

Appendix F-3
Results of Sensitive Plant Surveys
(December 18, 2007)

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December 18, 2007

Mr. Mark Rogers
TRG LAND INC.
898 Production Place
Newport Beach, California 92663

**Re: RESULTS OF SENSITIVE PLANT SURVEYS CONDUCTED FOR THE SITE D
PROJECT SITE, DIAMOND BAR, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Dear Mr. Rogers:

This report presents the findings of sensitive plant surveys conducted by **PCR Services Corporation (PCR)** for the Site D development project (the “Study Area”) located in the City of Diamond Bar, Los Angeles County, California (Figure 1, *Regional Map*, attached). Specifically the survey was conducted to determine the presence or absence of Malibu baccharis (*Baccharis malibuensis*) (CNPS List 1B.1), white-rabbit tobacco (*Pseudognaphalium leucocephalum*) (CNPS List 2.2), San Bernardino aster (*Symphytotrichum defoliatum*) (CNPS List 1B.2), Nevin’s barberry (*Berberis nevinii*) (Federally and State Endangered and CNPS List 1B.1), Palmer’s grapplinghook (*Harpagonella palmeri*) (CNPS List 4.2), small-flowered morning-glory (*Convolvulus simulans*) (CNPS List 4.2), many-stemmed dudleya (*Dudleya multicaulis*) (CNPS List 1B.2), Braunton’s milk-vetch (*Astragalus brauntonii*) (Federally Endangered, CNPS List 1B.1), round-leaved filaree (*California macrophyllum*) (CNPS List 1B.1), Parish’s gooseberry (*Ribes divaricatum* var. *parishii*) (CNPS List 1A), Fish’s milkwort (*Polygala comuta* var. *fishiae*) (CNPS List 4.3), long-spined spineflower (*Chorizanthe polygonoides* var. *longispina*) (CNPS List 1B.2), and California muhly (*Muhlenbergia californica*) (CNPS List 4.3).¹ Only one sensitive plant species, southern California black walnut (CNPS List 4.2), was observed on-site. List 4 plants are primarily on a watch list as they have a limited distribution, but do not appear to be susceptible to threat.

STUDY AREA

The surveys were conducted on the approximately 30.4-acre parcel situated east of the 57 freeway where South Diamond Bar Boulevard and South Brea Canyon Road intersect (Figure 2, *Vicinity Map*, attached). Topography within the Study Area consists of steep-sloping hills and ridges along the eastern section and westward sloping hills dropping in elevation to where the Study Area abuts South Diamond Bar Boulevard. Elevations in these portions of the Study Area range from approximately 800 feet above mean sea level (MSL) in the northeast to approximately 700 feet

¹ *California Native Plant Society; List 1B: Rare or Endangered in California and elsewhere, .1: Seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened/high degree of immediacy of threat), .2: Fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened).*



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above MSL in the southwest. The Study Area can be found on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic Yorba Linda quadrangle map,² Section 29, T. 2 S., R. 9 W.

The Study Area is currently vacant but contains dirt roads, trails, a bicycle track, and localized areas of trash dumping. The Study Area has been significantly disturbed by historic agricultural activities, and off-road vehicle use, particularly within the western portion of the property. The Study Area is bordered to the east, south, and west by residential developments, and Diamond Bar Boulevard to the north.

METHODOLOGY

Prior to the survey a review of all available relevant data on sensitive habitats and species distribution was conducted to determine which sensitive plants have the potential for occurrence within the Study Area. Items reviewed to determine habitat suitability and potential for occurrence included: the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and species data provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) for endangered and/or threatened species potentially occurring within the Study Area.^{3-4,5,6}

The focused sensitive plant surveys were conducted by PCR biologists Susan Anon and Erin Hardison on June 29, 2007 and by Susan Anon on August 29, 2007. Methods used included slowly walking over all areas of the Study Area that contained suitable habitat to support each species. If detected, the locations of sensitive plants were mapped on an aerial photograph and population numbers estimated. The survey was conducted in accordance with survey guidelines published in the CNPS's *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California*.⁷ These guidelines have also been adopted by the CDFG. Plant species within the Study Area were recorded. Plant species nomenclature follows that of Hickman.⁸

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Details of the plant communities mapped within the study area are included below and are based on the CNDDDB and PCR findings. The CNDDDB classification number is included for ease of review. If a community did not conform to any of the communities in the CNDDDB, it was named after the dominant species found within it (e.g., eucalyptus stand). Locations of each of the plant communities within the study area are shown in Figure 3, *Plant Communities*, attached. Table 1, *Plant Communities*, on page 3, lists each of the plant communities observed as well as the acreage

² United States Geological Survey. 1964. *Yorba Linda, California 7.5-minute Topographical Quadrangle*. Photo revised 1981.

³ California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). 2007. *California Natural Diversity Data Base Inventory for USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle for Yorba Linda*.

⁴ United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Carlsbad Office. 2007. *Carlsbad Fish & Wildlife Office Endangered and Threatened Species List*. Available at http://www.fws.gov/carlsbad/CFWO_Species_List.htm.

⁵ CDFG. July 2007. *Department of Fish and Game. Natural Heritage Division. State and Federally Listed Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Plants and California*. Sacramento. 16 pgs.

⁶ CDFG. July 2007. *Department of Fish and Game. Natural Diversity Database. Special Vascular Plants, Bryophytes, and lichens List*. Biannual publication. 78 pgs.

⁷ California Native Plant Society's (CNPS). 2001. *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California*.

⁸ Hickman, J. C. 1993. *The Jepson Manual: Higher Plants of California*. Berkeley: University of California Press.



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Table 1

Plant Communities

Plant Community	CNDDB^a Code	Existing Acres
Developed	NA	0.3
Disturbed/Ruderal	NA	20.4
Eucalyptus Stand/Disturbed	NA	3.6
Mule Fat Scrub	63.510.00	2.8
Ruderal/Goldenbush Scrub	NA	0.9
Southern Willow Scrub	61.208.00	0.3
California Walnut Woodland	72.100.01	1.5
California Walnut Woodland/Disturbed	72.100.01/NA	0.6
TOTAL		30.4

^a CDFG, CNDDB Classification System

Source: PCR Services Corporation, 2007

within the study area. Representative site photographs are included in Figure 4, *Site Photographs*, attached.

Developed (N/A)

Developed areas consist of urban and suburban developments, roads, parks and golf courses, and graded or otherwise cleared areas. A total of 0.3 acre of developed was mapped within the study area and consists of the Brea Creek Flood Control Channel that traverses the western portion of the study area.

Disturbed/Ruderal (N/A)

Disturbed areas either do not support any plant species or contain sparse, predominantly non-native weedy species. Ruderal areas typically consist of more dense non-native weedy species that readily colonize disturbed ground. Disturbed areas had been recently disked, supporting sparse vegetation. Ruderal areas were dominated by black mustard (*Brassica nigra*) and brome grasses (*Bromus* sp.). Additional species include wild oat (*Avena* sp.), red-stemmed filaree (*Erodium cicutarium*), horehound (*Marrubium vulgare*), doveweed (*Eremocarpus setigerus*), jimson weed (*Datura* sp.), and pigweed (*Amaranthus* sp.). A total of 20.4 acres of disturbed/ruderal were mapped within the study area.

Eucalyptus Stand/Disturbed (N/A)

Within the study area, eucalyptus stand/disturbed is dominated by eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus* sp.). Areas surrounding the eucalyptus are disturbed, having been recently disked, and support sparse vegetation composed of non-native weedy species. A total of 3.6 acres of eucalyptus stand/disturbed were mapped within the study area.

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Mule Fat Scrub (63.510.00)

Mule fat scrub occurs along the on-site stream channels and is characterized by tall, herbaceous riparian scrub dominated by mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*). Additional species include cattail (*Typha* sp.), curly dock (*Rumex crispus*), toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), and sweet fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*). A total of 2.8 acres of mule fat scrub were mapped within the study area.

Ruderal/Goldenbush Scrub (N/A)

Ruderal/goldenbush scrub was mapped as being predominantly ruderal, dominated by brome grasses, with a local concentration of coastal goldenbush (*Isocoma menziesii*). Additional species include pigweed, milk thistle (*Silybum marianum*), morning glory (*Calystegia macrostegia*), and coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*). A total of 0.9 acre of ruderal/goldenbush scrub was mapped within the study area.

Southern Willow Scrub (61.208.00)

Southern willow scrub is a riparian community that requires repeated flooding. This community is dominated by arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) and black willow (*Salix nigra*). Additional species include mule fat. A total of 0.3 acre of southern willow scrub was mapped within the study area.

California Walnut Woodland (72.100.01)

California walnut woodland typically occurs on north-facing slopes and along riparian corridors. This community is dominated by southern California black walnut (*Juglans californica* var. *californica*). Additional species include poison oak and coyote brush. A total of 1.5 acres of California walnut woodland were mapped within the study area.

California Walnut Woodland/Disturbed (72.100.01/NA)

Within this community, areas surrounding the walnut trees are disturbed and support sparse vegetation composed of non-native weedy species. A total of 0.6 acre of California walnut woodland/disturbed was mapped within the study area.

RESULTS

One sensitive plant species, southern California black walnut (CNPS List 4.2), was observed during focused surveys.⁹ This species is protected under the City of Diamond Bar's Tree Preservation and Protection Ordinance. Any impacts to the southern California black walnut by the

⁹ California Native Plant Society; List 4: Plants of limited distribution – Watch list, .2: Fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened).



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proposed project should be mitigated for accordingly. Reference the *Tree Survey Report*, under separate cover, for additional information.¹⁰

No other sensitive plant species were observed during the focused surveys. All plant species observed on-site are listed in *Appendix A: Floral Compendium*, attached.

If you have any questions regarding the methodologies or findings of this report, please contact Crysta Dickson or Susan Anon at (949) 753-7001.

Sincerely,
PCR SERVICES CORPORATION

Crysta Dickson
Senior Biologist

Susan Anon
Senior Biologist

Attachments

¹⁰ PCR. 2007. *Tree Survey Report, Site D, City of Diamond Bar, California. December 18.*



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APPENDIX A: FLORAL COMPENDIUM

ANGIOSPERMS (DICOTYLEDONS)

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
Amaranthaceae <i>Amaranthus</i> sp.	Amaranth Family pigweed
Anacardiaceae <i>Malosma laurina</i> * <i>Schinus</i> sp. <i>Toxicodendron diversilobum</i>	Sumac or Cashew Family laurel sumac pepper tree poison oak
Apiaceae * <i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Carrot Family sweet fennel
Asclepiadaceae <i>Asclepias fascicularis</i>	Milkweed Family narrow-leaf milkweed
Asteraceae <i>Ambrosia</i> sp. <i>Baccharis pilularis</i> <i>Baccharis salicifolia</i> * <i>Centaurea melitensis</i> * <i>Carduus pycnocephalus</i> * <i>Cirsium</i> sp. <i>Gnaphalium californicum</i> <i>Heterotheca sessiliflora</i> <i>Isocoma menziesii</i> * <i>Lactuca serriola</i> * <i>Silybum marianum</i> * <i>Stephanomeria virgata</i>	Sunflower Family ragweed coyote brush mule fat tocalote Italian thistle thistle California everlasting hairy golden-aster coastal goldenbush prickly lettuce milk thistle twiggy wreathplant
Brassicaceae * <i>Hirschfeldia incana</i> <i>Raphanus sativus</i>	Mustard Family shortpod mustard radish
Caprifoliaceae <i>Sambucus mexicana</i>	Honeysuckle Family Mexican elderberry
Convolvulaceae <i>Calystegia macrostegia</i>	Morning-Glory Family western bindweed
Euphorbiaceae <i>Eremocarpus setigerus</i>	Spurge Family dove weed

* *Non-native species*

ANGIOSPERMS (DICOTYLEDONS)

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Chamaesyce albomarginata</i>	rattlesnake weed
Fabaceae	Legume Family
* <i>Melilotus</i> sp.	sweet clover
Fagaceae	Oak Family
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	coast live oak
Geraniaceae	Geranium Family
* <i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	red-stemmed filaree
Juglandaceae	Walnut Family
<i>Juglans californica</i> var. <i>californica</i>	Southern California black walnut
Lamiaceae	Mint Family
* <i>Marrubium vulgare</i>	horehound
Malvaceae	Mallow Family
<i>Malva parviflora</i>	cheeseweed
Myrtaceae	Myrtle Family
* <i>Eucalyptus</i> sp.	gum tree
Polygonaceae	Buckwheat Family
<i>Polygonum</i> sp.	knotweed
* <i>Rumex crispus</i>	curly dock
Rosaceae	Rose Family
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	toyon
Salicaceae	Willow Family
<i>Salix gooddingii</i>	black willow
<i>Salix lasiolepis</i>	arroyo willow
Scrophulariaceae	Figwort Family
<i>Veronica</i> sp.	speedwell
Solanaceae	Nightshade Family
* <i>Datura wrightii</i>	jimson weed

* *Non-native species*

ANGIOSPERMS (MONOCOTYLEDONS)

<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>COMMON NAME</u>
Arecaceae	Palm Family
* <i>Washingtonia robusta</i>	Mexican fan palm
Poaceae	Grass Family
* <i>Avena sp.</i>	wild oat
* <i>Bromus diandrus</i>	ripgut grass
* <i>Bromus madritensis</i>	red brome
Typhaceae	Cattail Family
<i>Typha sp</i>	cattail

* *Non-native species*

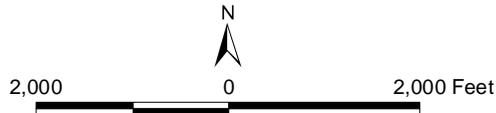
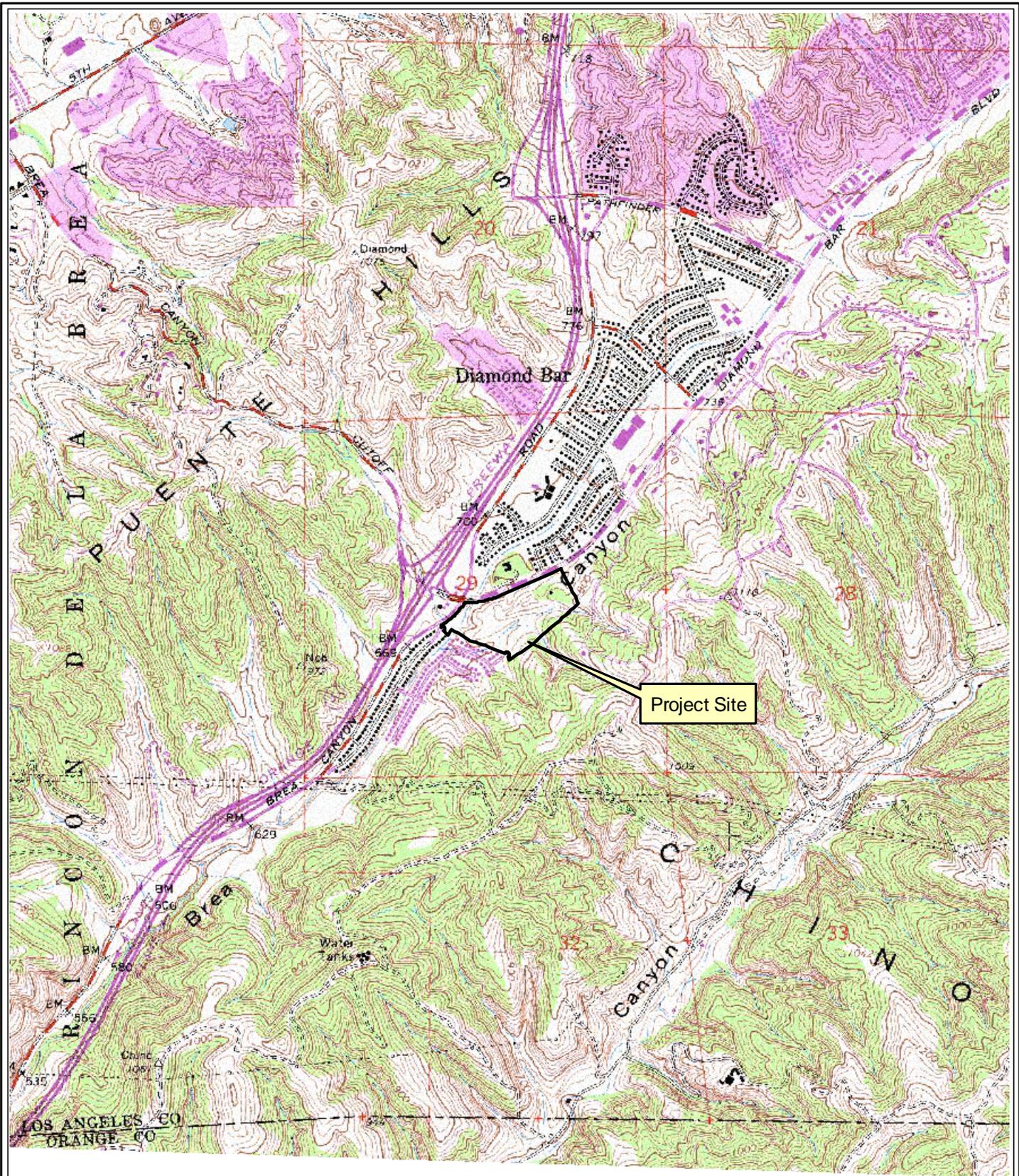


Figure 2
Site D
Vicinity Map

Source: USGS Topographic Series (Yorba Linda, CA); PCR Services Corporation, 2007.