	20%	1%	15%	2%			2
	Atriplex lentiformis						75%		
	Atriplex polycarpa						11%		
	Encelia californica						4%		
	Sisyrinchium bellum								
	Echinochloa crus-galli								
	Other herb								
Quadrat	Species	Size (sq. meters)	% basal	% basal (herb.)	% Bar	% Rock/ unusable	% canopy	% canopy	Photo #
C		50	1%	<1%	>75%	1%			3
	Atriplex lentiformis						3%		
	Atriplex polycarpa						15%		
	Acmispon glaber						1%		
	Salvia millifera								
	Mimulus aurantiacus longiflorus								

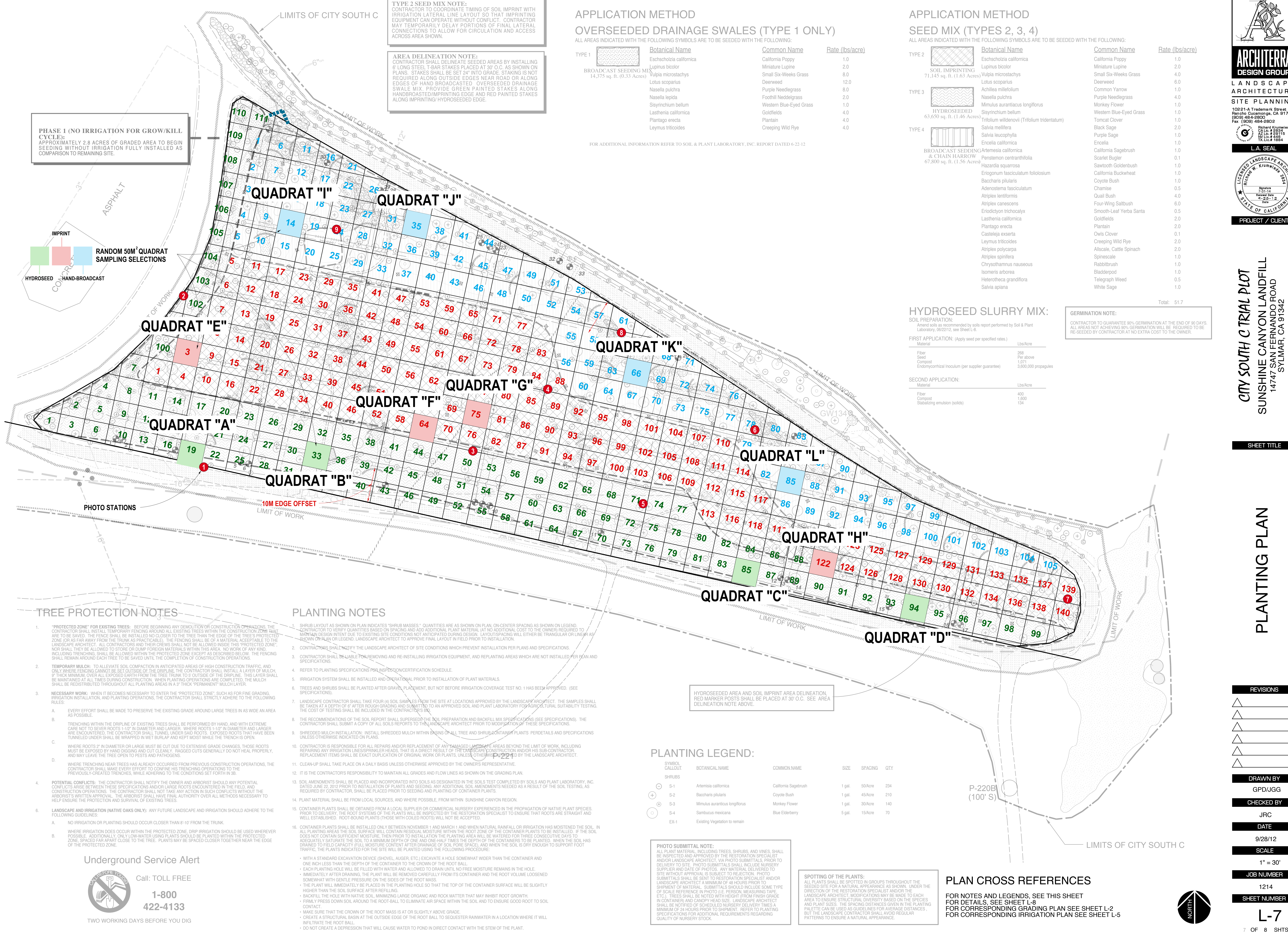
Quadrat	Species	Size (sq. meters)	% basal	% basal (herb.)	% Bar	% Rock/ unusable	% canopy	% canopy	Photo #
D		50	15%	1%	48%	1%			4
	Atriplex lentiformis						42%		
	Atriplex polycarpa						17%		
	Achillia mellifolium								
	Artemisia californica						1%		
	Acmispon glaber								
	Nassella pulchra								

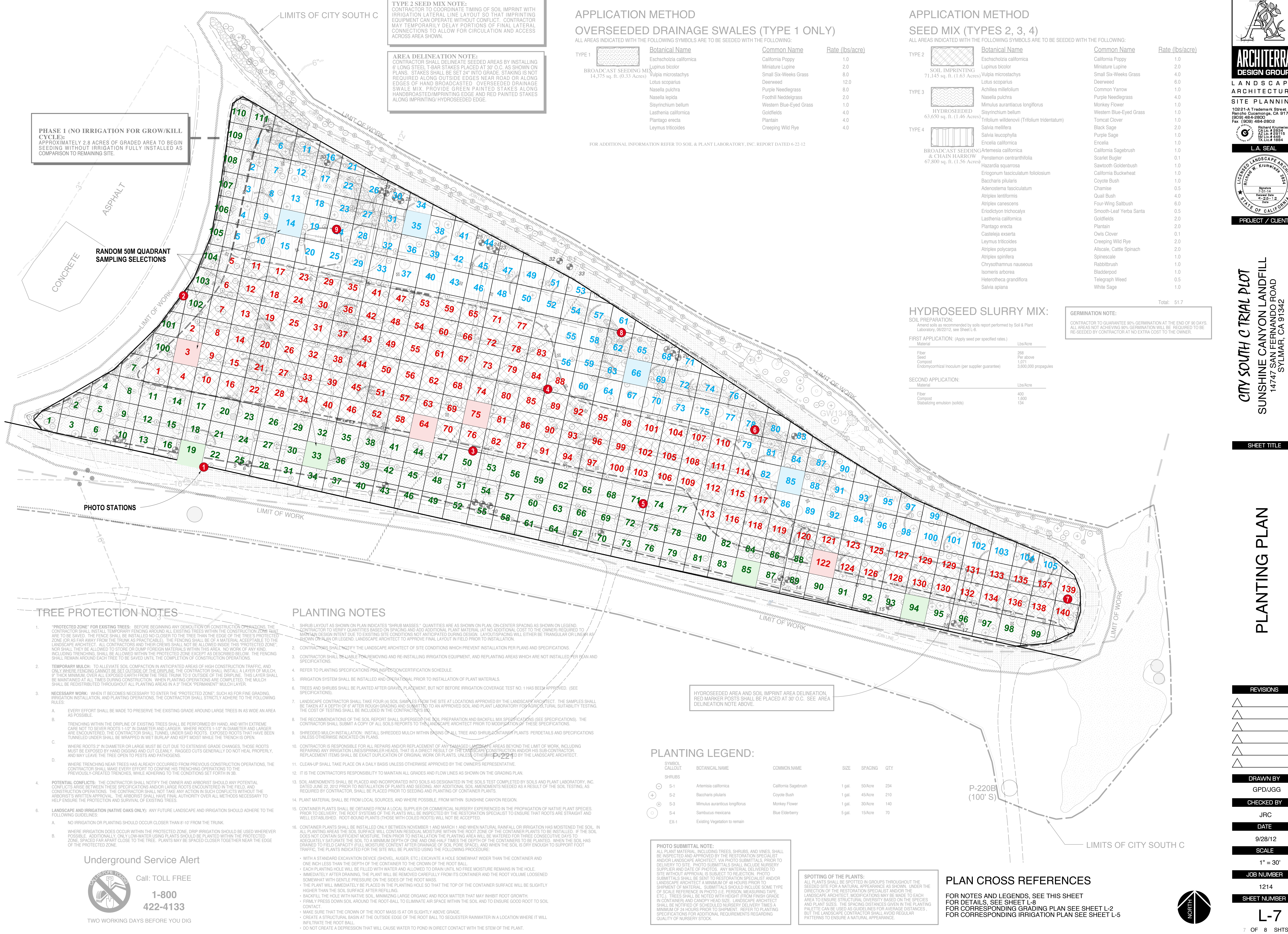
	Salsola ssp.								
Quadrat	Species	Size (sq. meters)	% basal	% basal (herb.)	% Bar	% Rock/ unusable	% canopy	% canopy	Photo #
E		50	15%	1%	60%	5%			5
	Atriplex lentiformis						25%		
	Atriplex polycarpa						20%		
	Atriplex spinosa						1%		
	Salsola ssp.						1%		
Quadrat	Species	Size (sq. meters)	% basal	% basal (herb.)	% Bar	% Rock/ unusable	% canopy	% canopy	Photo #
F		50	3%	1%	>75%	5%			6
	Atriplex lentiformis						8%		
	Atriplex polycarpa						10%		
	Atriplex spinosa								
	Artemisia californica						1%		
	Echinochloa crus-galli								
Quadrat	Species	Size (sq. meters)	% basal	% basal (herb.)	% Bar	% Rock/ unusable	% canopy	% canopy	Photo #
G		50	15%	1%	>75%	5%			7
	Atriplex lentiformis						12%		
	Atriplex polycarpa						37%		
	Atriplex spinosa						3%		
	Salvia apiana						1%		
	Achillia mellifolium								
	Salsola ssp.						1%		
	Echinochloa crus-galli								
Quadrat	Species	Size (sq. meters)	% basal	% basal (herb.)	% Bar	% Rock/ unusable	% canopy	% canopy	Photo #
H		50	25%	10%	35%	15%			8
	Atriplex lentiformis						35%		
	Atriplex polycarpa						22%		
	Baccharis pilularis						3%		
	Eriogonum fasciculatum						1%		
	Mimulus aurantiacus longiflorus						1%		
	Salvia leucophylla						3%		
	Acemispom glaber								
	Encelia californica						3%		
	Salvia mellifera						1%		
	Leymus triticoides							5%	
	Echinochloa crus-galli								
Quadrat	Species	Size (sq. meters)	%	%	%	% Rock/	%	%	Photo

			basal (shrub)	basal (herb.)	Bare	unusable	canopy (shrub)	canopy (herb.)	#
I		50	30%	20%	25%	5%			9
	Atriplex polycarpa						32%		
	Atriplex lentiformis						44%		
	Baccharis pilularis						1%		
	Artemisia californica						1%		
	Encelia californica						5%		
	Salvia mellifera						3%		
	Vulpia microstachys							1%	
	Sisyrinchium bellum							1%	
	Nasella pulchra							1%	
	Leymus triticoides								
	Salsola ssp.						1%		
Quadrat	Species	Size (sq. meters)	% basal	% basal (herb.)	% Bar	% Rock/ unusable	% canopy	% canopy	Photo #
J		50	35%	15%	8%	5%			10
	Atriplex lentiformis						75%		
	Atriplex polycarpa						17%		
	Encelia californica						5%		
	Artemisia californica						3%		
	Vulpia microstachys								
	Eriogonum fasciculatum						1%		
	Salsola ssp.								
	Other herb							10%	
Quadrat	Species	Size (sq. meters)	% basal	% basal (herb.)	% Bar	% Rock/ unusable	% canopy	% canopy	Photo #
K		50	10%	20%	50%	3%			11
	Atriplex lentiformis						5%		
	Adenostema fasciculatum								
	Artemisia californica						1%		
	Baccharis pilularis						15%		
	Atriplex polycarpa						25%		
	Encelia farinosa								
	Vulpia microstachys								
	Salsola ssp.						1%		
	Leymus triticoides								
	Echinochloa crus-galli								
	Leymus triticoides							10%	
	Other herb							4%	
Quadrat	Species	Size (sq. meters)	%	%	%	% Rock/	%	%	Photo

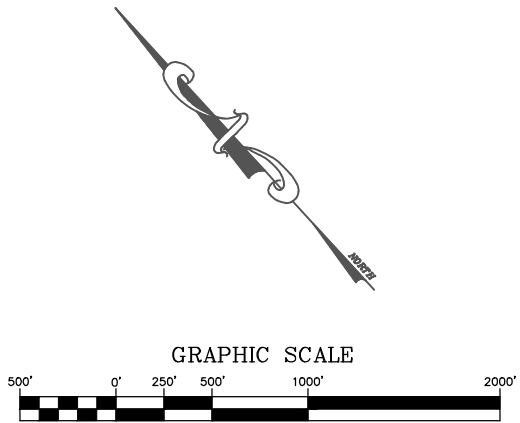
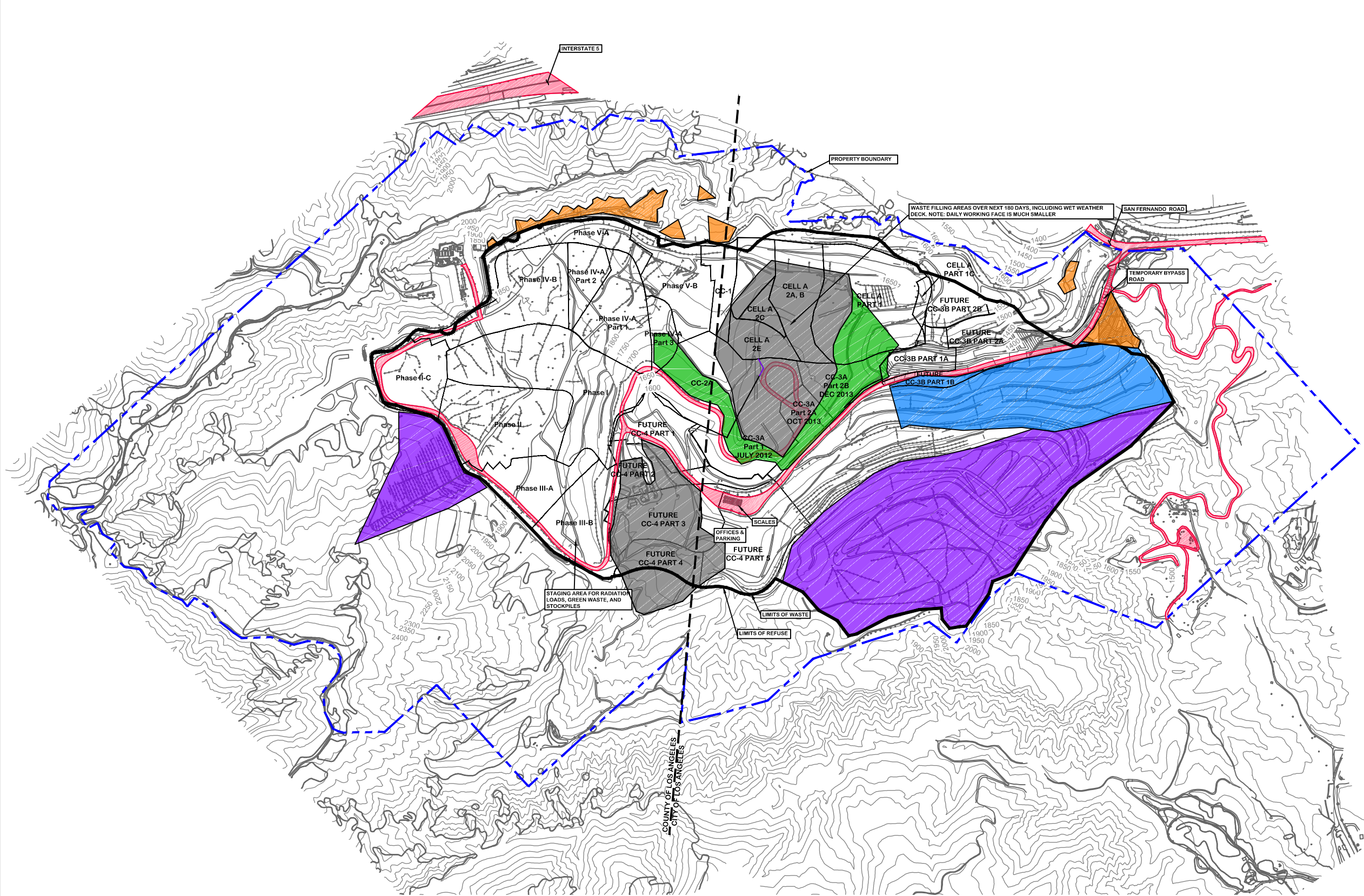
			basal (shrub)	basal (herb.)	Bare	unusable	canopy (shrub)	canopy (herb.)	#
L		50	10%	<1%	50%	3%			12
	Atriplex lentiformis						40%		
	Atriplex polycarpa						20%		
	Baccharis pilularis						1%		
	Artemisia californica						1%		
	Encelia californica						1%		
	Salvia apiana						1%		
	Salvia leucophylla						10%		
	Salvia mellifera						1%		
	Poa annua							1%	
	Salsola ssp.								
	Leymus triticoides							1%	

City South 'C' Trial Plot Planting Plan and Quadrat Layout





E:\My Files\CAD-1\Native\1\Projects\2014\2014.0023 - VEGETATION STATUS AND ACTIVITY\01_CAD\B_SLR-DWG\2014.0023-SCL-012016-Vegetation Status Map.dwg Apr 26, 2016 3:44pm By: gla-user



- LEGEND
- 1500 EXISTING 10 FT CONTOUR
 - EXISTING 2 FT CONTOUR
 - PROPERTY BOUNDARY
 - EXISTING APPROVED LINERS
 - EXISTING ROADS
 - LIMITS OF REFUSE

VEGETATION STATUS MD ACTIVITY 1ST QUARTER 2016	
	NON-PERMANENT CUT SLOPES WITH JUTE MATE OR STRAW WATTLES, SAGE SEED MIX (NOT MITIGATION AREA)
	SAGE MITIGATION AREA, FINAL SLOPES
	INTERIM COVER HYDROSEEDING (PRE-2008)
	CURRENT AND NEXT QUARTER ACTIVE AREAS. ALSO INCLUDES ROADS AND BUILDINGS.
	INTERIM COVER HYDROSEEDING, AMENDMENTS, AND COMPOST AND/OR MULCH (COMPLETED IN 1ST QUARTER 2015)

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FOR REVIEW ONLY
EXISTING TOPOGRAPHY PREPARED BY COOPER AERIAL SURVEYS DATED FEBRUARY 9, 2015

REV. NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	APPROVED BY
REV1	DATE1	DESCRIPTION1	DRAWN1
REV2	DATE2	DESCRIPTION2	DRAWN2
REV3	DATE3	DESCRIPTION3	DRAWN3
REV4	DATE4	DESCRIPTION4	DRAWN4
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SUNSHINE CANYON LANDFILL
SYLMAR, CALIFORNIA
SITE VEGETATION STATUS AND ACTIVITY

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