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Memorandum

To: Mr. Abdullah Arakozie
Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)

From: Molly Sandomire
TRC Solutions, Inc.

Subject: PG&E Fulton-Fitch Mountain Reconductoring Project
Biological Reconnaissance Survey for Work Areas and Access Roads

Date: December 20, 2016

CC: Nate Lishman, PG&E

Dear Mr. Arakozie:

This letter report documents the results of biological reconnaissance surveys conducted for work areas and access roads for the Fulton-Fitch Mountain Reconductoring Project. Note that this is an addendum report to supplement the biological resources technical report prepared for the project by Garcia and Associates (GANDA 2012) and two biological reconnaissance survey memoranda prepared by TRC (TRC 2015, TRC 2016). TRC biologist Molly Sandomire conducted a reconnaissance-level field survey on October 28, 2016. The purpose of the field survey was to identify the existing land uses and vegetation communities within the survey area, identify aquatic resources, and determine the suitability of the survey area to support the special-status plant and wildlife species previously evaluated in the GANDA report and TRC memoranda.

Background

In 2012, GANDA completed a biological resources study for the PG&E Fulton-Fitch 60 kV Reconductoring Project (former name of the Fulton-Fitch Mountain Reconductoring Project). Following their analysis, the project underwent various additions and revisions. In 2015 and 2016, TRC conducted additional literature and database reviews and biological reconnaissance surveys for additional project areas.

Methods

The background research and literature review conducted by GANDA covered a wide buffer well beyond the project alignment and encompassed the area evaluated in this report. In March 2016, TRC biologists performed a search of the California Natural Diversity Database for occurrences within five miles of the project and established that no species had been added to the search area. Therefore, the same special-status species listed in the GANDA report were evaluated for this report. Field survey and mapping methods, along with the description of the survey area, were similar to those described in the GANDA report; however, focused special-status plant surveys were not conducted.

Results

The findings from the October 28, 2016 field survey are summarized in the following paragraphs. In general, this report uses headings similar to those in the GANDA report for consistency purposes, and defers to the GANDA report for vegetation community descriptions and species accounts. Weather during the field visit was rainy.

Vegetation Communities and Land Uses

The survey area covers approximately 30 acres, including approximately 7 acres that were previously surveyed. The survey area primarily consists of existing access roads and areas contiguous with the survey area assessed in the GANDA report and TRC memoranda. The newly surveyed area is primarily agricultural. The approximate acreage for each vegetation community and land use type identified within the survey area is provided in Table 1. The attached maps show the location of each category within the survey area. As mentioned previously, descriptions for the categories can be found in the GANDA report, and habitat suitability for special-status plants and wildlife in each category are identical to those discussed in the GANDA report.

Table 1 – Vegetation Communities and Land Use Types

Vegetation/Land Use	Description	Approximate Acreage
Grassland	See GANDA report.	4.40
Developed	See GANDA report.	2.05
Agricultural land	See GANDA report. Composed of fallow cropland on 10/29/16.	3.01

Vegetation/Land Use	Description	Approximate Acreage
Vineyard	Includes areas previously consisting of Blue Oak Woodland (0.2 acre) and non-native grassland (7.2 acres) that were converted to vineyard in 2016.	19.28
Central coast live oak riparian woodland	See GANDA report.	0.17
Central coast live oak woodland	See GANDA report.	1.92

Wetland and Water Features

Hydrophytic vegetation, including bog rush (*Juncus effusus*), and visual inundation of topographic depressions were observed within the mapped boundary of landing zone LZ-6, indicating a potentially suitable wetland area. A formal jurisdictional delineation was not conducted. To avoid this potentially suitable wetland area, the LZ-6 boundary should be revised to coincide with the survey boundary shown in Figure 1.

A man-made roadside ditch (measuring approximately three feet wide) is located along Bailhache Avenue. Water was present in the ditch at the time of survey. The ditch drains overland flow into a roadside stormwater drainage system. The ditch can be crossed with the use of full-span steel plates, and no project-related impacts on this feature are expected to occur.

Approximately 0.17 acre of coast live oak riparian woodland associated with an intermittent watercourse occurs in the study area, north of Shiloh Road. The area consists of coast live oak with a brushy understory of red willow.

Special-Status Species

As mentioned previously, the same special-status species listed in the GANDA report were evaluated for this report; however, focused special-status plant surveys were not conducted. Federally listed, state-listed, List 1, or List 2 plant species could potentially occur within the grassland habitats in the survey area.

The vegetation and structures within and adjacent to the survey area provide suitable habitat for pallid bat, Townsend’s big-eared bat, western red bat, American badger, and a variety of nesting birds. Western pond turtle has potential to occur near the roadside ditch.

Potentially suitable terrestrial and seasonally wetted dispersal habitat for California red-legged frog is present within the survey area in areas contiguous with those identified in the GANDA report; however, assessments and surveys of potential breeding sites indicate that there is a very low to low potential for this species to occur in the project area (Swaim 2016). The nearest known populations of California red-legged frog are approximately 9 miles from the project, and barriers to movement from these potential source populations are present. Habitat quality at ponds within one mile of the project area ranged from low to very low. Furthermore, species that prey on frogs and tadpoles—including introduced fish and bullfrogs—were common at ponds within one mile of the project area. For these reasons, it is unlikely that California red-legged frog would be found in the survey area.

Conclusions

The boundary of LZ-6 has been modified, as shown in Figure 1, to avoid the potentially suitable wetland area. Implementation of the Avoidance and Minimization Measures (AMMs) prescribed in the GANDA report will further avoid impacting water quality within on-site and off-site aquatic features.

Nearly all of the surveyed area is disturbed and lacks suitable habitat to support the special-status species known to occur in the vicinity of the project and, with implementation of AMMs, the potential for project activities to adversely impact special-status species is further reduced. The plant and wildlife species that have the potential to occur in this portion of the project area are the same species identified in the GANDA report as having potential to occur along the project alignment. Therefore, implementation of the AMMs prescribed in the GANDA report will help avoid project-related impacts on special-status species in the surveyed areas.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (650) 967-2365 or by email at msandomire@trcsolutions.com.

Molly Sandomire

Senior Environmental Planner

TRC Solutions

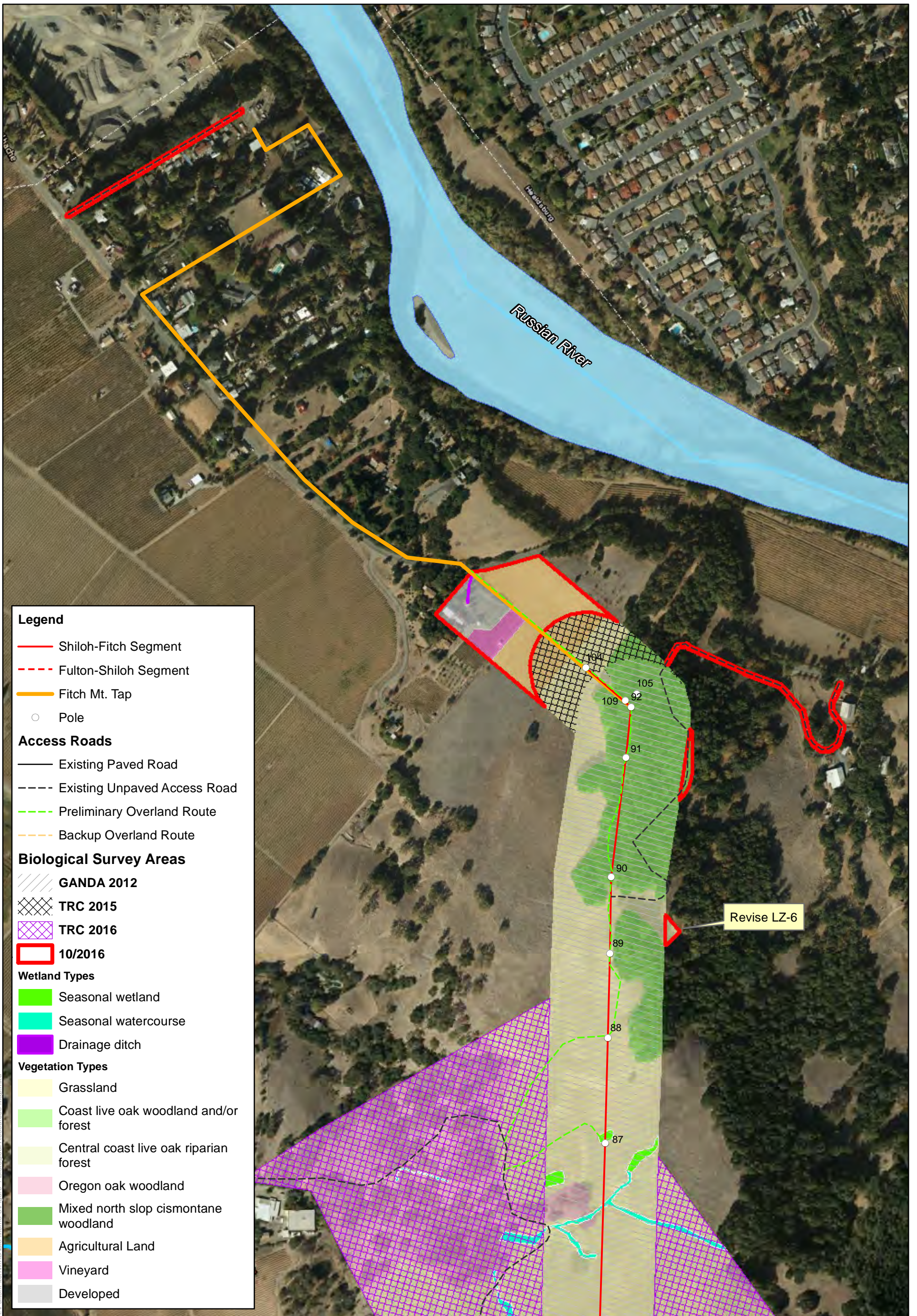
References

Garcia and Associates, 2012. *Biological Resources Technical Report, Pacific Gas & Electric Company's Fulton-Fitch 60kV Power Line Reconductor Project, Sonoma County, California*. Unpublished report prepared for Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Ramon, CA.

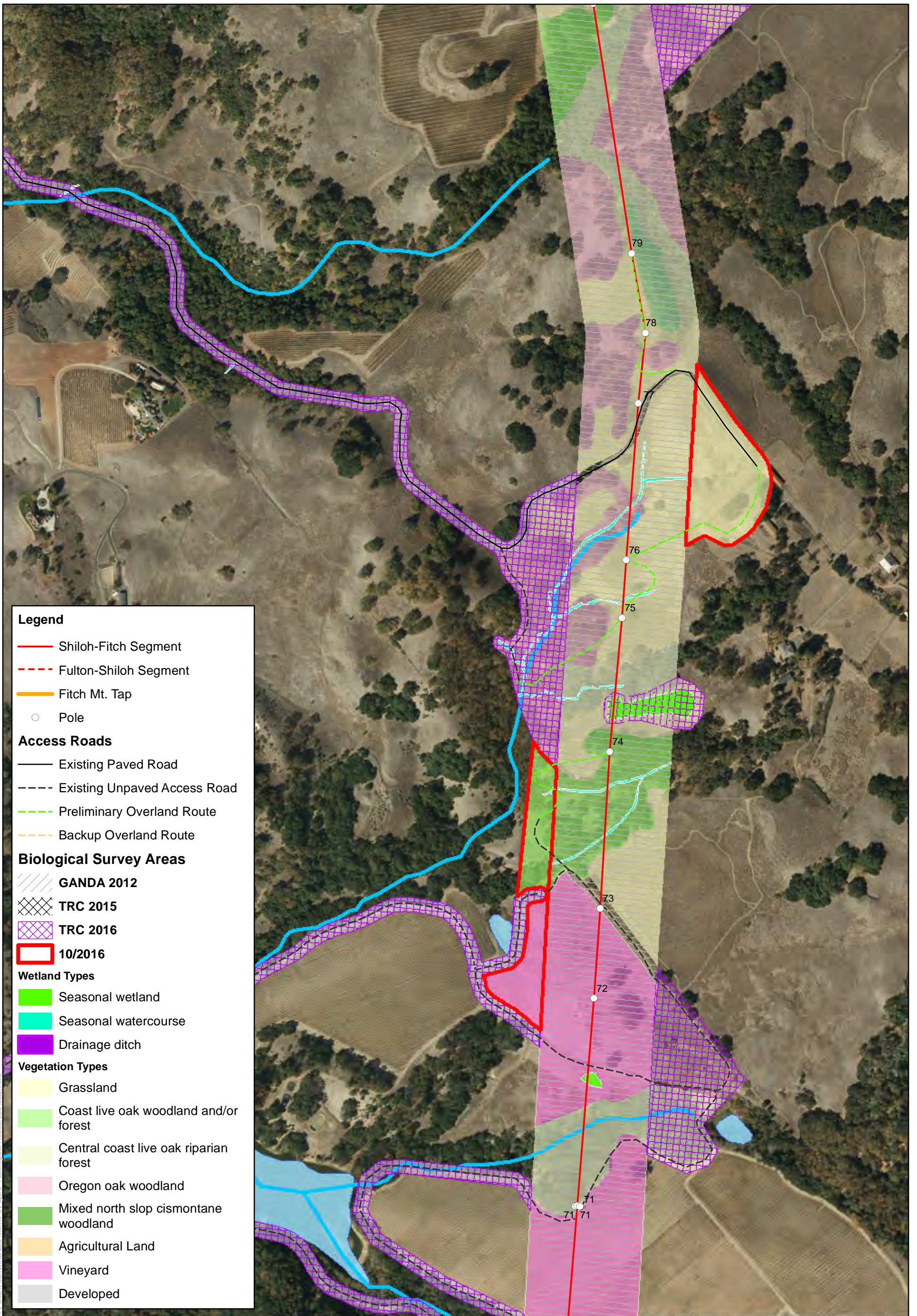
Swaim Biological Inc., 2016. *Results of Surveys for the California Red-Legged Frog Near the Fulton-Fitch Mountain Reconductoring Project Site*. Unpublished report prepared for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Ramon, CA.

TRC Solutions, 2015. *Fulton-Fitch Mountain Reconductoring Project*. Unpublished memorandum prepared for Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Ramon, CA.

TRC Solutions, 2016. *Fulton-Fitch Mountain Reconductoring Project*. Unpublished memorandum prepared for Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Ramon, CA.



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Legend

- Shiloh-Fitch Segment
- - - Fulton-Shiloh Segment
- Fitch Mt. Tap
- Pole

Access Roads

- Existing Paved Road
- - - Existing Unpaved Access Road
- - - Preliminary Overland Route
- - - Backup Overland Route

Biological Survey Areas

- /// GANDA 2012
- XXX TRC 2015
- XXX TRC 2016
- 10/2016

Wetland Types

- Seasonal wetland
- Seasonal watercourse
- Drainage ditch

Vegetation Types

- Grassland
- Coast live oak woodland and/or forest
- Central coast live oak riparian forest
- Oregon oak woodland
- Mixed north slop cismontane woodland
- Agricultural Land
- Vineyard
- Developed

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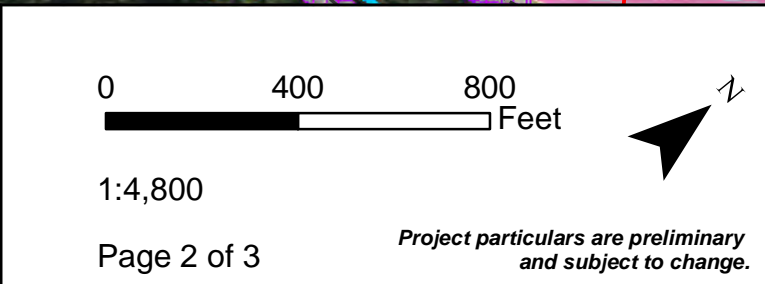
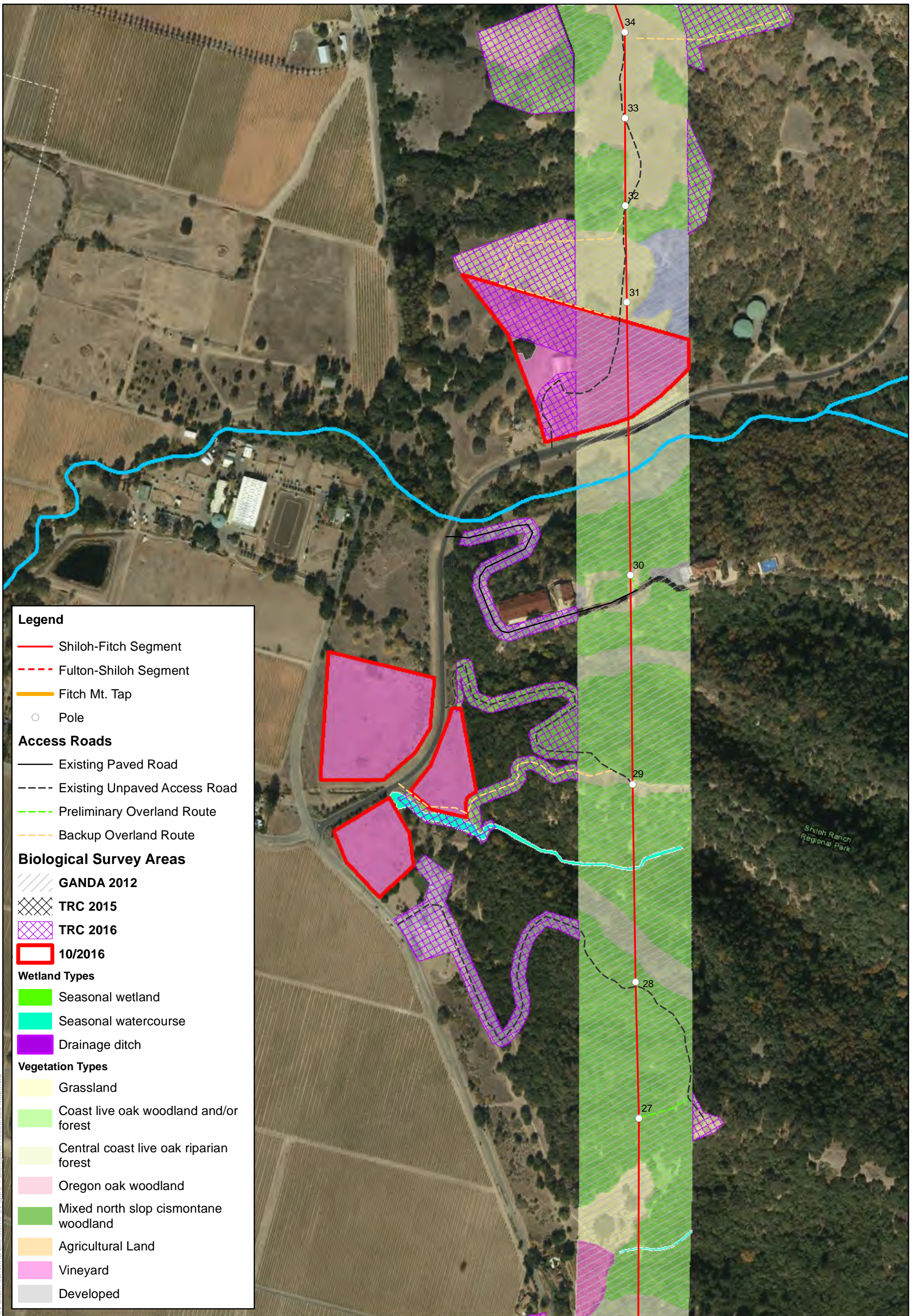


Figure 1 - Biological Resources Map
 Fulton - Fitch Mountain Reconductoring Project

December 2016

Project particulars are preliminary and subject to change.



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Biological Survey Areas

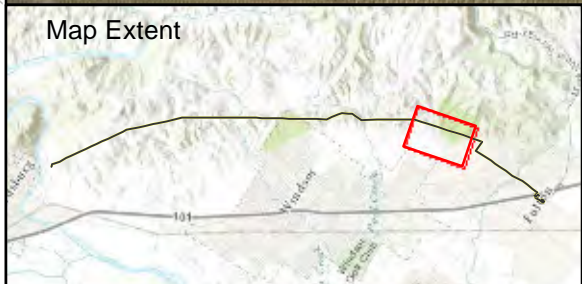
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Figure 1 - Biological Resources Map
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December 2016