
**SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY
PIPELINE SAFETY & RELIABILITY PROJECT
RIPARIAN BIRD SURVEY REPORT ADDENDUM**

October 2016

Prepared for:



Prepared by:



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1 – INTRODUCTION

This report is an addendum to the Riparian Bird Survey Report prepared for the Pipeline Safety & Reliability Project (Proposed Project) in September 2015. In 2015, Insignia Environmental (Insignia) and Borchert Environmental Management conducted protocol-level surveys for the federally endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) for the Proposed Project in accordance with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) survey protocols for each species (USFWS 2001, Sogge et al. 2010). Twenty-eight survey areas were assessed and included approximately 87.3 acres. Following the 2015 surveys, a Preliminary Wetlands and Waters Assessment was completed for the Proposed Project. The results of the Preliminary Wetlands and Waters Assessment identified an additional approximately 5.9 acres of riparian habitat that had not been assessed or surveyed during the 2015 riparian bird surveys. Therefore, a habitat assessment and second round of protocol-level surveys were conducted by Insignia and Rocks Biological Consulting (RBC) in 2016 to cover additional riparian habitat. This report summarizes the habitat assessment, field methods, and results of the protocol-level surveys in 2016. The Riparian Bird Survey Report provides a detailed description of the Proposed Project and results of the 2015 surveys.

2 – METHODS

2.0 HABITAT ASSESSMENT

In the fall of 2014 and spring of 2015, Insignia mapped general vegetation communities within the Biological Resources Survey Area (BRSA), which includes all Proposed Project components and an approximately 150-foot buffer on each side of these components. Within the BRSA, approximately 148.9 acres of riparian and wetland habitats were mapped as suitable to support least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher in 2015. In June 2016, approximately 5.9 acres of riparian and wetland habitats, which are potentially suitable for the two species, were added to the assessment area. The total area assessed for suitable habitat within the BRSA is approximately 154.8 acres.

The additional habitat assessment of the approximately 5.9 acres was conducted by RBC biologist Brian Lohstroh (10[a][1][A] recovery permit TE-063608-5) and Insignia biologist Sarah Howard on February 5, 2016. The habitat assessment was conducted to determine the area's suitability to support least Bell's vireo and/or southwestern willow flycatcher. The biologists focused on riparian habitat areas within the BRSA, but also made notes regarding the adjacent habitat's potential to support least Bell's vireo or southwestern willow flycatcher. Habitat was determined to be potentially suitable for these species if any of the following three criteria were met:

- Vegetation consisting completely or substantially of the following:
 - native, deciduous riparian growth composed of willows (*Salix* spp.) and/or cottonwoods (*Populus fremontii*), with or without native/non-native understory; or

- well-developed, native woody riparian scrub (e.g., mule fat [*Baccharis salicifolia*] or blue elderberry [*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *caerulea*]); or
 - tall, gallery (i.e., high, closed canopy with variable understory) coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) or a combination of coast live oak and sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*) forest.
- Sites consisting of continuous riparian vegetation or small, closely spaced patches within matrices of natural vegetation on or adjacent to watercourses.
 - Sites at least 0.25 acre in size, unless the area within the BRSA is continuous with additional adjacent habitat outside of the BRSA.

Based on the 2016 species-specific habitat assessments, it was determined that none of the approximately 5.9 acres provided sufficient habitat conditions for southwestern willow flycatcher, and approximately 3.6 acres did not provide sufficient habitat conditions for least Bell's vireo. The total survey area in 2016 for least Bell's vireo was approximately 2.37 acres.

2.1 PROTOCOL SURVEYS

Surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted by Insignia and RBC biologists with the required experience and necessary 10(a)(1)(A) recovery permits issued pursuant to the federal Endangered Species Act, and in accordance with standard protocols provided by the federal government (USFWS 2001). Specifically, survey visits for least Bell's vireo were conducted as follows:

- eight times between April 12 and June 23, with each visit spaced at least 10 days apart;
- at a rate not exceeding 123.5 acres per person per day; and
- between dawn and approximately 11:00 a.m., or under a combination of weather conditions and time of season that were conducive to detecting the species.

The additional riparian habitat areas surveyed in 2016 were grouped into seven discrete areas and surveyed from south to north. The 2016 survey dates and times are detailed in Table 1: 2016 Riparian Bird Survey Schedule.

As previously noted, no surveys for southwestern willow flycatcher were conducted because there were no sufficient habitat conditions for the species in the approximately 5.9 acres.

3 – RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.0 CNDDDB OCCURRENCE DATA

As noted in the Riparian Bird Survey Report, several California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) occurrences of least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher were identified in the vicinity of the BRSA. The 2016 CNDDDB search identified one additional occurrence of least Bell's vireo, which is documented along Reidy Canyon Creek north of the City of Escondido and approximately one mile east of Milepost 21.0 (California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW] 2016).

Table 1: 2016 Riparian Bird Survey Schedule

Biologist(s)	Target Species (Survey Number)	Dates	Weather/Visibility
Brian Lohstroh and Sarah Howard	Least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher (habitat assessment)	February 5, 2016	55 to 61 degrees Fahrenheit (°F), partly cloudy, winds up to 1 mile per hour (mph)
Brian Lohstroh	Least Bell's vireo (Survey 1)	April 12, 2016	52 to 65° F, partly cloudy to clear, winds up to 2 mph
Brian Lohstroh	Least Bell's vireo (Survey 2)	April 22, 2016	52 to 66° F, clear, winds up to 4 mph
Brian Lohstroh	Least Bell's vireo (Survey 3)	May 2, 2016	59 to 68° F, overcast to clear, winds up to 3 mph
Brian Lohstroh	Least Bell's vireo (Survey 4)	May 12, 2016	54 to 63° F, partly cloudy, winds up to 4 mph
Brian Lohstroh	Least Bell's vireo (Survey 5)	May 23, 2016	55 to 73° F, clear, winds up to 3 mph
Brian Lohstroh	Least Bell's vireo (Survey 6)	June 2, 2016	61 to 63° F, overcast, winds up to 1 mph
Brian Lohstroh	Least Bell's vireo (Survey 7)	June 13, 2016	66 to 73° F, overcast to clear, winds up to 2 mph
Brian Lohstroh	Least Bell's vireo (Survey 8)	June 23, 2016	55 to 61° F, partly cloudy, winds up to 1 mph

3.1 HABITAT ASSESSMENT

Between February 23 and May 20, 2015, Insignia conducted an assessment of wetlands and waters and refined the vegetation map. The results of the wetlands and waters assessment are detailed in the Preliminary Wetlands and Waters Assessment (Insignia 2015b). Approximately 5.9 acres of additional riparian and/or wetland vegetation that could potentially support least Bell's vireo and/or southwestern willow flycatcher were mapped within minor tributaries within the BRSA. A habitat assessment of these additional riparian areas determined that a subset of them—totaling approximately 2.37 acres—were considered marginally suitable for least Bell's vireo, and protocol surveys were conducted in 2016. The additional survey locations were generally small patches of non-contiguous riparian habitat located adjacent to busy roads that supported willows, and these locations also featured some degree of disturbance and/or non-native plant species. None of the additional 2016 habitat areas were deemed suitable for southwestern willow flycatcher.

The survey areas are shown on Attachment A: 2016 LBV Survey Area and Sightings. Attachment B: 2016 Survey Area Summary Characteristics Table summarizes the geographic locations of the survey areas, the names of the drainages flowing through or associated with the surveys areas, and the vegetation communities observed within the survey areas.

3.2 2016 PROTOCOL SURVEYS: LEAST BELL'S VIREO

In 2016, no least Bell's vireos were observed or heard within the approximately 2.37 acres of additional survey area.

4 – CONCLUSION

In 2016, no least Bell's vireos were documented within the BRSA during the protocol surveys. Protocol surveys for southwestern willow flycatchers were not required due to a lack of suitable habitat. Surveys for least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher are complete in all suitable habitats within the BRSA for the Proposed Project.

5 – REFERENCES

- CDFW. 2016. California Natural Diversity Database Maps and Data. Online.
<https://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/mapsanddata.asp>. Site visited February 1, 2016.
- Insignia. 2015a. San Diego Gas & Electric Company and Southern California Gas Company's Pipeline Safety & Reliability Project Biological Resources Technical Report.
- Insignia. 2015b. San Diego Gas & Electric Company and Southern California Gas Company's Pipeline Safety & Reliability Project Preliminary Wetlands and Waters Assessment.
- Insignia. 2015c. San Diego Gas & Electric Company and Southern California Gas Company's Pipeline Safety & Reliability Project Riparian Bird Survey Report.
- Sogge, M.K., D. Ahlers, and S.J. Sferra. 2010. A Natural History Summary and Survey Protocol for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. U.S. Geological Survey Techniques and Methods 2A-10.
- USFWS. 2001. Least Bell's Vireo Survey Guidelines. Online.
<http://www.fws.gov/pacific/ecoservices/endangered/recovery/documents/LBVireo.2001.protocol.pdf>. Site visited May 6, 2015.

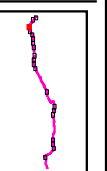
ATTACHMENT A: 2016 LBV SURVEY AREA AND SIGHTINGS



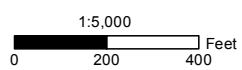
Attachment A: 2016 LBV Survey Area Map 1 of 7

Pipeline Safety & Reliability Project

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|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ■ Milepost | Permanent Impact | Temporary Impact | --- Biological Resource Survey Area |
| — Proposed Project Route | ▭ Aboveground Facility | ▭ Bore Pit | ▭ 2016 LBV Survey Area |
| --- Proposed Trenchless Construction | ▭ Horizontal Directional Drill Workspace | ▭ Laydown Area | |
| — Cross-Tie Connector Line | ▭ Workspace | | |



- Please note survey route not shown due to large map scale, meandering transects were walked within suitable habitat during protocol surveys



LBV: least Bell's vireo / SWFL: southwestern willow flycatcher



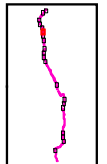


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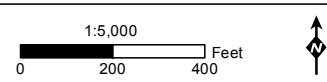
Attachment A: 2016 LBV Survey Area Map 2 of 7

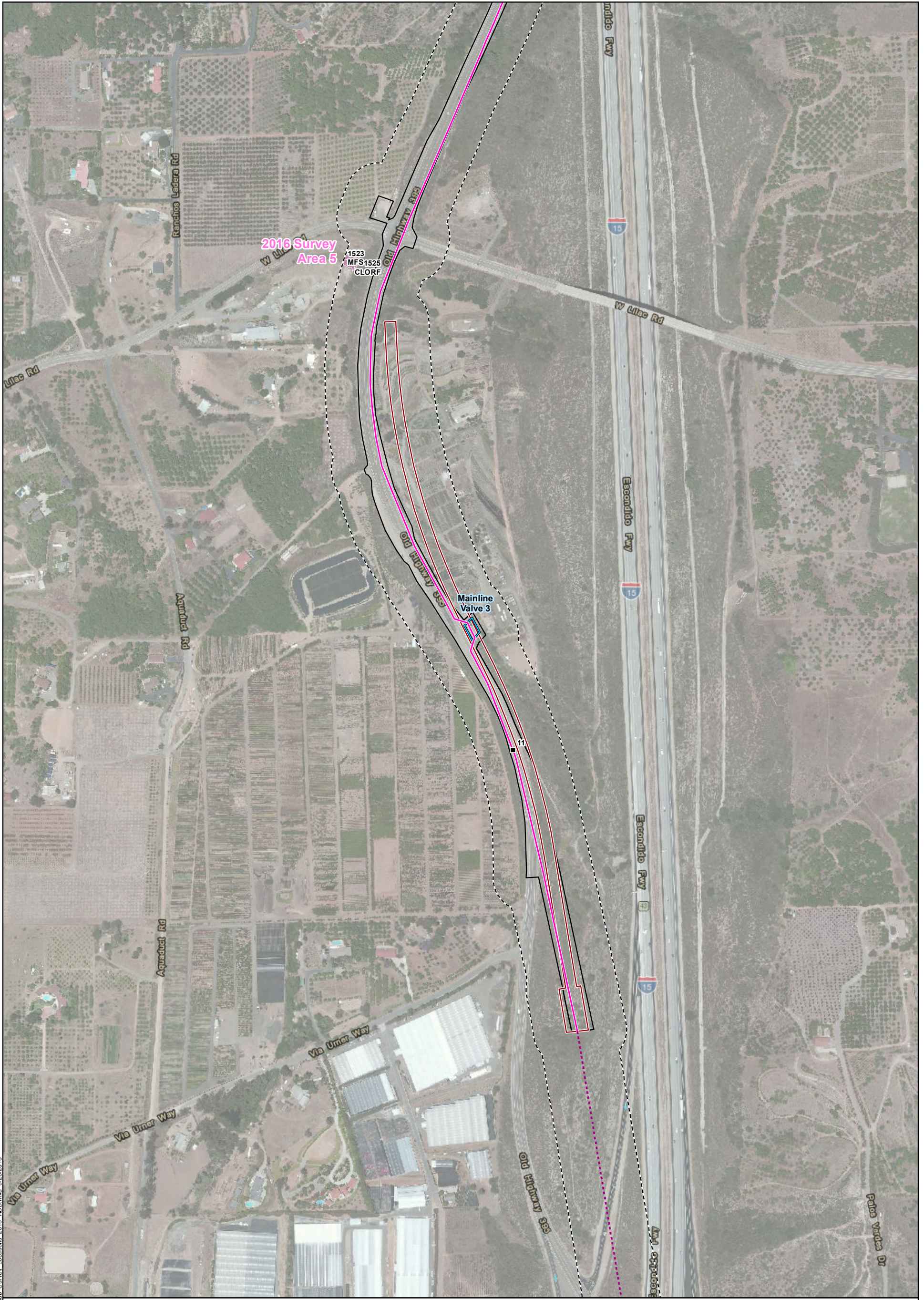
Pipeline Safety & Reliability Project

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|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ■ Milepost | Permanent Impact | Temporary Impact | --- Biological Resource Survey Area |
| — Proposed Project Route | ▭ Aboveground Facility | ▭ Bore Pit | ▭ 2016 LBV Survey Area |
| --- Proposed Trenchless Construction | ▭ Horizontal Directional Drill Workspace | ▭ Laydown Area | |
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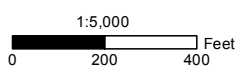


Attachment A: 2016 LBV Survey Area Map 3 of 7

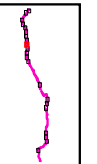
Pipeline Safety & Reliability Project

- Milepost
- Proposed Project Route
- Proposed Trenchless Construction
- Cross-Tie Connector Line
- Permanent Impact
 - ▭ Aboveground Facility
- Temporary Impact
 - ▭ Bore Pit
 - ▭ Horizontal Directional Drill Workspace
 - ▭ Laydown Area
 - ▭ Workspace
- ▭ Biological Resource Survey Area
- ▭ 2016 LBV Survey Area

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LBV: least Bell's vireo / SWFL: southwestern willow flycatcher

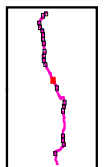




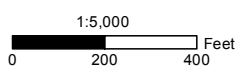
Attachment A: 2016 LBV Survey Area Map 4 of 7

Pipeline Safety & Reliability Project

- Milepost
- Permanent Impact
 - ▭ Aboveground Facility
- Temporary Impact
 - ▭ Bore Pit
 - ▭ Horizontal Directional Drill Workspace
 - ▭ Laydown Area
 - ▭ Workspace
- ▭ Biological Resource Survey Area
- ▭ 2016 LBV Survey Area
- Proposed Project Route
- Proposed Trenchless Construction
- Cross-Tie Connector Line



- Please note survey route not shown due to large map scale, meandering transects were walked within suitable habitat during protocol surveys



LBV: least Bell's vireo / SWFL: southwestern willow flycatcher



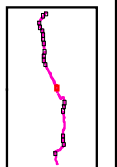
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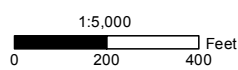
Attachment A: 2016 LBV Survey Area Map 5 of 7

Pipeline Safety & Reliability Project

- Milepost
- Proposed Project Route
- - - Proposed Trenchless Construction
- Cross-Tie Connector Line
- Permanent Impact
- Aboveground Facility
- Temporary Impact
- Bore Pit
- Horizontal Directional Drill Workspace
- Laydown Area
- Workspace
- Biological Resource Survey Area
- 2016 LBV Survey Area

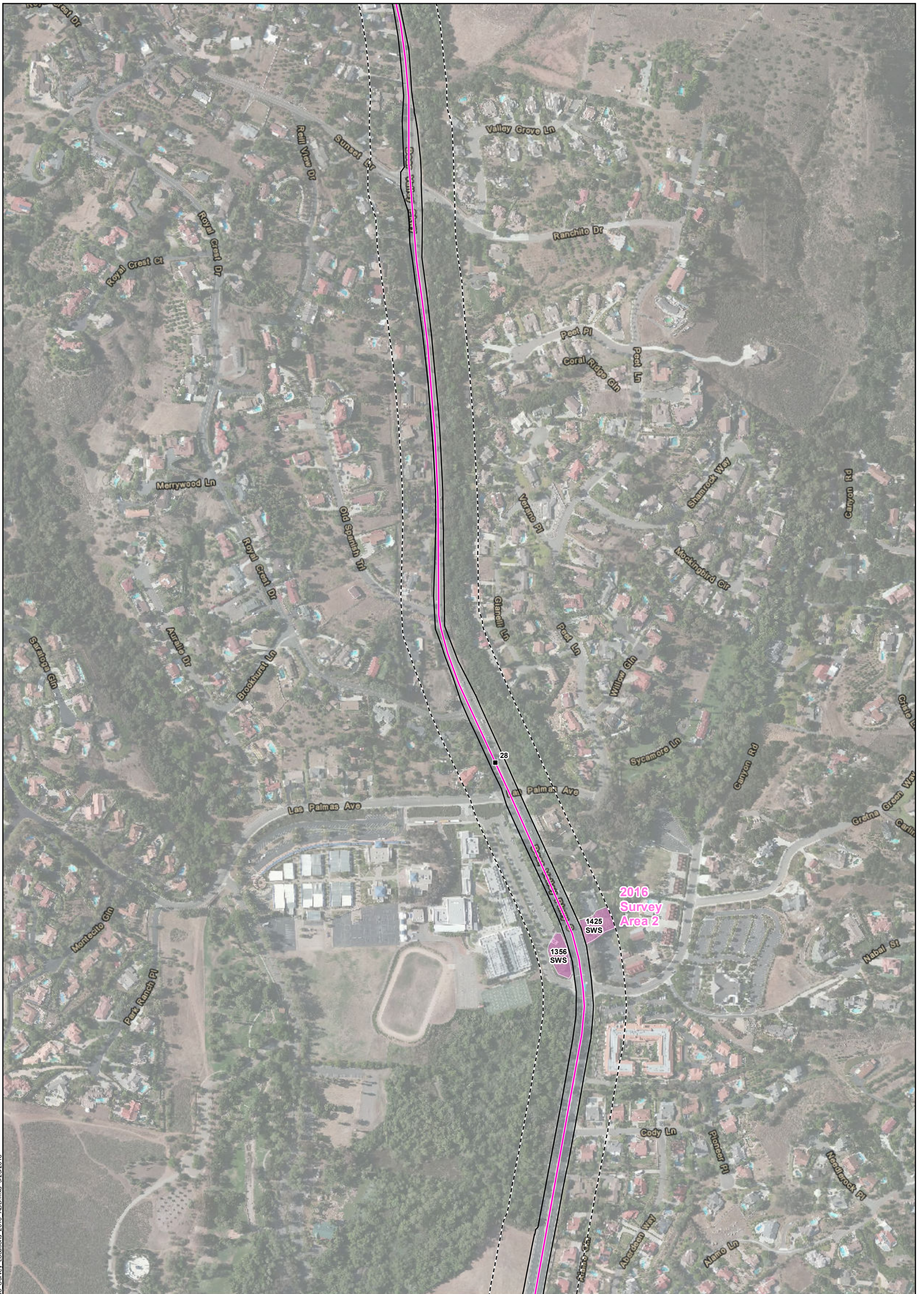


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LBV: least Bell's vireo / SWFL: southwestern willow flycatcher





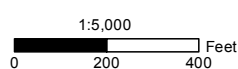
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Attachment A: 2016 LBV Survey Area Map 6 of 7

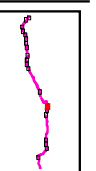
Pipeline Safety & Reliability Project

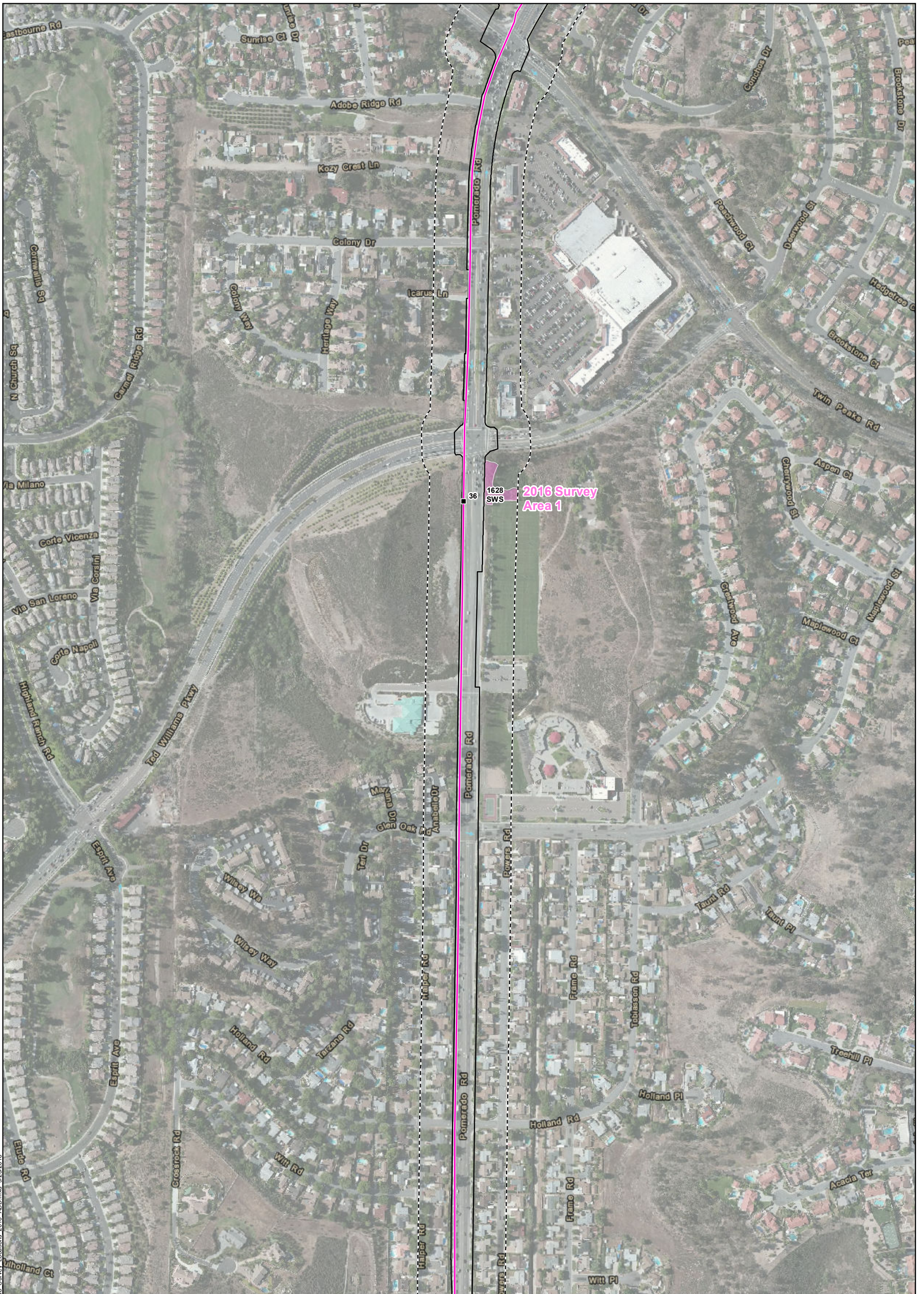
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|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ■ Milepost | Permanent Impact | Temporary Impact | □ Biological Resource Survey Area |
| — Proposed Project Route | □ Aboveground Facility | ■ Bore Pit | ■ 2016 LBV Survey Area |
| --- Proposed Trenchless Construction | □ Horizontal Directional Drill Workspace | □ Laydown Area | |
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LBV: least Bell's vireo / SWFL: southwestern willow flycatcher





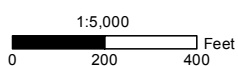
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Attachment A: 2016 LBV Survey Area Map 7 of 7

Pipeline Safety & Reliability Project

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|--------------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ■ Milepost | Permanent Impact | Temporary Impact | --- Biological Resource Survey Area |
| — Proposed Project Route | ▭ Aboveground Facility | ▭ Bore Pit | ▭ 2016 LBV Survey Area |
| --- Proposed Trenchless Construction | ▭ Horizontal Directional Drill Workspace | ▭ Laydown Area | |
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- Please note survey route not shown due to large map scale, meandering transects were walked within suitable habitat during protocol surveys



LBV: least Bell's vireo / SWFL: southwestern willow flycatcher



ATTACHMENT B: 2016 SURVEY AREA SUMMARY CHARACTERISTICS TABLE

ATTACHMENT B: 2016 SURVEY AREA SUMMARY CHARACTERISTICS TABLE

2016 Survey Area	Unique Vegetation Polygon Identifier	Milepost Number	Drainage Name	Public Land Survey System Location (Township/Range/Section)	Vegetation Community	Riparian Bird Occurrence Summary	Approximate Area (acres)
1	1628	36	Constructed detention basin, unnamed tributary to Poway Creek	N/A	Southern Willow Scrub	LBV not observed/Not suitable habitat for SWFL	0.32
<i>Survey Area 1 Total</i>							<i>0.32</i>
2	1356	28	Bernardo Creek	T11S/R2W/S32	Southern Willow Scrub	LBV not observed/Not suitable habitat for SWFL	0.33
	1425	28		T14S/R2W/S34	Southern Willow Scrub (disturbed)	LBV not observed/Not suitable habitat for SWFL	0.36
<i>Survey Area 2 Total</i>							<i>0.69</i>
3	1608	22	Reidy Canyon	T10S/R3W/S13	Southern Willow Scrub	LBV not observed/Not suitable habitat for SWFL	0.22
<i>Survey Area 3 Total</i>							<i>0.22</i>
4	1718	20	Unnamed Tributary to Reidy Canyon	T14S/R2W/S23	Southern Willow Scrub	LBV not observed/Not suitable habitat for SWFL	0.05
	778	20		T11S/R2W/S29	Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest	LBV not observed/Not suitable habitat for SWFL	0.51
<i>Survey Area 4 Total</i>							<i>0.56</i>
5	1523	11	Unnamed Tributary to San Luis Rey River	T10S/R3W/S13	Mule Fat Scrub	LBV not observed/Not suitable habitat for SWFL	0.05
	1525	11		T10S/R3W/S13	Southern Coast Live Oak Riparian Forest	LBV not observed/Not suitable habitat for SWFL	0.03
<i>Survey Area 5 Total</i>							<i>0.08</i>
6	1477	7	Unnamed Tributary to San Luis Rey River	T9S/R3W/S15	Southern Willow Scrub (disturbed)	LBV not observed/Not suitable habitat for SWFL	0.31
<i>Survey Area 6 Total</i>							<i>0.31</i>
7	1445	4	Unnamed Tributary to San Luis Rey River	N/A	Southern Willow Scrub (disturbed)	LBV not observed/Not suitable habitat for SWFL	0.19
<i>Survey Area 7 Total</i>							<i>0.19</i>
Total							2.37