

APPENDIX C

**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES
TECHNICAL REPORT**

**BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL REPORT
FOR THE PAUMA FOXWOODS CASINO PROJECT
PAUMA INDIAN RESERVATION, CALIFORNIA**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Pauma Band of Mission Indians has proposed the expansion of an existing casino on the Pauma Indian Reservation (Reservation). The proposed casino expansion project would include the construction of a 102,372-square-foot (ft²) casino. The project would also include a 400-room hotel, 1,500-space parking garage, 2,350-space surface parking lot, upgraded wastewater treatment system, new water tank, and, within Caltrans' and the County of San Diego's right-of-ways, improvements to the State Route 76 (SR-76) and Pauma Reservation Road intersection. A detention basin will be created in the southwestern portion of the project area. This detention basin will contain flows from the parking lot in order to capture sediment and allow percolation of run-off.

The project area is located on the Pauma Indian Reservation (Reservation) in the north central portion of San Diego County (Figure 1). The project area is situated in the southwestern portion of the Reservation, north of Pauma Creek and mostly south of Reservation Road, although it also includes improvements to Reservation Road (Figure 2). The construction corridor associated with road improvements to Reservation Road are anticipated to be approximately 30 feet wide. An approximately 50-foot-wide corridor was surveyed along Reservation Road in order to ensure that secondary effects do not occur.

This report has been prepared in compliance with the Tribe's Environmental Ordinance (Ordinance #12). The National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) is the federal lead agency for this project. Thus, this study must comply with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) requirements pursuant to the Tribal/State Gaming compact. The Pauma Band of Mission Indians will also use this study to determine whether the proposed project would result in any off-Reservation impacts, pursuant to Section 10.8 of its Tribal-State Gaming Compact. In addition, it is expected that Caltrans and the County of San Diego will use this report to determine whether any significant biological resource impacts would result from the construction of improvements at the SR-76/Pauma Reservation Road intersection in fulfillment of their respective responsibilities for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

2.0 METHODS AND SURVEY LIMITATIONS

A biological survey was conducted by E. Alfaro of Tierra Environmental Services (Tierra) on December 4, 2006, between the hours of 1030 and 1200. Weather conditions experienced during the survey consisted of air temperature of approximately 72° F, clear skies, and 0 to 2 mile per hour winds. This survey focused on Reservation Road and areas southwest, northwest, and north of the existing casino. The survey was conducted during a time of year when spring annuals are not present above ground. In addition, many herbaceous plants had senesced and, consequently, could not be identified down to species level. Due to the seasonality of some wildlife species, those that occur in the project area during spring months, such a migrant birds, would not be expected to occur in San Diego County.

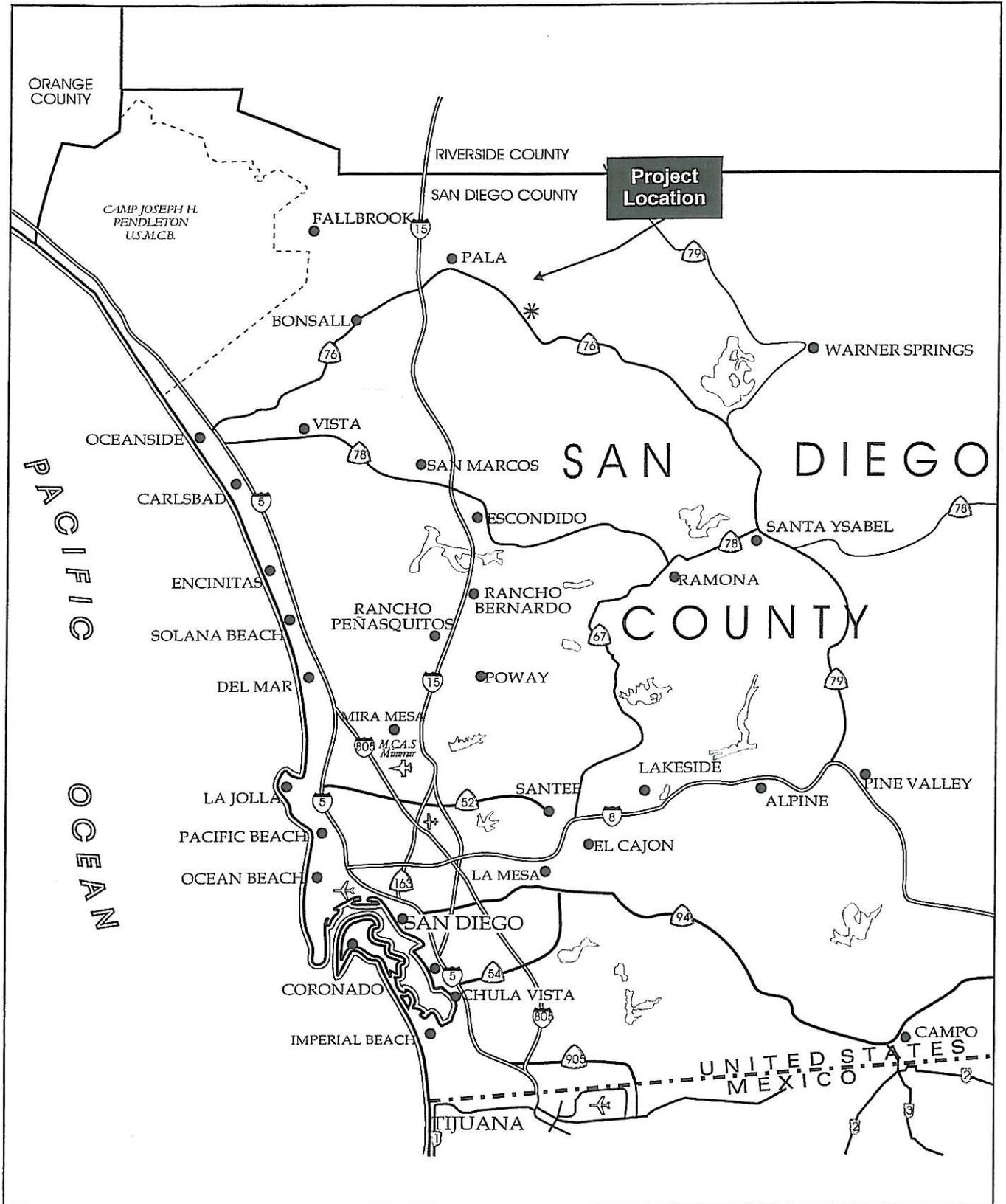
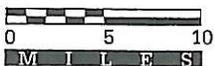
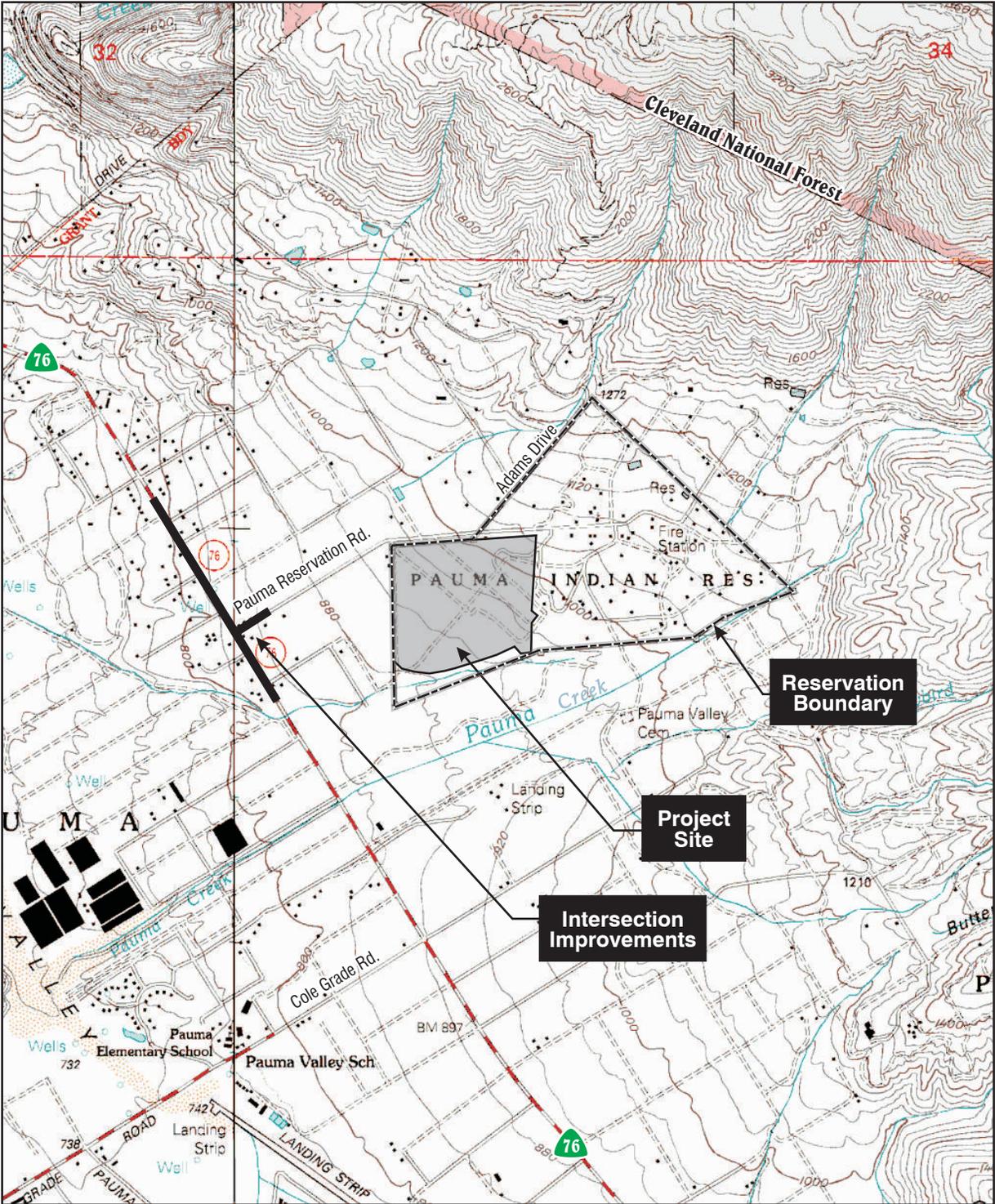


Figure 1
Regional Location Map



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SOURCE: USGS 7.5' Quad Maps - Portions of Pala, Pechanga, Vail Lake and Boucher Hill

Figure 2
Project Location Map



A second biological survey was conducted on March 26, 2007, by E. Alfaro of Tierra between the hours of 0930 and 1145. Weather conditions during the survey consisted of air temperature of 65° F, overcast skies and no wind. This survey focused on areas east and northeast of the existing casino. This survey was conducted during a time of year when many spring annuals and migratory birds do not occur in San Diego County.

A third biological survey was conducted by E. Alfaro on May 8, 2007, between the hours of 1100 and 1145. Weather conditions during this survey consisted of air temperature of 72° F, 25% cloud cover, and no wind. This survey focused on an existing water tank north of Reservation Road and areas in the vicinity of the existing water treatment plant.

Secretive wildlife species that require long observation periods may not have been observed even if present due to the need for the surveyor to be moving continuously throughout the project area. All surveys were conducted during the late morning and early afternoon, when conditions for observing bird and reptile species are not optimal. Consequently, some potentially occurring species of birds and reptiles may not have been observed.

Prior to the initial survey, a search was conducted of the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB; CDFG 2003), a computerized inventory of endangered, threatened, or rare species occurrences maintained by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). In addition, a list of state and federal threatened, endangered, proposed threatened and proposed endangered species was previously solicited from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS; Appendix A). The field survey focused on identifying the community types on the project site and wildlife species dependent on them.

Vegetation communities were mapped in the field on a 1" = 250' aerial photograph of the project site. Nomenclature used in this report conforms to Holland (1986) for vegetation communities; Simpson and Rebnan (2001) and Hickman (1993) for vegetation; Sibley (2000) for birds; Jameson and Peeters (1988) for mammals; Behler and King (1979) for reptiles and amphibians; and Powell and Hogue (1979) for invertebrates.

3.0 PHYSICAL SETTING

3.1 Physiography

The project area is located on southwestern portion of the Pauma Indian Reservation and is situated east of SR-76, north of Pauma Creek, and south of Reservation Road. The project area is gradually sloping with elevation ranging from 820 feet (ft.) to 1000 ft. above mean sea level. Vegetated portions of the project area consist mostly of agricultural areas and disturbed areas supporting sparsely distributed native and non-native vegetation; however, small areas of native habitat also occur on-site. The southwestern portion of the project area supports a small, east-west-trending drainage. This drainage had banks ranging from approximately 2 to 6 inches in depth and 3 to 5 feet in width and was created to allow water from an existing parking lot to collect at this point. This drainage supported small amounts of wetland vegetation and was lined with gravel. According to

the USGS 7.5' Boucher Hill quadrangle, a portion of an unnamed blue-line drainage occurs immediately south and downslope of this drainage south of the project area. Flows from the smaller drainage are conveyed downslope via two additional concrete outfalls into this unnamed blue-line drainage.

The project site contains soils that are typical of alluvial fans. Four soil series occur within the project area, including Soboba, Ramona, and Visalia (USDA 1973). The Soboba series consists of excessively drained, very deep stony, loamy sands. Soboba stony, loamy sand, occurring on 9 to 30 percent slopes, is reported from the project area (USDA 1973).

Soils in the Ramona series consist of well-drained, very deep, sandy loams that have a sandy clay subsoil. These soils are formed in granitic alluvium. Ramona sandy loam, occurring on 2 to 5 percent slopes, is reported from the project area (USDA 1973).

Soils in the Visalia series consist of moderately well-drained, very deep, sandy loams. These soils are found on alluvial fans and floodplains. Visalia sandy loam, occurring on 2 to 5 percent slopes, is reported from the project area (USDA 1973).

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Botany

Three vegetation communities were detected on-site, including mule-fat scrub, freshwater marsh, and disturbed habitat. In addition, agricultural areas, ornamental areas, and developed areas also occur within the project area (Figure 3). A complete list of all plant species detected on-site is included in Appendix B.

Mule-fat scrub, according to Holland (1986), is a depauperate, tall herbaceous riparian scrub strongly dominated by mule-fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*). This early seral community is maintained by frequent flooding. Other plant species characteristic of this habitat include Barbara sedge (*Carex barbarae*) and willow species (*Salix* spp.). Mule-fat scrub on-site consisted of monotypic stands of mule-fat with a few cottonwood (*Populus fremontii* ssp. *fremontii*) and arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) saplings.

Freshwater marsh is dominated by perennial, emergent monocots 4 meters (m) to 5 m tall, often forming completely closed canopies (Holland 1986). Plant species characteristic of this community include willow sedge (*Carex lanuginosa*), yellow nutsedge (*Cyperus esculentus*), spike sedges (*Eleocharis* spp.), cattails (*Typha* spp.), and viscid bulrush (*Scirpus acutus*). On-site, freshwater marsh consists of a monotypic stand of broad-leaf cattail (*Typha latifolia*).

Disturbed habitat describes an area that previously supported native upland habitat but due to constant disturbances currently supports sparsely distributed native and non-native weedy plant species. Plants detected on-site included telegraph weed (*Heterotheca grandiflora*), deerweed, short-pod mustard, California buckwheat, tocalote (*Centaurea melitensis*), tree tobacco (*Nicotiana glauca*), Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), and coastal sagebrush.

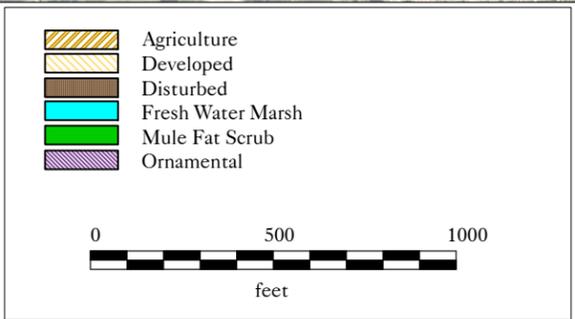


Figure 3
 Biological Resources Map

