

# TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

## Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District #1, Recycled Water Project Summary of Walking Survey for Sensitive Species Presence and Habitat Potential

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Project No.: 8022.08

Prepared For: Shelter Cove RID #1

Prepared By: Stephen Umbertis, Planner



Reviewed By: Michael D. Nelson, AICP, Principal



Attachments: Appendix 1:

Figures

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## 1.0 FIELD TRIP SUMMARY

On November 19, LACO Biologist Gary Lester, assisted by Planner Stephen Umbertis, completed a walking survey of the Shelter Cove Airport and Golf Course. The survey was focused on locating any sensitive habitats and potential habitats for rare or threatened species along the proposed pipeline route and at the proposed tank location, as well as the proposed water filling station. The entire golf course area on the east side of the runway was also walked for sensitive habitat based on the potential for updating the golf course irrigation system as part of the Recycled Water project.

## 2.0 SITE SUMMARY

The Shelter Cove Airport and Golf Course is a regularly mowed and maintained grassy area that surrounds a concrete runway. An existing recycled water pipeline (purple pipe) connects the existing wastewater

treatment plant (WWTP) to the golf course irrigation pond, and runs down the west side of the site from the northwest corner to the southwest corner of the runway. The water recycling project would use the existing pipeline from the WWTP to the existing irrigation pond, but would require a new pipeline to be installed from the pipeline to the proposed storage tanks. This proposed pipeline would traverse the access road across the northern edge of the runway from west to east from the existing pipeline to the proposed tank site.

The proposed site for the five 20,000 gallon water tanks is located on the northeastern corner of the runway, adjacent to an existing concrete pad designated for airplane parking. A low bluff face, approximately 15 feet tall, rises up on the east side of the runway at this location, separating the golf course from the runway. This bluff would be excavated to create a pad for the five tanks, which would be placed and then buried with the original spoils.

The proposed site for the recycled water filling station is just south of the existing access road and adjacent to Lower Pacific Drive. The site is relatively flat, grassy, and is separated from Lower Pacific Drive by a shallow drainage ditch draining to the sanitary sewer.

### 3.0 RESULTS

The walking survey generally followed the course of the existing pipeline, delineated by an obvious change in vegetation along the pipeline route as well as regularly spaced Christy boxes on the west side of the runway (Figure 1). These boxes are located along the length of the pipeline between the north end of the runway and the irrigation pond on the southwest edge of the runway. Generally speaking, the golf course and runway are highly modified habitats that have been graded and compacted, and are well maintained with regular mowing. The grass on the golf course and runway apron is very short. Native shrubs are present but restricted by frequent mowing, with no large shrubs or bushy vegetation present until the property edges. Given the highly modified nature of the site, the potential for endangered and rare plants is considered low.

Habitats identified along the route were limited to the culvert outfalls that drain both the creeks from east of the runway, and the existing irrigation pond that is filled with tertiary treated recycled water. These outfalls and the associated habitats were located approximately 50 feet from the edge of the runway. These were characterized by riparian vegetation associated with the culvert outfall, none of which extended beyond the edges of the small gullies created by the outfalls (Figure 2).

A native grass, California Oatgrass (*Danthonia californica*), was located along the pipeline route near the northern edge of the runway. Fewer than 10 individuals were located in this area of the project site.

No sensitive species were located in the proposed storage tank location. This location has been graded and heavily disturbed, and was populated with turf grass and ruderal non-native species.

No wetland areas were encountered on the northeast corner of the runway at the proposed location for the storage tank sites. Areas exhibiting wetland characteristics were limited to the west side of the runway at the culvert outfalls and the existing irrigation pond (Figure 3), as well as the east side of the runway where the two creeks enter the culverts. These culvert inlets on the east side of the runway are located south of the proposed tank locations, and would not be impacted by the excavations required to bury the proposed storage tanks.

No sensitive species or wetland characteristics were noted in the area identified for the recycled water fill up location. This area is characterized by mowed turf and non-native grasses.

## 4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

While not rare, the presence of the native California Oatgrass warrants a seasonally appropriate native plant survey in the project footprint to determine the extent of the oatgrass population and recommend reasonable mitigation.

## APPENDIX 1

### **Figures**



**Figure 1: Existing Pipeline Route Delineated by Vegetation**



**Figure 2: Representative Riparian Habitats at Existing Culvert Outfalls**





**Figure 3: Existing Irrigation Pond**

